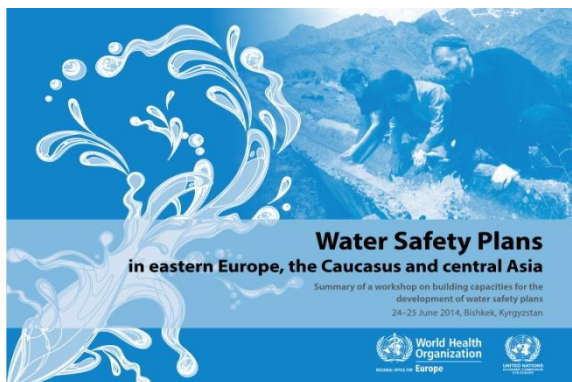


Project information

Networking and capacity building on water safety plans and small water supplies in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia



Summary report of the workshop on water safety plans (cover page)

Source: WHO 2014

Updated: 02/2015

Background

Challenges related to drinking-water supply in rural areas are of notable concern across the entire European Region. Particularly in Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries, significant parts of the population depend on small water supplies. Local communities frequently tend to lack capacities for essential resource protection, and safe and sustainable management, operation and maintenance of services.

To improve drinking-water quality, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends water safety plans (WSP) as the most effective way of ensuring continuous provision of safe drinking-water. WSPs constitute a systematic risk assessment and management approach for drinking-water quality from catchment to consumer. Whereas an increasing number of European countries successfully implements WSPs, EECCA countries still have rather limited experience with this approach and have not yet widely adopted it. Data on drinking-water quality and water-borne disease highlight the need to assist EECCA countries in WSP uptake.

Support to WSP uptake and improving the situation of small water supplies are two of the priority areas of the 2014-2016 programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health. The Protocol is the first international policy instrument to link sustainable water management and prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases.

Target country/region:

Countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

Duration:

10/2013 – 02/2015

Beneficiaries:

National governments, communities, water suppliers, health and environment professionals of 12 EECCA countries

Implementing organisation:

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health, Water and Sanitation Programme, Bonn

Project number:

32709

Project

The project aimed at supporting the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, specifically by promoting the WSP approach among national governments and thereby facilitating its uptake in policy and practice in EECCA countries.

To facilitate this process, WHO held a major subregional advocacy and capacity building event in June 2014 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. It drew together water, environment and health representatives from 12 EECCA countries, WSP experts and champions as well as international, financing and nongovernmental organizations. The WSP approach was introduced in detail, and participants had opportunity to discuss its benefits, learn from country experiences and sketch options for regulation and scale-up. To foster long-term uptake of WSPs, an [advocacy report](#) was published in Russian and English. It summarizes the key findings from the workshop and provides general information on WSPs relevant to policy-makers in EECCA countries. Complementally, the [WHO "road map"](#) guide to support incremental country-level implementation of WSPs was made available [in Russian](#).

A second major focus of the project was on improving the situation of small water supplies. WHO convened a back-to-back meeting of the WHO-hosted Small Community Water Supply Management Network. The Network provides a breadth of technical capacities and experiences and is a platform to share information on good practices in relation to rural water supply. The meeting addressed implementation of WSPs in small supplies, effective water quality surveillance, and identified future support needs in the EECCA countries. It was the first time that a Network meeting took place in and engaged with countries of the EECCA region.

A [WSP field guide](#) was published in English and Russian. It provides a step-by-step introduction to the WSP approach to assist small communities and those locally involved in rural water supply to implement their own WSPs.

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