

“Survey on Hygiene Knowledge, Attitude and Practice”

- data analysis, main findings and recommendations –

SURVEY ON HYGIENE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE 2014 - 2015



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Acknowledgments

This study was conducted by the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC) and its partners:

- Centre for Health Promotion and Diseases Prevention and Vilnius City Public Health Bureau
- CREED – Economic Resources and Education for Development Centre in Romania
- EEHYC National Platform in the Republic of Moldova

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Majority of the work in conducting this study was done on a voluntary basis, proving once again that young people are enormous recourse of energy, goodwill, dedication and enthusiasm, for which we, as the Youth Coalition, are deeply grateful.

It was a great learning experience and pleasure for us to work with you all.



Understanding the Report

This report contains the information about the aim, scope and purpose of the study as well as the results derived from detailed and comprehensive data analysis. The purpose of this report is not to showcase the data in an attractive and insightful way, but to introduce the results accurately and scientifically present the reality. However, the content of this report sets a firm basis for producing further brochures, info graphics, advocacy papers and other types of material for dissemination to the specific target groups and wider public.

That being the case, EEHYC envisioned the continuation of this project in which the emphasis would be placed on the promotion of the recommendations and production of advocacy materials based on the main study findings in order to get the messages across about to the national and local policy-makers, school principals and other relevant stakeholders. EEHYC also foresaw designing and implementing a youth-friendly WASH in schools checklist, a practical tool that can help verify whether pupils and high schools students have the access to basic WASH requirements.

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 Aim of the study

... or WHY we did it

The goal of the study was to get a better insight about the level of awareness and explore knowledge on hand hygiene among middle and high school students in Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova and Romania, and encourage correct hygiene practices.

1.2 Scope of the study

... or WHAT we did

A survey containing questions on knowledge on hand hygiene practices among middle and high school students was conducted in 11 schools in Vilnius city and district (Lithuania), 12 schools in the Republic of Moldova and 4 schools in Piatra Neamt city (Romania). Based on the analysis of the data we are suggesting interventions to improve hygiene knowledge and practices of the target group.

1.3 Study methodology

... or HOW we did it

A survey was developed jointly with WHO experts in English (Annex 1) in January-February 2015, and then translated into Lithuanian, Romanian and Russian in March 2015. The country project managers in Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova and Romania then distributed the surveys in schools and collected the responses between April and June 2015. The methodology of selecting schools to participate in the survey and their geographical distribution differed between countries.

In Lithuania target group was high-school students from schools located in Vilnius city and Vilnius district. 11 schools (6 Vilnius city and 5 Vilnius district schools). Location of surveyed schools in Lithuania are indicated in Fig. 1. Voluntary participants were recruited by placing posters in schools. In each school the project was announced and promoted by posters, as well as by verbal interventions of the volunteer's team. After receiving permission from the principals, the volunteering public health specialists from Public Health Bureaus described the purpose and procedures of this study to classes. Students whose parents gave permissions and who agreed to participate then filled out a consent form to confirm their willingness to participate in the research. The age range of respondents was 12-19 years. In total 770 questionnaires were distributed. 686 questionnaires were collected.

In the Republic of Moldova, the target group was secondary and high-school students from rural and urban areas in Northern, Central and Southern regions of the country. A voluntary team of 9 high school students (3 from Northern region, 3 from Central region and 3 from Southern region of

the country), members of the national network of young people for environment “Gutta Club” – a member of EEHYC Moldova – were selected by the national project coordinator based on equal geographical distribution criterion to conduct the survey in their schools. Those who offered to conduct the survey in neighboring schools were given extra questionnaires. Each volunteer was given a letter of support to present to school management and get the approval to promote and conduct the survey in respective schools. Volunteers were in charge with promotion of the project in their respective schools, and were instructed to display the posters prior to conducting surveys, to invite students within the age limit of 12-18 to complete the questionnaires by themselves, on volunteer basis. As an additional measure to protect the confidentiality of answers, we have also given an empty envelope for each questionnaire. The volunteers were instructed to distribute the questionnaires and envelopes to their colleagues in high schools, to ensure them of the confidentiality of answers, to offer the time and space for those willing to fill in the questionnaires, collect the filled-in questionnaires, and to mail them back to the national project coordinator. As a general rule, all students from the classes where age of students was between 12-18 would answer the survey, except for those who refused to do so. Therefore, the gender balance of the respondents was influenced by the ratio boys/girls studying at each school and their willingness to answer. In total, 1095 questionnaires were distributed to volunteers and 999 responses were collected from 12 schools in 9 localities (*Fig.2*).

