

Protocol on Water and Health: Progress achieved in the implementation of the programme of work for 2014-2016

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Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes



1. Progress and achievements in this area of work in the triennium, esp. since 2014

- * 26 Parties at present - no accessions since the 3rd MOP
- * Norway, Serbia, Slovakia set and communicated targets. Switzerland expected to communicate targets soon
- * Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan working towards accession
- * Capacity-building ongoing in support of accession and target setting
- * Equitable access score-card: Moldova (ongoing), FYROM, Hungary
- * Technical activities: prevention and reduction of water-related diseases, small-scale water supplies and sanitation, safe and efficient management
- * Consultation process under Compliance Committee
Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina – October 2015



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2. Main results and lessons learned

Main results and success factors:

- * Number of countries in process of/considering accession, in particular in the Caucasus and Central Asia
- * Focus on supporting implementation through capacity building and development of guidance material
- * Lead Parties and organizations play an active role in activities and promotion
- * Partnerships with OHCHR, UNICEF, UNDP, OECD, EIB, EBRD, WHO Collaborative Centres and NGO networks (IWA, WECF)
- * Growing recognition and increased visibility of the Protocol through intensive promotional work by the joint secretariat, Bureau and Protocol's focal points.



Lessons learned and challenges:

- * Lack of financial resources (particularly staff costs, Compliance Committee)
- * Changes in government structures interrupting accession procedures
- * Number of Parties that have not yet fulfilled their obligation to set targets and target dates
- * Further promotion is needed to raise awareness about the Protocol and its activities and tools
- * NPDs have proved an extremely useful mechanism to support accession and target setting processes
- * Synergies with the work under the Convention are important in light of the post-2015 development agenda, work in the area of water and climate change, etc.



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3. Plans and priorities prior to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in 2016

- * 3rd reporting cycle starting in October 2015
- * Revision of the reporting template and guidelines for the 4th reporting cycle
- * Development of the 2017-2019 programme of work
- * Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties
- * Further capacity-building activities in support of accession and target setting processes
- * Application of equitable access score-card in selected countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus and Serbia)

