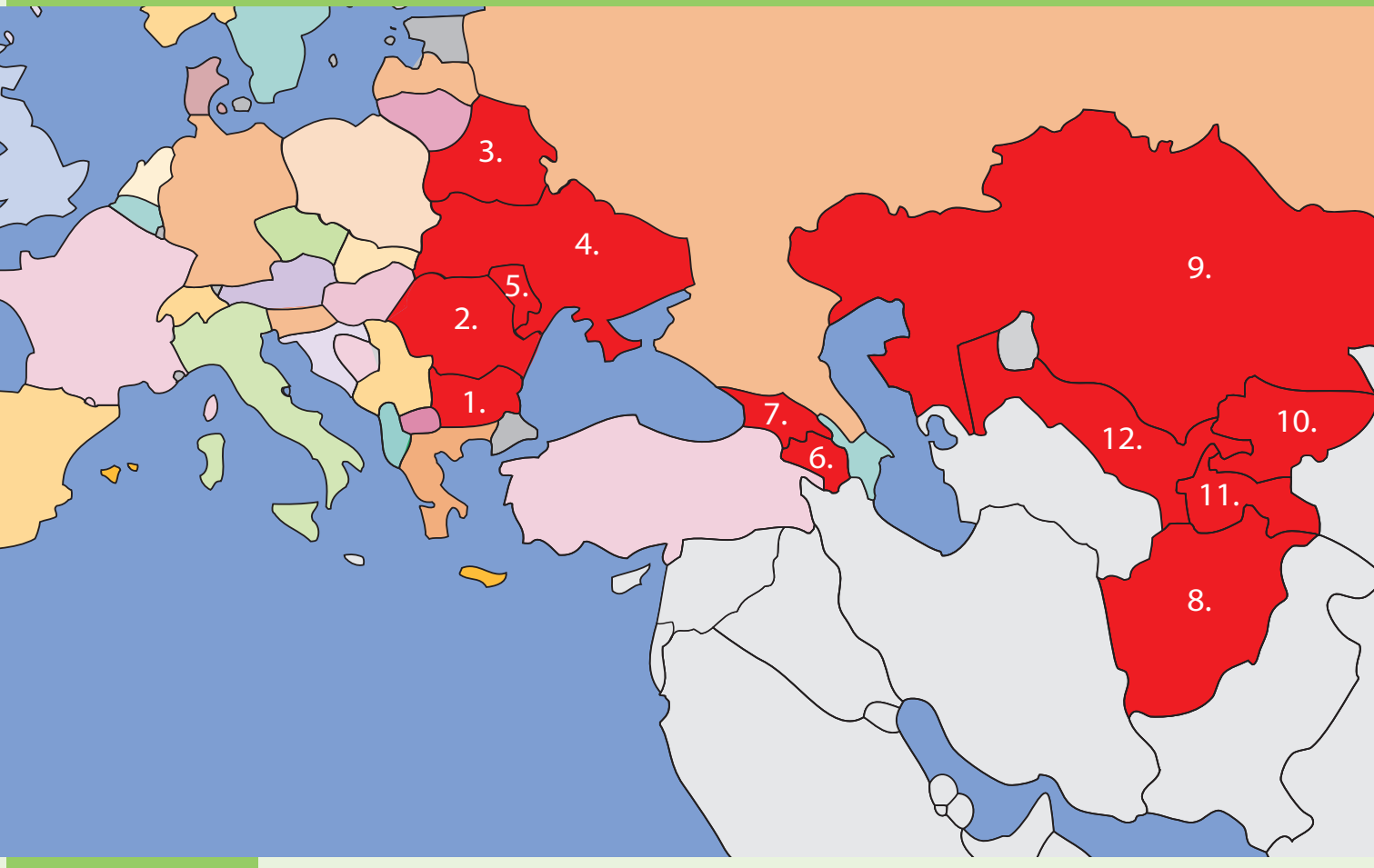


Improving School Sanitation in a Sustainable Way

for a Better Health of School Children in the EECCA and in the new EU Member States