In Romania, geographic area for implementation was city of Piatra Neamt (*Fig. 3*). The project targeted 4 schools, out of which 3 are secondary schools and one is a primary school. The age range of respondents was 12-19 years. The country implementation team consisted of 10 volunteers, out of which in each school we had one adult (professor) and one young volunteer, and the overall of the activity was managed by an out of school representative of CREED. The national project coordinator decided this format in order to reduce the influence school representatives might have on the accuracy of results. In each school the project was announced by posters, as well as by live interventions of the volunteer’s team, and then printed surveys were distributed to all students in a class. The surveys were distributed directly to each class, being handed in by the young volunteers and the professor volunteering for the activity. As a general rule, all students from a class would answer the survey, so the gender balance of the respondents was influenced by the ratio boys/girls studying at each school. 600 questionnaires were distributed and 499 responses were collected from the 4 schools.

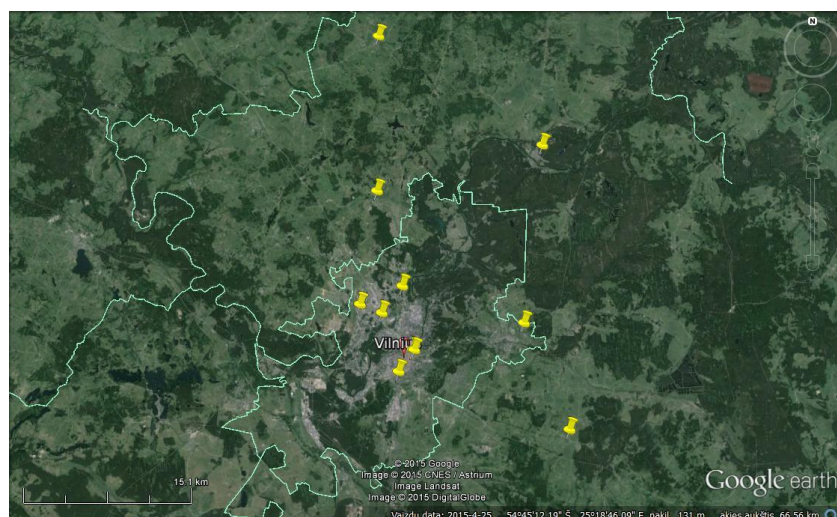


Fig. 1. Location of surveyed schools in Lithuania

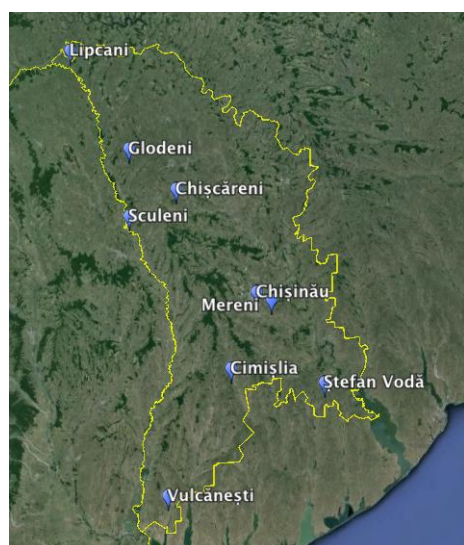


Fig. 2. Location of surveyed schools in Republic of Moldova

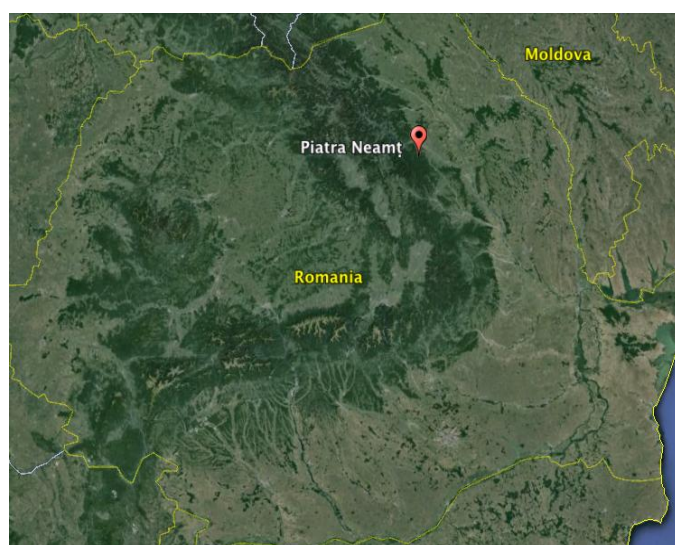


Fig. 3. Location of surveyed schools in Romania

A data base template (Annex 2) and a code book (Annex 3) were developed in July-August 2015 to help country managers code the responses and ensure data analysis using the same methodology. The data was entered into the database per country in August-September 2015 and transmitted for analysis in September-October 2015. Following the per country data analysis in October 2015, a number of general conclusions and recommendations were put forward. The results are presented below. For specific per country and per school interventions, we recommend that each National WASH in Schools project coordinator carries out a detailed analysis of the situation in each of the schools at national level.

CHAPTER 2

2.1 Survey results

Because of the difference in the level of representativeness of data between the 3 countries, a comparative analysis between them could not be carried on. Thus, the following results are presented on per country basis and are representative only for:

- Vilnius city and district schools in Lithuania;
- Nationally in the Republic of Moldova;
- Piatra Neamt schools in Romania.

