



ÚRAD  
VEREJNÉHO  
ZDRAVOTNÍCTVA  
SLOVENSKEJ  
REPUBLIKY



NÁRODNÉ  
REFERENČNÉ  
CENTRUM  
PRE PITNÚ VODU

# Implementation of the Directive on the quality of water intended for human consumption in Slovakia – Part II

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*International workshop Ensuring the supply of drinking water,  
22 November 2023, Bratislava*

# IMPLEMENTATION – MULTISECTORAL APPROACH AND EXPERT COOPERATION

## ■ Working Group on Implementation / 2021 – 23

- **Ministry of Health of the SR**
    - Public Health Authority of the SR
  - **Ministry of Environment of the SR**
    - Water Research Institute
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
  - Ministry of Interior of the SR
  - Ministry of Finance of the SR
  - Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, Association of Self-governing Regions, Office of Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities
  - Drinking water suppliers
- **Professional activities** – expert level meetings, workshops, lectures, seminars



# DIRECTIVE (EU) 2020/2184 & MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE SR REGULATIONS

**ACT NO. 355/2007 COLL.**

**on protection,  
promotion and  
development of public  
health and on change  
and amendments of  
some acts**

**[12.1.2023]**



**ORDINANCE NO. 91/2023 COLL.,**

**laying down indicators and limit  
values for drinking water quality  
and hot water quality, procedure for  
monitoring drinking water, risk  
management of the drinking water  
supply system and risk management  
of domestic distribution systems**

**[1.4.2023]**

# DRINKING WATER IN SLOVAKIA

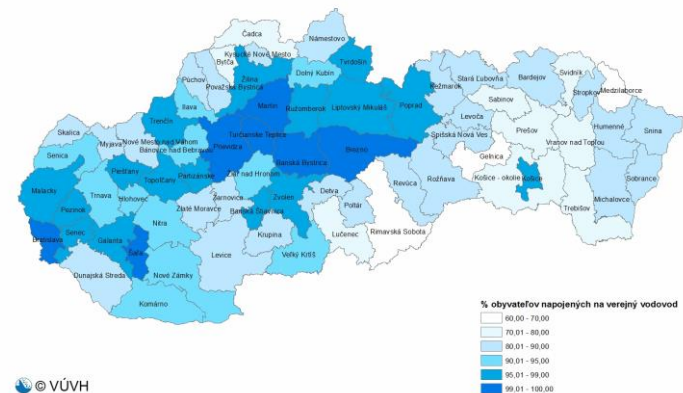
## Slovakia [2021]

- **Total area:** 49 034 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population:** 5 434 712
- **Population density:** 111/km<sup>2</sup>
- **Administrative breakdown:**  
8 regions → 79 districts → 2 890 municipalities
- **Public water supply** ≈ bulk supply [50 persons or production > 10 m<sup>3</sup> of water/day]
- **Specific water consumption in the household:** 80,7 l/inh./day

## Drinking water

- 90,15 % of inhabitants are supplied by public water-supplies ≈ 2 443 municipalities [84,53 %]
- Regional differences

