



Protocol on Water and Health Serbian experience

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Review and assessment of progress

The Government of the Republic of Serbia, approved the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, in 2010. illustrating a principle of cooperation between Parties to the Convention;

- The ratification procedure towards Protocol on Water and Health lasted 2 years;
- **PWH** was successful ratified, **January 30. 2013.** “Official Gazette-International Agreements”, No.1/2013)
- The instrument of accession should be deposited in New York with the UN Treaty section, with a copy sent to the UNECE secretariat in Geneva in March 2013.
- **The Protocol is a unique document among multilateral environmental agreements in the extent to, which its objectives crosscut environmental protection, nature resources protection and human health and well-being.**

Ratification Procedure...

- Ministry responsible for the ratification of Protocol on Water and Health was the **Ministry of Health**.
- Ministries **equally** involved and responsible in the process, that participated in the ratification procedure:
 - ❖ **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management,**
 - ❖ **Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection**
 - ❖ **Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning**

The Ministry of Health provided:

- official translation of the Protocol in Serbian language;
- justification of the Draft Law on Protocol on Water and Health;
- official letter of agreement from all responsible Ministries

Draft Law on ratification of PWH was a result of professional commitment and cooperation of all involved Ministries, compatible Institutions, NGO's and stakeholders in the process.

Modality of coordination mechanisms



The Country Cooperation mechanism in the preparation process of the accession of Serbia to the Protocol, defined the broad sector work with responsible Ministries, Agencies, stakeholders, NGO 's, media and youth participants, during the period 2010–2012.

- ❖ The multi sector **Working group** was established in 2010; Meetings were held occasionally, for :
 - the preparation of the Draft Law of the PWH,
 - for the official translation of the text of the document
 - for the preparation for consultations and suggestions regarding the creation of the final text of the Protocol,
 - For the creation and implementation of the Process of promotion of PWH on local level
 - For the public information through mass media (Aarhus Convention)

Promotion of PWH as a main tool for future sustainable implementation

Considering the fact that **WATER** is an essential natural resource and basic human right, with limited recovery capacity, aware of responsibilities to sustainably protect and manage water resources, the **Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning**, initiated the process of promotion of PWH on local level.

- ❖ **AIM**: to inform the interested public (civil society), stakeholders, business sector and local representatives about the provisions of the Protocol, its future implementation and the involvement of local representatives in decision making process.

Municipality of Kragujevac

Video of the Presentation



Role of Media campaign in promotions

Drinking water source awareness

The goal of the media campaign was to effectively disseminate relevant information to desired audience.

- To increase the awareness of water as a main nature resource, important for human well-being (electronic texts and graphic files of the document, were used as promotional materials and distributed to the auditorium)
- To support the cooperation between authorities and different stakeholders at national/local level
- To Motivate local government representatives, emphasizing that protecting of drinking water supplies is a local priority
- ❖ **Evaluating campaign impact in post evaluation questionnaires, showed the great success of the content and quality of the promotions on local level, especially knowledge gained as a result of the media campaign through Aarhus centers in Serbia.**
- More than 15 workshops were organized in IPH network in different Municipalities
- Every year celebrating the World Water Day, 22. March, one of the topics was the promotion of PWH.

Importance of partnerships

- Forming partnerships increased collaboration for the campaign of raising awareness of the importance of the PWH within the community.
- The important role in this process belongs to the OSCE Mission in Serbia, Belgrade office, which supported the campaign on national/local level, by organizing 7 promotions in Aarhus centers in Serbia (Subotica, Žabalj, Novi Pazar, Kragujevac, Niš...)
- Promotions on local level, brought to the table: community leaders, public health officials, businesses sector, water utilities, schools, NGO's and the civil society members, to help steer the campaign to success. Each entity provided its unique contribution.

The community was a vital resource in providing input to the campaign.

Presentation in Subotica Arhus center

[Video of the Presentation](#)



Good practice experience

We hope that joint inclusion of different sector representatives in the promotion of PWH can serve as an know how experience and an example to other EU communities in using similar methodology .

[Promotion of PWH – Municipality of Cacak](#)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !