

# Working group on water and health

## > Equitable access : main results 2012-2013

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Water and Health

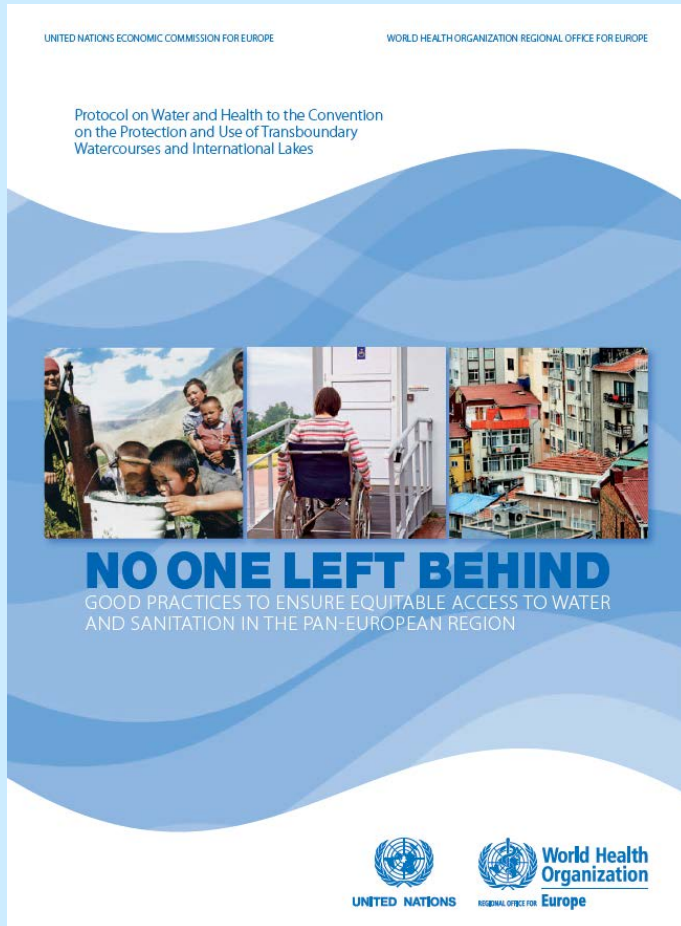
Palais des Nations, Geneva, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013

At their final meeting, the members of the expert group recommended the development of a self-evaluation tool

The structure of a **scorecard** was recommended

A new adhoc expert group was convened to oversee and help the implementation of this project

France welcome this new expert group and supported this project



## 2. Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Monitoring Progress in Achieving Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation

- The meeting was held in Paris, 15-16 may 2013 at the french ministry of Health
- About 35 participants :
  - Parties to the Protocol
  - International organizations : UNECE, WHO, OHCHR, UN-Habitat
  - NGOs
- Objectives of the meeting :
  - Share the results of the testing of the score card in 3 pilot countries : France, Portugal, Ukraine
  - Analyze the benefits obtained and lessons learned for each pilot country
  - Finalise the scorecard

### 3. What are the objectives of the document ?

To present an analytical tool...

... that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in

- **establishing a baseline**
- **tracking progress**
- **prompting discussions on further actions** needed to

achieve equitable access to water and sanitation...

... in order to **support the implementation of policies and practices** to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”.

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Equitable access to water and sanitation

## 3. How to use the scorecard

## 4. Country experiences

## 5. The Scorecard

# Equitable access to water and sanitation

- The challenge of ensuring equitable access
- International obligations to achieve equitable access
- Steering governance frameworks to ensure equitable access
- Reducing geographical disparities
- Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all

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4. Country experiences
5. The Scorecard

## How to use the scorecard ?

- **Strategic guidance** – Organizing a self-assessment process and communicating the results
- **Practical guidance** – Notes for filling the scorecard
- **Glossary** of key terms

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- A questionnaire to fulfill
  - A description of country or region profile
  - An item for
    - section 1 : Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- each dimension of equitable access :*
- section 2 : Reducing geographical disparities
  - section 3 : Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
  - section 4 : Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all
1. Introduction
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## Area 2.2 Public policies to reduce price disparities between geographical areas

**Rationale.** Some geographical areas face higher prices than others. This may be due to higher levels of service, higher cost of service provision (e.g. due to expensive access to clean water sources, or to low density of population), less efficient provision of services (e.g. poor maintenance leading to higher cost, or too many staff per connection), or uneven distribution of public subsidies. Public policies can play a major role in reducing price disparities between geographical areas.

