



Health Inspectorate
Republic of Latvia

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

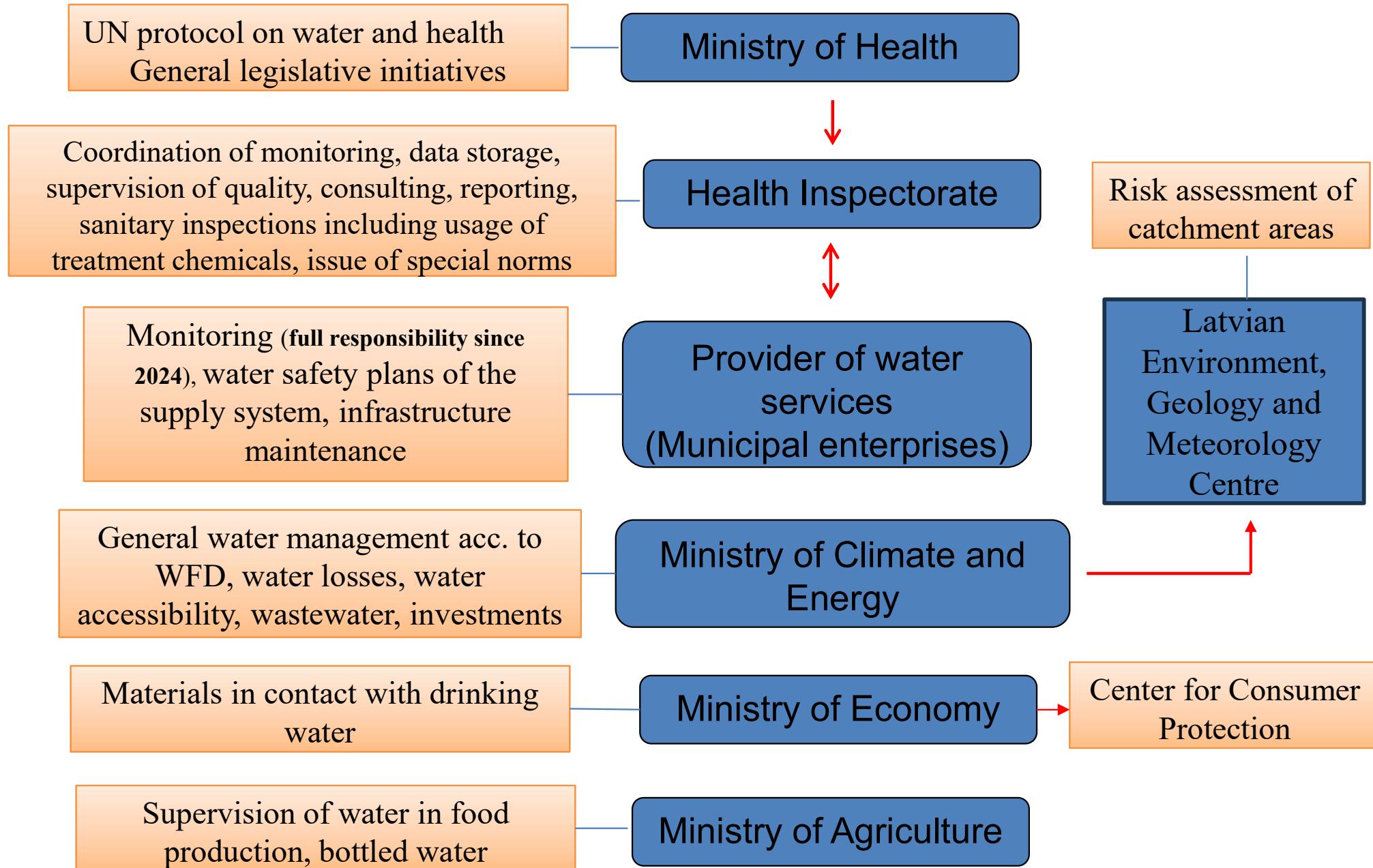
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**Nordic – Baltic Water and Health Network meeting,
22–24 October 2025, Reykjavík**



