

**Collaboration between governmental  
authorities and NGOs under the Protocol,  
Experience from Lithuania**

**Workshop on Information and Public Participation in  
Water and Health Related Issues**

**Bucharest, Romania,  
15-16 June 2010**

# Collaboration between institutions

Ministry of Environment  
(Water division)

Ministry of Health  
(Public Health division)

State Food and Veterinary  
Service (water control)

# Collaboration between institutions

- Ministry of Environment provides information on water to the Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Health provides the data about the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and about the progress achieved in Lithuania to the secretariat.
- State Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for water control and for reporting about drinking water quality to EURO Commission under Directive 98/83/EC. State Food and Veterinary Service submit information to the Ministry of Health.

# First step of collaboration with NGO (2004 year)

Into the Protocol implementation working group there were invited specialists from:

- *Association of Local (Municipalities) Authorities in Lithuania*
- *Water Supply Company „Vilniaus vandenys”*

# Collaboration with NGO (2009 year )

- Collaboration with Water Club Lithuania and Baltic Environmental Forum
- Collaboration with Public Health Offices under Municipality
- Collaboration with Community. Preparation of common programs under the Protocol (Dug wells water survey in Pilaite district).

# Submission of information

- The **Ministry of Environment** publishes background information, which is related to water quality management through the telecommunications equipment and through the website of the Ministry of Environment.
- Information on drinking water supply and waste water management for subscribers (consumers-users) has been assigned to **water suppliers**.

# Submission of information

- **Environmental Protection Agency** prepares and releases statistical information brochure "State of the Environment" every year. There are published the most popular and important environmental issues, the direction of Lithuania on this review and the analysis of findings.
- It is also website the public can access the state of lakes and river monitoring data, pollutant discharges registry data, rivers, lakes and ponds cadastral data.

# Submission of information

- Currently, the public can obtain information on water quality in the presence of assessing the economic impact on the environment, spacial planning, delivery notes and suggestions for new legislation.



- However, there are deficiencies:

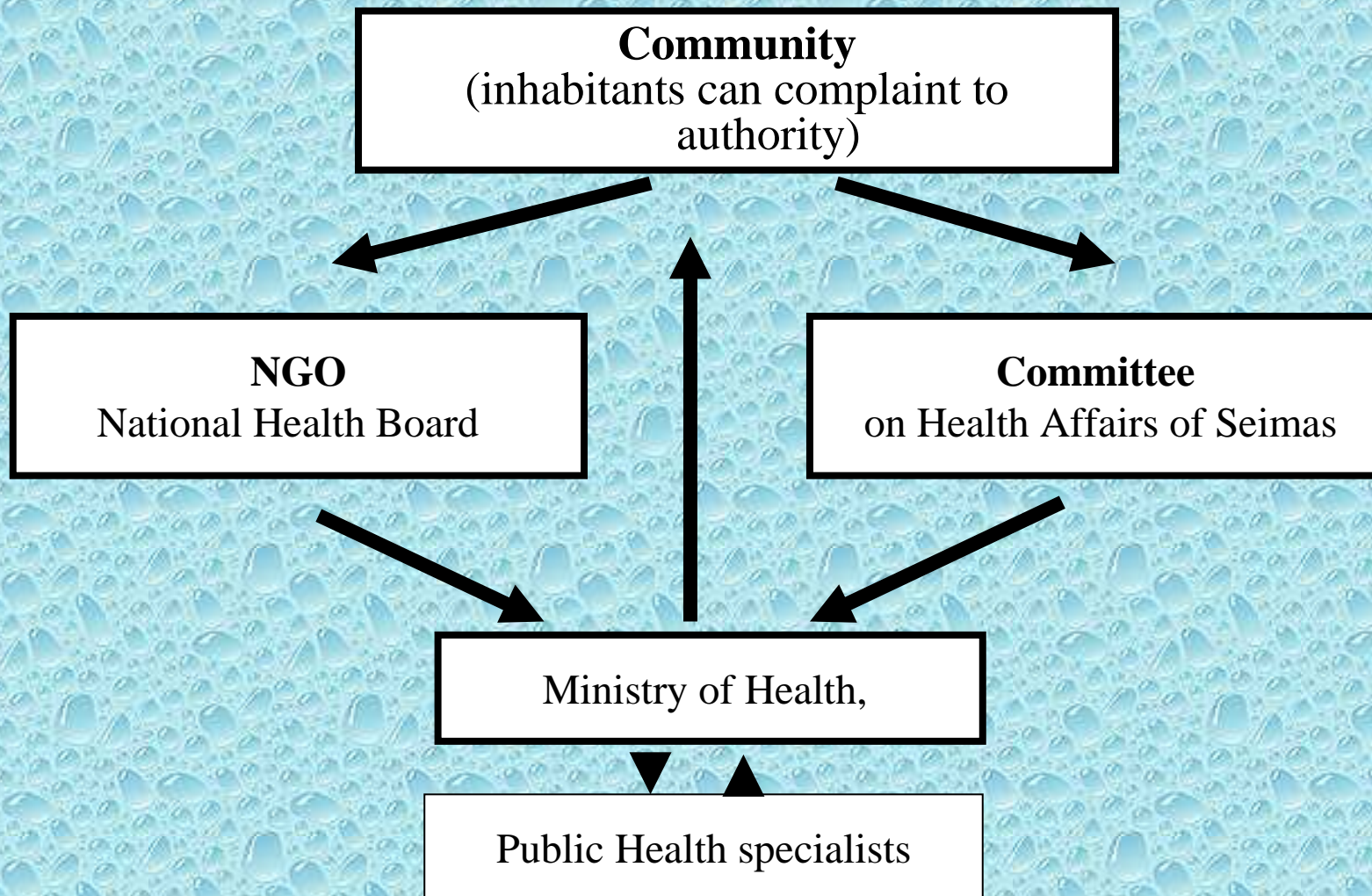
during coordination of any plan or program the interest of public is generally low, but when the project is started, they express dissatisfaction.

## Submission of information to inhabitants

- In Lithuania there is legislation, which lets people to have right to get the information.

What to do with this information?

# Procedure of Cooperation



# **How the access to information and public participation can be organized under the Protocol?**

## **Some practical recommendations:**

**To attend to include the public into the process!!!**

### **Plan of action:**

- To prepare the questionnaires for inhabitant, to organize survey of population, to prioritize local problems, to collaborate with Public Health Offices under Municipality;
- To establish new active working groups (committees), from members of community for bringing together the ongoing activities;

- To prepare common programs under the Protocol and submit to the secretariat of the Protocol;

- To organize discussion and training programs in Lithuania

**on June 18, 2010 Committee on Health Affairs of Seimas will organize the Forum for NGO, where we will have the ability to do the presentation of the Protocol**

Thank you for your attention!

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