Podiel obyvateľov zásobovaných z verejných vodovodov v roku 2021



# DRINKING WATER IN SLOVAKIA

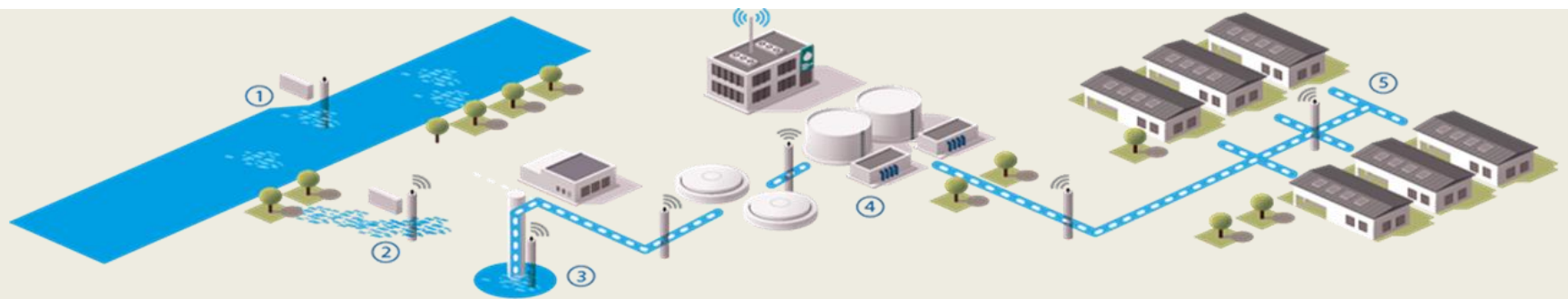
- **Water sources:**
  - 13,4 % surface
  - 84,6 % ground
- **Supply areas [SA] in Slovakia:**
  - 100 big SA / approx. 83 % inhabitants
  - 924 small SA / approx. 17 % inhabitants
- The quality of drinking water in public water supply systems is satisfactory in the long term; lower quality is in small SA
- **Quality criteria: 1959** – Czechoslovak Standards
  - 1994** – 1st national law
  - 2006** – compliance with EU Directives



# NEW REQUIREMENTS UNDER DIRECTIVE (EU) 2020/2184

- ➔ **Extension of the scope** [areas not yet covered or partly covered by health regulations, e.g. criteria for chemicals for drinking water]
- ➔ **Improving access to drinking water** for the whole population + emphasis on vulnerable and marginalised groups
- ➔ **Promoting the use of drinking water from public water supply**
- ➔ **Increase of criteria for health security** and drinking water quality
- ➔ **Rules on information and provision of data**
- ➔ **Risk management** for the entire **water supply chain** = from the catchment area for sampling to the point of collection by the consumer in a public/private facility on the water faucet