Moreover, the results presented below are an average of the schools participating in the survey in each country. The situation in-between schools in the same country may differ significantly in some cases.

Responses to questions below are presented in percentages. The **NA** column represents the percentage of responses where either a valid response was not provided, or there was no response available.

Age and Gender of Respondents

- Lithuania

Age of respondents	Number of respondents	Percentage
<12 years	18	2,6 %
13-14 years	365	52,6 %
15-17 years	243	35,0 %
>18 years	55	7,9 %
NA	13	1,9 %
TOTAL	694	100 %

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	326	47,0 %
Female	355	51,1 %
NA	13	1,9 %
TOTAL	694	100 %

- Republic of Moldova

Age of respondents	Number of respondents	Percentage
<12 years	21	2,1 %
13-14 years	238	23,8 %
15-17 years	411	41,2 %
>18 years	263	26,3 %
NA	66	6,6 %
TOTAL	999	100 %

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	403	40,3%
Female	563	56,4 %
NA	33	3,3%
TOTAL	999	100%

- Romania

Age of respondents	Number of respondents	Percentage
<12 years	15	3,0 %
13-14 years	97	19,5 %
15-17 years	308	61,7 %
>18 years	79	15,8 %
TOTAL	499	100 %

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	148	29,7 %
Female	351	70,3 %
TOTAL	499	100 %

2.2 Part 1: Students' hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice

How often do students wash their hands before meals and preparing a meal?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	58,5 %	26,7 %	11,7 %	1,7 %	1,4 %
R.Moldova	74,3 %	18,5 %	6,6 %	0,5 %	0,1 %
Romania	78,4 %	19,2 %	2,0 %	0,4 %	0,0 %

How often do students wash their hands after coming back home?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	55,5 %	20,4 %	20,0 %	2,7 %	1,3 %
R.Moldova	53,0 %	23,6 %	21,2 %	1,9 %	0,2 %
Romania	73,1 %	18,8 %	7,4 %	0,6 %	0,0 %

How often do students wash their hands after using the toilet?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	73,0 %	15,8 %	8,2 %	1,1 %	1,7 %
R.Moldova	81,5 %	12,7 %	4,5 %	0,6 %	0,7 %
Romania	87,4 %	9,2 %	2,4 %	0,4 %	0,6 %

How often do students wash their hands after contact with a pet?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	37,7 %	23,8 %	31,0 %	5,2 %	2,2 %
R.Moldova	69,7 %	20,1 %	8,5 %	1,4 %	0,3 %
Romania	48,3 %	39,1 %	11,8 %	0,8 %	0,0 %

How often do students wash their hands after contact with a sick person?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	43,7 %	25,2 %	24,2 %	4,2 %	2,7 %
R.Moldova	59,5 %	23,3 %	13,4 %	2,9 %	0,9 %
Romania	57,3 %	25,4 %	15,2 %	1,8 %	0,2 %

How often do students wash their hands after visiting public spaces?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	53,6 %	21,6 %	18,3 %	5,2 %	1,3 %
R.Moldova	44,0 %	29,4 %	22,2 %	4,1 %	0,2 %
Romania	43,1 %	35,5 %	17,4 %	3,4 %	0,6 %

Do students use soap to wash their hands?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	73,9 %	17,3 %	5,9 %	1,1 %	1,7 %
R.Moldova	83,0 %	11,6 %	4,2 %	1,2 %	0,0 %
Romania	87,8 %	11,8 %	0,0 %	0,0 %	0,4 %

What are the main reasons for which students do not wash hands? (Multiple answers possible)

- Lithuania

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
I forget about it	1	54,9 %
I do not have time to do it	2	14,7 %
I have more important things to do	3	11,1 %
There is no water available	4	6,8 %
There is only cold water available	5	5,3 %
I do not understand why to wash my hands	6	1,9 %

- Republic of Moldova

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
I forget about it	1	46,6 %
There is no water available	2	11,8 %
There is only cold water available	3	10,6 %
I do not have a time to do it	4	8,7 %
I have more important things to do	5	7,7 %
I do not understand why to wash my hands	6	1,5 %

- Romania

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
I forget about it	1	70,9 %
There is no water available	2	18,0 %
I have more important things to do	3	14,4 %
I do not understand why to wash my hands	4	9,8 %
I do not have a time to do it	5	8,8 %
There is only cold water available	6	4,0 %

For how long do students typically wash their hands?

