

Experiences of Hungary in the self-assessment exercise

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**Third Meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation
11-12 May 2015, Paris**

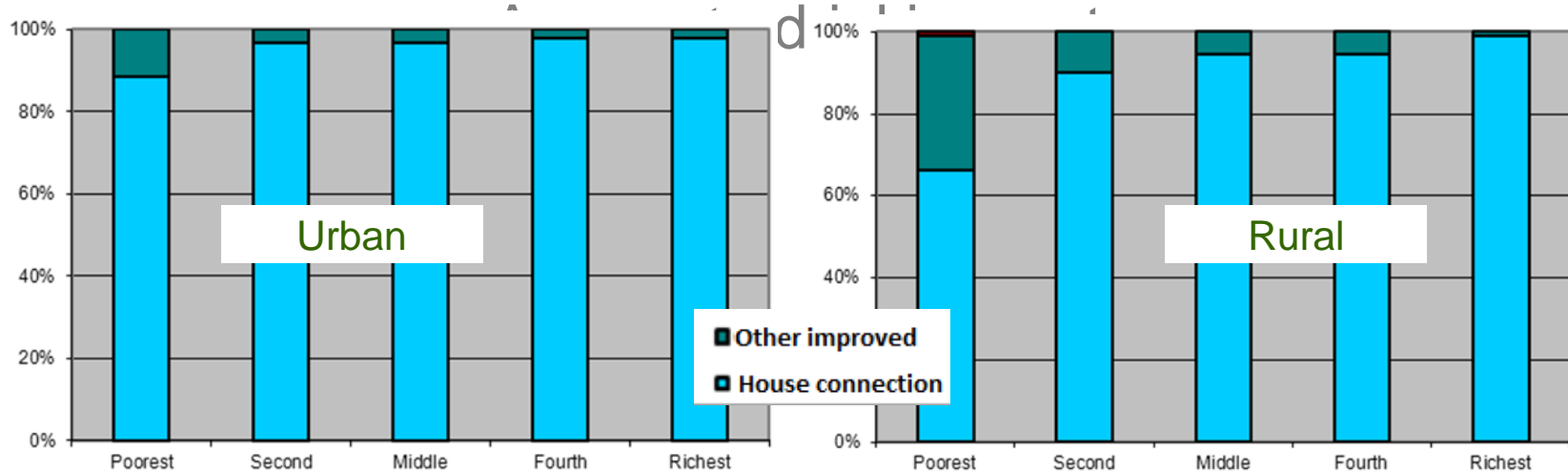
Hungary in the Protocol

- Hungary has been part of the Protocol process since the very beginning (London, 1999)
- Ratified the Protocol in 2001 - the Protocol is announced in the Hungarian legislation (Governmental Decree No. 213 in 05.10.2005)
- Under the current Program of Work:
 - Co-lead with Georgia on PA2.4 Water, sanitation and hygiene in school
 - Co-lead with France on PA5 Equitable access to water and sanitation