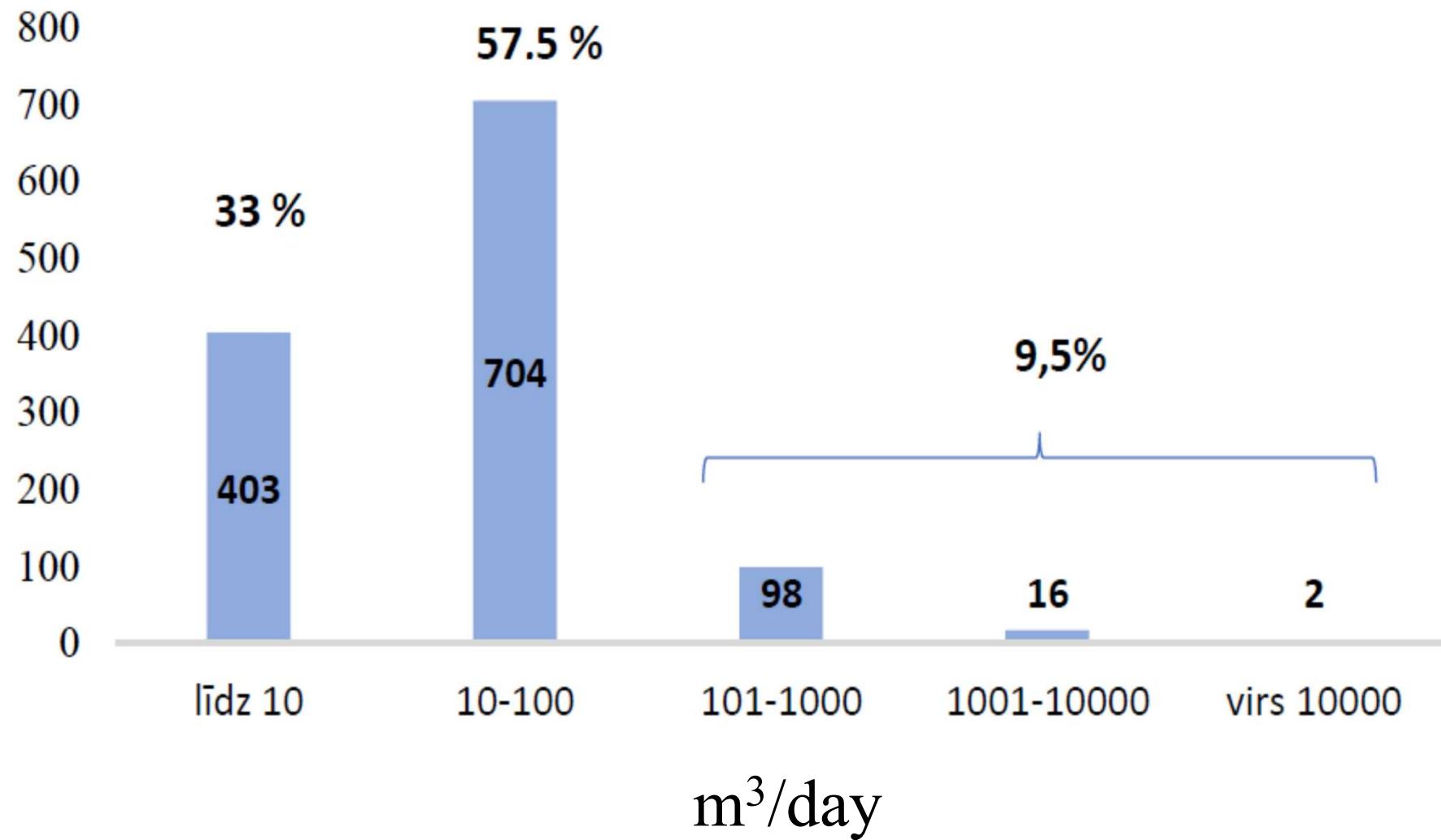
General structure for drinking water management in Latvia





