



Workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation

"Applying the Equitable Access Score-card in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Information Notice

19-20 January 2016

Hotel Romantic, Ezero Mladost, Veles

Background

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been actively involved in numerous activities under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) Protocol on Water and Health while preparing for accession to the Protocol.

The Protocol aims to protect human health and well-being by better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases. Its 2014-2016 programme of work gives special focus on promoting equitable access to water and sanitation services for all members of the population. It includes support to the development of coordinated baseline analyses on the equity of access to water and sanitation on the basis of the *Equitable Access Score-card*. The *Equitable Access Score-card* is an analytical tool which has been developed to help Governments and other stakeholders to establish a baseline measure of the equity of access to water and sanitation, identify related priorities and discuss further actions to be taken through a process of self-assessment.

At the workshop¹ "Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation and small-scale water supply and sanitation systems" (Skopje, 16-17 June 2015), the self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation was launched and welcomed by participants. A working group composed of representatives of the Institute of Public Health, the NGO Journalist for Human Rights, the coordinators of the assessment in three municipalities Ms. Snezana Petrova, Ms. Mimoza Velickovski and Ms. Snezana Milovanovic was formed to assess the level of access to water and sanitation. Equitable access self-assessments were carried out in the 3 following regions: Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo over the period July – December 2015.

¹ More information on the workshop is available at : <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39746#/>

Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To present the process and main outcomes of the assessments of equitable access to water and sanitation in the 3 municipalities (Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo);
- To discuss and prioritize the main challenges identified with a broad variety of stakeholders;
- To discuss possible actions to be taken to fill the identified equity gaps and pave the way for improvements in the field of equitable access to water and sanitation.

Expected outcomes

A broadly consulted and agreed overview of the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation.

Strategic orientations for an action plan to improve equitable access to water and sanitation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Target audience

The following stakeholders should be involved: Ministry of Health; Institute of Public Health; Institute of Public Health in Kumanovo and Veles; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Supply; Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; Ministry of Local Self Government; Ministry of Transport and Communication; Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning; Ministry of Education and Science; Institute of Statistics; Macedonian Red Cross; Association of Consumer's Rights; relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the areas of environment, gender equality, health and human rights; water and sanitation service providers and/or relevant associations with focus on rural areas; representatives from donors, cooperation agencies and international organizations, and other relevant organizations and partners.

Partners

The workshop is co-convened by the Institute of Public Health and the UNECE secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health. The organization of the workshop is supported by the NGO Journalists for Human Rights. It is organized under the framework of the United Nations Development Account project "Strengthening Governments' and water operators' capacity to ensure equity of access to water and sanitation in countries with economies in transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region". Financial support is further provided by the French Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Women's Rights.

Practical information and contact information

Venue:

Hotel Romantic, Ezero Mladost, Veles, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Schedule

The workshop will be held on 19-20 January 2016, from at 9:00am on 19 January till 2:00pm on 20 January 2016.

Presentations and interactive discussion will allow for the exchange of experiences.

Coffee breaks, lunches and dinner will be provided during the meeting.

Working language

Simultaneous interpretation English-Macedonian will be provided.

Registration

Participants should confirm their participation by 11 of January 2016, by writing to Natasha Dokovska (NGO Journalists for Human Rights) detstvo@detstvo.org.mk

Contact information

Mr. Mihail Kochubovski, Institute of Public Health (kocubov58@gmail.com)

Ms. Natasa Dokovska, NGO Journalists for Human Rights (detstvo@detstvo.org.mk; phone: +389 70277619)

Webpage of the meeting: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41743#/>