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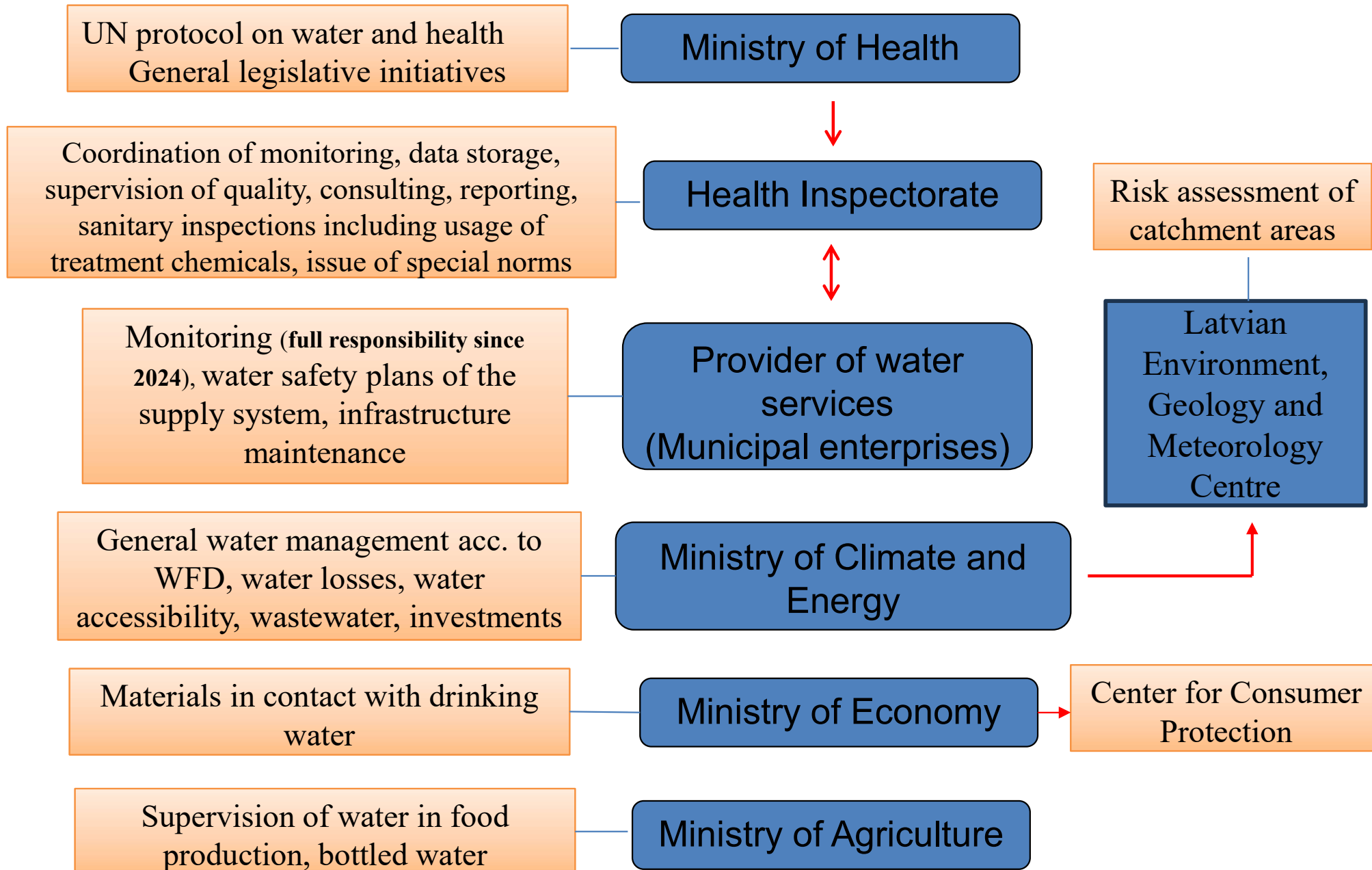
# Drinking Water Safety in Latvia – management and surveillance practices up to now and future steps

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# General structure for drinking water management in Latvia

