



FAIRWAY

EU DECISION MAKERS: PROTECTION OF LARGE AND SMALL WATER SUPPLIES

For EU decision makers it is important to understand the distinct phases in Water Safety Planning, and how stakeholders should be engaged in the process.

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FURTHER DETAILS

[van den Brink, C. et al. \(2021\) Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Water Safety Plans. FAIRWAY Project Deliverable 2.4, 97 pp](#)

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KEY MESSAGE

During all phases of Water Safety Planning, engagement of stakeholders in the development of the methodology and content is essential. Establishing cooperation between large and small suppliers contributes to overcoming barriers for effective risk assessment and management for small suppliers.

EXPLANATION

Water Safety Planning (WSP) is a step-wise approach to ensuring the safety of drinking water. It is undertaken in distinct phases: identification of the problem; assessment of the problem; scenarios to solve it; and implementing the solution. It is thus a comprehensive risk assessment and risk management approach, that covers all stages in the water supply system.

EVIDENCE

FAIRWAY combined information shared about experiences with Water Safety Planning in the [FAIRWAY case studies](#) with an extended literature review for small and large water supply systems. Key lessons learned are that (1) engagement of stakeholders by those developing WSP is essential during all phases and is a two-way process: vernacular knowledge of stakeholders and their understanding of the local socio-economic context also contributes to effective protection of water resources; (2) designating a process owners helps bring together departments and stakeholders, spread information throughout organizations and provides congruence between different risk assessment and risk management systems; (3) an agreed methodology and content enhances the effectiveness of WSP and cooperation and communication between those involved; and (4) sharing context, best practices and lessons learned in operating large water supplies, contributes to the safety of small water supplies.



Roma family and their small (private) drinking water well in Romania (FAIRWAY 2017)