

Protocol on Water and Health: main developments since 2019 and cooperation with the Water Convention



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Developments since 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Belgrade, 19-21 November 2019)

- Programme of work for 2020-2022 being progressively implemented, despite the COVID-19 pandemic
- Protocol governing bodies meet in virtual format (Working Group, Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting, Bureau, Compliance Committee)
- Countries continue to set and/or revise national targets under the Protocol (recently, BEL, BiH, CZ, PT, SP, etc.)
- Relevance of the Protocol in light of COVID-19 (need for resilient water and sanitation services, reliable access to safe water for all – particularly relevant to work under equitable access, institutional WASH and sanitation management areas). Special webinar series ongoing
- **Paper on COVID-19 and the Protocol: WASH in the context COVID-19 and how can Protocol help ([here](#))**



Future Protocol work in light of COVID-19: ensuring no one is left behind

Response

Recovery

Preparedness

Sustainability



- **Scale-up “culture of hygiene” in all settings**
 - Promote good practices in schools and health facilities
 - Support situation assessments



- **Analyse inequalities in access to essential WASH services under the pandemic**
 - Access for disadvantaged groups
 - Affordability of services and materials

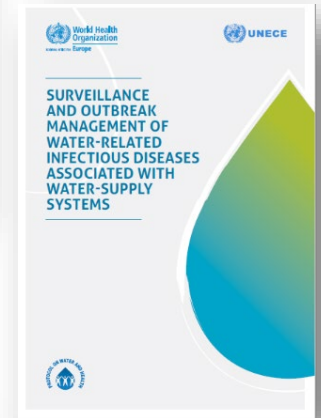
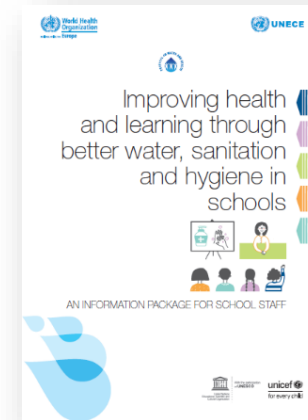


- **Strengthen COVID-19 sensitive target setting**
 - Reflection of gaps and lessons learnt
 - Strengthen recovery, preparedness and long-term sustainability



- **Strengthen health system capacities**
 - Establish effective surveillance and response systems
 - Explore wastewater monitoring as early warning system

- **Convene dialogue on experiences with WASH @ COVID-19**
 - 2020-2021 Webinar Series under the Protocol



