

Overview of the outcomes and lessons learnt from the subregional workshops on sharing of experience on the implementation of the Protocol

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Background



- Conducted in accordance with the programme of work - area on target setting and reporting
- Eastern Europe (Minsk, 5-6 April 2011), Central Europe (Bratislava, 8-9 May 2012) and Nordic and Baltic countries (Oslo, 7-8 November 2012)
- In pipeline for 2013 –the Caucasus (Tbilisi, May) and Central Asia (Almaty, September) workshops
- With direct and in-direct contributions from Finland, Switzerland, host countries and organizations



Rationale for an overview

- WGWH (11-12 October 2012) discussions and request by Bureau to prepare an overview
- Inform the process of preparation of the next programme of work
- Assess benefits of subregional sharing of experience
- Assess problems in each subregion and common issues for the whole region



Eastern Europe

- All countries - Parties, different levels of implementation
- Country projects assisted in target setting
- Inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial cooperation
- Targets as a means to streamline investments in water and sanitation infrastructure and donors' efforts

Eastern Europe: challenges and priorities



- High degree of deterioration of water and sanitation infrastructure and the deriving needs for investments and improved management
- Access to water and sanitation, in particular in rural areas, where the management of small scale supplies is a key challenge
- Need to perform cost-benefit analysis of targets and proposed measures, especially in light of the general lack of resources allocated to water and sanitation sector
- Protection of water resources, in particular surface waters, used as sources of drinking water.

Central Europe



- Relationship between the Protocol and the EU directives
- Work beyond the EU legislation - holistic approach of the Protocol
- EU funding helped in implementation of measures
- Added value of the Protocol in such areas as small scale water supplies and sanitation, equity aspects, and bathing waters
- Importance of partnerships, NGOs, GWP

Central Europe: challenges and priorities



- Access to water and sanitation in rural areas – small scale supplies and their financing, equitable access
- Need to effectively address emerging diseases/pathogens
- Need to address the impact of extreme weather events
- Political support to the Protocol and inter-sectoral cooperation in the process of target setting, their implementation and review.

Nordic and Baltic countries



- Different stages of ratification and implementation
- Protocol – EU legislation linkages
- Geographical specificities – low density of population, rural supply issues
- Importance of partnerships – Nordic/Baltic network on drinking water and sanitation – Nordic Council of Ministers

Nordic and Baltic countries: challenges and priorities



- Access to water and sanitation in rural and sparsely populated areas – small scale and individual supplies
- Improving the water and health situation through setting targets and surveillance and reduction of water-related diseases
- Protocol as a vehicle to mobilize political will for investment into water and sanitation sector.



Conclusions

- Setting of targets and target dates remains a key and demanding exercise but can bring multiple benefits
- Intersectoral cooperation remains a common issue
- Sanitation lagging behind
- Climate change and extreme weather impacts complicate achievement of targets



Common regional issues

- Access to water and sanitation in rural and sparsely populated areas – small scale and individual supplies
- Equitable access issues
- Public participation in Protocol matters
- Need but also challenges associated with performing cost-benefit analysis of targets and proposed measures
- Level of performance of water supply and sanitation systems.



Lessons learnt

- Subregional WS allow exchange among countries with similar backgrounds
- Involve more experts from different stakeholder groups and sectors
- Allow involving countries which are not yet Parties or haven't advanced in implementation
- Highly appreciated by participants – evaluations
- Renewed commitments, generated new ideas
- Should be better tailored to subregional needs



Issues for consideration

- Should subregional workshops be organized in the next programme of work, in particular in the subregions where there hasn't been any (e.g. South-Eastern Europe)?
- If so, what should be done differently and what should be done in the same way?
- Could the issues highlighted in the first round be followed up by activities organized in the next programme of work?