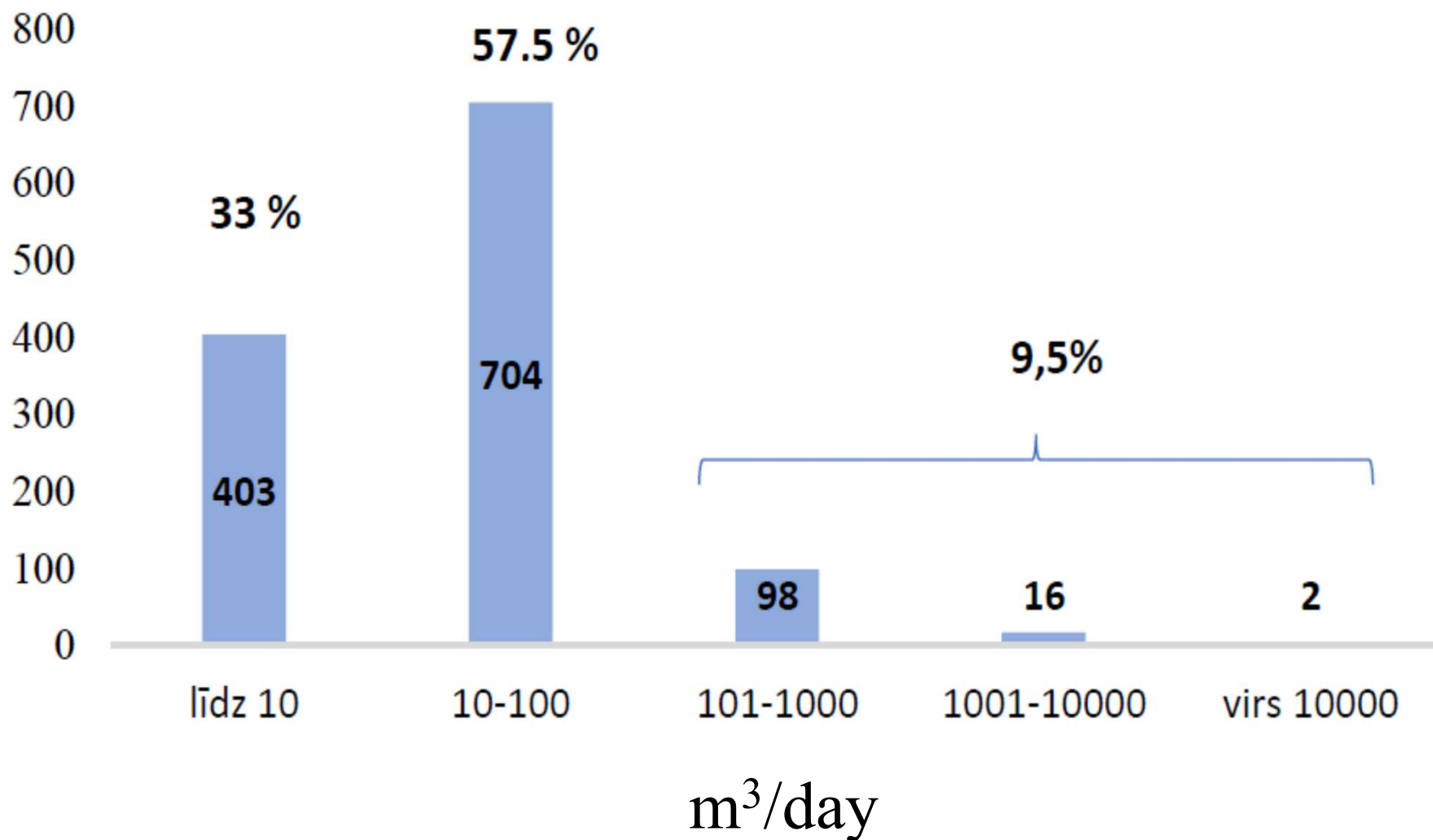




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# Structure of centralised drinking water supply in Latvia

(number of systems in relation to daily water volume)





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# Key aspects of drinking water management and surveillance in Latvia (I)

