



Welcome to the 6th Session of the **Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health**

16–18 November 2022



Please wear masks in the conference room

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General Segment

Item 7: Assistance to support accession and implementation at the national level

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Documentation:

- The Protocol on Water and Health: Driving action on water, sanitation, hygiene and health (United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/21)
- Overview of activities in member States under the biennial collaborative agreements of the WHO Regional Office for Europe to support implementation of the Protocol's programme of work for 2020–2022 (informal document 6)

WHO country support activities (2020-2022)

Aligned with the technical programme areas of the Protocol

THEMATIC FOCUS	COUNTRIES
Support accession to the Protocol and target setting	AZE, BLR, MDA
Drinking-water, wastewater & water-related disease surveillance	AZE, CRO, CZE
WASH in health care facilities	GEO, HUN, MDA, MNE, SRB, TJK & TKM
Improving small-scale systems, on-site sanitation	ALB, SRB
Water and sanitation safety plans Integration of WASH in national policies, strategies	GEO, ITA, SRB,
WASH monitoring and SDG progress reporting (GLAAS & JMP)	ALB, AZE, BIH, BLR, CRO, EST, GEO, ITA, HUN, KAZ, KGZ, HUN, MNE, NOR*, ROM, SRB, TJK, TKM, UKR & UZB

BCA & CCS
20 countries
6 programme areas

Impact at country level: selected examples

Biennial collaborative agreements (BCA)

IMPACT

Country cooperation strategies (CCS)

- ***Strengthening WASH governance:***
 - Countries set/updated the national **WASH targets** and **policies**
- **Improving national WASH monitoring and reporting for SDG 6** through country-led GLAAS process and JMP consultation
 - Useful data for WASH sector analysis, progress tracking and joint multistakeholder actions
- ***Evidence generation for informed policy action :***
 - Establishing a comprehensive national overview of WASH in health care facilities as basis for policy interventions
 - WASH integrated in the national health strategy and national action plan for antimicrobial resistance

Impact at country level: selected examples

Biennial collaborative agreements (BCA)

IMPACT

Country cooperation strategies (CCS)

Strengthening surveillance, early warning and response capacities

- Requirements for **risk-based approach** recommended by WHO guidelines taken up in **national standards** and regulations
- Development of **national guidance** to strengthen water-related disease surveillance and outbreak management
- Enhanced focus on **Legionella prevention and control**
- Capacity building in environmental **surveillance of SARS-CoV-2** in wastewater

Programme area 8 under programme of work for 2023-2025

Raising awareness on the Protocol and facilitating accession

Responsible body: Joint secretariat, with the support of the Bureau and national focal points

Objectives:

Raising awareness on the Protocol in the pan-European region and providing support to countries in raising government commitment and ownership regarding accession to the Protocol, including through assisting them in assessing their challenges, priorities and benefits of accession and providing advice on accession procedures



Programme area 8: Raising awareness on the Protocol and facilitating accession (continuation)

Activities:

- (a) Foster communication and promotion of the Protocol through different activities, including website update, networking on social media, participation in major international events and production of promotional materials;
- (b) Organize – upon demand – national and/or subregional workshops to promote accession;
- (c) Provide technical and legal advice related to accession to the Protocol, upon demand, including through the development of a targeted publication, upon demand.

UNECE



The Protocol on Water and Health

Driving action on water, sanitation, hygiene and health



Objectives:

- Raise awareness on the Protocol, the activities carried out under its framework, its tools and guidance documents
- Highlight the benefits of the Protocol, including for implementation of 2030 Agenda and for EU member States
- Encourage accession to the Protocol

Content:

- Introducing the Protocol and its core provisions
- Benefits of the Protocol
- Technical areas of work under the Protocol, including supporting tools and guidance documents
- Countries case studies and "testimonies"
- Q&A sheet for States considering accession to the Protocol



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Summary of possible decisions (1)

- a) Takes note of the new promotional brochure on the Protocol and encourages States to make use of it, including when considering accession to the Protocol;
- b) Expresses appreciation for the support provided by the ECE and OECD-led National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation to the implementation of the Protocol at the national level in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- c) Thanks the European Commission, as well as other partner countries and organizations, for their support to activities under Protocol on Water and Health within the overall framework of the National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation and encourages the European Commission to consider funding the programme beyond 2022, especially in the region of Central Asia;

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Summary of possible decisions (2)

- (d) Also expresses appreciation for the remarkable support provided through the WHO biennial collaborative agreements and country cooperation strategies to the implementation of the programme of work and assistance to countries;
- (e) Endorses the proposed plans for future work in this area for the period 2023-2025;
- (f) Requests the joint secretariat to develop a targeted publication related to accession to the Protocol, as needed.