Agenda item 13

Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems

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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
  - 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
Thank you for your attention!