



Protocol on Water and Health: Key provisions and activities

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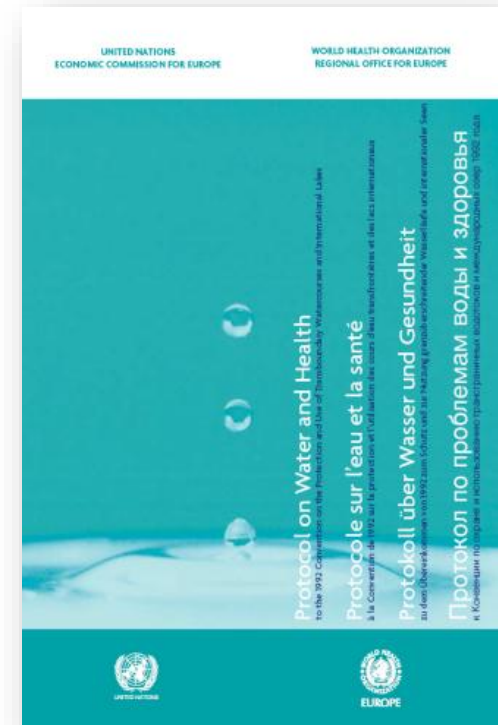
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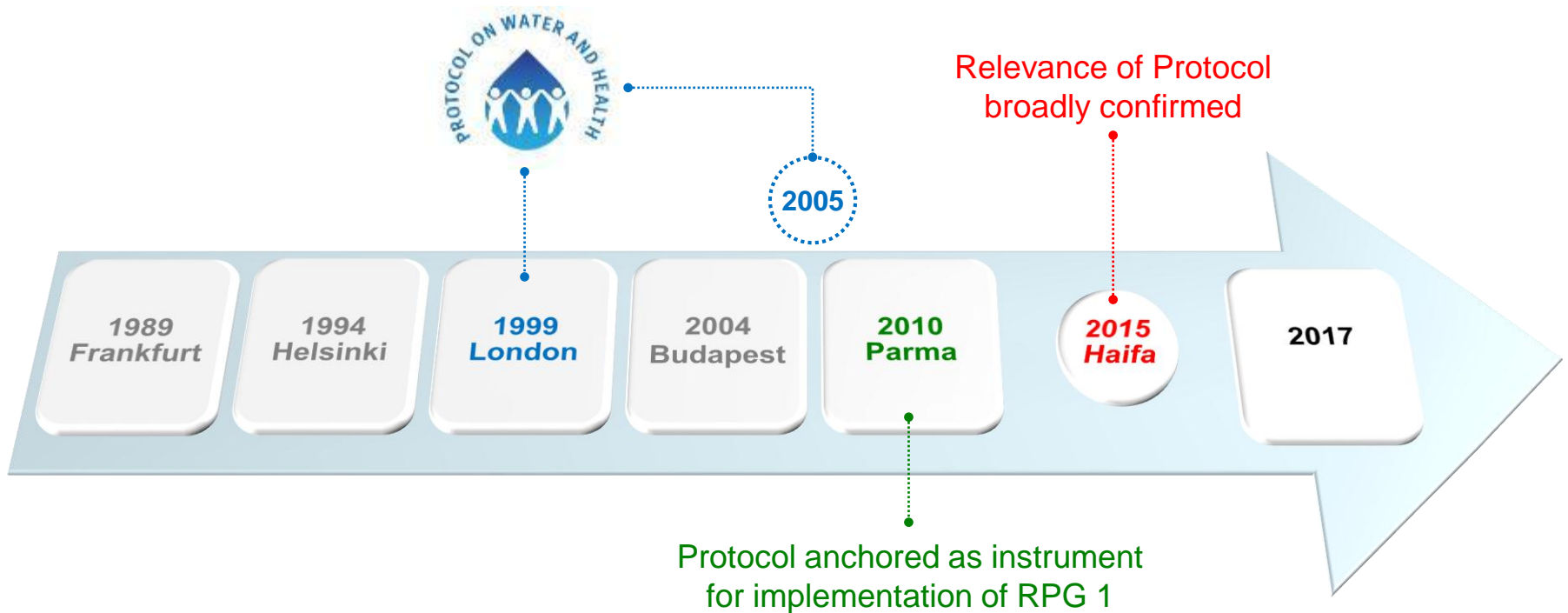