- EU Directive 2020/2184 of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)
- Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers Nr. 547 of 26 September 2023 on the mandatory harmlessness and quality of drinking water requirements, monitoring and control arrangements
- Regular reporting to the UN protocol on water and health
- With one exception all supply systems rely on groundwater
- Safety (harmlessness) versus quality – drinking water in Latvia generally safe, but not always qualitative in small systems (exceedance of indicator parameters – iron etc., minor exceedance of microbiological parameters)
- No registered cases of waterborne infectious diseases for the last ~15 years, only one case with one small rural system due to polluted borehole from farm wastewater (~20 persons sick) during last ~35 years



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## Key aspects of drinking water management and surveillance in Latvia (II)

- **Mandatory prophylactic disinfection** of installations of water supply systems at least 2 times per year
- **Regular planned inspections** of systems by Health Inspectorate, supplemented by **self assessment questionnaires**. New direction – **thematic inspections** covering more deeply particular safety aspects (in 20205 – usage of water treatment chemicals!)
- Health Inspectorate reacts on complaints from water users
- As since 2024 all monitoring is delegated to water systems themselves, new problems are arising how we can receive data. Sometimes delayed operational information on quality problems from the systems!
- Development of new drinking water surveillance and monitoring information system as part of general surveillance information system of Health Inspectorate in 2026
- Risk assessment of catchment areas to be completed till 27.07.2027., risk assessment of water supply systems and risk assessment of domestic distribution systems in priority buildings – till 12.01.2029.



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## Case study:

# **Strengthening Chemical Safety in Water Treatment - Thematic Inspections concerning water treatment chemicals**



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# Responsibilities of Institutions Regarding Chemicals and Materials in Drinking Water

Responsibility	Health Inspectorate	Consumer Rights Protection Centre	Centre for Environment, Geology and Meteorology
Compliance with Requirements	Water treatment chemical mixtures	Filtering media and materials	no
Market Surveillance	Chemical mixtures (Regulation 2019/1020)	Filtering media and materials (Regulation 2019/1020)	no
Permits/Inventory Numbers	no	no	Biocides import/production



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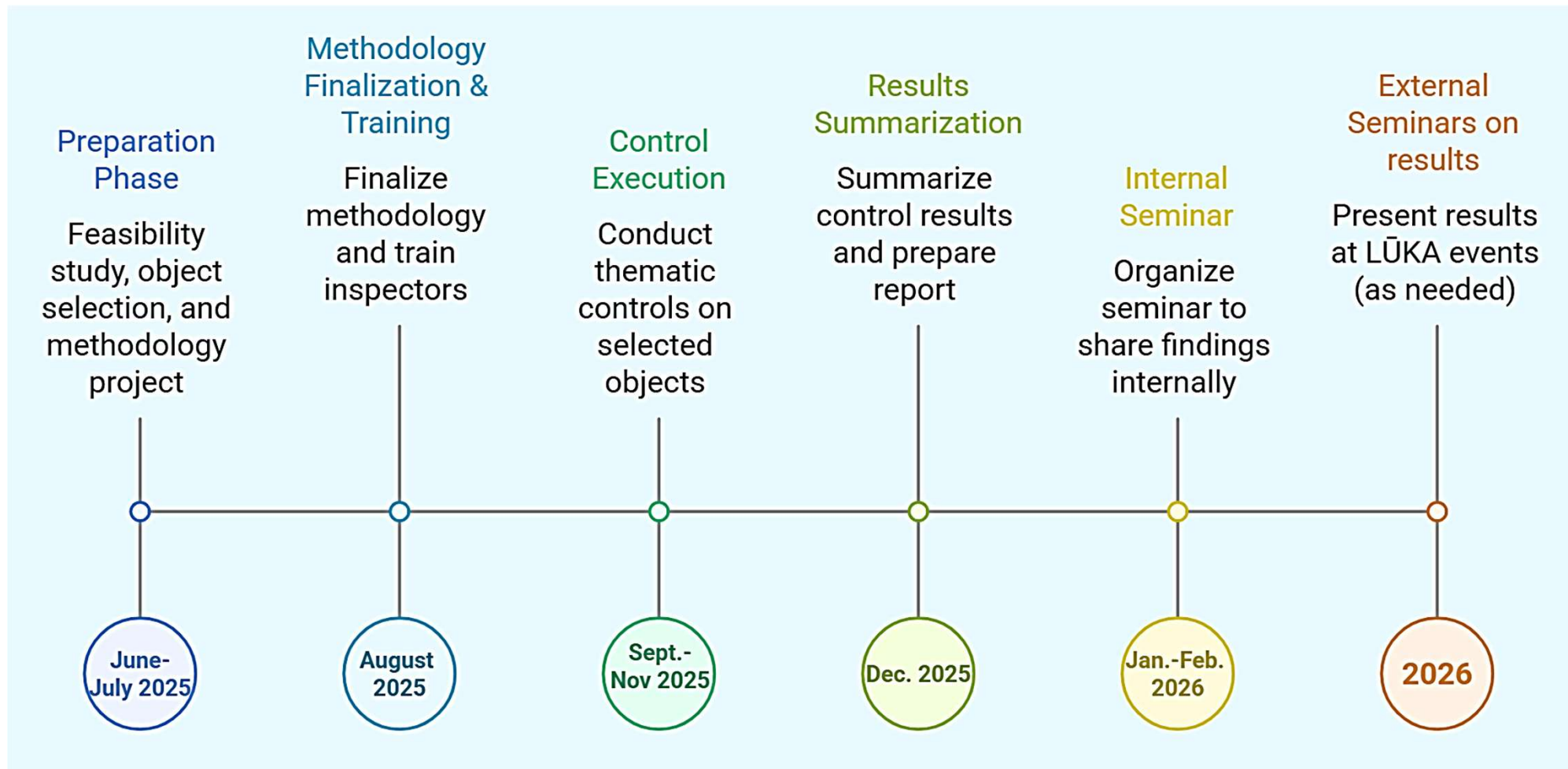
## Additional measure to regular controls, risk assessment, self-assessment