Equitable access in Hungary

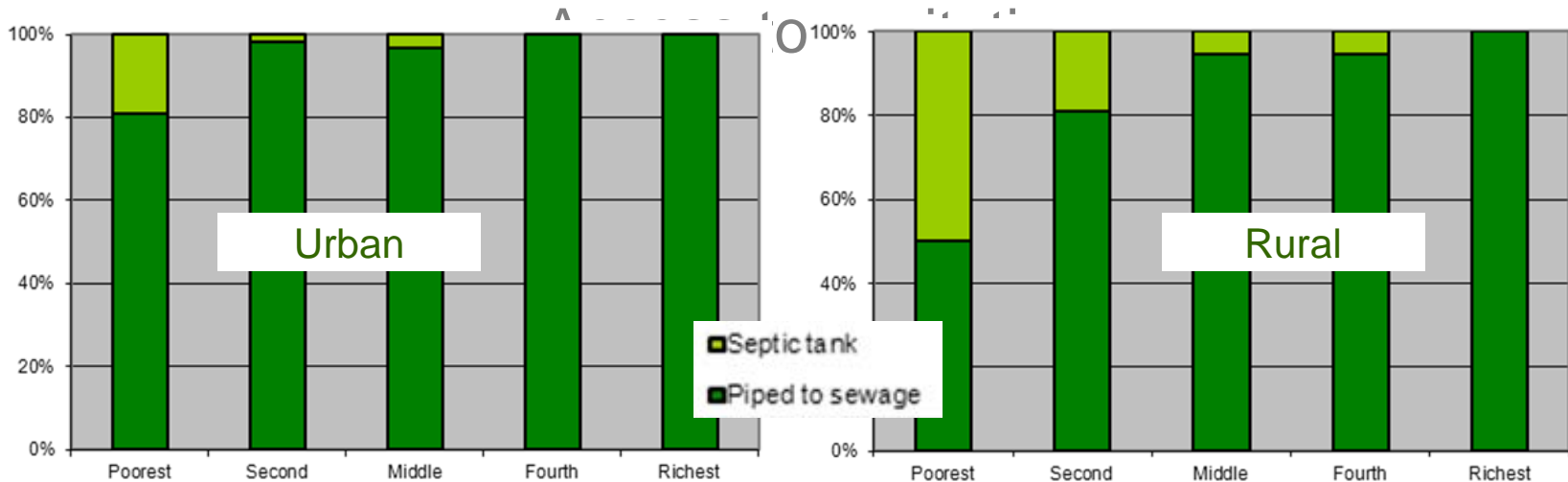
- Piped, centralized water supply: 95 %
 - General assumption: practically everyone
- Piped, centralized sewage collection: 72 %
- JMP data: access to 100 % improved drinking water and sanitation
- But if we look behind the figures...

Hungary



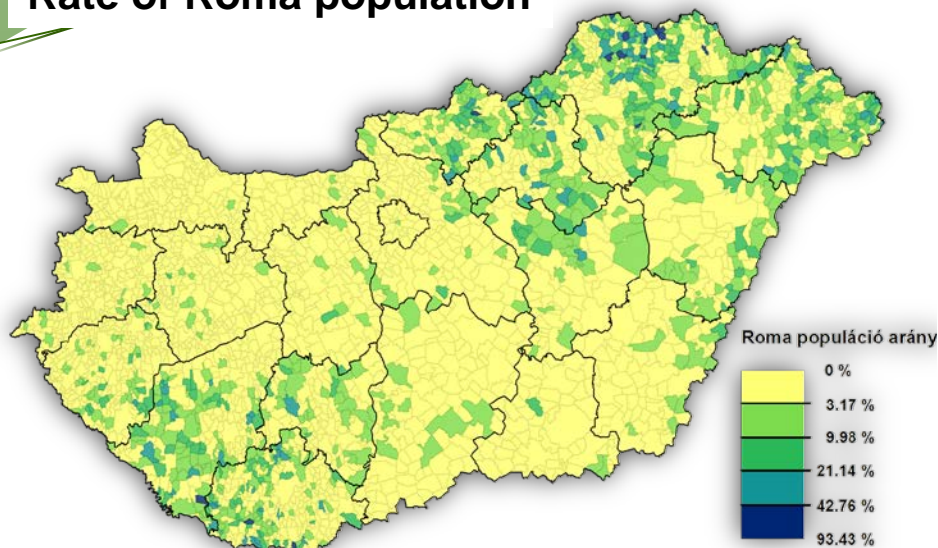
- Use of improved sources is 100% for both urban and rural
- Disparities in level of service: piped on premises
 - Urban richest: 98% Urban poorest: 89%
 - Rural richest: 99% Rural poorest: 66%

