

PA6 Equitable access to water and sanitation



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Working Group on Water and Health

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Protocol on Water and Health



#ProtocolWaterHealth

Progress made since the last Working Group

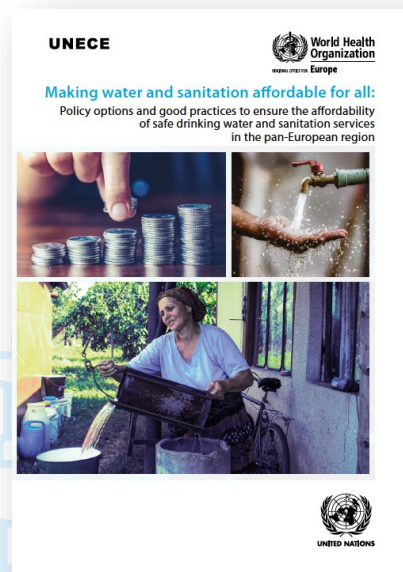
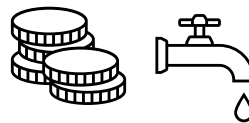
Main outcomes of the 6th meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable access (24-25 March 2021) :

- 69 participants including from 10 pan-european countries who participated to the Expert Group meeting for the first time
 - Experiences sharing from pan-european countries (both EU and non-EU countries) on how to further align with the new DWD and its equity dimension- taking in account lessons learnt from Covid-19
 - Inputs and experiences shared by countries at the meeting informed the development of the Policy Brief on affordability
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Making water and sanitation affordable for all:

Policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region

- Published in April 2022 / to be officially launched at the regional workshop on Equitable Access to water and sanitation (June 2022)
- **Focus:** Why affordability matters? How can it be defined? What policy and social protection options and measures are available to ensure it?
- It intends to:
 - **Raise the profile of affordability** issues among policymakers
 - Enhance the understanding of **how affordability concerns can be addressed**
 - Promote **further action on ensuring affordable water and sanitation services.**
- Features **good practices** from 12 pan-European countries



Available in English at: <https://bit.ly/3PugDC2> (soon available in French and Russian)

Up-coming regional workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation



When? *13-14 June 2022*



Where? *Hybrid: Geneva and Online*



Focus? *New policy developments, impacts of Covid-19 and options to ensure affordability*

The meeting will discuss:

- To what extent the **Equitable Access Score-card** should undergo revision to increase **resilience in the water sector in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic** and other potential epidemics;
- **New policy developments in the area of equitable access in the pan-European region**, including country-level developments and the transposition and implementation of the revised **EU Drinking Water Directive**;
- Policy options and good practices to ensure the **affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region** and what further relevant work could be carried out under the Protocol.

More information and registration: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/360842>

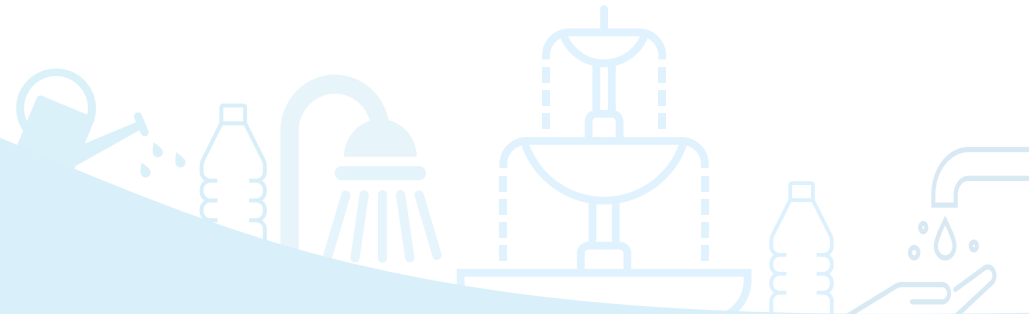
Lessons learnt for future work

- COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities
- Ensuring an equitable access to water and sanitation (to ensure hand hygiene) is of key importance in combatting COVID-19 transmission
- Recast of the EU drinking water directive (2021) introduced a legally binding obligation for improving equitable access to drinking water in Member States and explicitly refers to tools and recommendations developed under the Protocol
- Further streamlining is necessary with other global and regional initiatives on equitable access




Plans for future work in this area – Activities (1)

1. Support assessments on equitable access to water and sanitation
 - a) Revise the Equitable Access Score-card to complement the tool with a specific focus on COVID-19 and other potential epidemics
 - b) Support up to 4 self-assessments on the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation in countries using the (revised) Equitable Access Score-card.




Plans for future work in this area – Activities (2)

2. Forster the adoption and implementation of measures to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation

- a) Support the development of equitable access action plans and/or related policy recommendations in up to 2 countries and support the development of equity-related targets under the Protocol.
 - b) Organize up to 2 meetings of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation to facilitate the exchange of experiences.
 - c) Promote the importance of affordability in ensuring equitable WASH services, including by promoting the publication “*Making water and sanitation affordable for all: Policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region*”.
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Plans for future work in this area – Activities (3)

3. Promote awareness on equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as synergies with relevant global and regional processes, policies, and instruments

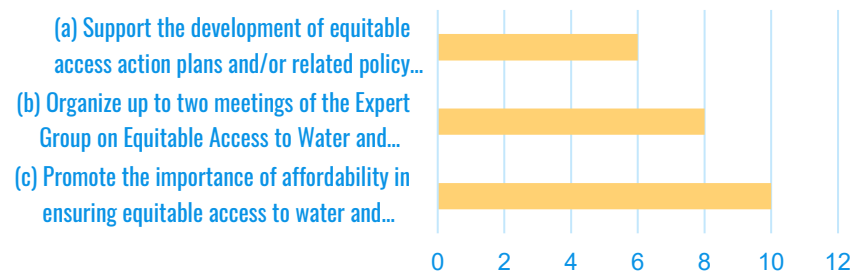
- a) Promote the use of the Protocol tools on equitable access to meet and implement obligations arising from relevant European Union Directives on water and sanitation.
 - b) Promote the strengthening of efforts on equitable access to sanitation, including in the context of the ongoing revision of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD).
 - c) Promote political awareness on existing inequities in regional and international events, including through strengthening cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.
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4. Main outcomes of the survey for Programme Area 6*

6.1 Support assessments of the situation on equitable access to water and sanitation



6.2 Foster the adoption and implementation of measures to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation



6.3 Promote awareness on equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as synergies with relevant global and regional processes, policies and instruments



* Number of responses received

Thank you for your attention!