WECF in cooperation with its members carry out water and sanitation projects in:

EU-Member states: **1.** Bulgaria and **2.** Romania
 Eastern Europe: **3.** Belarus, **4.** Ukraine and **5.** Moldova
 Caucasus: **6.** Armenia and **7.** Georgia
 Central Asia: **8.** Afghanistan, **9.** Kazakhstan, **10.** Kyrgyzstan, **11.** Tajikistan, and **12.** Uzbekistan

Common problems:

- No access to safe water; people depend on unprotected wells for their drinking water or on frequently interrupted central water supply systems.
- No adequate wastewater management resulting in polluted groundwater
- Lack of safe sanitation in the rural areas

1. The poorest conditions of sanitation are found in schools



Missing comfort

- In summer extremely bad smelling latrines, visited by high amounts of flies
- Latrines are located far from the school
- In winter the temperature is far below zero - visiting the latrine is a threat to the children's health
- No privacy

Missing hygiene

- No hand washing facilities
- No toilet paper, soap or other cleaning facilities
- Transfer of pathogens by flies and hands

Missing awareness and attention

- School sanitation is not a topic for discussion
- School sanitation is not a political issue
- School sanitation is neglected by health authorities
- School sanitation is not on the budget for its improvement

The common conditions of school sanitation pose a threat to dignity and health risks

- The rate of school drop-outs increases during menstruation
- Avoiding usage of toilet by little intake of liquids
- Using the toilet affects the dignity
- Less attentive attitude for the lessons
- Risks of intestinal diseases, diarrhoeas
- Risks of bladder infection

School sanitation is an issue that needs the attention of regional, national and international policy makers

→ In winter the temperature is far below zero – visiting the latrine is a threat to the children's health



→ Using these toilets affects the dignity

2. Introduction of sustainable and safe school sanitation – Dry Urine Diverting (UD) Toilets



→ The first indoor dry urine diverting school toilet facility in Armenia

Advantages of dry urine diverting toilets

- No sewage system and no central water supply system are needed
- No flies, no smell: indoor toilets are possible
- Urine and faeces are separated, collected and sanitised

The guidelines of the World Health Organisation on the reuse of excreta are followed, thus:

- An adequate sanitising procedure of the products is practiced
- A safe reuse of the toilet products in the agriculture is practiced

Experiences with dry urine diverting school toilets

- Incidence of infections decreased
- Attendance of pupils increased
- The use is comfortable
- High acceptance among the users
- For the safe use is education and awareness raising a need
- The acceptance of the reuse of the sanitised products depends on the location



3. Barriers for scaling up

- Lack of local, national and international awareness on the importance of school sanitation
- Lack of knowledge on alternatives to pit latrines or flush toilets
- Lack of national regulations for the implementation of dry UD school toilets
- Lack of national regulations for a safe sanitising procedure of the faeces and urine
- Lack of national regulation for a safe reuse of excreta in the agriculture
- Lack of local available and affordable urine diverting toilets
- Lack of financial resources

A better national and international regulation on the adoption of safe and sustainable sanitation systems is a condition for improving the sanitary condition in schools in the rural areas of the WECF project region

What is WECF?

Women in Europe for a Common Future is a network of citizen's organizations and experts in 30 countries. WECF works for a sustainable future for our children.



WECF | Women in Europe for a Common Future

www.wecf.eu / wecf@wecf.eu

Netherlands

PO Box 13047,
3507 LA Utrecht
Tel.: +31 30 / 23 10 30 0
Fax.: +31 30 / 23 40 87 8

Germany

St.-Jakobs-Platz 10,
D - 80331 Munich
Tel.: +49 89 / 23 23 93 80
Fax.: +49 89 / 23 23 938 11

France

1, Chemin des Sapins,
74100 Vétraz-Monthoux
Tel.: +33 / 450 37 71 98
Fax.: +33 / 450 37 71 98



WECF receives support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and Fondation Ensemble, France.