

SLOVAKIA

TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON SETTING TARGETS AND TARGET DATES ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

According to the Protocol on Water and Health, within 2 years of becoming a Party, each Party shall establish and publish targets referred to in paragraph 2 of article 6, and target dates for achieving them.

Parties and, if relevant, Signatories, to the Protocol on Water and Health are invited to answer the following questions to allow exchange of experience at the first meeting of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting (Geneva, 10-11 March 2008).

Replies should be sent not later than **25 February 2008** to the UNECE secretariat (protocol.water_health@unece.org).

1. Briefly describe your national process to set targets and target dates in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol on Water and Health. Please include information on the institutions involved, approach adopted, steps identified and agreed timeline, as well as ways and means to involve stakeholders, including the public. Include both information on progress achieved to date as well as future plans.

The Protocol on water and health was ratified by the Slovak Republic in 2001 when national targets and target days has been set aswell. In 2003 and 2005 targets have been approved by the Slovak government. The target setting has been made according to the needs of the country.

Following national targets has been set up:

1. improvement of situation concerning drinking water supply and sanitation
2. ensure effective measures for prevention of water-related diseases
3. reduction of drinking water losses in drinking water pipes
4. reduction of untreated waste water discharges

On July 4, 2007 Slovak Republic has updated its targets and established 9 new national targets under the Protocol of Water and Health:

1. To increase a proportion of inhabitants supplied by sufficient drinking water quality from the public water supply

Percentage of inhabitants supplied with drinking water from public water supply in 2006 increased by 0,9%, compared to 2005, and reached 86,3%. In 2005 the percentage of supplied inhabitants represented 85,4%.

The percentage of municipalities supplied by public water supply in 2006 slightly increased, from 76% in 2005 to 76,4 % in 2006.

2. Improvement in sanitation and waste water discharging

Number of inhabitants living in household connected to public sewerage systems in 2006 grew by 20 thousand and reached the number of 3075 thousand, which is 57,1% of all inhabitants.

3. Implemetation of the Water framework directive

Targets No.1, No. 2, No. 3 are arising from the Conception of Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2015. The Conception reflects requirements according to the Water Framework Directive and Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water collection and treatment.

Implementation of directives is ensured also through the Plan for the Development of Public Water Supply and Public Sewerage Systems in the Territory of the Slovak Republic. The aim of the implementation of the plans for the development of public water supply and public sewerage systems is to achieve advancement of municipal infrastructure and improve the standard of sanitation, housing comfort and the standard of living of the population, as well as increase the protection and improve the quality of natural water resources, water eco-systems and people's health.

4. Improvement of quality and health safety of drinking water. By 2011 solve the over limited concentration of nitrates in public water supplies

Over limited concentration of nitrates in public water supplies in certain areas of Slovakia is mainly due to agriculture activities. The Ministry of Agriculture has developed a Codex of Good Agriculture Practice which ensures the water protection against nitrates (Council Directive 91/676/EHS) and is responsible for its implementation.

Currently, exemption on concentration of nitrates is applied in 3 localities supplying approx. 7500 people in total.

5. Maintenance of adequate measures to avoid water related diseases. By 2012 monitor occurrence of infectious and non-infectious water related diseases

This target is aiming to monitor water related noninfectious and infectious diseases. To monitor water related non infectious diseases, areas with higher or insufficient amount of certain substances in drinking water will be selected. The health status and occurrence of non infectious diseases among population living in affected area will be investigated. The possible health risks assesment will be carried out aswell.

Monitoring of water related infectious diseases is provided by the epidemiological information system. Surveillance of water related disease is stipulated in the Act No. 355/2007 Coll.on public health.

6. Implementation of a new information system on drinking water quality from public water supply

Slovak republic has an information system on drinking water quality from public water supply called VYDRA, which is accessible only by the staff of public health authorities on local level (36 regional PHA and 1 national PHA). Annually, the report is generated from this information system and published on the website of PHA of the SR.

Currently, this information system doesn't fulfill the role of information system for public and became outdated. The new information system is currently in initial phase of developing.

7. Implementation of a new information system on bathing waters (including recreational waters and swimming pools)

In cooperation with the Slovak environmental agency in auspices of the Ministry of environment and the Public health authority of SR in auspices of the Ministry of health, the new information system on bathing water areas has been created and is ready to be used in bathing season 2008.

The information system includes information on bathing water quality on bathing areas and on pools and spas.

The need of information systems was due to ensure comparability of data on European level and to inform the population.

8. Public awareness about water issues – manuals printing for the well owners

This target was set to inform people using drinking water from wells about possible risks arising from untreated water and importance of laboratory analysis. Another reason was that people living in the houses supplied by the public water supply have started using a drinking water

from wells. However, they are connected to public water supply, they use wells as well, probably due to economic reasons.

9. Cooperation with NGOs and public water suppliers and municipalities

Representatives of towns and communities (ZMOS) cooperated in preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans, however the cooperation with NGOs should be strengthened.

The responsible institutions for targets fulfillment are Ministry of health in cooperation with the Ministry of environment of the Slovak Republic.

Other institutions involved are:

Ministries:

Ministry of environment – 8 regional departments of environment, 46 local departments of environment, The Slovak environmental inspection

Ministry of health – The Public health authority of the Slovak Republic, 36 regional Public health authorities, Spa and spring inspectorate

Ministry of agriculture

Scientific institutions

Water research institute

Slovak hydrometeorological institute

Slovak water company

Municipalities

2. List the target set in your country in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol, as well as the target dates for achieving them.

Target No.	Name	Responsibility	Deadline
1	To increase a proportion of inhabitants supplied by sufficient drinking water quality from the public water supply	MoE and municipalities	2015
2	Improvement in sanitation and waste water discharging	MoE and municipalities	2015
3	Implementation of the Water framework directive	MoE	2015
4	Improvement of quality and health safety of drinking water. By 2011 solve the over limited concentration of nitrates in public water supplies	MoH and MoE	2011
5	Maintenance of adequate measures to avoid water related diseases. By 2012 monitor occurrence of infectious and non-infectious water related diseases	MoH	2012

6	Implementation of a new information system on drinking water quality from public water supply	MoH	2012
7	Implementation of a new information system on bathing waters (including recreational waters and swimming pools)	MoH	2008
8	Public awareness about water issues – manuals printing for the well owners	MoH	2008
9	Cooperation with NGOs and public water suppliers and municipalities	MoH	2010

Abbreviations:

MoH - Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

MoE - Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

3. If the process of target setting is still ongoing, briefly list the relevant national and international obligations, existing reporting mechanisms and other standards which you propose to use for the purpose of target setting.

Please fill the name of the contact person for this questionnaire

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