



Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and its Protocol on Water and Health

Promotion of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention
in International Forums

27 February 2014

Geneva





Access to Information



- Water Convention

- Requirement: Article 9 on Public information → explanation in the *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention* published in 2013
- Promotion of the Water Convention in international events (cf. global opening of the Convention) and strengthened communication efforts (newsletters...)

- Protocol on Water and Health

- Requirement: Article 10 on Public information
- National Summary reports available to the public





Public participation



- Water Convention

- Awareness-raising project for NGOs to prepare for their participation (NGOs' statement) in MoP6 (2012)
- Important role of the public in defining strategic orientations of the future work programme (strategic workshop before MoP in 2012)

- Protocol on Water and Health

- Requirements: Article 5 - Public participation in the setting of targets, definition of measures and in the preparation of national summary reports
- *Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health* published in November 2013





Access to justice



- Water Convention
 - Implementation Committee created in 2012
 - The public can not trigger the Committee but the Committee can take an initiative
- Protocol on Water and Health
 - Possibility for the public to trigger the Committee through a Communication from the Public, but no Communication received so far





Challenges



- Limited financial support for the participation of NGOs in meetings despite high interest
- Lack of financial resources to implement further NGO's awareness raising campaign (including beyond the ECE region)
- Lack of awareness of the public about possibility to trigger the Protocol's Compliance Committee
- Limited staff resources to disseminate information

