



Protocol on Water and Health –progress overview in 2020-2021

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Relevance of the Protocol in light of COVID-19 and for the prevention of epidemics



The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health provides a framework helping countries to:

- **Improve water and health governance** by setting concrete targets on water, sanitation and health relevant for the prevention of epidemics
- Ensure **equitable access** to water and sanitation for everyone
- Ensure that **WASH services are resilient** and operational in challenging conditions, including those caused by **climate change**
- Strengthen **safe sanitation management** along the service chain, to prevent the spread of disease while also promoting circular economy
- Provide adequate **WASH conditions in institutions**: schools, hospitals, public settings

Learn more in the [Paper](#) on COVID-19 and the Protocol!



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Ongoing Protocol work for COVID-19 recovery and future preparedness



- **Strengthen COVID-19 sensitive target setting**
 - Reflect on existing gaps to identify priorities
 - Strengthen recovery, preparedness and long-term sustainability



- **Analyse inequities in access to essential WASH services under the pandemic**
 - Access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
 - Affordability of services and materials



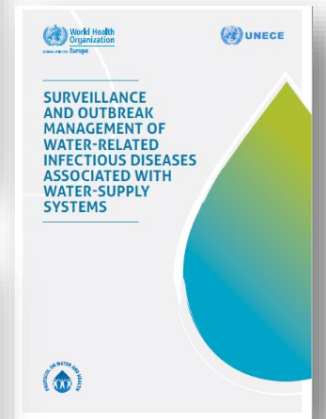
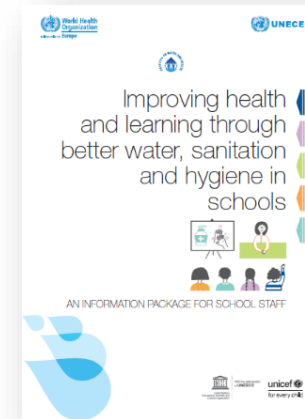
- **Scale-up “culture of hygiene” in all settings**
 - Promote good practices in schools and health care facilities
 - Support situation assessments



- **Strengthen health system capacities**
 - Establish effective surveillance and response systems
 - Explore wastewater monitoring as early warning system



- **Convene dialogue on experiences with WASH @ COVID-19**
 - 2020-2021 [Webinar Series](#) under the Protocol

