

SUMMARY

Performance Auditing Report

“Availability and Safety of Potable Water“

Measures taken by local governments and other competent authorities for the purpose of continuous supply of drinking water would be more effective if the prescribed conditions for carrying out the activity, regular control, assessment and monitoring of the health of drinking water were ensured

Potable water safety affects the continuity and quality of the population's supply with potable water, which can lead to an increased risk of harm to the health of the population.

In the period from 2015 to 2018, 20% of tested potable water samples from public water supply systems and water bodies in the Republic of Serbia did not meet the prescribed safety criteria.

Local self-government units and the municipality - auditees have not taken measures to fully ensure the preconditions for the continued provision of potable water supply, equal availability and equal quality of potable water for the population. In addition, they did not determine the way for the users to provide feedback on quality of service, the projects were not completed within the stipulated deadlines, and the indicators of achievement of the goals used were not aimed at assessing the effects of investing public funds in improving the availability and / or safety of potable water.

Delays in the adoption of by-law regulating the conditions and obligations for action in the field of public health and inactivity of local self-government units contributed to the fact that the undertaken obligations for planning and monitoring of the potable water safety were not done, which is why it was not ensured that control was exercised in the territory under their jurisdiction in all public water supply systems and to the extent prescribed.

The unequal approach when assessing the potable water safety leads to failure to include expert opinion on the safety of use, or the possibility of using potable water in all reports on the results of analyses submitted to sanitary inspectors to take measures within their jurisdiction.



After conducting the audit, the State Audit Institution has issued the following recommendations:

Local self-government units and city municipality - auditees to provide the necessary prerequisites for water supply service providers for the continuous supply of the population with safe potable water, to regulate the manner for the users to give feedback on the quality of service, to improve the planning, monitoring and reporting of the effects of the use of budget funds for water supply and to adopt public health plans and special programs to commit to control and monitor the safety of potable water in their territories.

“Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut” Institute of Public Health of Serbia to issue expert methodological instructions for:

- implementing regulations and ensuring uniform practice when giving opinions on the possibility of using potable water; and
- collecting and exchanging data on the safety of potable water, analyzing and reporting on it.

Ministry of Health to intensify activities on the adoption of a by-law regulating the conditions and obligations for action in the field of public health.