<b>Regular controls by Inspectorate:</b>	<b>Thematic controls for medium and large WSSs</b>	<b>Part of risk assessment of the WSS</b>
✓ Documentation on the purchase of water treatment chemical mixtures is stored in accessible place for control. Controlled with all other req. from the regular control checklist	✓ only specific points from the regular control checklist	✓ Requirement of the new regulations



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# Timeline

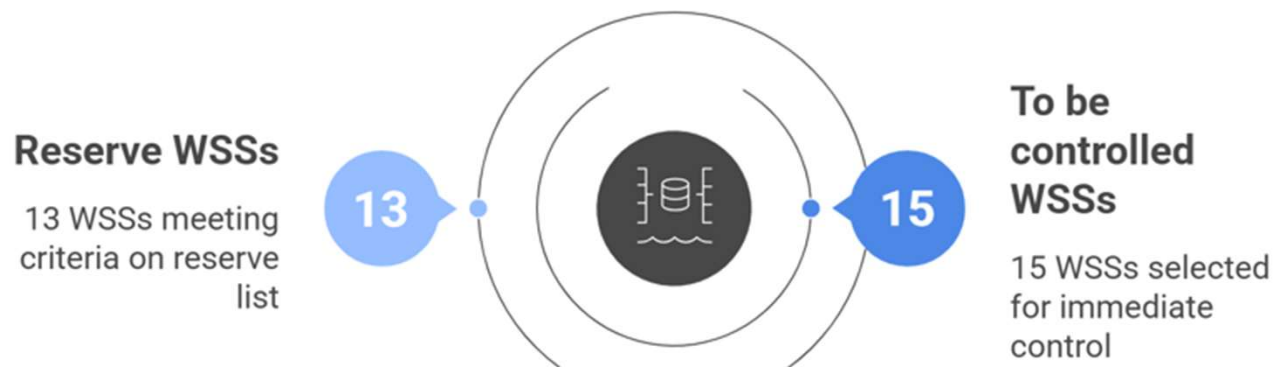




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## Methodology - Selection Process of WSSs

- For the start in 15 water supply systems (WSS) of medium and large supply size;
- in five geographic regions;
- assessing the compliance of chemical reagents used in these stages of drinking water extraction:
  - preparation and delivery;
  - maintenance of water supply system equipment; disinfection measures.