	For less than 10 seconds	Between 10-20 seconds	For more than 20 seconds	NA
Lithuania	18,9 %	59,6 %	18,4 %	3,0 %
R.Moldova	12,3 %	52,2 %	31,2 %	1,2 %
Romania	9,0 %	54,5 %	36,0 %	0,4 %

In what kind of situations do students consider washing hands as necessary? (Multiple answers were possible)

- Lithuania

Situation	Ranking of perceived necessity	Frequency of response
Before meals or preparing a meal	1	85,0 %
After using a toilet	2	83,7 %
After contact with a sick person	3	64,5 %
After coming back home	4	64,0 %
After visiting public places	5	61,7 %
After contact with a pet	6	56,3 %
After waking up	7	15,3 %

- Republic of Moldova

Situation	Ranking of perceived necessity	Frequency of response
After using a toilet	1	81,8 %
Before meals or preparing a meal	2	79,9 %
After contact with a pet	3	67,0 %
After contact with a sick person	4	56,5 %
After coming back home	5	55,6 %
After visiting public places	6	47,8 %
After waking up	7	29,6 %

- Romania

Situation	Ranking of perceived necessity	Frequency of response
After using a toilet	1	95,0 %
Before meals or preparing a meal	2	93,2 %
After contact with a pet	3	78,4 %
After contact with a sick person	4	70,3 %
After coming back home	5	69,9 %
After visiting public places	6	61,1 %
After waking up	7	27,7 %

Do students know what illnesses dirty hands can transmit? (*Only answers containing at least one correct example of an illness were considered as valid under YES option. Answers including wrong answers, such as HIV, were coded as NA*)

	YES	NO	NA
Lithuania	41,3 %	45,4 %	13,3 %
R.Moldova	36,0 %	44,7 %	19,2 %
Romania	78,4 %	13,0 %	8,6 %

Have students been taught proper hand hygiene practices at their schools?

	YES	NO	Don't remember	NA
Lithuania	53,0 %	15,7 %	28,7 %	2,6 %
R.Moldova	70,0 %	7,9 %	20,3 %	1,8 %
Romania	43,5 %	13,6 %	42,0 %	0,8 %

2.3 Part 2: Students' opinion concerning hygiene and sanitation conditions in the school

Note: When the questions remained unanswered, the answers were not clear or the answers were not answering the question, they were coded as **NA (Not Answered)**.

Do students use the school toilet?

	Regularly	Sometimes	Only when absolutely needed	Never	NA
Lithuania	26,1 %	49,4 %	16,4 %	5,3 %	2,7 %
R.Moldova	23,6 %	53,6 %	15,3 %	6,1 %	1,3 %
Romania	8,8 %	30,3 %	55,3 %	5,2 %	0,4 %

Is toilet paper being provided in the school toilet?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	15,8 %	20,2 %	36,2 %	24,8 %	3,0 %
R.Moldova	7,3 %	9,1 %	26,5 %	55,7 %	1,4 %
Romania	4,0 %	8,6 %	32,3 %	54,3 %	0,8 %

Are waste bins being provided in girls' toilets for safe disposal of sanitary towels? *(only answers provided by girls have been considered)*

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	19,4 %	7,6 %	9,9 %	37,5 %	25,6 %
R.Moldova	34,1 %	12,8 %	16,0 %	35,2 %	1,9 %
Romania	56,4 %	17,1 %	7,7 %	17,9 %	0,8 %

Are students satisfied with level of privacy, which is ensured in the school toilet?

	Satisfied	Quite satisfied	Not satisfied	Avoiding to use the toilet	NA
Lithuania	22,8 %	48,3 %	17,6 %	9,1 %	2,3 %
R.Moldova	24,5 %	22,7 %	36,9 %	13,0 %	2,8 %
Romania	11,4 %	42,9 %	29,9 %	14,8 %	1,0 %

Is there running water in the hand washbasins in the school bathroom?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	65,8 %	14,1 %	11,1 %	6,3 %	2,6 %
R.Moldova	36,2 %	22,6 %	21,8 %	17,5 %	1,8 %
Romania	69,3 %	23,8 %	5,2 %	1,0 %	0,6 %

Do students drink water from the tap in the school bathroom?

	YES	NO	NA
Lithuania	26,2 %	70,0 %	3,7 %
R.Moldova	23,1 %	72,8 %	4,1 %
Romania	52,9 %	16,4 %	30,5 %

Is soap (as bars or liquid) being provided in the school bathroom?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	14,7 %	21,3 %	39,0 %	20,5 %	4,5 %
R.Moldova	14,7 %	17,6 %	33,1 %	33,1 %	1,4 %
Romania	12,2 %	23,0 %	46,7 %	17,2 %	0,8 %

Are towels or electric hand dryers being provided in the school bathroom?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	20,2 %	14,4 %	31,7 %	29,1 %	4,6 %
R.Moldova	16,3 %	12,4 %	22,3 %	45,2 %	3,7 %
Romania	5,4 %	6,0 %	19,8 %	66,9 %	1,8 %

How often do students wash their hands after using school toilet?

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never	NA
Lithuania	62,2 %	19,2 %	10,5 %	4,0 %	4,0 %
R.Moldova	62,1 %	20,2 %	10,8 %	3,4 %	3,5 %
Romania	84,0 %	9,0 %	2,4 %	1,6 %	3,0 %

When students don't wash their hands after using school toilet, what are the reasons? (Multiple answers were possible)

- Lithuania

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
There is no soap available	1	33,0 %
There is no water available	2	19,7 %
Other reasons	3	15,8 %
The wash basins are too far away	4	3,2 %

- **Republic of Moldova**

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
There is no soap available	1	41,4 %
There is no water available	2	29,1 %
The wash basins are too far away	3	9,3 %
Other reasons	4	9,0 %

- **Romania**

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
There is no soap available	1	40,9 %
There is no water available	2	29,0 %
Other reasons	3	10,6 %
The wash basins are too far away	4	7,0 %

In general, how satisfied are students with their school toilet and bathroom?

