



# **Work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health**

*Scorecards analysis of equitable access to water and sanitation in Serbia*

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# Content:

1. The Protocol on Water and Health and the equitable access to water and sanitation
2. UNECE tools on equitable access to support countries
3. Overview of countries involved in equitable access assessment projects
4. Implementing self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation (using the score-card)
5. Impact of self assessment on decision-making
6. Conclusions



# 1. The Protocol on Water and Health



## Protocol Key Objectives:

- Access to drinking water for everyone
- Provision of sanitation for everyone

*These objectives are being achieved through the implementation of general and core provisions through intersectoral cooperation.*

There is a specific focus on **equitable access** in the Protocol:

“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” (art. 5)

## Main objectives of activities on equitable access under the Protocol:

1. Enhancing knowledge of the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation through assessments and awareness-raising
2. Fostering the adoption of measures to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation

# What is Equitable access to water and sanitation?

Access to W&S to all = Human right since 2010 (*legal obligation for states*)

→ Availability; Accessibility; Affordability; Acceptability; Quality/safety

To comply with this obligation, special attention needs to be paid regarding **EQUITY!**

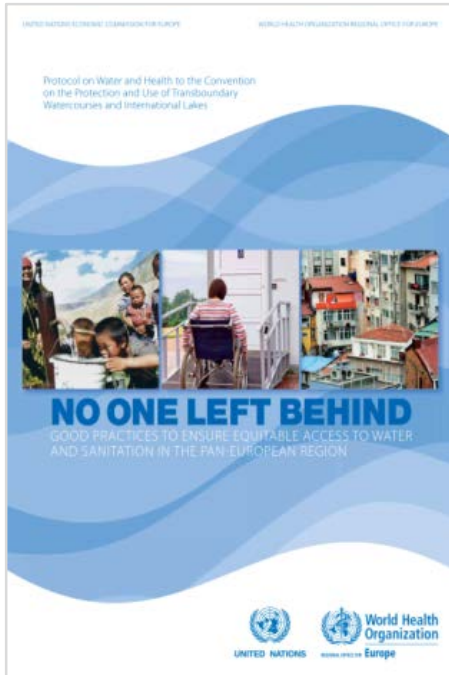
There is **3 key dimensions** in *equitable access* to W&S:

- (1) Geographical differences in service provided
- (2) Discrimination or exclusion in access to services by vulnerable and marginalized groups
- (3) Financial affordability for users

These dimensions reflected in the definition of *equitable access*:

→ Access **being similar** for all people **irrespective** of where they live, whether they belong to vulnerable or marginalized groups, and to the associated costs being affordable for all users.

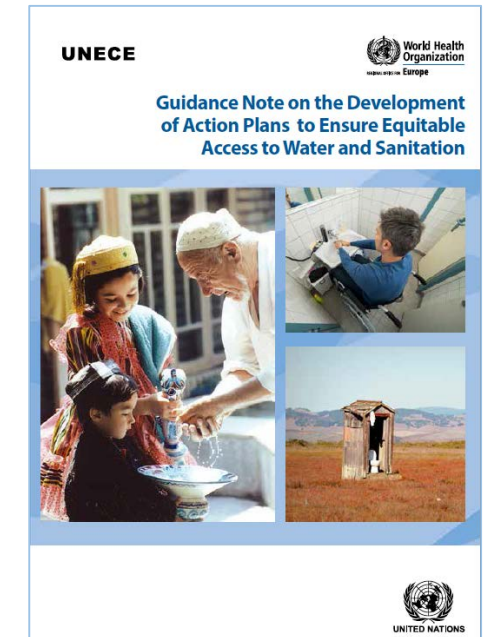
## 2. UNECE tools to improve equitable access to water and sanitation



**No one left behind**  
→ Setting the framework



**The Equitable access scorecard**  
→ Assessing the situation



**Development of an action plan**  
→ Defining actions

**Under development (MoP 2019):** A publication capitalizing on countries experiences on equitable access to W&S since 2010