# RISK MANAGEMENT FOR WATER SUPPLY CHAIN



2027

Catchment  
area

ME SR

2028

Drinking  
water supply  
system

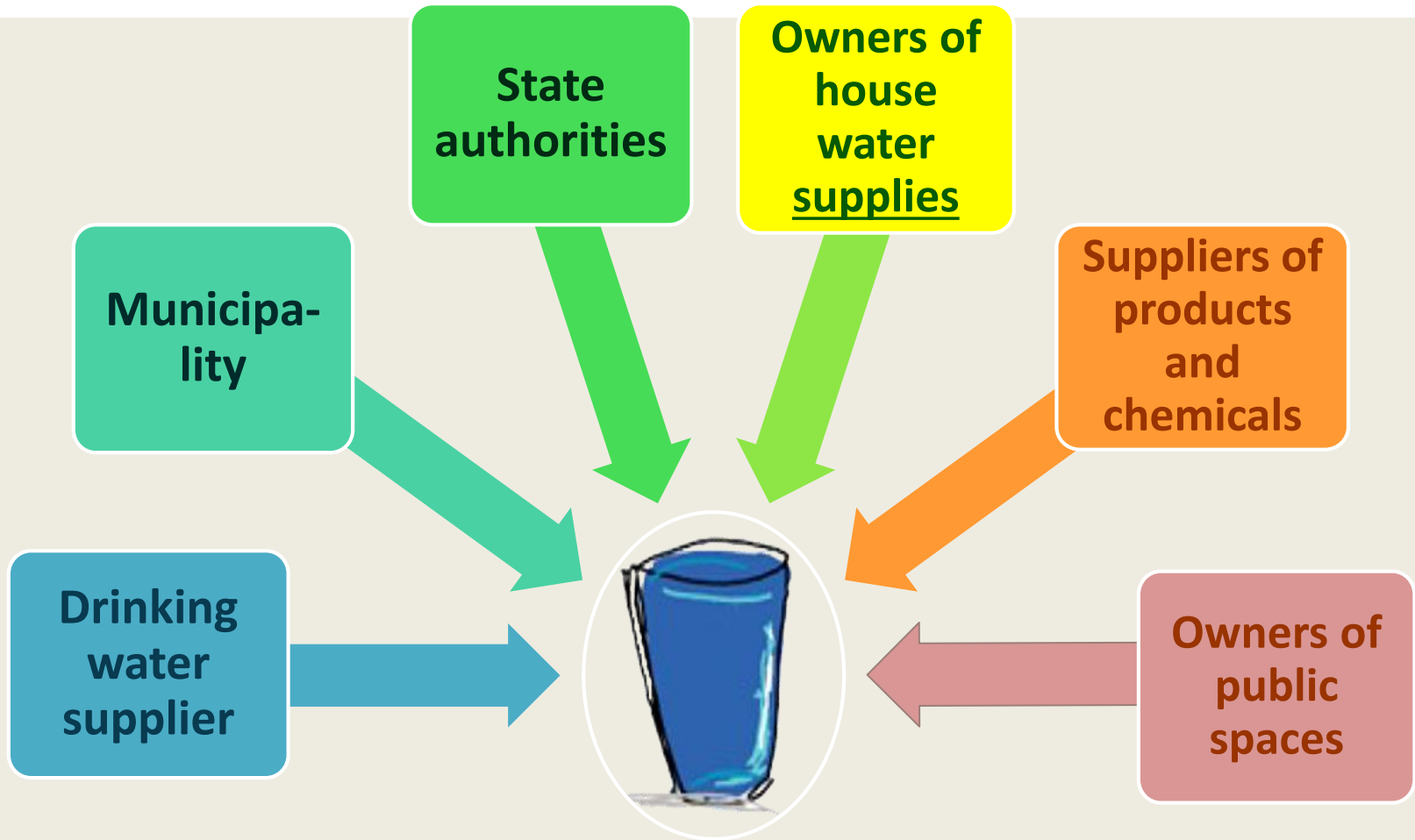
Drinking  
water  
supplier

2029

House  
distribution  
system

MoH SR +  
owner of  
HDS

# ENTITIES CONCERNED





# DRINKING WATER SUPPLIER

## „Drinking water supplier“



- operator of public water supply
- the operator of a business and public facility with its own water source (regardless of the number of inhabitants supplied); exemption – food business operators [HACCP]

### ■ New obligations:

- Control of the quality of drinking water (range, special control....)
- Reporting – methods of analysis, changes in water treatment, non-compliance with the limits of indicators excluding drinking water from use, including measures
- Information – a proactive approach for the public, other drinking water suppliers...