	Satisfied	Quite satisfied	Not satisfied	Avoiding to use the toilet	NA
Lithuania	15,7 %	49,7 %	23,2 %	7,5 %	3,9 %
R.Moldova	20,4 %	23,6 %	39,7 %	12,2 %	4,0 %
Romania	2,8 %	38,1 %	28,9 %	27,0 %	3,2 %

What are the main concerns of students who are not fully satisfied with their school toilet?
(Multiple answers were possible)

- **Lithuania**

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
Unpleasant smell in toilet rooms	1	51,6 %
Absence of hand hygiene equipment	2	49,1 %
Lack of cleanliness	3	38,0 %
Lack of privacy	4	29,4 %
Absence of menstrual hygiene equipment	5	19,0 %
Low temperatures in the toilet	6	17,7 %
Lack of light in the toilet	7	7,9 %
Other reasons	8	7,5 %
Distance to toilet	9	7,2 %
Lack of water	10	6,6 %

- **Republic of Moldova**

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
Unpleasant smell in toilet rooms	1	72,7 %
Lack of cleanliness	2	42,3 %
Absence of hand hygiene equipment	3	41,0 %
Absence of menstrual hygiene equipment	4	31,5 %
Lack of privacy	5	26,4 %
Lack of water	6	20,2 %
Distance to toilet	7	16,4 %
Lack of light in the toilet	8	11,7 %
Low temperatures in the toilet	9	11,1 %
Other	10	3,5 %

- **Romania**

Reason	Ranking	Frequency of response
Unpleasant smell in toilet rooms	1	63,5 %
Absence of hand hygiene equipment	2	57,1 %
Lack of cleanliness	3	43,9 %
Absence of menstrual hygiene equipment	4	38,9 %
Lack of privacy	5	37,5 %
Lack of water	6	25,0 %
Distance to toilet	7	22,4 %
Low temperatures in the toilet	8	18,4 %
Lack of light in the toilet	9	13,6 %
Other	10	2,8 %

CHAPTER 3

3.1 Main findings

or WHAT DID WE LEARN from the survey?

Drawing some general conclusions based on the data from the three countries is challenging, because aggregation of data from the three countries is impossible. This is due to different levels of representativeness in each of the countries. In addition, there are certain limitations in fully trusting the responses due to self-reporting bias. Therefore the findings below should be regarded with caution.

3.2 Main findings from **Students' hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice**

- Students in schools tend to use soap when they wash hands in most of the cases when soap is provided.
- Washing hands after using the toilet and before meals is more frequent than after returning home, being in contact with a pet or a sick person, or visiting public places.
- The main and predominant reason for which young people in all the three countries don't wash their hands is because they forget.
- More than half of young people in each country wash their hands for 10-20 seconds.
- The most important situations when young people in all the three countries consider it important to wash hands is after using the toilet and before the meals.
- Except for young people in Romania (Piatra Neamt city) where close to 80% of young people were able to name at least 1 illness transmitted by dirty hands, in Lithuania (Vilnius city and district) and the Republic of Moldova (nationally) less than 50% of young people know what illnesses transmitted by dirty hands.

3.3 Main findings from **Students' opinion concerning hygiene and sanitation conditions in the school**

- Less than 30% of respondents in all countries use the toilet in schools regularly. Most of the respondents (ca. 50%) use it sometimes or only when absolutely necessary.
- In the Republic of Moldova, more than half of the respondents are either not satisfied with their school toilet or avoid using it. 73% of respondents in the Republic of Moldova highlight unpleasant smell in toilet rooms as the main reason why they are not satisfied with the toilets in their schools. Lack of cleanliness (42%), absence of hand hygiene equipment (41%) and absence of menstrual hygiene equipment (32%) are among the other predominant reasons of dissatisfaction with school toilets and bathrooms in the Republic of Moldova.
- 64 % of respondents in Romania, too, highlight unpleasant smell in toilet rooms as the main reason why they are not satisfied with the toilets in their schools. Absence of hand hygiene equipment (57%), lack of cleanliness (44%) and absence of menstrual hygiene

equipment (39%) are the main reasons for dissatisfaction among young people in Piatra Neamt, too. Another major concern among them is also the lack of privacy (37%).

