

Workshop

Launching the self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation in Šumadija and Pomoravlje, Serbia

Report

Session I

By the presentation of Mrs. Biljana Filipović, the participants were introduced to the basic principles of Protocol on Water and Health, its significance for the signatory states, as well as so far implemented activities

Mrs. Dragana Jovanović presented to the participants implementation of the project "Situation Analysis of access to drinking water and sanitation for children in primary schools in rural areas of Šumadija and Pomoravlje", during which the study was designed, as well as the applied methodology for collecting and processing data from the field. She presented the findings on the situation regarding access to drinking water and sanitation in primary schools of Sumadija and Pomoravlje regions, as well as the estimated value of necessary investments that would improve conditions of access to water and sanitation in schools.

Session II

With the presentation of Mr. Nenad Popovic, the level of awareness on access to drinking water and sanitation as an basic human right was raised among participants. The role of the Regional Agency for Economic Development for Sumadija and Pomoravlje in the implementation of the project, the organizational structure of the project implementation team, as well as the methodology of the Equitable Access Score -card were presented.

Mrs. Nataša Dokovska presented the experience of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the implementation of the project with special emphasis on the territory covered and organizational structure for implementation. She strongly recommended involving the media from the very beginning of the process in order to gain broader participation and support from the public and civil sector.

With the presentation of Ms Dora Schuller, a clear recommendation on the importance of including human rights organizations in the assessment process was given. A crucial aspect of the Hungarian experience refers to the involvement and identification of the problems and needs of marginalized people and minority groups, the importance of improving the legal framework for ensuring access to services as well as the necessity to renew the self-assessment every five years in order to be able to measure progress.

Mrs. Anna Tsvietkova encouraged participants emphasizing that in Ukraine, the report which was developed had a great influence on decision-makers and directly influenced the creation of new measures and mechanisms for improved access to drinking water. It was also a tool for accessing donor funds. Several investment projects have been implemented since then, and have had an impact on the improvement of the situation.

Through the presentation of Mrs. Emma Anakhasyan, the audience was introduced with the process of implementation of the Score-card in Armenia, as well as the main results, the low level of public policy sensitivity towards position of members of vulnerable and marginalized groups.