Protocol on Water and Health

- First and only **multilateral agreement** addressing protection of human health and well-being in the water and health domain
- Linking sustainable **water management** with prevention, control and reduction of **water-related disease**



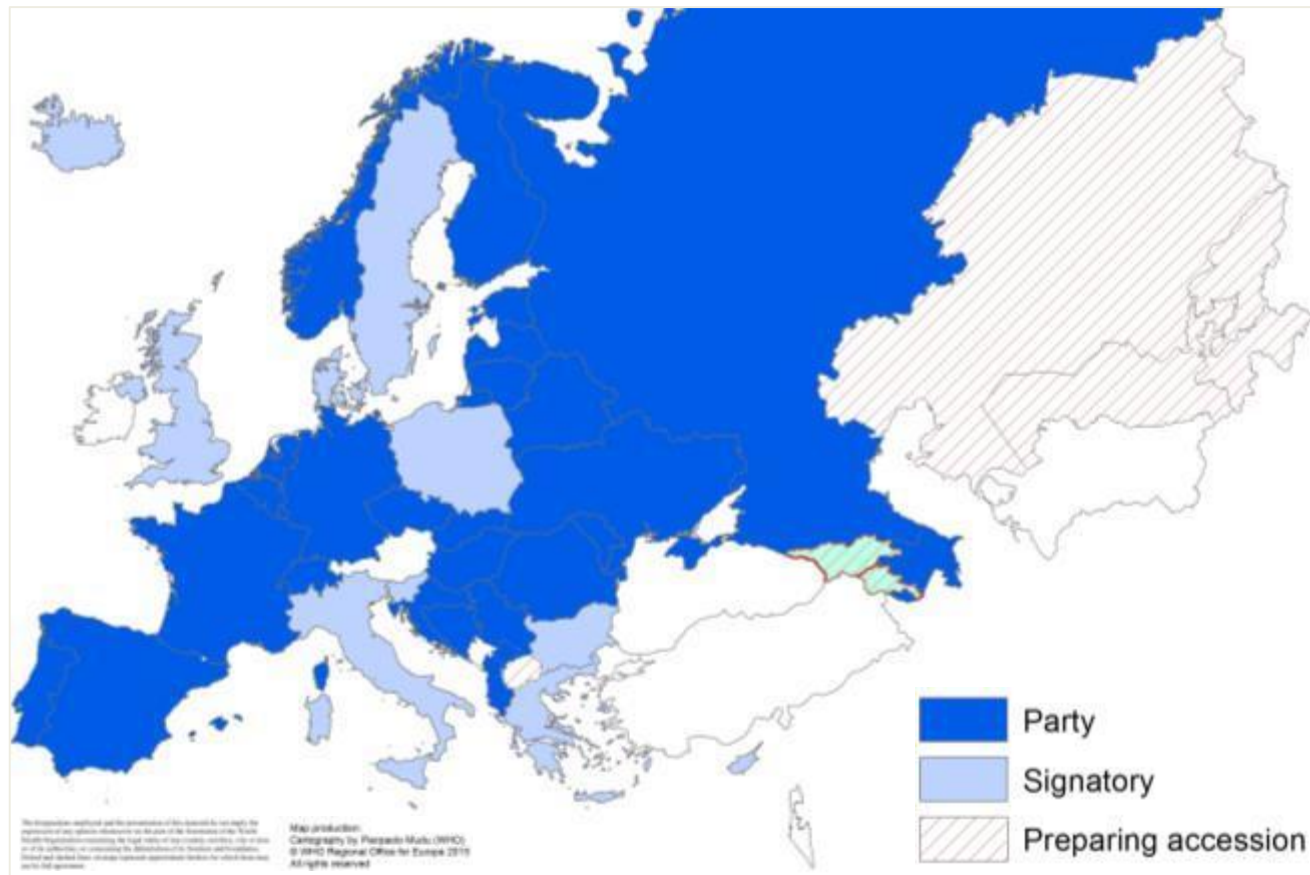
The EHP and the Protocol



"We will take advantage of the (...) Protocol (...) as a rationale and progressive tool to develop integrated policies on water (...) management and health (...) with clear targets and objectives, working in partnership with all concerned sectors."

