6TH MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

PROMOTING AFFORDABILITY OF WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN FRANCE: THE “BROTTES” EXPERIMENTATION

Aude Ratinahirana
Water Policy division
Water and sanitation services in France
• regulated by local authorities
• public management or delegated to private company
• price setting depending on localization of the service, water quality, length and condition of network, etc.

→ no unique price of water in France
National law :

• Water should be **available for use a price that is affordable to all** (environment code of law)

• Public services shall have a balanced budget and **make no distinction between people** (local authorities code of law)

→ Prevent from setting social measures to promote access to water for vulnerable people (until recently !)

The main issue was to enable local authorities to promote access to water and sanitation, respecting the subsidiarity and administrative freedom principles.
The « Brottes » experimentation to promote access to water

• launched in 2013 with 50 volunteer local authorities
• allows to set special pricing measures for some people depending on social situation
• to find a solution which could be generalized
• ends on 15th April

➔ Each local authority developed a unique set of measures
➔ Still facing problems with their program: measures side effects, reaching beneficiaries, etc.
What we learn from the « Brottes » experimentation:

• **No unique solution**, issues to find the proper measures
• Difficulties in **identifying and reaching beneficiaries**

+ COVID-19 crisis reinforced the issue of marginalized group which don’t have access to water and sanitation

Ministry of Ecology access to water and sanitation program:

⇒ Enable every local authorities to chose their own way to promote access to water since December 2019
⇒ Launch a « tool box » to help authorities to find the appropriate measures
⇒ Work legal department and other Ministries on access to beneficiaries data
⇒ Help local authorities to identity marginalized group and finding solutions to promote access to water
Resources (in French):

Water and sanitation price in France annual reports: [http://www.services.eaufrance.fr/panorama/rapports](http://www.services.eaufrance.fr/panorama/rapports)


Access to water page on Ministry of ecology page: [https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/favoriser-lacces-leau-tous-politique-sociale-leau#~:text=La%20politique%20sociale%20de%20l'eau%20regroupe%20toutes%20les%20mesures,mettre%20en%20place%20les%20collectivités.&text=Celle-ci%20consiste%20en%20une,en%20fonction%20de%20critères%20sociaux](https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/favoriser-lacces-leau-tous-politique-sociale-leau#~:text=La%20politique%20sociale%20de%20l'eau%20regroupe%20toutes%20les%20mesures,mettre%20en%20place%20les%20collectivités.&text=Celle-ci%20consiste%20en%20une,en%20fonction%20de%20critères%20sociaux)

Contact for more information: aude.ratinahirana@developpement-durable.gouv.fr