Equitable access to water and sanitation

M. Yannick Pavageau, deputy-head of water quality office,
Ministry of social affairs, health and women’s rights, France
Approaching the equitable access challenge
Document on good practices and self-evaluation tool to ensure an equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region as a first milestone
The goals of the score-card

To present an **analytical tool**...

... that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in
- establishing a baseline
- tracking progress
- prompting discussions on further actions needed to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation...

... in order to support the implementation of policies and practices to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”.

---

**The Equitable Access Score-card**

- supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation

Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
What is the score-card

• A questionnaire to fulfill
• A description of country or region profile
• An item for
  - section 1: Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation

  *each dimension of equitable access:*

  - section 2: Reducing geographical disparities
  - section 3: Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
  - section 4: Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all
1. Progress achieved

- Equitable Access Score-card publication now available in Russian and soon available in French

- New countries apply the Equitable Access Score-card:
  

  - Hungary: launching event for the equitable access self assessment exercise took place on 8 Oct. 2014 - Twinning with Portugal

- Follow up after the equitable access self-assessment pilot projects
Progress achieved in France

Official presentation of the National Health and Environment Plan, 12 November 2014 by the Minister for Social Affairs and Health and the Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development

- Promote the tools of the Protocol on Water and Health in the context of the political commitment of ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation and their use by communities and their delegated services for water and sanitation

- Define and implement specific action plans in Regional Health and Environment Plan

- Promote awareness of decision makers and operators to issues of equity in access to safe drinking water and sanitation

This theme will especially be taken into account in the ultramarine regions.
2. Main challenges and lessons learned

Applying the Score-card is a challenging exercise but

- it facilitates a broader understanding of the dimensions of equitable access (and of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation)

- it helps identify the existing initiatives as well as gaps, assess the existence of devices, their lacks and their efficiency

- it brings many stakeholders and policy makers together to discuss the issue of equitable access, inter-sectoral by nature (water, health, social protection, economy...)
3. Future plans

- Support to on-going equitable access self-assessments (with support of twinnings)

- Mission in Serbia in December 2014 for a brief assessment of the situation in terms of access to water and sanitation

- Expert group meeting in Paris in 2015 (23-24 February, TBC)

- Possible support to interested countries to apply the Equitable Access Score-card, upon demand

- Promotion of activities on equitable access: World Water Forum 2014 in Korea