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



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 |

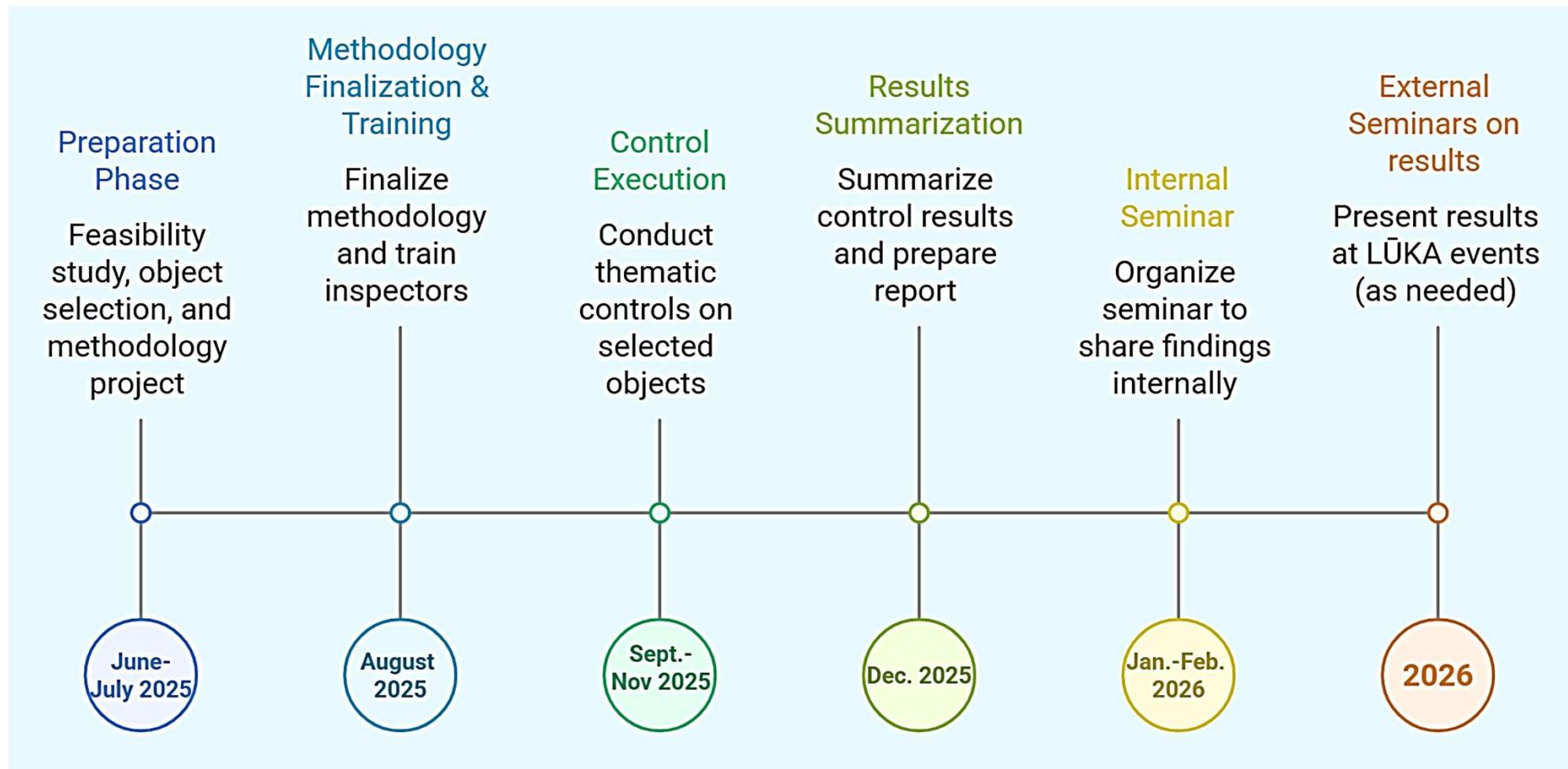


Additional measure to regular controls, risk assessment, self-assessment

| Regular controls by Inspectorate: | Thematic controls for medium and large WSSs | Part of risk assessment of the WSS |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ only specific points from the regular control checklist | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Requirement of the new regulations |