- In Vilnius district and city schools, about 63% of students are either satisfied or highly satisfied with their school toilet and bathroom. For those who are not fully satisfied, the main reasons are: unpleasant smell in toilet rooms (52%), absence of hand hygiene equipment (49%) and lack of cleanliness (38%).
- Although more than 50% of students in all 3 countries use toilets, toilet paper is not always provided. Thus, 56% of respondents in the Republic of Moldova, 54% in Romania and 25% in Lithuania mention that toilet paper is never provided; while 36% of respondents in Lithuania, 27% in the Republic of Moldova and 32% in Romania say they can find toilet paper in school toilets only sometimes. Only 4% of respondents in Romania, 7% in the Republic of Moldova and 15% in Lithuania can always find paper in school toilets.
- The majority of respondents in all countries (ca. 80% in Vilnius, ca. 60% in the Republic of Moldova, ca. 90% in Piatra Neamt) acknowledged having running water in the hand washbasins in the school bathroom. However, soap can always be found by 15% of students in Vilnius and Piatra Neamt, and by 12% of students in the Republic of Moldova. In most of the cases (ca. 60% in Vilnius, ca. 66% in the Republic of Moldova and ca. 64% in Piatra Neamt) there is either no soap provided at all, or only sometimes. No soap available is listed as the main reported reason why students don't wash their hands after using the toilet in all 3 countries.
- 20% of respondents from Lithuania, 16% from the Republic of Moldova and 5% from Romania report to find towels or electric hand dryers always in school bathrooms. 29% from Lithuania, 45% from the Republic of Moldova and 67% from Romania report to never have such equipment in their bathrooms. This is having while more than 80% of respondents in each of the countries mention washing their hands always or often after using school toilet.
- Waste bins in girls' toilets for safe disposal of sanitary towels are not provided in all schools at all times. 19% of girls in Lithuania, 34% of girls in the Republic of Moldova and 56% of girls in Romania can find such beans always. 37% of girls in Lithuania, 35% in the Republic of Moldova and 17% in Romania mention that they don't have them at all.
- Drinking water from the tap in school bathrooms is not at all popular. 70% of students in Lithuania and 73% in the Republic of Moldova don't drink water from the tap at all, while in Romania 30% of students didn't answer this question compared to 16% who reported not drinking water from the tap. However, 53% of students in Romania reported drinking tap water, while the same is the case for only 26% of students in Lithuania and 23% of students in the Republic of Moldova.

CHAPTER 4

4.1 Conclusions

Or WHY it is important to continue advancing WASH in schools?

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is essential for the healthy growth and development of children around the world. It has been demonstrated that adequate and safe WASH facilities in schools prevent waterborne disease, contribute to a positive learning environment and outcomes, and promote life-long hygiene behaviours. Besides contributing to better health and quality of education, providing WASH in schools also improves dignity and has positive environmental effects like keeping eco-systems and water sources clean. The importance of providing WASH in schools has been recognized as a priority in the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the universal access to clean water and sanitation is one of 17 Global Goals. Universal means that no target will be met unless it is met for all. To achieve this, WASH initiatives will have to start prioritizing institutional settings including schools, health facilities and workplaces, where lack of access to WASH significantly impacts health, wellbeing and productivity of populations.

Our findings show that only less than 30% of students between 12 and 18 years of age in three countries use the school toilets regularly. About half of the respondents in Lithuania and Republic of Moldova use it only sometimes, while more than 50% of respondents in Romania use the toilet only when absolutely necessary. Students reflected that school toilets are stinky, cold, horrible, dirty, offensive, disgusting and without clean running water, toilet paper provided and without waste bins in girls' toilets for safe disposal of sanitary towels. We, as the Youth Coalition, are very much aware that the physical environment and cleanliness of a school facility can significantly affect the health and well-being of children. Disease spreads quickly in cramped spaces where hand-washing facilities or soap are not available, and where toilets are in disrepair. Too often, schools are places where children become ill.

Considering all the above, it is fair to suggest that access to basic water and sanitation services in schools is still a concern in the European Region. Most of the times, this problem is overseen and not given the priority it deserves. Therefore, we, as the Youth Coalition, would like to stress that more attention needs to be paid to children and young people in schools and ensuring access to adequate, safe and sustainable WASH facilities in schools settings. EEHYC is willing and ready to continue active involvement and support the Protocol work, the only pan-European platform that tackles this important issue by bringing together all concerned stakeholders.

4.2 Recommendations

or WHAT could EEHYC do further?

Analysis of data reveals that there are a number of things EEHYC could do further, such as:

- Conduct per schools analysis of data so as to get an accurate picture of the situation in each schools, and identify potential differences between city vs. district and/or rural vs. urban schools. This will help provide each school with tailored intervention options. And foremost, providing individual feedback to schools. On the practical side, this could be done by "cool" looking one-pagers with key messages and recommendations for the school principles and/or pupils.
- The study shows that students tend to be forgetful of certain practices and information, such as washing hands and negative consequences that could follow from not doing so. There is space for intervention with practical activities and/or group activities beyond talking about it as part of the curriculum.
- There is a need to understand the reasons behind not having toilet paper, soap and hand towels/hand dryers always provided. A possible intervention could be to discuss with school managers and identify the problems. Involving groups of students in finding solutions to this can also encourage a participatory and solution oriented process among young people. Involving parents can help discuss explicitly the issue of "small budgets" for basic supplies and cleaning and maintenance.
- Promote the importance of menstruation hygiene in school toilets among young girls and schools managers.
- Help school managers identify whether the tap water in schools is safe for drinking and encourage them disseminate the results among students, so that they have an accurate picture of the real quality of tap water in schools. Further, EEHYC could focus on promoting drinking water during school time.
- Encourage continuation of the important work on WASH in schools under the Protocol on Water and Health and advocate for considering this area as a key priority for the 2017–2019 programme of work.