# DRINKING WATER SUPPLIER

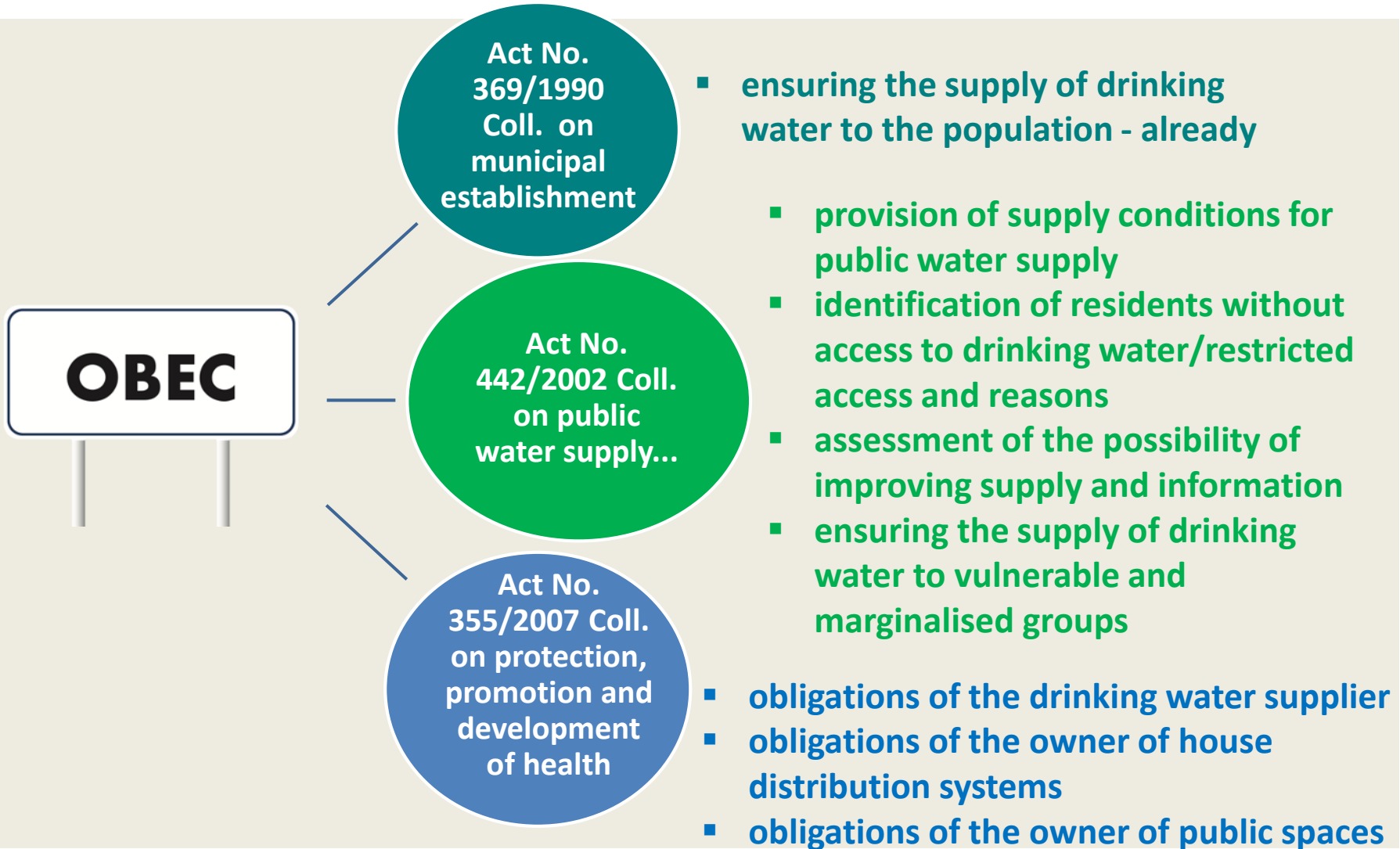


## ■ New obligations:

- Supplier – obliged to prepare/submit for approval by the state authority the risk management of the drinking water supply system
- Supplier for < 500 persons if supplying < 100 m<sup>3</sup> is exempted but submits **Monitoring Programme**
- **The assessment process is two-step:**
  - *Step 1 – opinion of the state water authority*
  - *Step 2 – decision of the public health authority*
- **Term for submission: 12 July 2028**

We do not yet have procedures in place in the Slovak Republic: *WHO guidelines, experience from EU countries, in particular the Czech Republic + experience of operation in Slovakia so far [the supply of drinking water is not possible without knowledge and identification of risks even today]*

# MUNICIPALITY



# STATE AUTHORITIES – PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES

- **Self-monitoring of drinking water quality in consumers and hazardous substances** migrating from materials and products intended to come into contact with drinking water
- **State health supervision** of compliance with obligations under health regulations
- **Ordering disease prevention measures**
- **Provision of information to the public**
- **Activities to promote the use of drinking water from public water supply**
- **Assessment activity – assessment of risk management of the drinking water supply system, exceptions, methods, etc.**
- **Development of a national risk analysis from house distribution systems** [overview of the status and degree of impact on drinking water quality]
- **Evaluation of the health safety of products and chemicals**
- **Making national drinking water information available to the EC, ECDC, EEA**

