

The Protocol on Water and Health: Introduction and main provisions

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Why a treaty to manage water resources and prevent water-related diseases ?

- In the European Region, poor-quality drinking-water causes over 13 000 deaths from diarrhoea among children aged 0–14 years (5.3% of all deaths in this age group) each year
- 19 million people still do not have access to improved water sources and 67 million people lack access to improved sanitation facilities in the pan-European region
- Inequalities rise: in Caucasus and Central Asia, 22% of the rural population lacks access to improved drinking-water sources as opposed to only 4% of urban dwellers
- 71% of the rural population lacks access to piped water on premises, compared to 16% in urban areas
- Overuse, pollution, extreme weather events affect water resources

The Protocol on Water and Health

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

Protocol on Water and Health
to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Protocole sur l'eau et la santé
à la Convention de 1992 sur la protection et l'utilisation des cours d'eau transfrontières et des lacs internationaux
Protokoll über Wasser und Gesundheit
zur dem Übereinkommen von 1992 zum Schutz der Nutzung grenzüberschreitender Wasserläufe und internationaler Seen
Протокол по проблемам воды и здоровья
к Конвенции по охране и использованию трансграничных водотоков и международных озер 1992 года



The world's only legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management

A practical instrument to achieve water-related MDGs and implement the human right to water and sanitation

Key objectives:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone and
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

Objectives

(a) Access to drinking water for everyone and

(b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

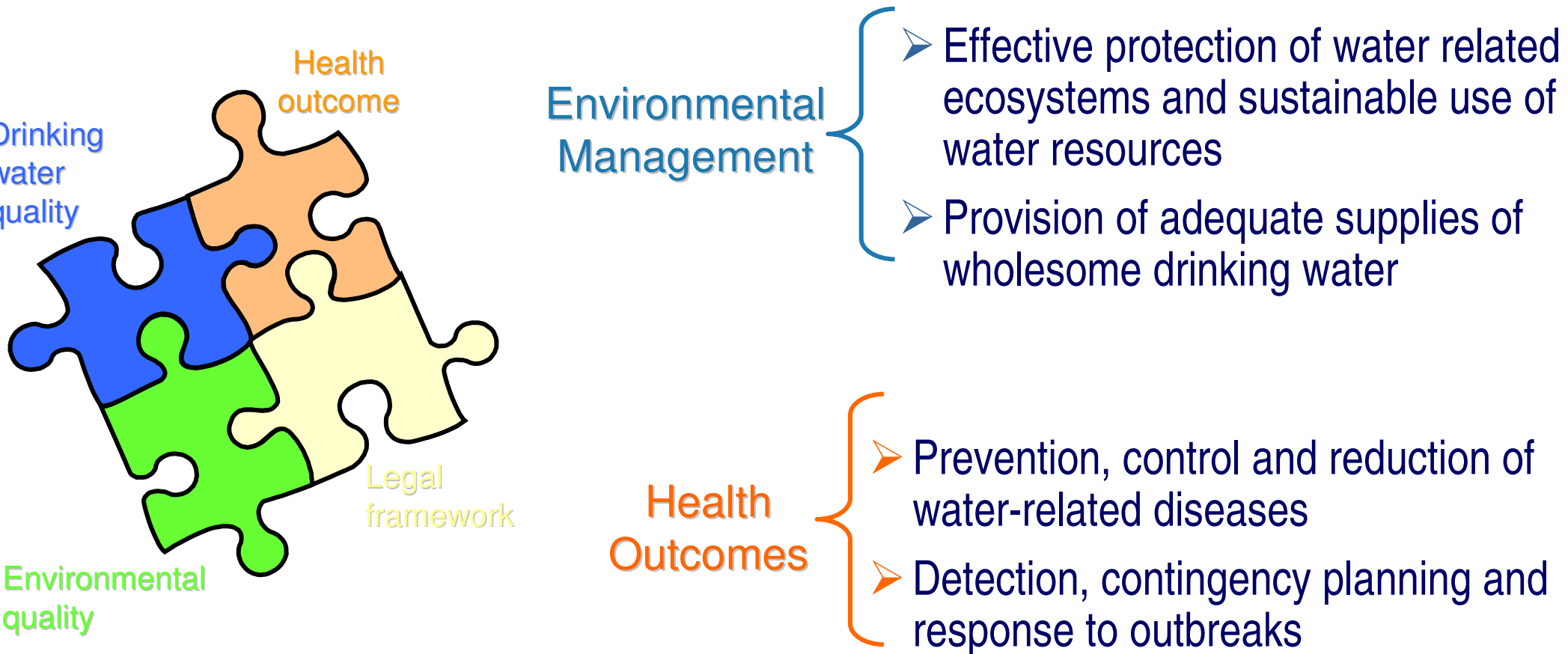
=> Focus on sustainable development and MDGs, beyond MDG 7, target 10

