



Water & Sanitation Safety Planning in Communities in Western Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia and Romania)

Water as a public good

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Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Project region and partner cooperation



-  Target countries
-  Target regions
-  Target cities and urban areas
-  Capitals

WatSanPlan

Water and Sanitation Safety Planning
in the Balkan Region: Romania,
Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia

Partners and supporters of the project include:

- wecf** (Women Engage for a Common Future)
- WID** (Woman in Development)
- AQUADEMICA**
- MILIEUKONTAKT ALBANIA** (Serving Society Towards Sustainability)
- NOVINARI ZA ČOVEKOVI PRAVA** (Journalists for Human Rights)
- AMBASADORI ODRŽIVOG RAZVOJA I ŽIVOTNE SREDINE** (Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety** (Germany)
- Environmental Protection in Germany**

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1. Description of the initiative/project

- Introducing WSSP (Water and Sanitation Safety Planning) in rural and peri-urban communities of Romania, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia with focus on schools based on the global objective:
- Safe water and sanitation are the basis for achieving good health and gender equality.
- With sustainable water management we contribute to better management of food and energy production by contributing to decent work and economic progress.
- Contribute to the conservation of aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity and take action against global warming

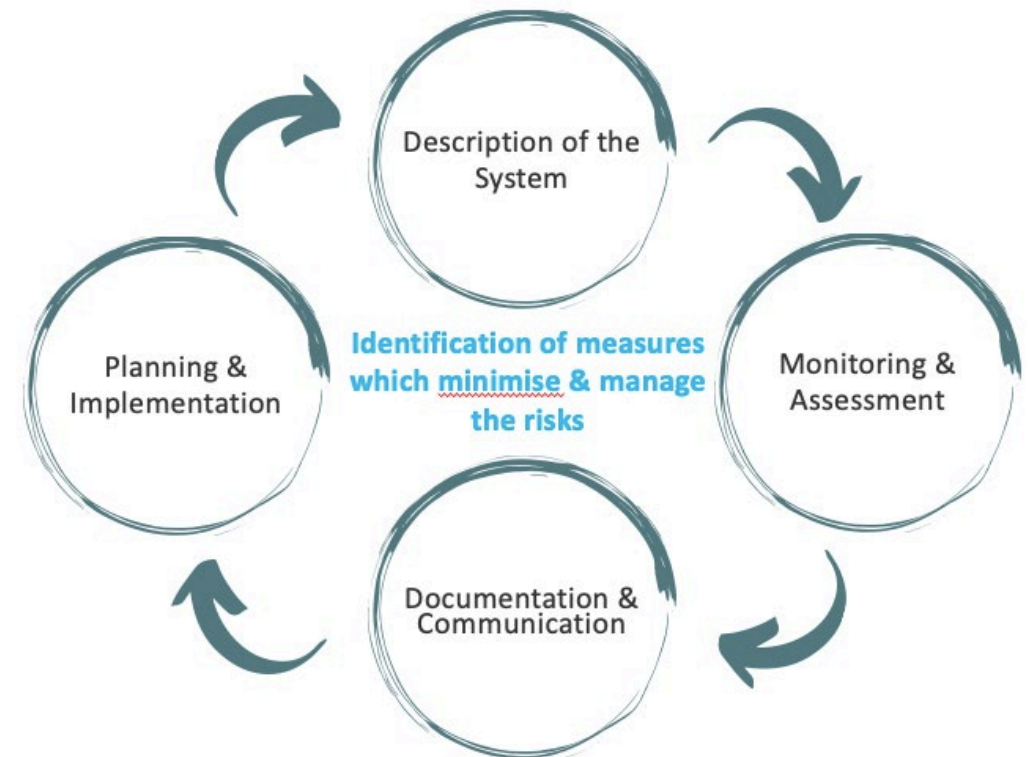


2. How the initiative/project accelerated/can accelerate progress towards the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6

Risk Management

- Identification of
 - risks which (could) affect water safety & human health in every stage of the water supply
 - measures to minimise & manage these risks
- Managing risks from catchment to consumer
- Comparison of target- & actual situation
- Discussion, development & implementation with *all* stakeholders (incl. civil society)
- Applicable for large- and small-scale systems

The approach of WSSP



2. How the initiative/project accelerated/can accelerate progress towards the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6

Compendium based on WHO guidelines on WSSP:

- **A: How to accomplish a WSSP?** → approach to develop a WSSP + basic and practical guidance in 10 steps.
- **B: Background information for developing WSSP** → technical and regulatory information
- **C: How to involve schools** → teaching materials
- New version of the Compendium would be introduced later this year



Water supply & sanitation
can be improved through
own action



2. How the initiative/project accelerated/can accelerate progress towards the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6

Available in Romanian, Macedonian, Albanian and Serbian

1 INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

HOW TO REDUCE AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SCHOOLS

Wash your hands
Wash your hands with soap and water after going to the toilet, before touching food and eating, after coughing and sneezing, and after playing or doing things outside. You should wash your hands for at least 20 seconds – the equivalent of singing ‘Happy Birthday’ twice.