# 3. Overview of countries involved in equitable access work

Date	Countries and assessment scale	Development of an action plan or specific measures
2014	<b>Portugal</b> <i>National</i>	Specific measures on social tariffs
2014	<b>Ukraine</b> <i>National + city</i>	Supported fund raising
2014	<b>France</b> <i>Paris urban area</i>	Specific measures identified
2014	<b>Republic of Moldova</b> <i>National</i>	Specific target under the Protocol
2015	<b>Azerbaijan</b> <i>National</i>	Ongoing assessment
2016	<b>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <i>District Level</i>	Dvpt of actions plans
2016	<b>Spain</b> <i>Municipal</i>	-----
2016	<b>Hungary</b> <i>National</i>	Specific measures identified
2016	<b>Armenia</b> <i>National</i>	Dvpt of an action plan 2018-2020
2017	<b>Serbia</b> <i>Regional</i>	Ongoing
2017	<b>Bulgaria</b> <i>Regional</i>	Ongoing assessment

# 4. Implementating self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation

**Implementing self-assessment varies in each country according to:**

- The assessment scale
- The stakeholders involved
- The data available



# 5. Impact of self assessment on decision-making

*In what extent self-assessment can impact decision-making?*



Building a strategic roadmap on the basis of the self-assessment results enables countries to identify how to best influence policy decision-making processes to improve equitable access to water and sanitation.

Different options exist, depending on the country policy context, the stakeholders involved and the political agenda :

- Establish a bespoke action plan (identification, prioritization and planning of actions)
- Identify specific measures to complete certain policies and strategies already in place

Building on self-assessment results to develop and improve policies enable countries to fulfil their legal obligations to implement the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and achieve SDG 6.



# EXAMPLE OF ARMENIA

## Implementation of the self-assessment

- **Project duration:** November 2015 – October 2016
- **Exercise scale:** National
- **Project core team:** State Committee on Water Economy of the Ministry of Agriculture, NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
- **Main findings:** Limited information on water supply and sanitation by vulnerable and marginalized groups; 570 rural communities not provided by water supply companies; possible affordability concerns after the concession of water supply services (in 2016).

## Impact on decision-making

- **Main outcomes and actions taken:**
  - (1) Amendments in Water Code to ensure equal access to water and sanitation;
  - (2) Development of an National Action Plan (2018-2020) on ensuring access to water supply and sanitation approved (Dec. 2016 – June 2017)



# EXAMPLE OF FRANCE

## Implementation of the self-assessment

- **Project duration:** 2012-2013
- **Exercise scale:** Paris urban area
- **Project core team:** City of Paris water operator, regional water union and its operator Veolia Water, wastewater treatment interdepartemental authority
- **Main findings:** challenge in the access of vulnerable and marginalised groups to W&S



## Impact on decision-making

- **Actions taken to reduce inequities:**
  - (1) Law adopted in 2014 to enable service providers to adopt social tariffs & study on tarification
  - (2) Issue of vulnerable and marginalised groups addressed by other sectorial policies: plan to fight against exclusion in Paris (adopted in 2015)
  - (3) National Plan on Health and Environment 2015-2019, Action 101 “Support equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation”, promote equity assessments

## 6. Conclusions :

- Voluntary self-assessment is a process that is adaptable to country needs and specificities
- The goal is not to compare countries/regions/cities but to explore and understand each case to improve equitable access to W&S
- Country experiences in analyzing the situation serve as a basis for attracting funding for achieving access to equitable W&S
- Outcomes provide solid basis for objective debate on improvements needed to fill identified equity gaps
- Self-assessment process and development of action plans supports coordination and collaboration between stakeholders
- Improving access to water and sanitation help countries in achieving many SDGs targets: 1.4; 4a; 6.1; 6.2; 11.1.

*Thank you for your attention !*

[https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh\\_work/equitable\\_access.html](https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_work/equitable_access.html)

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