

Provisions and Objective of the Protocol on Water and Health

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The **objective** of Protocol is to promote at all levels, nationally as well as in transboundary and international contexts, the protection of human health and well-being, within a framework of sustainable development, through improving water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and through preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease.



General Provisions

The Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, control and reduce water-related disease within a framework of integrated water-management systems.

The Parties shall take all appropriate measures for the purpose of ensuring:

- (a) Adequate supplies of wholesome drinking water, that include the protection of water resources which are used as sources of drinking water, treatment of water and the establishment, improvement and maintenance of collective systems;
- (b) Adequate sanitation of a standard which sufficiently protects human health and the environment.
- (c) Effective protection of water resources used as sources of drinking water, and their related water ecosystems, from pollution from other causes
- (d) Sufficient safeguards for human health against water-related disease arising from the use of water for recreational purposes,
- (e) Effective systems for monitoring situations likely to result in outbreaks or incidents of water-related disease.

The Parties shall base all such measures upon an assessment of any proposed measure for:

- (a) Human health;
- (b) Water resources; and
- (c) Sustainable development.

The Parties shall take all appropriate action to create legal, administrative and economic frameworks for improving water management for the purpose of preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease.

Institutional Framework

The Republic of Croatia has ratified the Protocol on Water and Health, published in the Official Gazette – International Agreements No. 4/06.

The competent ministries for the Protocol's implementation are the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Croatian National Institute of Public Health and Hrvatske vode (legal entity for water management) are also included.

Measures

Croatia takes appropriate measures in the prevention, control and elimination of water-related diseases within integrated water management systems.

Measures are also taken with the aim of improving human health and sanitary measures, and preventing water-related diseases through better management and water protection from pollution, including the improvement and construction of wastewater treatment systems.



Monitoring

Monitoring is carried out according to the standards for drinking water quality taking into account The Regulation on the Sanitary Quality of Drinking Water and the minimum standards of control of sanitary water quality determined by the WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality and the EU legislation on drinking water.



Drinking Water Monitoring

Drinking water monitoring in Croatia is implemented by internal control – carried out by the distributors of drinking water themselves, the county institutes of public health and the institutions authorized by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Super-analysis – controlling the accuracy of the results of analyses is carried out by the Croatian National Institute of Public Health.

All of the above is supervised by the Sanitary Inspection of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Monitoring of Infectious Diseases

Croatia has systematically monitored water-related diseases as a part of infectious disease monitoring for over 70 years, with the aim to reduce disease occurrences and prevent epidemics outbreaks.

At the national level, supervision and status assessment pertaining to infectious diseases is carried out by the Epidemiology Unit of the Croatian National Institute of Public Health, in line with the Act on the Protection of the Population from Infectious Diseases and the Regulation on Mandatory Reporting of Infectious Diseases.

Legal Basis

The legal basis for the Protocol's implementation are the Water Act and related by-laws and the Water Management Strategy.

Croatia has developed measures in the Strategy aimed at providing everyone with access to water and at improving and providing sanitary measures.

Future Measures

Water supply should be improved to 85-90% by the year 2020 with drinking water quality standards;

Sanitary systems should be improved to approximately 60%;

Protection of drinking water sources, protection of bathing water and ensuring water of suitable quality to support fish life and cultivation of shellfish should be carried out in accordance with national regulations and through the implementation of the relevant EU directives.

Should be improving of drinking water quality monitoring and reporting system.

National and International Obligations

The relevant national and international obligations are:

- proceeding with the accession process to the EU,
- harmonization of national legislation with EU directives,
- active international cooperation in organizations such as the ICPDR, the Sava Commission, the Danube Commission, OESS, the WHO,
- task under the Protocol and Convention and bilateral agreements.