Coverage

- 26 Parties
- 14 (further) Signatories
- Parties cover 60% of the European population



General provisions

Entire water cycle covered

Adequate supplies of **wholesome drinking-water**

Provision of **adequate sanitation** that protects health and the environment

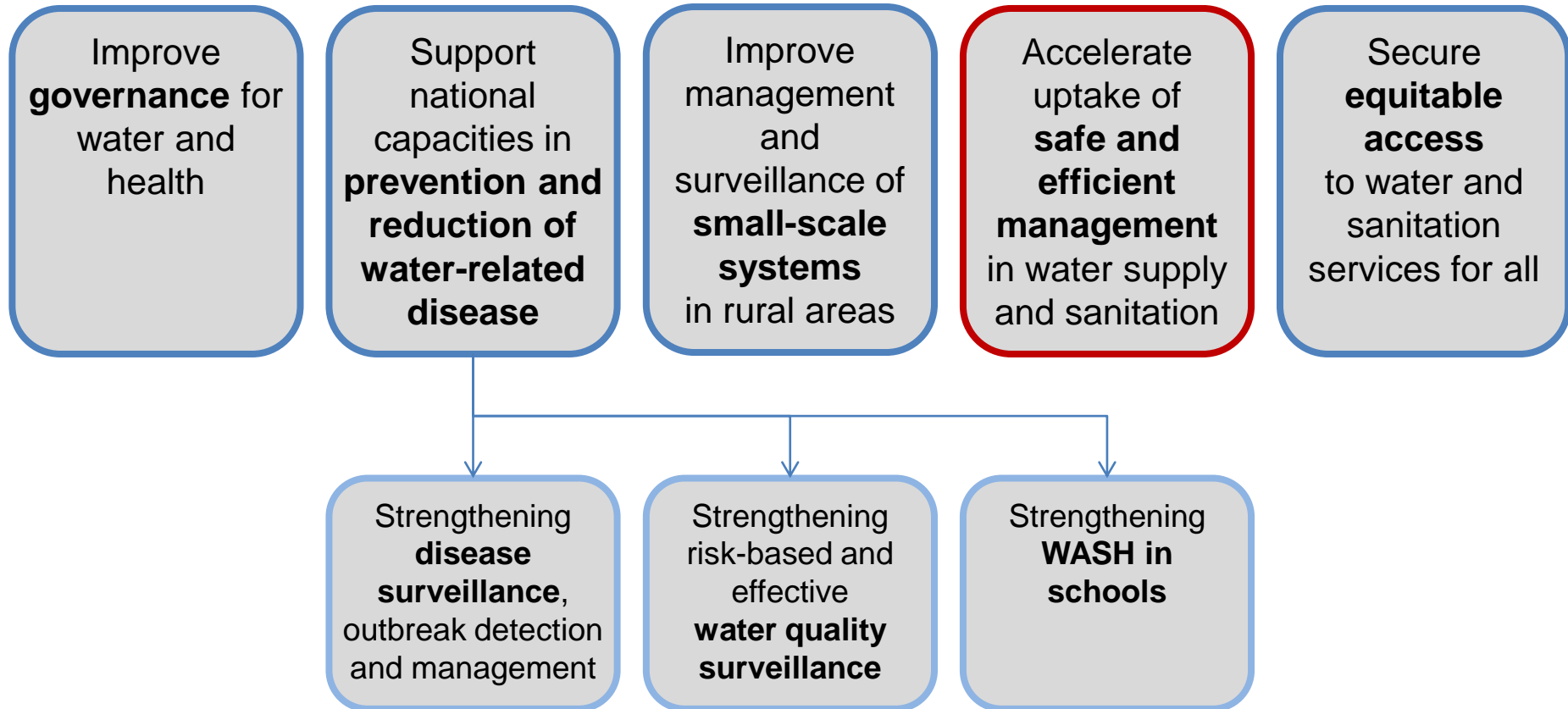
Protection of water resources, including the reduction of harmful discharges

Safe use of water for **recreational purposes**

Safe use of **wastewater and sewage sludge in agriculture**

Effective surveillance systems for monitoring and for responding to incidents and outbreaks

The Oslo 2014-2016 programme of work



Core provision: target setting

Articles 6 and 7

ESTABLISH
TARGETS AND DATES

REVIEW
PROGRESS

There is nothing like an universal target

Parties define targets based on their health, environmental and socio-economic conditions

