

Agenda item 13

Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems

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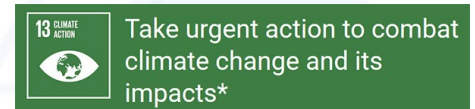
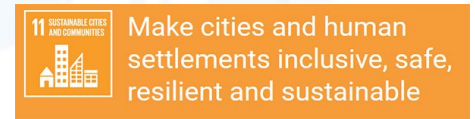
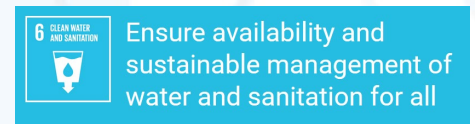
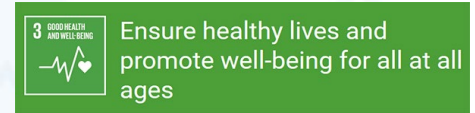
6th Session of the

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

16-18 November | Geneva | Switzerland

Why is this work important for the pan-European region?

- **Look beyond access: Safe drinking-water and sanitation** are fundamental to human health and well-being
- **Water safety planning (WSP)** and **sanitation safety planning (SSP)** approaches:
 - Public health benchmarks for delivery of safe services
 - Regulatory, managerial and operational benefits and health gains
- Support target setting and implementation of the **core provisions of the Protocol:**
 - Quality of drinking-water
 - Disposal or reuse of sewage and wastewater
 - Levels of performance and application of recognized good practices
- National uptake of **WHO Guidelines** for Drinking-water quality and for Sanitation and Health
- **EU Directive** (2020) on the quality of water intended for human consumption
- Global and regional WASH commitments



Major milestones since 2020 and outcomes

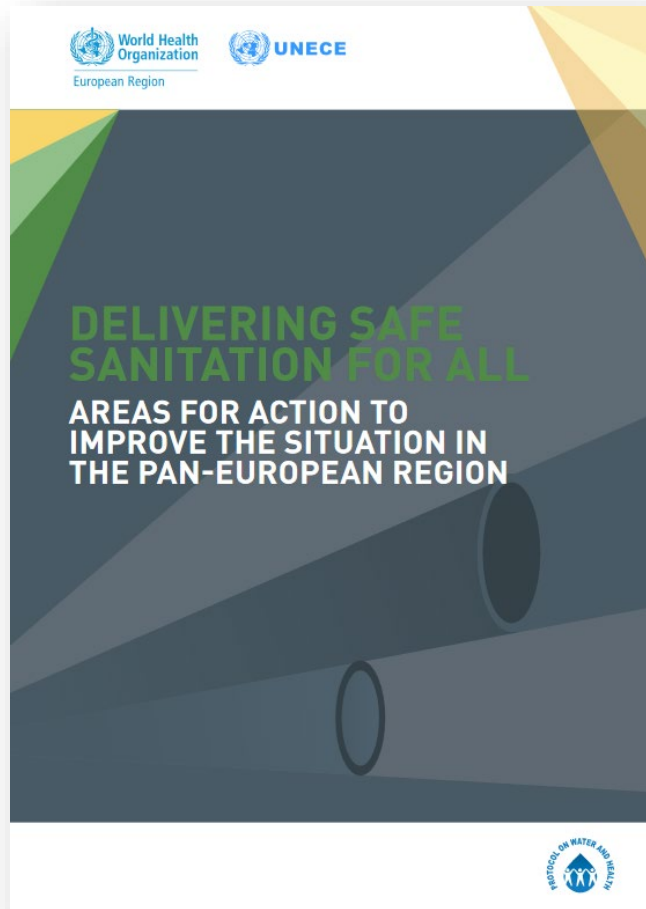
Increasing policy attention, identifying priorities and fostering expertise exchange

- **Expert consultation on onsite sanitation** in the pan-European region (virtual, October 2021)
 - Jointly with programme area 4
 - 60 delegates from 25 countries
 - Share good practices related to regulation, safe management and surveillance of onsite sanitation
 - Discuss challenges faced by onsite sanitation systems
- **Outcomes:**
 - Increased understanding of the status and of the high relevance in the Region
 - Identified range of follow-up action needs (for next programme period)

- **Expert consultation on sanitation** in the pan-European region (virtual, June 2022)
 - 35 delegates from 17 countries
 - Review the situation of and issues in sanitation and wastewater management and exchange experiences
 - Discuss national uptake of WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health
 - Update on the revision of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
 - Discuss main building blocks of sanitation governance
- **Outcomes:**
 - Defined priorities for policy actions – country perspectives
 - Informed the development of the sanitation policy brief

