Protocol on Water and Health

The Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Water Convention aims to protect human health and well-being through better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases in Europe. The Protocol is the first international legally binding agreement of its kind adopted specifically to attain an adequate supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone, and effectively protect water used as a source of drinking water. The Protocol was adopted in 1999 and entered into force in 2005, becoming legally binding for the ratifying countries. So far, 36 countries have signed and 24 ratified it.

Links between the Protocol on Water and Health & the terms of reference of the WHO CC are manifold:

**Surveillance of disease burden**: harmonized assessment of water related disease burden and surveillance including GIS-based approaches.

**Risk assessment**: assessment of environmental exposure and further development of GIS methods for health risk assessment.

**Risk management**: further development of holistic water management approaches and incorporation of GIS and Water Safety Plan concept.

**Communication of health risks**: regular review and compilation of publications, accumulated experiences and recommendations on risk communication concerning the field of water, sanitation and health.

**Technical guidance documentation**: supervision and coordination in the preparation of technical guidelines on selected topics.

**Diffusion of information on health risks**: production and diffusion of guidance documents, teaching aids and awareness-raising material on health-significant aspects of water management and risk communication.

**Training**: organization of group training on health promotion, water management and risk communication.