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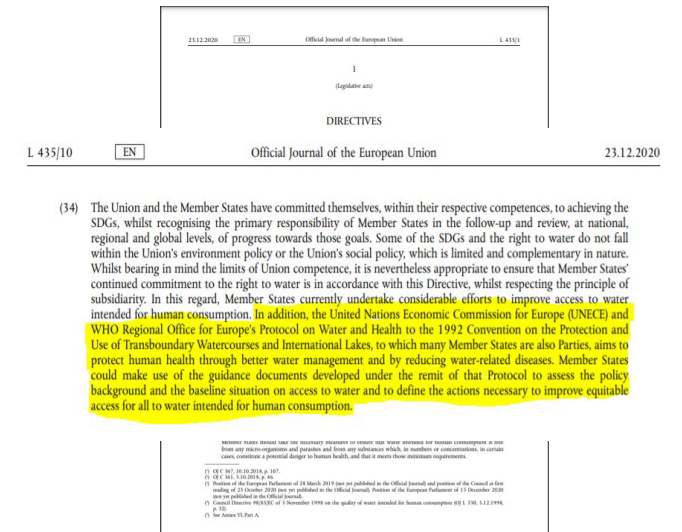
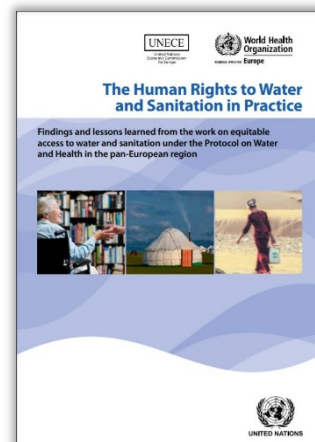
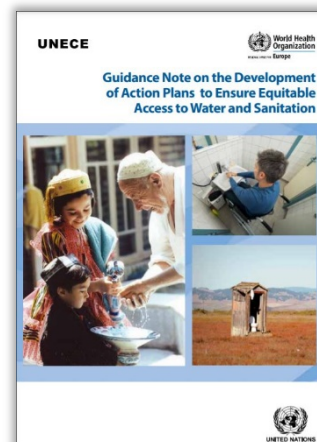
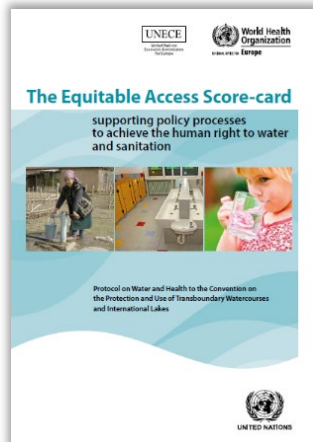
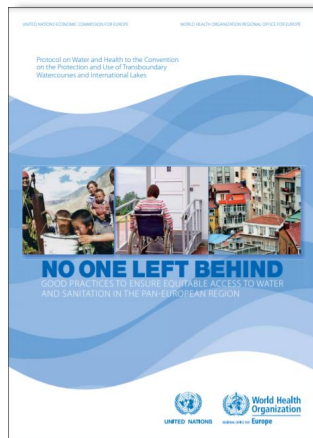
Protocol in the EU Drinking Water Directive recast

The EU Drinking Water Directive recast specifically references the Protocol in para 34 of the recitals as a mechanism to “*assess the policy background and the baseline situation on access to water and to define the actions necessary to improve equitable access for all to water intended for human consumption*”

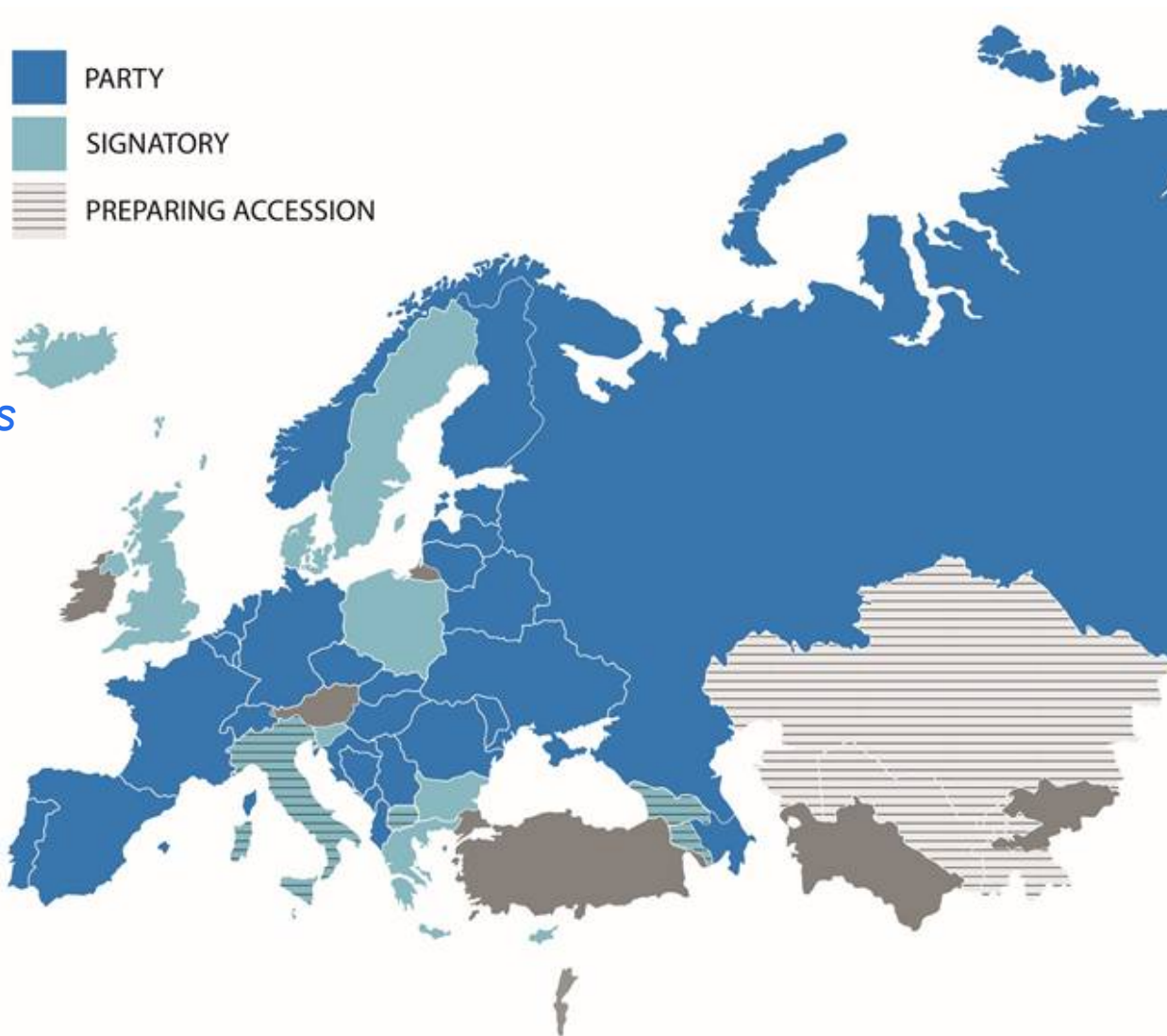
Directive 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption entered into force on 12 January 2021.