Hungary

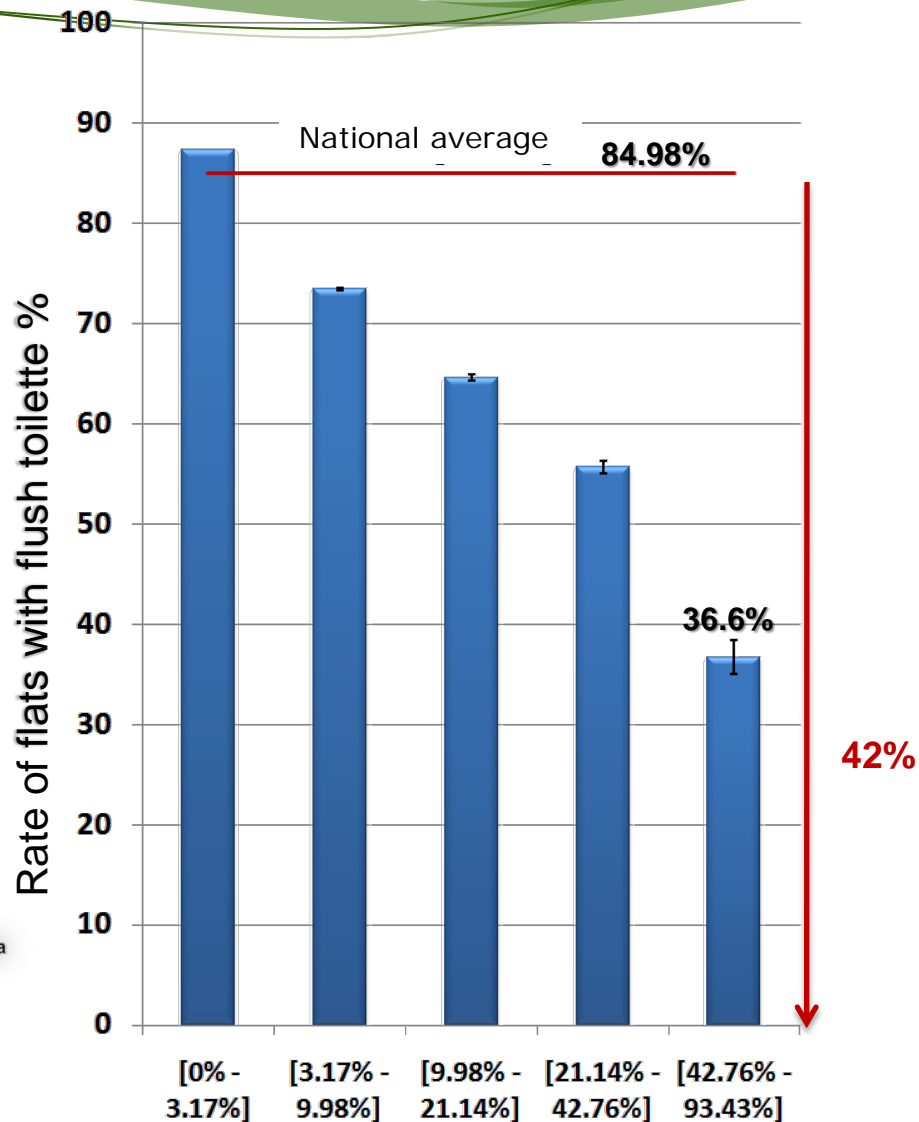
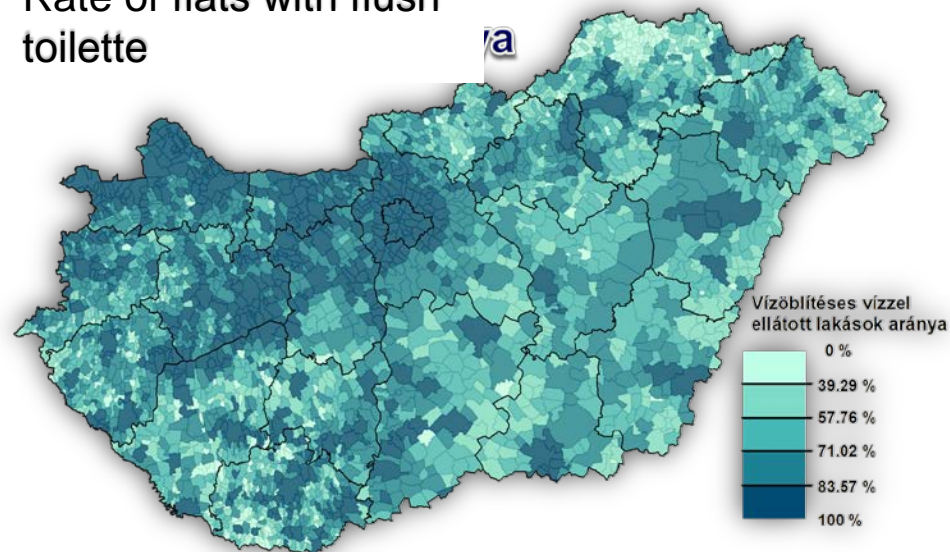


