

EUROPEAN
STRATEGY FOR
THE DANUBE
REGION

WHAT IS NEW IN THE UPDATE OF DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE?

www.danubewaterquality.eu

Priority Area 4:
To restore and maintain the quality of waters



This project is co-financed by the European Union




The European Union has a history of over 30 years of drinking water policy. This policy ensures that water intended for human consumption can be consumed safely on a life-long basis, and this represents a high level of health protection.

The main pillars of the policy are to:

- Ensure that drinking water quality is controlled through standards based on the latest scientific evidence;
- Secure an efficient and effective monitoring, assessment and enforcement of drinking water quality;
- Provide the consumers with adequate, timely and appropriately information;
- Contribute to the broader EU water and health policy;

New EU rules to improve the monitoring of drinking water across Europe come into force, improving access to wholesome and clean drinking water in Europe.

Safeguarding of drinking water supply, availability of the drinking water in requested quality and quality to everybody, is one of the basic requirements for sustainable development of the human society. Especially insufficient quality of water causes big epidemics leading to health damages, even death of inhabitants.



The activities of Priority Area 4 (PA4) “To restore and maintain the quality of waters” of the European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) incorporated into the PA4 Roadmap consider the safeguarding of the drinking water supply as one of the priorities for future development of the Danube Region. Namely, Action 13, is focused on promoting the measures aimed at knowledge deficit reduction, developing and transferring tools, methods and guidelines concerning the safeguarding of drinking water supply.

Therefore, PA4 considers important to inform relevant public about the updates made recently in the **Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption (Drinking Water Directive - DWD)**.

The information on the Drinking Water Directive and its update are divided into two parts:

1. BASIC DATA ON THE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/83/EC OF 3 NOVEMBER 1998 ON THE QUALITY OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The objective of the Council Directive 98/83/EC (further Drinking Water Directive) is to **protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption.**

Water intended for human consumption means:

- (a) all water intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes;
- (b) all water used in any food-production undertaking for the manufacture, processing, preservation or marketing of products or substances intended for human consumption.

Domestic distribution system means the pipework, fittings and appliances which are installed between the taps that are normally used for human consumption and the distribution network, but only if they are not the responsibility of the water supplier.

Member States ensure that regular **monitoring of the quality** of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set.



Representative Samples are taken throughout the year and the water is treated in appropriate technology.

To meet the obligations, appropriate monitoring programmes are established by the competent authorities for all water intended for human consumption.

Member States ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.

Member States ensure that any supply of water intended for human consumption which constitutes a potential danger to human health is prohibited or its use restricted.

Member States may provide exemption from the parametric values, up to a maximum value which does not provide derogation to human health. Derogations are limited to a short time and do not exceed three years.

Quality assurance of treatment, equipment and materials

Member States ensure that no substances or materials for new installations used in the preparation or distribution of water intended for human consumption remain in concentrations higher than is necessary for the purpose of their use and do not reduce the protection of human health provided for in this Directive.

At least every five years, the Commission shall review Annex I and shall adapt Annexes II and III to scientific and technical progress.

Each Member State publish a report every three years on the quality of water intended for human consumption with the objective of informing consumers.

Water treatment plant Kúty



ANNEX I lists three groups of parameters:

- **Part A: Microbiological parameters**
- **Part B: Chemical parameters**
- **Part C: Indicator parameters**

Table of monitored parameters:

Microbiological Parameters	Chemical Parameters	Indicator Parameters
Escherichia coli Enterococci	Acrylamide Antimony Arsenic Benzene Benzo(a)pyrene Boron Bromate Cadmium Chromium Copper Cyanide 1,2-dichloroethane Epichlorohydrin Fluoride Lead Mercury Nickel Nitrate Nitrite Pesticides Pesticide – Total Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons Selenium Tetrachloroethene and Trichloroethene Trihalomethanes – Total Vinyl chloride	Aluminium Ammonium Chloride Clostridium perfringens Colour Conductivity Conductivity Hydrogen ion concentration Iron Manganese Odour Oxidisability Sulphate Sodium Taste Taste Colony count 22 °C Coliform bacteria Total organic carbon (TOC) Turbidity Radioactivity Tritium Total indicative dose

Water tank Kopán



2 UPDATE OF THE DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION DIRECTIVE (EU) 2015/1787

Since 2004, the **World Health Organisation** has developed the **water safety plan** approach which is based on risk assessment and risk management principles, laid down in its **Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality**.

Those Guidelines, together with the standard EN 15975-2 concerning security of drinking water supply, are internationally recognised principles on which the production, distribution, monitoring and analysis of parameters in drinking water is based.

In relation to this plan the European Commission decided to update the Council Directive 98/83/EC by **issuing the Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1787 of 6 October 2015**.

As a first step following the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water, new rules adopted by the Commission provide flexibility to Member States as to how drinking water quality is monitored in around 100 000 water supply zones in Europe. This will allow for more focused, risk-based monitoring, while ensuring full protection of public health.