=> framework for implementing the human right to water and poverty reduction – UN GA and UN HRC resolutions

⇒ focus on governance, integration of policies and on cooperation

⇒ tool to implementation future water and health related SDGs

Goal: Protect human health and well being by better management of water resources



Scope

Costal and estuarine waters



Surface waters

Water during abstraction, transport, treatment and supply



Wastewater collection, transport, treatment, discharge, reuse

Setting targets and measuring progress

DECLARE TARGETS

- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

SET DATES

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each country sets and publishes targets, and dates for achieving them

REVIEW PROGRESS

Parties:

- collect and evaluate data
- publish results
- review progress
- provide summary reports

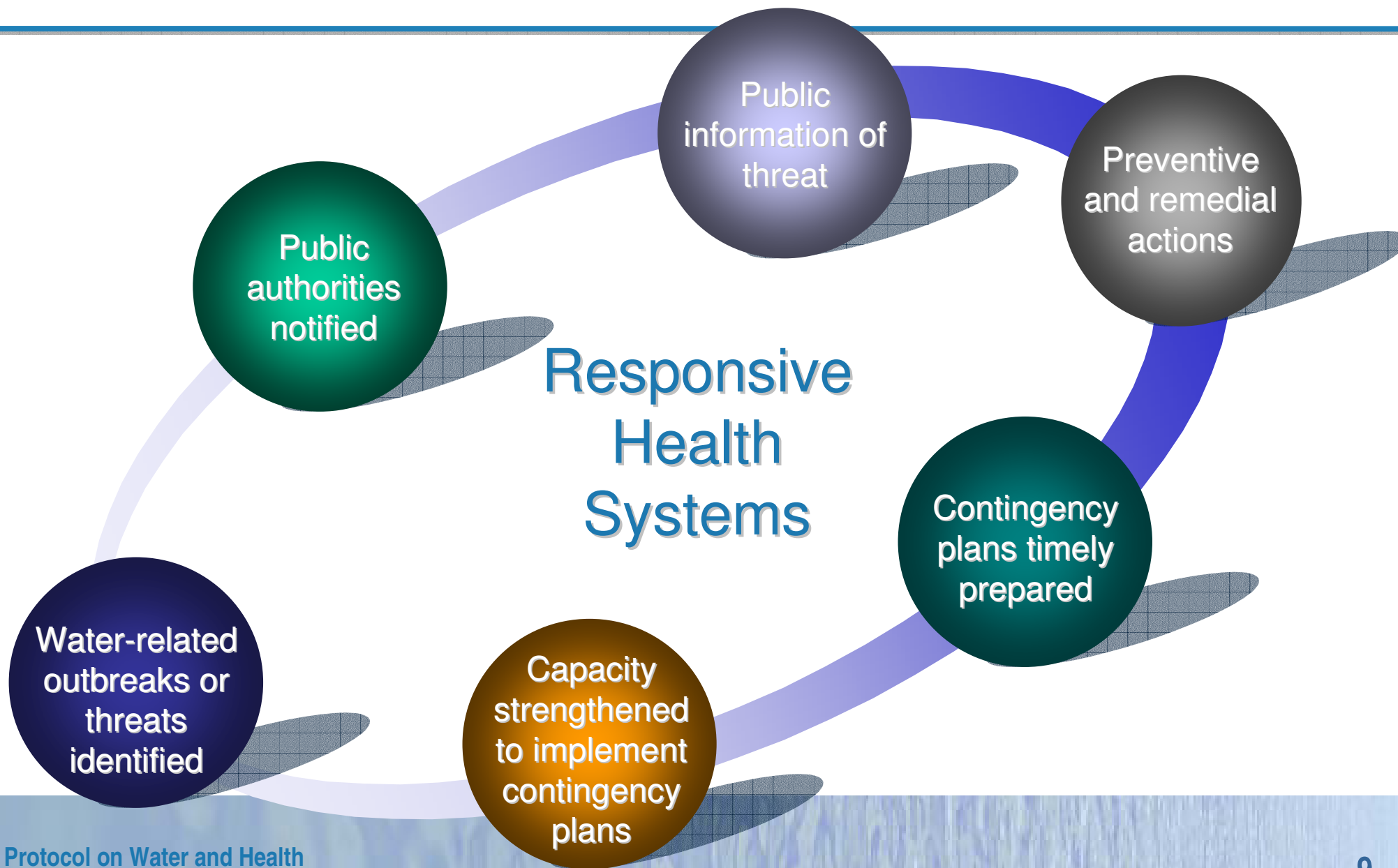
EVALUATE

MOP evaluate progress in implementation

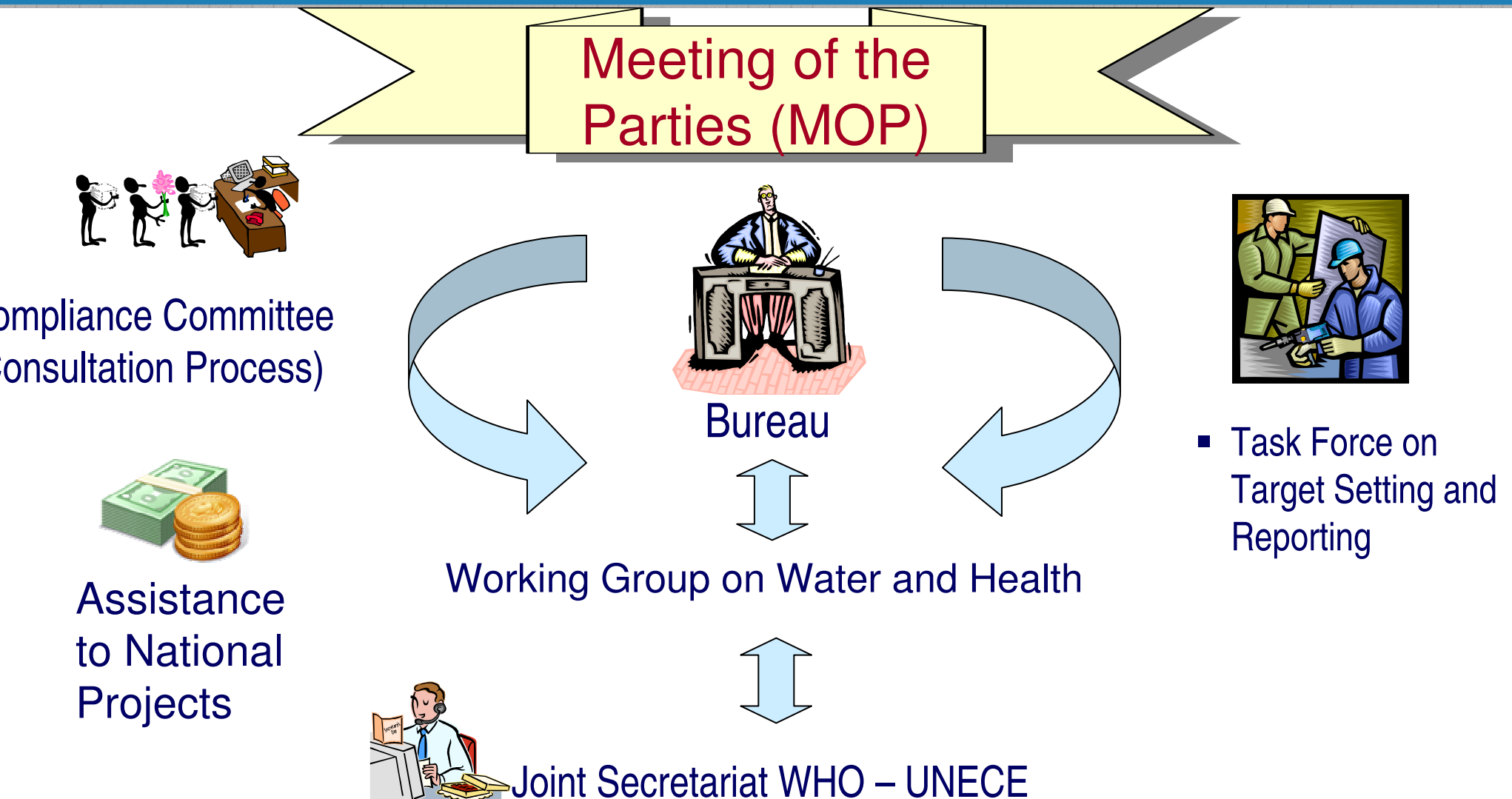
Target setting areas



Within 3 years each country shall establish systems for surveillance and control of water-related diseases



How does the Protocol function?



Guidance materials



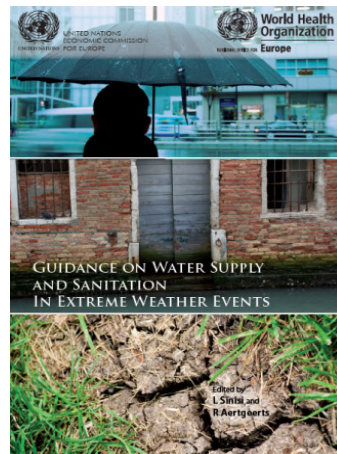
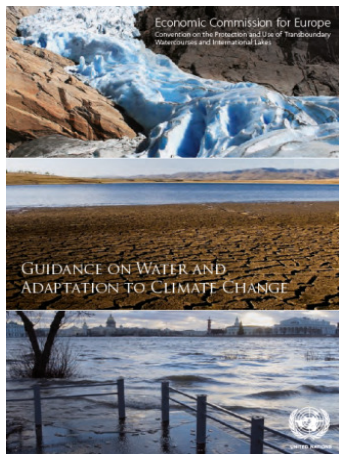
➤ Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol

➤ Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region

➤ Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change

➤ Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events

➤ No one left behind. Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region.

