



**PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

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Bratislava, 19th August 2014
(OHŽP- 167/2014)

Updated national targets to the Protocol on Water and Health

Your Excellencies,

The Slovak Republic has ratified Protocol on Water and Health in the year 2001. Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, namely its Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (PHA), in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE) are responsible for implementation and targets fulfilment of the Protocol on Water and Health in Slovakia.

Previous national targets were set up in 2007. Some of the targets are already fulfilled, some of them are still in process of implementation and during last period new problems have arisen. This situation has launched preparation of updated national targets in the Slovakia.

Meeting focused on preparation of updated Protocol on Water and Health's targets was held in January 2014. 19 institutions from different sectors were invited: Water Research Institute (WRI); Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA); Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute; Slovak Environmental Inspectorate; State Geology Institute of Dionýz Štúr; Slovak Water Management Enterprise; Inspectorate of Spa and Springs of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (ISS); WHO Office in Slovakia; Regional Office of Public Health in Banská Bystrica; National Reference Centre for Drinking Water (NRC); Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic; Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic; Office of the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Romany Communities (OGPRC); Association of the Waterwork Companies; Waterwork Company Bratislava; West Slovak Waterwork Company; Association of the towns and municipalities. Purpose of this meeting was to disseminate information about Protocol and its activities among

representatives of relevant institutions, to discuss updating of national targets and to conclude next co-operation in targets setting.

Institutions involved in process of co-operation in setting and implementing updated national targets are the following ones:

- sector of the Ministry of Health: PHA and its relevant regional offices of public health, ISS and (NRC),
- sector of the Ministry of Environment: (water section, section of geology and natural resources of the MoE), State Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic, WRI, SEA,
- sector of the Ministry of Interior: OGPRC.

Experts of the abovementioned institutions met in March 2014 to discuss proposals and specification of new national targets. Some of the targets are related to implementation of EU directives, international conventions and bilateral agreements. All targets reflect topical needs of our country in this sphere.

Representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment have elaborated final document „*Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) – SK National Targets III*”.

The proposal of updated national targets has gone through the national legislative process including comments of the public. All expenses will be covered within the limit of budget of the health and environmental sectors for individual years. In case that national targets are part of EU directives implementation, EU funds represent significant source of financial support.

Slovak Government approved this document in July 2014; it is available on the web page: <http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23673>.


Titles of updated national targets with short note are published in the following table:

Tab.: List of updated national targets including target deadlines

1	<i>Water Framework Directive Implementation</i> (year 2027) (in harmony with Common Implementation Strategy, <i>EU</i>)
2	<i>Increase in the number of population supplied by safe drinking water from public water supply network</i> (year 2020) (requirements of directive 98/83/EC)
3	<i>Improvement of quality and safety of drinking water</i> (year 2020) (mapping of risk related to water chlorination and following proposal of measures to minimize health risks)
4	<i>Monitoring of pesticides in drinking water</i> (year 2020) (improvement of monitoring of applied pesticides close to drinking water sources, development of analytical methods, if needed; elaboration of guidelines for waterwork companies and public health authorities)
5	<i>Improvement of waste water treatment</i> (year 2023) (implementation of directive 91/271/EEC)
6	<i>Reduction of health risks related to bathing water quality</i> (year 2020)

	(processing of statistical data concerning health problems related with bathing water)
7	Mapping of enteroviruses occurrence in bathing water (year 2019) (introduction and verification of enteroviruses diagnostic via molecular biology)
8	Surveillance of cyanobacteria expansion in water reservoirs (year 2020) (determination of cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins in reservoirs for drinking water or bathing water purposes with emphasis on surveillance on new invasive cyanobacteria species and cyanotoxins produced by them)
9	Problems of environmental loads endangering water resources (year 2030) (elimination of environmental loads and reduction of their risk to health, water, soil and adjacent rock)
10	Raising of public awareness in relation to natural healing waters and natural mineral waters (year 2019) (satisfaction of public demand growth concerning natural healing and mineral waters – opening of web page with relevant information)
11	Raising of public awareness concerning protection of water and aquatic ecosystems and further educational activities (year 2020) (activities focused on support of Protocol's targets fulfillment, e.g. workshops, education for schools, web pages, brochures etc.)
12	Strengthening of water resources protection (year 2020) (importance of water resources will be stressed in the frame of national nature protection areas re-assessment)

Yours sincerely,


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