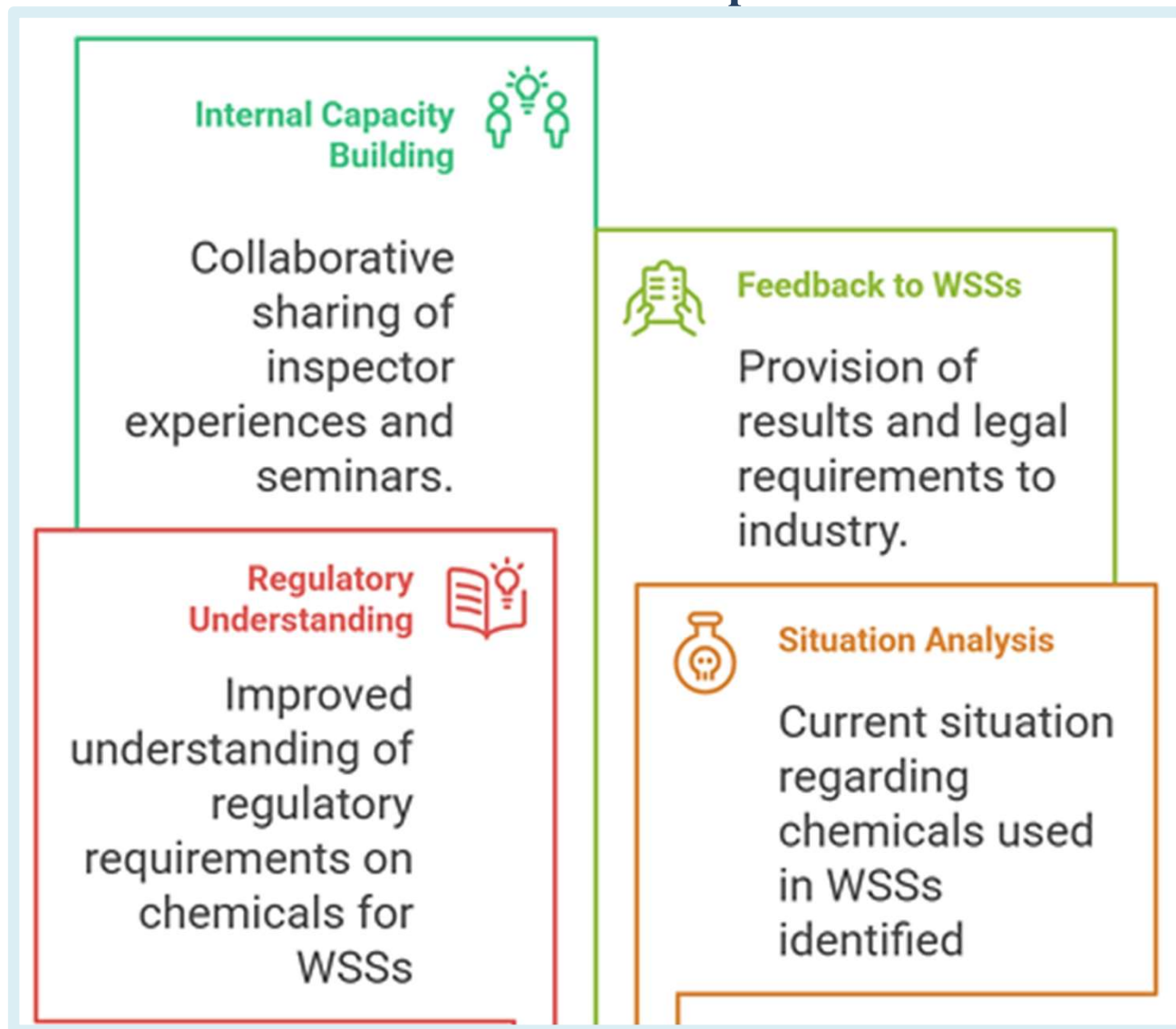




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# Expected outcomes

## From Control to Cooperation





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## Next steps

- Update self assessment questionnaire for WSSs by adding a section on the use of chemical mixtures;
- Work in progress to update the national drinking water monitoring data module

### Needs:



#### Automated Data Submission

Directly from the laboratory to the Inspectorate, ensuring data quality, to reduce manual entry of results by water suppliers



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**Thank you!**