



Cross-sectoral cooperation – The key to cooperation on water and health

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Crossroads of water and health

- Protocol and cooperation – why to bother
 - addresses the widest possible array of water-management areas
 - Puts them into the context of health and sustainable development (also of recognized relevance for the health of future generations)
- Call for long-term policy – how to attain
 - Target setting – tailored to needs and capacity
 - Priority setting – health related targets under cost-benefit scrutiny
 - Cyclic assessment of progress and adjustment of targets set



Who is interested in cooperation

- No single sector in complete lack of interest
- Direct interest
 - Health
 - Water and the environment
 - Agriculture
- Some inevitably though indirectly involved
 - Economy/financing
 - Industry/commerce
 - Education/science
 - Defence/emergency management
- Not to forget about the general public



Who has the responsibility

- Undivided responsibility of the State Party – relegated to one (or several) ministers
- High level pledge and legal guaranties to address probable conflicts of interest
- In most cases Minister of Health and/or Minister of the Environment takes the lead
- Possible lead ministers other than above
 - Minister of Agriculture
 - Minister of Internal Affairs
 - Minister of Development
 - Etc.



How To Cooperate

- Set up a technical body to assist responsible ministers to meet their engagements
- Have recourse to other existing regulations and obligations relevant for the Protocol
- Link the Protocol with other governmental programmes and national action plans
- Draw on other partners' existing or possible interests in line with the Protocol targets
- Report back to the government on the conclusions and concerns and propose amendment



Multi-level cooperation

- Top level
 - To decide on general policies and legislation
 - Council of Ministers/Secretaries of State
 - Parliament/House of Representatives
 - Preferably also: assembly of civil organisations
- Medium (senior) level
 - To decide on operative matters/make practical decisions and to manage short term challenges
 - Core assembly involving
 - key experts in administrations of key ministries and their central background institutions
 - Relevant trade associations (waterworks', tourists' etc.
 - Relevant NGO expert representatives



Multi-level cooperation (2)

- Low level
 - To ensure implementation and feed-back (data, reports, local and regional assessments)
 - Field networks of the relevant ministries (e.g. local public health and environmental administrative entities)
 - County and municipal administrations

Need not be conscious of the Protocol's know-how if rules and command ensure their proper activity

Multi-level cooperation (32)

- Connection among the levels – two-directional flow of information
 - Medium to top: evaluation and proposal on target setting/adjustments
 - Top to medium: regulations action plans and procedural/administrative instructions
 - Medium to down: directions on compliance, detailed rules and instructions on actions
 - Down to medium: data, reports, assessments and proposals based on particular (local) characteristics

The Hungarian example

- Hungary's early involvement in the Protocol's origination
- Parliamentary ratification in 2005
- Long restricted involvement of the NIEH in the implementation
- (More) active involvement with the entry into force of the PWH in January, 2007
- Still rather restricted reputation in the

What is our example good for?

- To try and skip lengthy, unproductive phases and speed up the implementation;
- To learn from others' faults in order to avoid traps and dead ends;
- To be prepared to arriving at clever compromises without jeopardising the final targets
- To try and build up smart mechanisms that coincide with the relevant interests of the implementation of the PWH

Who Are to Be Active and When

- A core group bearing lead and secretary functions with some technical personnel background – either nominated by the minister or elected by the body - continuously
- A central, functional group consisting of the core and some active experts of the relevant ministries and agencies to organise the activities, to review the progress and to collect and disseminate information - frequently
- The central group completed with some other formally involved (and external) experts according to the (ad hoc) case to deal with or
- Standing working groups composed of experts of relevant knowledge and expertise for lasting missions
according to the business matter's needs

Whom And How To Involve

Involvement

- through formally regulated* procedures
(high senior level requirements of nomination)
and favourably
- through informal relationships in the bodies to be involved
(medium-low level influencing of the choice of experts if possible)
- through formal liaison with similar bodies of different (but related) interest
- through ad hoc commissioning of paid experts

What Are The Core Activities

- The body has to have its own constitution: Terms of reference approved by the responsible minister and Rules of Procedures in line with the usual public procedural rules
- The complete body should meet regularly as settled in the RoP
- It has to review its own activities to report to the minister and regenerate the confidence put in it.

What Resources Are to Be Allocated

- All activities of the body paid *or*
- Payment for extra intensive jobs *or*
- Payment only to external experts
- Only secretariat overhead covered
- All expenses covered from the usual budget and work done as usual
- Resources for commissioning external experts' job should be secured

SWOT Analysis

- A lively idea for the PWH implementation process to regularly undergo SWOT analysis in order to find
 - Strengths to boost self-assertion
 - Weaknesses to get rid of
 - Opportunities for better efficiency
 - Threats to avoid

Strengths

- Flexibility – a benefit of low level of formalism and bureaucracy
- Lesser commitment to formalism
- Higher ability of prompt understanding/responsiveness
- Speed in reacting (firmly connected to the above said)
- Better chances to involve combination of zeal and expertise

Weaknesses

Scarcity of personnel/time to spend on PWH

Low interest in the PWH matters on the top level

Unwillingness to participate (a drawback of low formalism)

Lacking resources (for involvement of wider expertise; for making use of the opportunities of IT/communication)

Opportunities

Advantage of ability to proceed a bit out of the attention

Advantage of ability to raise attention if needed

Possibility to find support from outside the machinery (science, media, NGOs)

Prospects of more public control over PWH related matters

Threats

The hazards of looser control

Chance of contra-selection (incompetent management)

Great risk of fading, flagging, getting weary

Threat of infiltrating corruption

Danger of diversion to less demanding matters that may provide with the pretence of success

Other issues

- Active collection of information
- Active dissemination of information
 - Website with newsletter and link-collection
 - Ad hoc and regular paper-based info
 - Media connections
- The focal point(s) of the Protocol should be part of the core
- Lead experts of some fields should be involved if possible in the international implementation work for the Protocol

Thank you for your honourable attention!