	NO	+	++	
<b>2.2.1 There are mechanisms in place to track prices as well as cost of provision of water and sanitation services</b>				
<b>Score justification</b> (please provide brief explanation and/or examples that justify the answer) <b>Means of verification used:</b> (e.g. official documents, multi-stakeholder consultation, expert opinion) <b>Reliability of the response:</b> (i.e. high, medium, or low-level of confidence)				
<b>2.2.2 Price benchmarking tools (such as affordability indicators or tariff reference values) have been introduced</b>				
<b>Score justification</b> (please provide brief explanation and/or examples that justify the answer) <b>Means of verification used:</b> (e.g. official documents, multi-stakeholder consultation, expert opinion) <b>Reliability of the response:</b> (i.e. high, medium, or low-level of confidence)				

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## Self-assessment exercise (1/2)

- ① **Identify the objectives** of the self-assessment exercise
- ② **Take the necessary time**, but not more
- ③ **Put together a “balanced” self-assessment team**
- ④ **Ensure continuous multi-stakeholder involvement**
- ⑤ **Plan the workshops carefully** – launch workshop, findings workshop, policy event
- ⑥ **Use the results of the scorecard for strategic evaluation and priority setting**
- ⑦ **Present the results in attractive formats** -- summary sheet, situational analysis, policy summary
- ⑧ **Use the results to track your progress**, not to compare with others

## 4. Results from Portugal pilot project

# Results from Portugal

Thanks to ERSAR  
<http://www.ersar.pt/website/>

# Benefits

- A broader understanding of the issues related to the access to water and sanitation in Portugal;
- Raise awareness about these issues among the stakeholders of the water sector and the general public;
- Have a clear notion of the available and lacking information about this topic, of the efforts needed to develop new tools for the collection of data and assessment of the reality (e.g. financial resources allocated to the sector, standards of service in specific facilities, levels of access for vulnerable and marginalized groups) and of the possible improvements in existing laws and regulations;

# Benefits

- A better knowledge of the undergoing initiatives and difficulties met by stakeholders in issues of access to water and sanitation in the field of human rights and of social policy.
- To place ERSAR in a pivotal role in this area;
- Get contributions for the on-going revision of the national strategic plan for the water sector (PEAASAR);
- Find the right partners to develop new initiatives in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation.

# Lessons learnt

- Important to find the right partners to develop initiatives in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation;
- Important to balance between independent stakeholders and institutional stakeholders. Specific problematic situations are most of the times covered by a national average;
- The human right to water and sanitation brought a new topic into the discussion, for which most of the institutions are not aware;
- The awareness raising should be widely extensive to NGO's and other stakeholders.



# Next steps

- Set the ground for an informal network of stakeholders from the water sector and from the field of human rights and social policies;
- Carrying out a Recommendation by ERSAR addressed at the operators of drinking water and wastewater management services about good practices in ensuring the human right to water and sanitation, including equitable access;
- The drafting of recommendations/handbooks of good practices in specific areas of social policies related with access to water and sanitation under the umbrella of the relevant government bodies (e.g. access in the workplaces; access in schools and education facilities; access in health facilities; etc.).



## 4. Results from French pilot project

# Results from parisian region

Thanks to Mairie de Paris



## 4. Results from French pilot project

### **Complex exercise** due to

- Difficulty to define the study area and to gather data
- Time consuming exercise (not possible every year)

Defining the study area : working at a subnational scale

- Administrative boundaries in France and in Great Paris area (municipalities, intermunicipalities, regions, ...)
- Technical boundaries : water operators (wastewater/drinkable water)
- Difficulties to identify what fall within the national or the local level

Data gathering : lack of centralised data on access to water

- Numerous stakeholders, large range of data to be collected
- Non homogeneous data in space and in time
- Difficulties to assess precisely the reliability of the data

## 4. Results from French pilot project

**Usefull tool for**

- ① a consensual assessment**
- ② an objective debate**
- ③ a high accuracy on current situation**

- In order to discuss between stakeholders oriented on the need to produce reliable data
- In order to think« out of the box » by giving the floor to a large range of stakeholders

**Challenging exercise which allows :**

- **a deeper analysis of access to water and sanitation at regional level**
- **an assessment of the existence of devices, and their efficiency**
- **a focus on main problems for policy makers**

## 4. Next steps in France

- **Self assessment** with the regional health authority (ARS)
  - **in the seven sub-regions around Paris**  
(“départements de l’Île-de-France”, 20% of the french population)
  - **in one ultra-marine region** (La Réunion/Mayotte, indian Ocean)
- Involvement of the **french Healthy cities network**
- Willing to include in the **third national Plan on environment and health** an issue on Equitable access to water and sanitation

*Thanks for attention*