ANNEX 1: Survey in English



Survey on Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools

Date:

School name:

Age:

Sex: male ☐ female ☐

Part 1: Student's hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice

Please tick the box to indicate what describes your daily habits the best:

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never
1. Do you wash your hands before meals and preparing a meal?				
2. Do you wash your hands after coming back home?				
3. Do you wash your hands after using the toilet?				
4. Do you wash your hands after contact with a pet?				
5. Do you wash your hands after contact with a sick person?				
6. Do you wash your hands after visiting public places (e.g. public transport, supermarkets, restaurants)?				
7. Do you use soap to wash your hands?				

8. For what reasons you do not wash your hands?*(more than one answer can be marked)*

- a. I forget about it
- b. I have more important things to do
- c. I do not have a time to do it
- d. I do not understand why to wash my hands
- e. There is no water available
- f. There is only cold water available
- g. I do not wash hands intentionally. If so, please indicate the reason:

- h. Other reason. Please specify: _____

9. For how long do you typically wash your hands?

- a. Less than 10 seconds
- b. 10 – 20 seconds
- c. More than 20 seconds

10. In what kind of situations do you consider washing hands as necessary?*(more than one answer can be marked)*

- a. Before meals or preparing a meal
- b. After coming back home
- c. After using a toilet
- d. After contact with a pet
- e. After contact with a sick person
- f. After visiting public places
- g. After waking up
- h. Other. Please specify: _____

11. Do you know what illnesses can be transmitted by dirty hands?

- a. Yes. Please provide an example: _____
- b. No

12. Have you been taught proper hand hygiene practices at your school?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't remember

Part 2: Students' opinion concerning hygiene and sanitation conditions in the school**1. Do you use the school toilet?**

- a. Yes, regularly
- b. Yes, sometimes
- c. Yes, only when I absolutely cannot hold on anymore
- d. No, never. If no, please provide the reason: _____

2. Is toilet paper being provided in the school toilet?

- a. Always
- b. Often
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

3. Are waste bins being provided in girls toilets for safe disposal of sanitary towels?

- a. Always
- b. Often
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

4. Are you satisfied of level of privacy, which is ensured in the school toilet?

- a. Yes, I'm satisfied
- b. I'm quite satisfied
- c. I'm not satisfied
- d. I'm not satisfied and I avoid to use the toilet

5. Is there running water in the hand wash basins in the school bathroom?

- a. Always
- b. Often
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

6. Do you drink the water from the tap in the school bathroom?

- a. Yes
- b. No. Please specify the reason: _____

7. Is soap (as bars or liquid) being provided in the school bathroom?

- a. Always
- b. Often
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

8. Are towels or electric hand dryers being provided in the school bathroom?

- a. Always
- b. Often
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

9. How often do you wash your hands after using school toilet?

- a. Always
- b. Fairly often
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

10. When you don't wash hands after using school toilet, what are the reasons?

(mark all that apply)

- a. There is no water available
- b. There is no soap available
- c. The wash basins are too far away
- d. Other reason. Please specify: _____

11. In general, how satisfied are you with your school toilet and bathroom?

- a. Yes, I'm satisfied
- b. I'm quite satisfied
- c. I'm not satisfied
- d. I'm not satisfied and I avoid to use the toilet

12. If you are not fully satisfied with your school toilet, what are your main concerns? *(more than one answer can be marked)*

- a. Lack of privacy
- b. Lack of cleanliness
- c. Unpleasant smell in toilet rooms
- d. Lack of light in the toilet
- e. Low temperatures in the toilet
- f. Absence of menstrual hygiene management equipment
- g. Distance to toilet
- h. Absence of hand hygiene equipment
- i. Lack of water
- j. Other. Please specify: _____

Thank you for your time and contribution!

ANNEX 3: Code Book



CODE BOOK

Survey on Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools

This Code Book provides the instructions on how to code and introduce the data from the individual questionnaires of the Survey on Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools into the Excel file (attached to this Code Book).

BEFORE ENTERING DATA

Note that each questionnaire to be analyzed needs to be assigned a unique identifier. A unique identifier is an assigned number that identifies each questionnaire. *When assigning unique identifiers, you may want to use incremental ID numbers such as 001, 002, 003, 004.* Write this number on the corner of each paper survey questionnaire, and enter that same number in the column labeled "ID#" in the attached Excel file, followed by the data for that questionnaire. Later, this will allow you to find a particular questionnaire or remove identifying elements from your database.