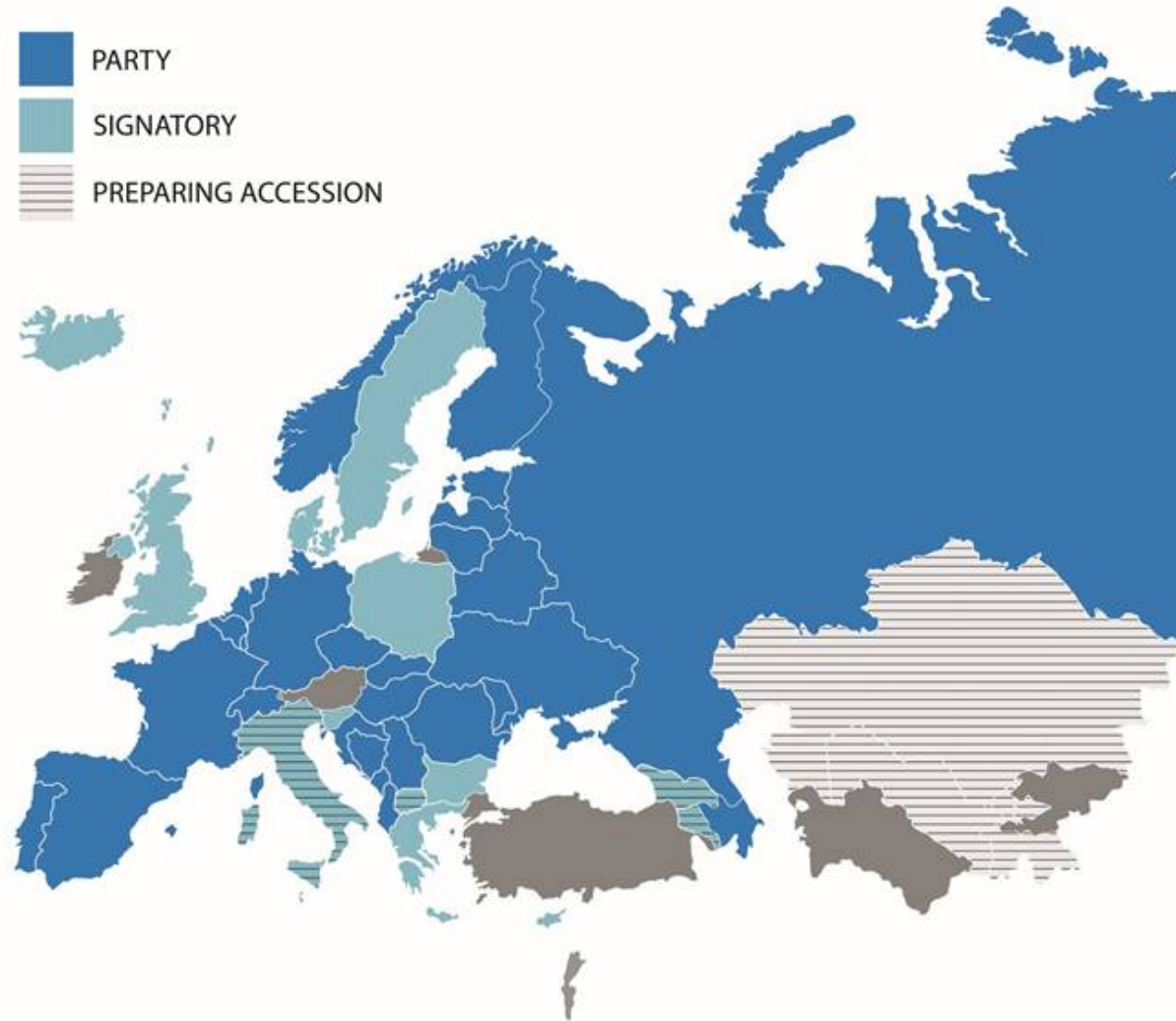




Parties to the Protocol and accession progress



- 27 Parties
- 36 Signatories
- 50+ countries actively participate in activities under the Protocol
- Countries of pan-European region can become Parties, but Protocol tools and guidance documents are applicable **worldwide!**



We encourage countries of the pan-European region to become Parties to the Protocol!

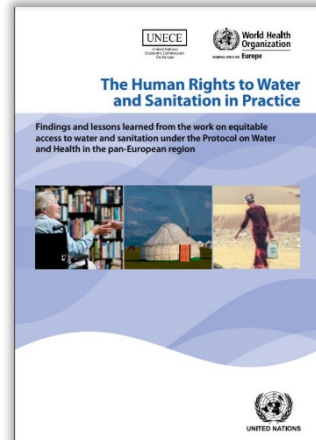
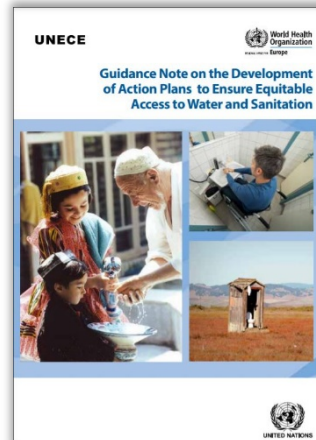
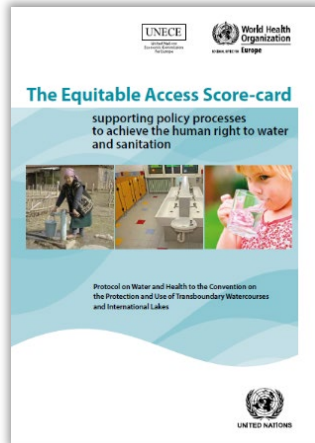
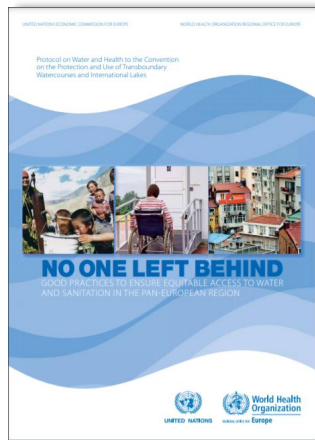


Protocol in the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast



The EU Drinking Water Directive recast specifically references the Protocol and its tools as possible guidance for EU Member States to “*assess the policy background and the baseline situation on access to water and to define the actions necessary to improve equitable access for all to water intended for human consumption*” (Recital 34)

Protocol tools supporting implementation of the Directive (particularly article 16):



We encourage Member States of the European Union to make use of the Protocol tools on equitable access to water and sanitation to support the implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive!



Cooperation between the Protocol and the Water Convention



Increasing resilience to climate change

Jointly organized Global workshop on building climate resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels (29-31 March 2021)

Assistance to support implementation at national level through EUWI+ and NPDs. Work to continue in the new project phase

Support with setting targets under the Protocol was provided in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine

Future online reporting

Cooperation on a future online reporting system, possibly using a similar online platform under the Protocol and the Convention

Exchange of experience between Protocol Compliance Committee and Convention Implementation Committee

Similarities between Consultation Process under the Protocol and Advisory Procedure under the Convention

Future work under the Protocol in the area of climate change

- Strategic roundtable on increasing resilience to climate change under the Protocol, planned for January 2022
- Background note on climate change, water and sanitation in the pan-European region, available [here](#) and by scanning the QR code





Thank you for your attention!



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For more information send us an email or consult the [website](#) of the Protocol



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