



Information on the implementation of the project on the preparation of national targets to the Protocol on Water and Health within the framework of Component 1 of the EU project “Water Initiative Plus”

Public consultation: 19-20 December 2018



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The European Union's project “Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership” (EUWI+) aims to support partner countries in implementing their national strategies and other international water agreements. One of such agreements is the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), to which Ukraine has been a party since 1999. Ukraine also ratified the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention by the relevant Law of Ukraine in 2003.

The Protocol is the first international agreement specifically created to ensure a link between water management and health problems, the provision of drinking water and adequate sanitation, designed to prevent, control and reduce the number of water-related diseases. The protocol is implemented through the implementation of two key provisions - setting national targets and monitoring progress in their implementation. At present, Ukraine reports every three years to the UNECE on progress on 15 indicators approved by the Order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) in 2011. In recent years, progress has been slowed down or almost absent on almost all indicators.

In 2016, in order to fulfill the requirements of the Protocol, Ukraine requested international assistance at the UNECE to revise its national targets to the Protocol and the Plan of Measures to achieve them. The work plan of the EUWI + project in Ukraine (Component 1) included activities for preparing an analysis of the situation, revising national targets (NT) and developing an Action Plan in response to this request. Ukrainian National Environmental NGO (UNENGO) “MAMA 86” was elected as the contractor for such work.

Now work on the revision of the NCP is conducted in close cooperation with MENR and Ministry of Health and other organizations - members of the Interdepartmental Working Group to coordinate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health under MENR. MAMA-86 is responsible for coordinating the work of experts and the process of involving stakeholders in the revision of the NT of the Protocol through consultations.

On December 6 of this year, the Interdepartmental Working Group for the first time reviewed the draft NT. The draft NT was accepted as a basis by the decision of the working group signed by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment Nikolai Kuzio with recommendations to discuss it with the public and finalize it, taking into account all the comments.

On December 19 - 20, public consultations were held in Kiev to discuss the draft NTP, measures for their implementation, the draft section “Water and Health” to the Water Strategy of Ukraine.

Representatives of MENR and MoH, public organizations, in particular MAMA 86, stakeholders from different regions of Ukraine and Kiev, representatives of central and local authorities and the EUWI+ project took part in the event, which allowed those present to:

- Receive up-to-date information from representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources Oleksandr Bon and the Ministry of Health Irina Rudenko on the reform process in the field of water policy in Ukraine;

- to raise awareness of the provisions and objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health, the process of its implementation in Ukraine and the relationship with other processes - Sustainable Development Goals, Euro-integration;
- read and provide comments to the projects of the NCP and the Action Plan for their achievement in Ukraine;
- To discuss the project Section "Water and Health" to the Water Strategy of Ukraine.

The work on the coordination of NT and Plan of their implementation will be continued in the near future with the aim of their revising and approval by the order of the Ministry of Environment.

The draft NT can found on the website of MENR <https://menr.gov.ua/news/32987.html> and MAMA 86, <https://mama-86.org>.



Anna Tsvietkova (MAMA 86), Iryna Rudenko (MoH), Olexander Bon (MENR)



Alexander Kravchenko, Deputy Director of the Scientific Research Design and Technological Institute of Municipal Economy



Meeting participants discuss National targets in groups