

Capacity-building and sharing of experience: Equitable access to water and sanitation

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Background



- Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: entered in force in August 2005
- Article 5: “equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion”
- January 2007/1st meeting of the Parties: new activity led by France in the Programme of Work to promote access to water and sanitation for poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people
- July 2007/workshop: proposal of a survey to collect experience on implemented measures in relation with that aim.
- May 2010: dissemination of a questionnaire to 54 Member States of UNECE

Objectives and expected outcome



- Collect information on relevant experience in UNECE countries related to:
 - a) targeted measures to overcome water affordability issues
 - b) solidarity measures to improve access to water and sanitation in rural areas
- Elaborate a document on good practices to enhance solidarity for decision makers and any other stakeholders

Strategy



- Large sharing of experience and lessons learned at national or local levels
- Consultant will do a detailed analysis of the current situation and knowledge, and point out the best practices
- Drafting Group of Experts with competence in different areas - legal, economic, financial and social issues, and fields (water supply, sanitation) - strongly involved in the elaboration of good practices document

Methodology

- Human resources
- Materials
- Financial resources



Human resources



- Drafting Group of Experts (DGE): 15 max. working in English
 - Representatives of MS
 - Registered answers: *Belgium*, Hungary, Macedonia, Netherlands, Portugal, *Switzerland*, etc.
 - NGOs:
 - Answered: WHO CEHAPE, Danube-Black sea Youth network, WECF, MAMA-86, Romanian Water Association, BSCIF, etc.
 - International organizations:
 - INBO, OHCHR, UNECE, UNICEF, WHO, French Water Academy, etc.
 - Any other relevant experts
- Project Team:
 - France: C. Gatignol, L. Mallat, C. Saout
 - UNECE Secretariat: F. Bernardini, T. Juszcak, S. Koepfel
 - WHO Regional Office for Europe: R. Aertgeerts



Materials

- Results of the questionnaire survey: Final report and proposals for future work in English & French languages
- National answers to the questionnaire
- MS Local or national relevant experiences (solidarity or tariff issues) in social or territorial areas
- OHCHR: compendium of good practices related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation



Financial Resources

- Staff time
- Travel of eligible experts to meetings of the expert group: 4-7 per meeting
- Regional workshop
- Editing, Translation, Layout and Printing of the Good Practices Document

French funding to UNECE: 140,000 €

Extra costs for France: 40,000 €

Preliminary results



- 26 countries have answered; 14 needed further details
- Questionnaires was reviewed by the service provider (research department)
- Criteria for analysing bibliography and answers:
 - Availability of natural resources
 - Technical Equipment
 - Socio-economic level
 - Water management/production



Preliminary results (cont'd)

- 4 clusters of countries
 - Type 1: Northern Europe, low population density, easy access to natural resource & without discrepancies
 - Type 2: Western Europe, high population density, social discrepancies
 - Type 3: Southern Europe, poor natural resources, territorial discrepancies
 - Type 4: Eastern Europe and Central Asia, social and territorial discrepancies, insufficient water equipment
- Lack of representatives of types 1 & 3: call for more replies to the questionnaire

Preliminary results (end)



- 5 challenges:
 - To manage territorial discrepancies (technical equipment)
 - To guarantee acceptable price when there are territorial discrepancies (insufficient natural resources)
 - To deal with precariousness of poor people
 - To guarantee access to water to socially excluded people
 - To accommodate solidarity and sustainable management of natural resources

Provisional calendar



- 27-28 January 2011 (Paris): 1st meeting of DGE
- 24-25 March or 31 March-1st April (Paris): 2nd meeting DGE
- 7-8 July (Geneva): Regional workshop
- 29-30 September (Paris): 3rd meeting DGE
- November-December: final document to be translated, printed and disseminated
- March 2012: launching at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille (France)
- End of 2013: third session of Parties

Assessment and follow up



- Overall evaluation of progress achieved through Task Force on Indicators and reporting or cross-cutting activities?
- Specific set of targets and target dates?
- Discussion at the working group of water and health
- ?...