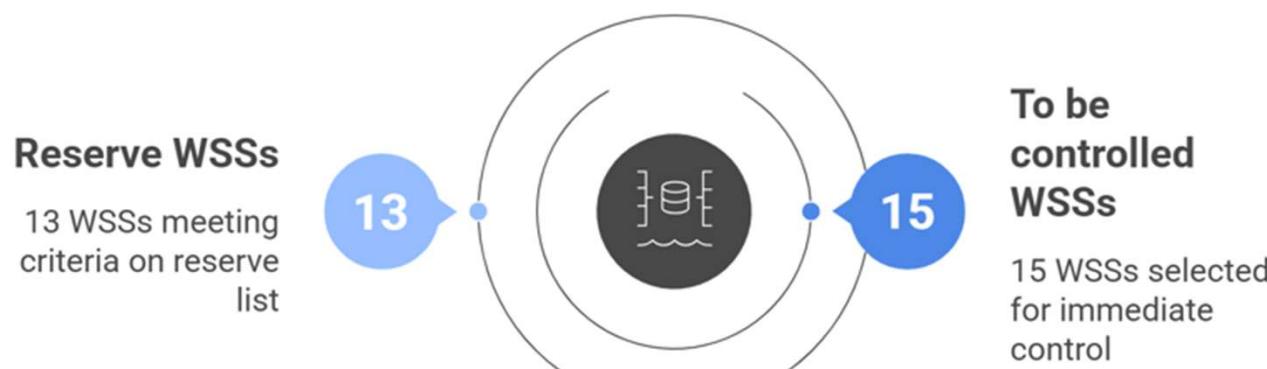
Timeline





Methodology - Selection Process of WSSs

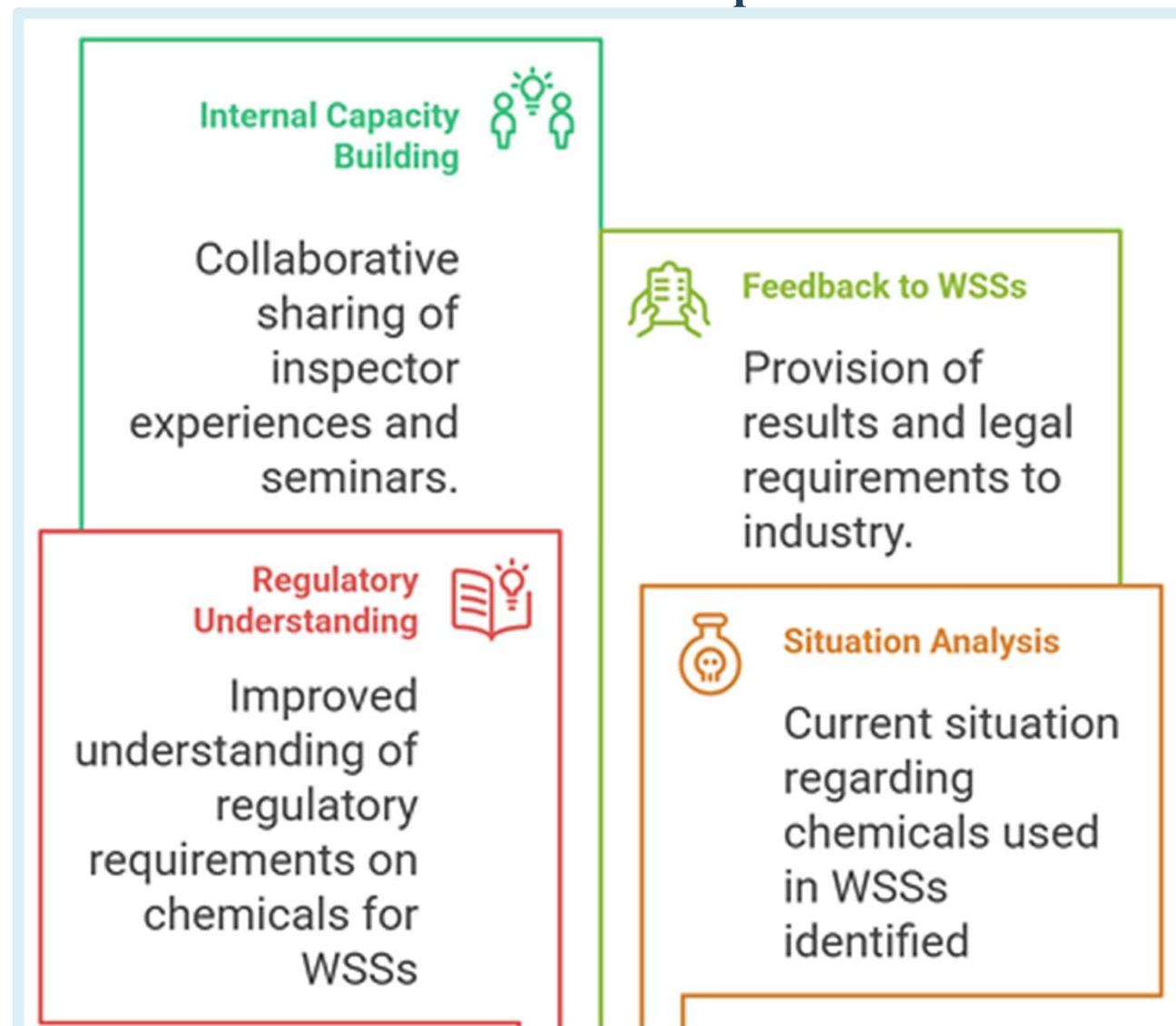
- For the start in 15 water supply systems (WSS) of medium and large supply size;
- in five geographic regions;
- assessing the compliance of chemical reagents used in these stages of drinking water extraction:
 - preparation and delivery;
 - maintenance of water supply system equipment; disinfection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





Expected outcomes

From Control to Cooperation





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!