- Use of improved facilities is 100% for both urban and rural
- Disparities in level of service: piped to sewerage
 - Urban richest: 100% Urban poorest: 81%
 - Rural richest: 100% Rural poorest: 50%

Rate of Roma population



Rate of flats with flush toilette



Rate of Roma population – Rate of flats with flash toilette- Hungary

Targets under the Protocol related to some aspect of equity

- Chemically compliant water to 96 % of the population
- **Assess vulnerable population**
- **Establish affordable tariff system**
- Introduce WSP
- Improved waste-water collection and treatment

Process of applying the score-card 1.

- Translation of the scorecard in summer of 2014
- Workshop for the stakeholder government organizations and NGOs on October of 2014
- Invited organisations (participated):
 - UN ECE, WHO; ERSAR (by Skype)
 - Ministry of Human Capacities (health, social)
 - Ministry of Interior (water supply and environment)
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority
 - Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
 - Hungarian Central Statistical Office
 - Office of the Chief Medical Officer
 - NGOs: Water Suppliers Association, Red Cross, GWP Hungary, Oltalom Charity Society, Hungarian Scientific Society of Rural Health
 - Some absentees agreed to co-operate

Workshop highlights

- Aim: setting the scene and clues to find the roles of the invited organisations
- Main messages of the presenters
 - Human rights angle – non-conventional in Hungary
 - Success story and adequacy of the Scorecard
 - Chief access related challenges in Hungary
 - Pushing the true targets of self-assessment and turning aside political concerns
 - Practical hints on working methodology and looking for feedback

Process of applying the score-card 2.

- Inception meeting of the working group formed to complete the scorecard in December, 2014
 - Unexpected challenge: some participants are unable to proceed without high-level permission/order
- ➔ Letters were written for support at the interministerial level

....took 4 months to arrive...

Good news: next meeting is scheduled for May 28th thanks to the special support of the office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights

How to proceed?

- Achieve high level approvals for relevant governmental organisations to get involved
- Collect relevant background statistical data
Mid-June?
- Prepare Scorecard versions by all participant organisations
End June?
- Involve relevant NGOs to endorse collated final version
- Present final Scorecard and recommendations
End July?

Progress and challenges towards equity



Government considerably reduced all living costs including water prices – affordability 😊, sustainability ☹️?



Water safety planning is a legal obligation – safety 😊 and continuity 😊



DW quality improvement programme – safety 😊



Inequalities: urban – rural areas, poorest – richest still remain (piped supply)



Access for vulnerable and marginalized groups is still a concern (homeless, refugees)



Legislative options to exclude of non-paying customers from service – public health aspect?

Thanks for your attention!

Special thanks for the helping on the workshop to the
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Schmoll, David Alves