Sneeze and cough carefully
Whenever you sneeze or cough, keep in mind to cover your face. It is best to sneeze in your elbow, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue which afterwards has to be thrown away in a closed bin. While sneezing or coughing, turn away from people standing nearby, if possible.

Be open and honest
In case you feel unwell, for example if you have caught a cold/fever or are sneezing a lot, please consult a family member or someone you live with.

Keep a distance
It may be tough, but please try not to touch others, e.g., when greeting. Instead, you can use gestures, e.g. waving, bowing, a namaste or hand on your heart.

Keep a reasonable distance of minimum 1.5 meters (the length of a pony) to everyone you do not live with. Just imagine that a pony is standing between you and your classmates.

To prevent the virus from reaching your mucosa, do not touch your face, nose, or mouth.

2 INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND EDUCATION STAFF

Education ministers, school principals, teachers, and administrators are expected to disperse knowledge about appropriate behaviour e.g. by including it in the curriculum. Consequently, information on adequate hand hygiene can trickle down from administrative entities to students, their families and local communities. Proper hand hygiene facilities should be provided by executives (e.g. water and soap).

Create an environment that enables physical distancing
Steps to encourage physical distancing during in-person schooling may include:

- Close down lockers.
- Create one-way traffic in school hallways, often by using pylons or sticky tape.
- Classes, instructions, meals and recess should be given in outside areas.
- Limit the number of children on school buses to facilitate physical distancing.
- Move desks apart with enough space in between them, ideally desks face in the same direction.
- Erect Plexiglas shields and partitions as physical barriers between educators and students.
- Physical distancing while hand washing must be secured in inside and outside facilities. To meet official physical distance guidelines, some of the water outlets (e.g. taps) should be covered with foil or sealed with stickers. Floor markings secure orientation and enough space among all users.
- Divide students in learning groups.
- Aerate the classrooms every 40 minutes.

Ensure a hygienic environment
For students to comply with hygiene rules, an appropriate environment must be created in schools. The following points must be observed:

- Provide sufficient hand-washing opportunities at entrances and in restrooms with clean water and adequate soap.
- Washing opportunities must allow physical distancing and be accessible to all.
- Ensure an adequate water supply, if problems arise in this regard, ask the community for assistance, and encourage children to bring bottled water from home.
- Ensure the supply of consumables (soap, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, protective equipment).
- Make sure that the school is cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Appoint staff member(s) or older students from a monitoring team to regularly check the toilets.
- Train school staff, parents, and pupils on hygienic behaviour.

3 ADVICE FOR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

Wear a mask
The WHO recommends wearing (cloth) face masks in schools. Parents or guardians may consider the following tips:

- In surroundings where physical distancing becomes a challenge, wearing cloth face masks should be a priority. In particular, this applies to school buses, bus stops or stop-off points.
- Every child should possess several face masks to wear throughout the school week. Washing masks on a daily basis is key. Provide your child each day with a clean mask, a back-up mask, and a hygienic, resealable bag for occasional storage.
- Attach a label to your child's mask so it is not confused with another child's.
- Teach your child in putting on and taking off cloth face masks.
- Remember to touch your child's mask minimally.
- Tell your child that they should wash their hands before and after touching their face covering.
- Instruct your child to never share or trade masks with peers.
- Explain the importance of wearing a face mask and depict a role model by wearing masks.

Keep hands clean
To create a learning effect, practice handwashing at home with your child and explain why it is important to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Explain to your child why they should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth. Show them how to cover their mouth and nose with their elbows or tissues when they cough or sneeze and then wash their hands.

Should your child attend in-person schooling, develop daily routines before and after school that foster healthy habits, such as packing a back-up face mask and hand sanitizer in the morning and washing their hands as soon as they come home.

Clean and disinfect
Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (e.g., faucets, doorknobs, counter tops, keyboards, tablets, and phones) reduces the risk of an infection, no matter if your child is being schooled at home or in school.

Stay home if sick
Closely monitor your child each day for signs of an infection. In case your child feels unwell, prevent them from joining group activities or attending class. Contact your doctor for case-dependent information and medical advice.

New chapter: How to reduce and prevent the spread of infectious diseases in schools

https://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/WSSP_Compndium-new-chapter-FN_final-compressed-1.pdf



UNECE



WATER ACTION DECADA 2018-2028

UN WATER

2. How the initiative/project accelerated/can accelerate progress towards the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6