European Environment Agency



Európska  
komisia



# ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

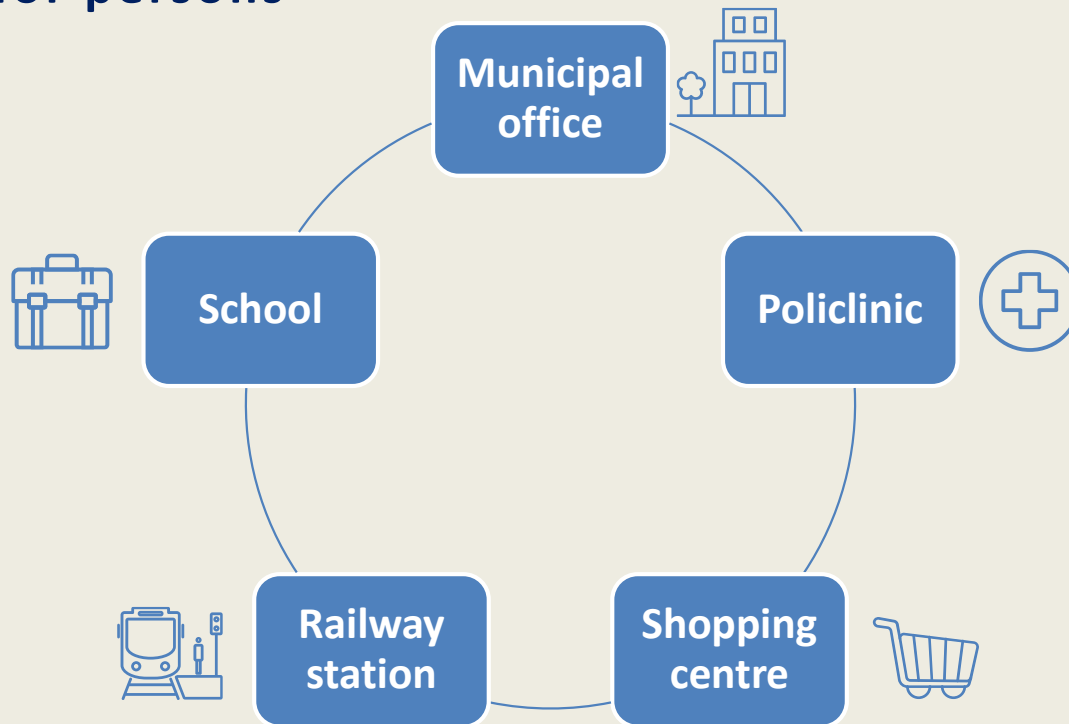
- **Owners and managers of residential and non-residential premises**
- **Obligations:**
  - develop risk management where priority area is concerned
  - carry out checks on the quality of drinking water and report non-compliance to public health authorities
  - implement the recommended measures on an ongoing basis
- **Pilot identification of priority spaces:**
  - PB – facilities for children and youth, social facilities with residential form
  - Legionella – medical facilities, social facilities...

# SUPPLIERS OF PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS

- **Obligation to ensure the health safety** of materials and products intended to come into contact with drinking water as well as filter media and water treatment chemicals
- **Setting up mechanisms from 2024:**
  - adoption of European lists of authorised starting substances, mixtures and ingredients;
  - modification of testing and approval of starting substances, mixtures and constituents;
  - harmonisation of labelling, submission of declarations of conformity and mandatory testing of materials and products intended to come into contact with drinking water.

# OWNERS OF PUBLIC SPACES

- In a non-residential building for the provision of services, its owner or administrator **must provide the public with access to water for persons**



# HOW TO CONTINUE?

- **Preparation of new recommendations, norms...**
- Practical **transposition** of 3 implemented and 3 delegated acts for materials and products intended to come into contact with drinking water as well as filter media and water treatment chemicals into Slovak legislation
- **Linking water information flows** for the sharing of water information between source institutions/sectors
- **Unification of terminology [Glossary of terms]**
- **Harmonisation of interdepartmental procedures** of state bodies and methodological support for state lower levels
- **Educational activities and preparation of guidelines for drinking water suppliers, producers of drinking water contact materials....**
- **Involvement of municipalities**
- **Awareness raising** – an appropriate and comprehensible form!



# EXPECTED BENEFITS

- ✓ Increased expertise of entities whose activity affects the quality of drinking water
  - ✓ Safe and reliable drinking water supply
- ✓ Financial savings for drinking water suppliers after initial investments (related to the creation of risk management)
  - ✓ Increased respect of supervising state bodies and improvement of their performance
  - ✓ Increase of confidence in the use of drinking water