ENTERING YOUR DATA

Beginning with Row 4, enter the ID number, then the data for each questionnaire. Do this by typing *the code of the selected response* for each question in the cell under that *question's header*. Be careful to enter each response accurately.

The codes of responses for each question are presented starting with page 2 below **in red**.

The question headers in the Excel table coded differently than the question name, except **Date, School name, Age** and **Sex**. For example, Question 1 in Part 1 of the questionnaire "Do you wash your hands before meals and preparing a meal?" is coded in Excel table as **Q1.1**. Question 11 in Part 2 of the questionnaire is coded in Excel table as **Q 2.11**, and so on.

Detailed instructions on how to code each answer for each question are presented below.

TROUBLESHOOTING

While entering your data, you may encounter some unexpected problems. Here are tips for pre-venting problems and dealing with common situations that come up while entering data:

- **If a question is not answered:** Leave the cell for the unanswered question blank or code it as no response.
- **If the respondent missed an entire page of the survey:** If possible, contact that respondent again to complete the survey. Or leave the cells for unanswered questions blank.
- **If two responses are selected for a question when only one is requested:** That invalidates the data for that question. Treat this question as if it were not answered.
- **If someone circles data between two points on a scale:** This can be tricky. If you are not sure of the response, treat the question as if it were not answered. Or treat all responses that lie between two points on a scale the same. For example, give them all the exact same number that is directly between the two points, such as 0.5 if the response sits somewhere between 0 and 1, or round to the higher or lower number. The important thing is to treat all responses between two points on a scale the same way. Note this in your code-book.
- **If an open-ended response is incomplete:** Enter the data that are given.

Should you have any question at all, or if you are not 100 % sure about how to code certain data, please ask / write to n.n.ciobanu@gmail.com

CODING INSTRUCTIONS:

ID # is the unique ID number of each questionnaire

Date:

April 2015 = 1

May 2015 = 2

June 2015 = 3

July 2015 = 4

School name:

"Name 1" = 1

"Name 2" = 2

"Name 3" = 3, etc...

Be sure to specify the school names in the "School Name Coding" Sheet of the Excel file.

Age:

Less than 12 = 1

13-14 = 2

15-17 = 3

18 + = 4

Sex:

Male = 1

Female = 2

If unanswered, leave cell blank

Part 1: Student's hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice

	Always	Fairly often	Sometimes	Never
1. Do you wash your hands before meals and preparing a meal? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.1</i>	1	2	3	4
2. Do you wash your hands after coming back home? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.2</i>	1	2	3	4
3. Do you wash your hands after using the toilet? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.3</i>	1	2	3	4
4. Do you wash your hands after contact with a pet? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.4</i>	1	2	3	4
5. Do you wash your hands after contact with a sick person? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.5</i>	1	2	3	4
6. Do you wash your hands after visiting public places (e.g. public transport, supermarkets, restaurants)? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.6</i>	1	2	3	4
7. Do you use soap to wash your hands? <i>In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.7</i>	1	2	3	4

8. For what reasons you do not wash your hands?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 1.8 a . Q 1.8 b . Q 1.8 c Q 1.8 h

Part 2:

1. Do you use the school toilet?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.12 a , Q 2.12 b , Q 2.12 c , Q 2.12 d

- a. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- b. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- c. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- d. 0 if the answer was not chosen; write the answer if the answer was chosen

2. Is toilet paper being provided in the school toilet? *In the excel table coded as: Q 2.2*

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

3. Are waste bins being provided in girls toilets for safe disposal of sanitary towels?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.3

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

4. Are you satisfied of level of privacy, which is ensured in the school toilet?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.4

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

5. Is there running water in the hand wash basins in the school bathroom?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.5

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

6. Do you drink the water from the tap in the school bathroom? *In the table: Q 2.6 a, Q 2.6 b*

- a. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- b. 0 if the answer was not chosen; write the answer if the answer was chosen

7. Is soap (as bars or liquid) being provided in the school bathroom? *In the table: Q 2.7*

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

8. Are towels or electric hand dryers being provided in the school bathroom?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.8

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

9. How often do you wash your hands after using school toilet?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.9

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

10. When you don't wash hands after using school toilet, what are the reasons?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.10 a, Q 2.10 b, Q 2.10 c, Q 2.10 d

- a. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- b. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- c. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- d. 0 if the answer was not chosen; write the answer if the answer was chosen

11. In general, how satisfied are you with your school toilet and bathroom?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.11

- a. = 1
- b. = 2
- c. = 3
- d. = 4

12. If you are not fully satisfied with your school toilet, what are your main concerns?

In the Excel table coded as: Q 2.12 a, Q 2.12 b Q 2.12 j

- a. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- b. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- c. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- d. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- e. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- f. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- g. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- h. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- i. 0 if the answer was not chosen; 1 if the answer was chosen
- j. 0 if the answer was not chosen; write the answer if the answer was chosen

Thank you for your time and contribution!