Commissioner Vella said: *"High-quality, safe drinking water is essential for well-being and public health, so we need to ensure high standards across the Union. This new monitoring and control system allows us to reduce unnecessary analyses and concentrate on controls that really matter."*

This amendment of the Drinking Water Directive is a response to adopt legislation ensuring a better, fair and comprehensive water supply.

It allows for an improved implementation of EU rules by Member States as it removes unnecessary burdens. Member States can now decide, on the basis of a risk assessment, which parameter to monitor given that some drinking water supply zones do not pose any risk for finding hazardous substances. They can also choose to increase or reduce the frequency of sampling in water supply zones, as well as to extend the list of substances to monitor in case of public health concerns.

Flexibility in the monitoring of parameters and the frequency of sampling is framed by a number of conditions to be met, to ensure protection of citizens' health. The new rules follow the principle of 'hazard analysis and critical control point' (HACCP), already used in food hygiene legislation, and the water safety plan approach laid down in the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

Member States have two years to apply the provisions of this new legislation.

The update (EU 2015/1787) is amending Annexes II and III to the Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption. Annexes II and III to the Directive 98/83/EC lay down the minimum requirements of the monitoring programmes for all water intended for human consumption and the specifications for the method of analysis of different parameters.

ANNEX II

In the Annex II, item Monitoring there were set up the general objectives and monitoring programmes for water intended for human consumption.

Monitoring programmes must verify that the measures in place to control risks to human health throughout the water supply chain from the catchment area through abstraction, treatment and storage to distribution are working effectively and that water at the point of compliance is wholesome and clean.

It also updated the **List of parameters to be monitored:**

Group A parameters:

- (a) *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), coliform bacteria, colony count 22 °C, colour, turbidity, taste, odour, pH, conductivity;
- (b) other parameters identified as relevant in the monitoring programme.

Under specific circumstances, the following parameters shall be added to the Group A Parameters:

- (a) ammonium and nitrite, if chloramination is used;
- (b) aluminium and iron, if used as water treatment chemicals.

Group B parameters:

All other parameters not analysed under Group A shall be monitored at least at the frequencies set out in the following table.



Minimum frequency of sampling and analysis for compliance monitoring:

Volume of water distributed or produced each day within a supply zone * (m ³)		Group A parameter number of samples per year	Group B parameter number of samples per year
	≤ 100	> 0	> 0
> 100	≤ 1 000	4	1
> 1 000	≤ 10 000	4 +3 for each 1 000 m ³ /d and part thereof of the total volume	1 +1 for each 4 500 m ³ /d and part thereof of the total volume
> 10 000	≤ 100 000		3 +1 for each 10 000 m ³ /d and part thereof of the total volume
> 100 000			12 +1 for each 25 000 m ³ /d and part thereof of the total volume

* **supply zone** is a geographically defined area within which water intended for human consumption comes from one or more sources and water quality may be considered as being approximately uniform.

Radioactivity

Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom of 22 October 2013 laying down the requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances.

Risk assessment

Based on the results of the risk assessment, the list of parameters and the sampling frequencies may be reduced (excepting E.coli).

To reduce the minimum sampling frequency of a parameter - the results obtained from samples collected at regular intervals over a period of at least 3 years from sampling points representative of the whole supply zone must all be less than **60 %** of the parametric value.

To remove a parameter from the list of parameters to be monitored - the results obtained from samples collected at regular intervals over a period of at least 3 years from sampling points representative of the whole supply zone must all be less than **30 %** of the parametric value.

ANNEX III

Member States shall ensure that the methods of analysis used for the purposes of monitoring are validated and documented in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025 or other equivalent standards accepted at the international level.

The requested methods for microbiological parameters:

- a) Escherichia coli (E. coli) and coliform bacteria (EN ISO 9308-1 or EN ISO 9308-2)
- b) Enterococci (EN ISO 7899-2)
- c) Pseudomonas aeruginosa (EN ISO 16266)
- d) enumeration of culturable microorganisms — colony count 22 °C (EN ISO 6222)
- e) enumeration of culturable microorganisms — colony count 36 °C (EN ISO 6222)
- f) Clostridium perfringens including spores (EN ISO 14189)

Chemical and indicator parameters

Until 31 December 2019 Member States may allow for the use of “true-ness”, “precision” and “limit of detection” in accordance with this Directive as an alternative set of performance characteristics to “limit of quantification” and “uncertainty of measurement”.



Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 27 October 2017 at the latest. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions.

For more information, see link:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink>



CONTACTS TO PRIORITY AREA 4 COORDINATORS:

www.danubewaterquality.eu

SLOVAKIA



Ministry of Environment SR

Mr. Vladimír Novák

Nám. Ľ. Štúra 1

812 35 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421-2-5980 6101

e-mail: vladimir.novak@enviro.gov.sk

HUNGARY



Directorate General of Water Management

Dr. László Perger

Márvány u. 1/c

1012 Budapest

Hungary

Tel.: +36-1-225-44-00

e-mail: perger.laszlo@ovf.hu