The EU Member States now have two years to transpose it in national legislation.

Protocol tools supporting implementation of article 13 of the Directive:



Progress in the ratification process



We encourage countries of the pan-European region to become Parties to the Protocol!

- Available to countries of pan-European region
- 27 Parties (Montenegro joined in 2020)
- 36 Signatories
- 50+ countries actively participate in the activities of the Protocol



Cooperation between the Protocol and Water Convention

1. Increasing resilience to climate change

Global workshop on building climate resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels (29-31 March 2021), organized jointly by Convention and Protocol



Conclusions of sessions 1 and 2 (water and sanitation):

- Climate change impacts water cycle by disrupting weather patterns, leading to extreme weather events, unpredictable water availability, exacerbating water scarcity and contaminating water supplies in short, medium and long term.
- Building and maintaining water supply and sanitation systems that are resilient to climate shocks requires integrated perspective on water, sanitation, climate and health and application of risk-based approaches and tools, such as WSPs and SSPs.
- Water and sanitation operators play an important role in increasing resilience to climate change.
- The Protocol on Water and Health is a powerful multilateral instrument that helps countries systematically address water and sanitation-related health risks arising from a changing climate
- Water, sanitation and health aspects are important to be considered in transboundary agreements

Future work under the Protocol in the area of climate change:

Strategic roundtable on increasing resilience to climate change through the Protocol on Water and Health, planned for January 2020

Background note on water and sanitation in the context of climate change in the pan-European region available by scanning **QR code** and [here](#)



Cooperation between the Protocol and Water Convention (ctd.)

2. Assistance to support implementation at national level, through EUWI+ NPDs

Support with setting targets under the Protocol was provided in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (according to countries' priorities)

3. Exchange of experience between the Protocol Compliance Committee and Convention Implementation Committee

In particular on the similar mechanisms of the Consultation Process under the Protocol Compliance Committee and Advisory Procedure under the Convention Implementation Committee

4. Future electronic reporting

Cooperation on a future online reporting system (possibly using a similar platform under the Protocol and the Convention)



Thank you for your attention!

More information on the Protocol is available [here](#)