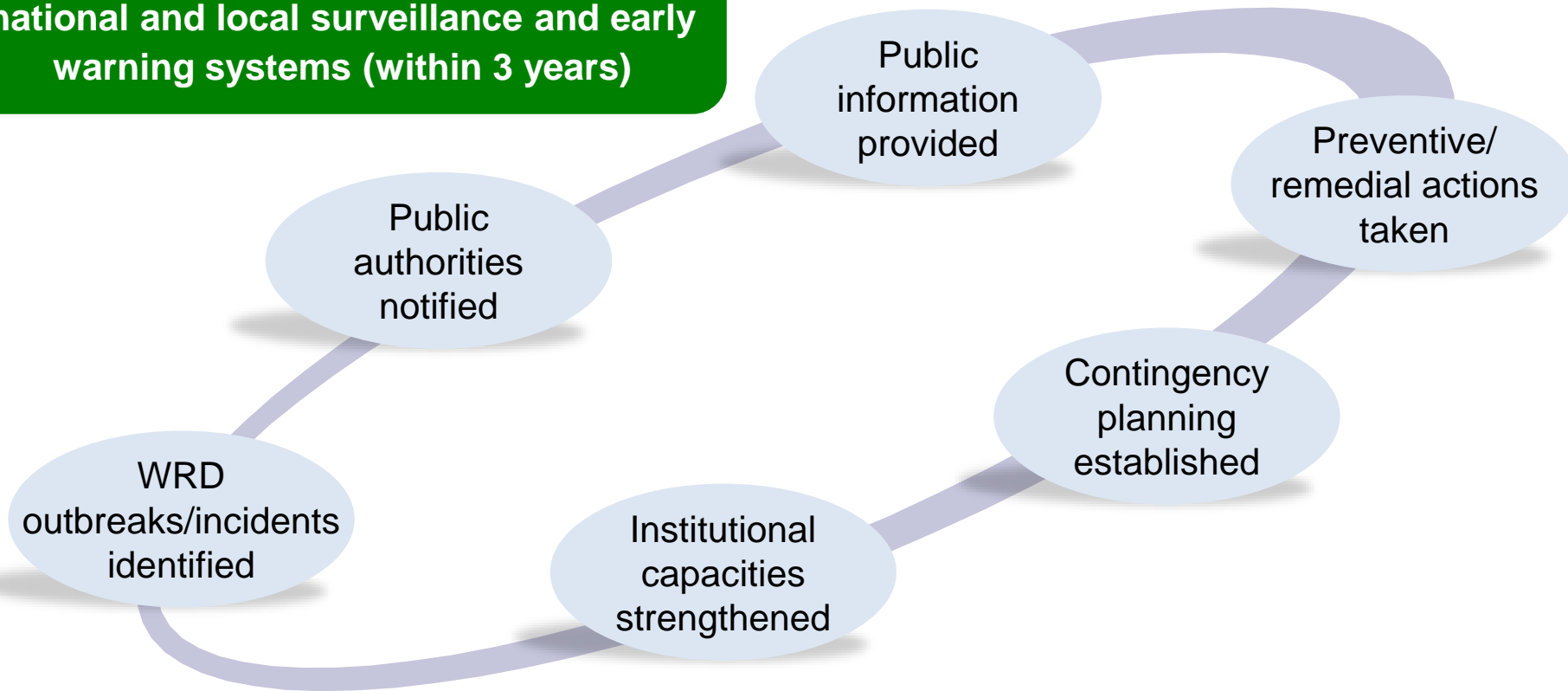
Parties define progress based on their needs, priorities and available resources

Targets are legally binding

Core provision: health systems

Article 8

Establish, improve or maintain national and local surveillance and early warning systems (within 3 years)



Added value

- **Looks across and beyond silos:**
 - Addresses entire water cycle
 - Provides impetus for long-term improvements that otherwise have “no policy home”
 - Aligns with but also goes beyond EU obligations (e.g. small supplies)
- **Flexible:**
 - Adaptable to challenges, needs and resources
 - Integrates with national policies and programmes

Added value

- **Regional hub for cooperation:**
 - Cooperation between environment and health
 - Convening power to involve other sectors
 - Facilitates partnerships
 - Capacity building, technical exchange and mutual advice
- **Regional tool that supports stepwise national uptake of international commitments:**
 - Human Right to Water and Sanitation
 - *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Thank you



Source: Rod Shaw