Major milestones since 2020 and outcomes

Increasing policy attention, identifying priorities and fostering expertise exchange



***Delivering safe sanitation for all:
areas for action to improve the
situation in the pan-European region***

https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash#tab=tab_1

Major milestones since 2020 and outcomes

Scaling up uptake of water and sanitation safety plans and building capacity

- Pilot project on **integrated water and sanitation safety plans (iWSSP)** in small supplies in rural Serbia (in cooperation with programme area 4):
 - Awareness raising and capacity building activities on iWSSP (Belgrade (hybrid), June and September 2021)
 - Development of training materials on iWSSP
- **Focus policy attention on increasing climate resilience** (in cooperation with programme area 7):
 - Global workshop on improving climate resilience (March 2021)
 - To address aspects of safe and climate-resilient water management and use of water and sanitation safety planning

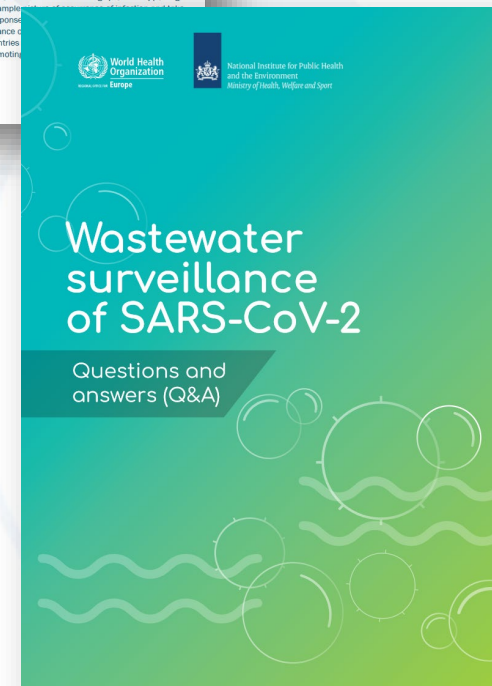
Initiating capacity building on Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment at national level

- Online training workshop on Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (October 2022), with participants from Serbia, Germany and The Netherlands

Major milestones since 2020 and outcomes

Technical support in response to COVID-19 pandemic

- **Webinar on safe WASH management for the prevention of COVID-19** (8 April 2020):
 - 350 participants
 - Dissemination of WHO/UNICEF Interim Guidance: Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for SARS-CoV-2
 - Foster exchange of country experiences and discuss WASH related actions for preparedness and response to pandemic
 - **Outcome: Practical advice** in a form of Q&A for **immediate support** to countries
- **Webinar on surveillance of wastewater for SARS-CoV-2** (15 October 2020) (in cooperation with programme area 2)
- **New information material:** Q&A publication on wastewater surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 (April 2022)



Challenges and lessons learnt for future work

Building back/building better from the pandemic:

- Several in-country capacity building workshops to support WSP and SSP uptake could not be pursued due to pandemic circumstances
- Hands-on capacity building does not work in online format
- Individual follow-up plans need to be made for 2023–2025
- New, emerging and unplanned issues required attention:
Technical contribution to COVID-19 and WASH related work

Suggested future work for 2023-2025

Objectives aim to support Parties and other Member States to:

- Ensure **safe and climate-resilient** management of **water supply and sanitation services** by strengthening national capacities on risk-based management
- Establish **effective sanitation policies** and **regulations** on sanitation and wastewater management and **address emerging challenges** in wastewater treatment and reuse

Suggested future work in this area (2023-2025)

Strengthening national capacities for safe and climate-resilient water management

- National and sub-regional capacity building workshops (up to three) on WSP, SSP and integrated WSSP
- Assistance on strengthening uptake of WSP and SSP and supporting development of country roadmaps
- Regional or subregional workshops (up to two) on quantitative microbial risk assessment as a tool to support water safety management

In collaboration
with programme
areas 2, 4 and 7

Suggested future work in this area (2023-2025)

Awareness-raising and strengthening governance for wastewater management and surveillance

- Support to up to two countries – upon request – on sanitation policy development and uptake of the WHO *Guidelines on sanitation and health*
- Workshops (up to two) on use and reuse of (waste)water for fit-for-purpose applications
- Regional workshop to raise awareness on (re-)emerging challenges in wastewater management, as well as on sewage surveillance applications

In collaboration
with programme
area 2

Thank you for your attention!