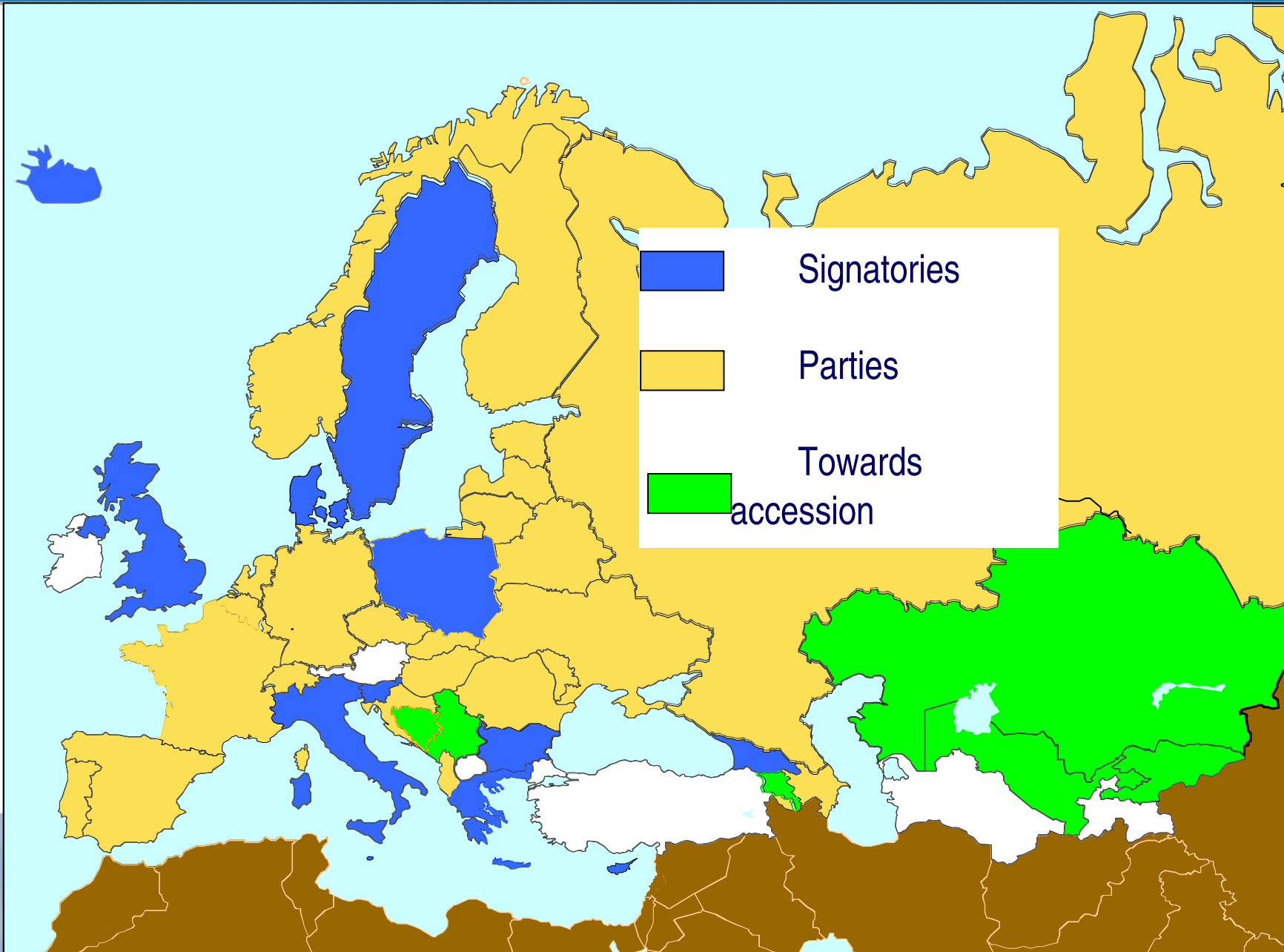


Status of ratification

Adopted in
1999 by 36
countries

Entered into
force in 2005

Currently
ratified by 26
countries



Status of implementation

- Most Parties have initiated the process of target setting:
 - Setting up coordination mechanisms
 - Conducting baseline analysis
 - Establishing first draft targets, Consulting the public on these
- 10 Parties have completed the process of target setting in the main areas stipulated by the Protocol
- 23 out of 26 Parties submitted their national reports in 2013 and 3 non-Parties
- EU countries: synergies and complementarities with EU legislation

Status of implementation by Azerbaijan

Country	Accession	Targets
Azerbaijan	Party as of 9 January 2003	Process not started yet

- Azerbaijan submitted national reports under the Protocol both in 2010 and 2013, MoH and MENP focal points
- Actively participates in all regional activities under the Protocol, including subregional workshop for the Caucasus, MOP 3 in 2013 (WSP, SSWSS)
- Considerable progress in water supply and sanitation due to large scale governmental programs
- The only Party to the Protocol in the Caucasus and Central Asia
- However, has not yet complied with the obligation to set targets

Status of implementation by Azerbaijan

Percentage of population with access to improved drinking water quality	2005	2012
Total	78.3%	80%
Urban population	86.2%	92%
Rural population	68.7%	74%

International support to national action (Art. 14)

Preparation of water management plans in national and transboundary context and schemes to improve water supply and sanitation

Improved formulation of projects, especially infrastructure projects, identify sources of finance – PFM and cooperation with the EBRD Water Fund – linking obligations under the Protocol (target setting) and Protocol principles with the infrastructure financing

Establishment of systems of surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans, response capacities in relation to water-related diseases

Preparation of legislation needed to support the implementation of the Protocol

Education and training of key professional and technical staff

International support, cnt'd

- R&D into cost-effective means and techniques for preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease
- Operation of effective networks to monitor and assess the provision and quality of water-related services, and development of integrated information systems and databases
- Achievement of quality assurance for monitoring activities, including inter-laboratory comparability
- National projects on target setting completed and ongoing in: Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine
- Upon request and subject to availability of funds, a project in Azerbaijan may be initiated

www.unece.org/env/water

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