WiD and MiA
Albania

Building capacity on
Water and Sanitation
Safety Planning –
working with schools

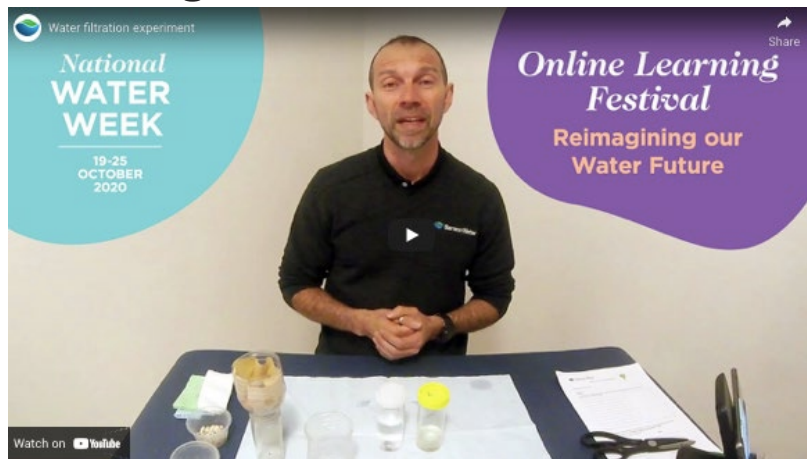
Training of Trainers –
Theory, nitrate testing
and disinfection under
UV light in
Tirana and Shkodra



2. How the initiative/project accelerated/can accelerate progress towards the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6

JHR, North Macedonia

Round tables with high officials and including the WSSP in the curriculum and online learning platform “Water Classroom”, working with schools



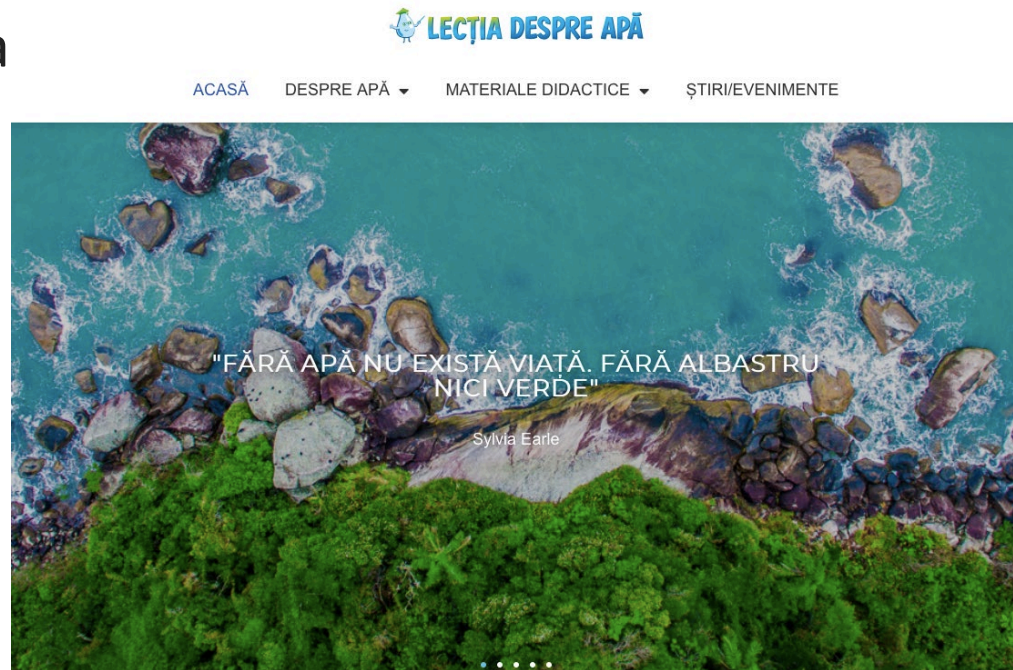
All the countries have running activities as *nitrate water sampling , plant trees, celebrate international water day*



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Aquademica, Romania

Online Educational Portal “Water Classroom” and further on-going educational activities, working with schools



Teachers, pupils, or parents will have free access various information materials on the WSSP, environment, climate change and health and can also upload their own materials. The portal is divided into thematic sections and contains theoretical knowledge, lesson plans, interactive lessons, presentations, short educational animations, and suggestions for various activities.



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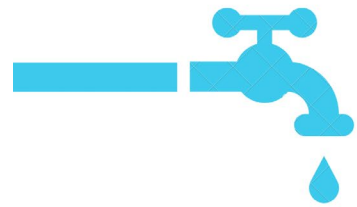
EASD, Serbia



Training of Trainers
among stakeholders/
teachers and students



2. How the initiative/project accelerated/can accelerate progress towards the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6



4 countries
30 schools
120 teachers
80 stakeholders
900 students (WASH)
300 Nitrate test results



Presenting project activities under different international events



WSSP Activities in the Balkans

SIDE EVENTS

Adequate and Qualitative Education for Young People Continues in Spite of COVID-19

The session will present results on implemented activities in the Balkan countries where WASH activities such as water and sanitation & menstru

07 April | starting 13:15pm | ending 14:45pm

Online



3. Lessons learned and future work required to achieve the objectives of the International Water Action Decade and SDG 6

Challenges:

The population in rural areas is not always aware of how their activities affect water quality

Although there is a law, it can not be implemented in practice

Public participation in decision-making and access to information is limited (for example, water quality information)

There are number of negative examples of water pollution: agriculture - chemical fertilizers, pesticides, liquid fertilizers and the community - pollution through toilets, sewage tanks, sewer system leaks, farm waste contact, solid waste



Thank you very much for your attention



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