

Workshop on Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health

Session 4: Reporting on targets and target dates set and assessment of progress - the experience of Hungary

Geneva, 12–13 February 2013

Target setting process

- Protocol on Water and Health was declared by the Hungarian Government in October, 2005 (Government Decree 213/2005 (X. 5.))
- Implementation of the Protocol is the joint task of the ministries responsible for health and environment
- Implementation started after the 1st Meeting of the Parties in January, 2007.
- Water and Health Expert Committee was set up under the existing National Inter-ministerial Committee on Public Health
 - Chaired by the National Institute for Environmental Health
 - National focal points
 - Members are the representatives of:
 - Ministry of Health (now Ministry of Human Resources)
 - Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now both within the Ministry of Rural Development)
 - Ministry of Local Governments (now Ministry of Administration)
 - Public health services
 - NGOs
- First activity of the Expert Committee: drafting the targets and target deadlines.
- Targets were approved by the involved ministries and the Government.

Status of target setting

- Targets were submitted to the Secretariat in January, 2009.
- Website was created for the Expert Committee
 - Targets
 - Target dates
- Areas of target setting (*target dates*):
 - Drinking water quality (2010, 2015)
 - Reducing water-borne disease (continuous)
 - Access to drinking water and sanitation (2008,2010,2015)
 - Quality of water used as a water source (2009,2015)
 - Quality of water used for bathing (2009)
 - Good practices for enclosed waters
 - Identification and remediation of especially contaminated sites (2008,2015)
 - Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources (2007-2009, 2007-2012, 2015)
 - Information systems improvement (drinking water quality, bathing water quality) (2008, continuous)

Implementation and revision of the targets

- Level of implementation varies between targets
- Usually the progress is more defined on areas which overlap with the EU requirements
 - Drinking water quality
 - Bathing water quality
 - Access to drinking water and sanitation
- Other areas:
 - Enclosed bathing waters
 - Information systems
 - Water resource management
 - Small scale waste-water treatment
- Need to define indicators and target dates more clearly
- Targets were revised in the previous reporting period
- Will revise again based on the outcomes of the current report

Target area: Drinking water quality and accessibility

- Access to safe drinking water is limited by quality rather than quantity
- Chemical contaminants of geological origin: As, B, F (+ammonium – nitrite formation potential)
- **Target: 96 % of the population to have access to safe DW by 2015**
- Intermediate target: 80 % by 2010

	2005		2008		2012	
	Affected WSZ	Affected population	Affected WSZ	Affected population	Affected WSZ	Affected population
As	490	1,680,675	411	1,425,843	242	615,554
B	58	131,774	49	109,012	37	68,785
F	5	5373	10	9394	2	1151
nitrite	137	532,243	203	636,735	57*	144,571*

- Legal environment
- National Drinking Water Improvement Programme
- EU derogation

Target area: Water quality of sources for drinking water

- WFD: all sources serving more than 50 people must be protected
- 1770 water sources (as of 2009):
 - 1662 ground water
 - 92 bank-wall filtered well
 - 16 surface water
- Target: to protect all sources from antropogenic contamination
- Tool: mainly legislative
 - Mandatory to define protective zones and blocks
 - Monitoring source water and produced water
 - Water safety plans of water supplies
 - Sensitive areas defined (nutrient, nitrate)
- Current report is drafted by the Ministry of Rural Development

Target area: Information databases

- Information to the public and to other expert groups is essential for the implementation of all target areas
- Links in with other targets
- Some link in with EU requirements (DW quality, bathing water quality)
- Other databases:
 - Pool registry
 - Registry of contaminated sites
 - Water source database
 - Communicable disease surveillance database
 - Envisioned system of interconnected water databases
- In the 1st report: reported as part of other target areas
- In the current report: can get more emphasis

Conclusions

- Reports include a wide variety of information – need to find the responsible institutions
- Retrieving information may take a long time (up to several months)
- Drafting of the report should be coordinated but not performed by one person
- Data needs to be organized with more focus to the targets and target dates
- Prioritization of the targets is important
- This reporting exercise gives more opportunity to demonstrate progress and also future task
- Easier to report on areas where there is an on-going data collection

Recommendations

- Start in time - it takes longer than you would think
- Involve as many stakeholders as possible
 - ministries
 - national institutes
 - national statistical institutes
 - regional health and environment offices
 - Professional associations (water suppliers', pool operators, etc)
- Inter-ministerial working groups or committees are very useful

BUT

- There should one person who coordinates the work so it does not loose focus