



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA



## Announcement:

Combined working group meeting and workshop on Water and Health,  
national planning and regional networking  
towards water supply & sanitation, and the right to water

Bucharest, Romania – 12-16 May 2008

It is our pleasure to inform you that a series of events, co-organized by the Government of Romania, European Commission, UNECE, WHO-EURO, UNDP and OSCE, will take place in Bucharest, Romania, 12-16 May 2008:

- 12/13 May 2008: 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU Water Initiative Working Group for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EUWI -EECCA), with focus on the latest development in the EUWI and next steps for future action
- 14-16 May 2008: Joint "Workshop on Water and Health", organized by UNECE, European Commission, WHO-EURO, UNDP and OSCE, with focus on the "Protocol on Water and Health", including policy development, technical and implementation aspects of national strategies, and the improvement of access to water supply and sanitation services in the region

The EUWI-EECCA Working Group meeting, taking place 12 -13 May 2008 will look into the latest developments within the EUWI -EECCA component. The discussion will also focus on financial and management issues as well as developing next steps for future actions .

The joint UNECE/EC/WHO-EURO/UNDP/OSCE workshop on Water & Health will be a combination of (a) the UNECE CWC 2008 workshop, (b) the annual UNDP "Water Community of Practice" meeting 2008, and (c) a EC water sector policy workshop. It will take place 14-16 May 2008.

The objectives of this combined workshop include:

- Facilitate exchange of experiences, within the EECCA region, on the regulatory, institutional, technical, social and development aspects connected with the application and implementation of national policies/strategies and plans on water and health



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- Promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the EECCA region and in particular contribute to the process of development and implementation Protocol's targets as well as setting up surveillance systems for water-related diseases
- Identify effective ways of cooperation between the water, environment and health sectors, and explore current examples of networks, cooperation, processes and partnerships in the EECCA region
- Identify gaps and opportunities in the region to develop and implement concrete projects and activities towards improving public health by increasing access to water and sanitation services
- Explore and discuss related aspects – including “the right to water” – and its potential support to provisions and objectives under the Protocol on Water & Health

The workshop on Water and Health will focus on the relationship between water, health and related aspects, namely access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases, sustainable management and protection of water resources as well as social and equity aspects related to the human right to water. The workshop will allow exchanging experience in EECCA countries on national strategies and plans designed to facilitate and integrate all these components and the challenges related to their implementation. In particular, the workshop will focus on the Protocol on Water and Health in order to demonstrate its unique way of integrating environment and human well being.

UNDP is taking this occasion to launch its new Regional Programme on Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBA) to Water Governance, and will call for a broad stakeholder and expert consultation roundtable. In addition, the combined workshop and “Water Community of Practice (CoP)” meeting will offer a forum for active networking among experts and practitioners in the region. As every year, selected presentations will give an update on recent UNDP projects and developments in the water sector and an input for discussions and exchange of experience among the participants.