Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation
Experience in the Republic of Macedonia

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACHIEVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION: FROM ASSESSMENT TO ACTION
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The Protocol aims to protect human health and well-being through better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases.

* The Work Program 2014-2016 gives special emphasis on the promotion of equitable access to water and sanitation services for all members of the population.
In the first step **leader of the project** was elected - the **Institute for Public Health** as a government institution and **JHR** as NGO.

We chose **3 municipalities** for conducting the self-assessment:

* Skopje, Kumanovo (Rankovci, St. Nagoricino, K. Palanka, Kratovo) and Veles
* 01.04.2015-29.02.2016 two workshops in **Skopje** (16-17.06.2015) and in **Veles** (20-21.01.2016)
* To present the processes and main results of the assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation in 3 municipalities (Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo).
* To discuss and prioritize the main challenges identified by a wide range of stakeholders.
* To discuss the possible actions that can be taken to correct the deficiencies and to pave the way for improvements in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation.
* To raise awareness of the challenges of equal access to water and sanitation.
* Defining the Action Plan.
Establishing **task forces** and **working groups** in the three municipalities and election of **leaders**.

Complexity of the topic and request for comprehensiveness. **Leaders** of the teams are employed in the **Centers of Public Health in Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo**.

The following **stakeholders** are involved: Ministry of Health; IPHRM; CPH Kumanovo and Veles; MAFWE; MLSP; MLSG; MTC; MoEPP; MES; FVA; SSHI; State Statistical Office; Red Cross; Association for the rights of consumers; relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the field of environment, gender equality, health and human rights; Service providers for water and sanitation and / or relevant associations with particular emphasis on rural areas; representatives of donors, agencies for cooperation and international organizations and other relevant organizations and partners.
Outcomes of the assessment: main findings

- Geographical disparity
- Lack of finance
- Missing UWWTP (except in municipality Kumanovo)
- Lack of public toilets (except in Veles)
- Lack of MHM in schools (except in one private school in Veles)
- Lack of access to drinking water and sanitation for homeless
- Bacteriologically improper drinking water in rural areas (20-40%)
- There is access for disabled people to public health facilities, but not to toilets
- No access to drinking water and sanitation in religious facilities
Communication of the outcomes

- Public policies to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Increasing capacity for Users in Homes for the elderly – homeless people
- Tariff measures
- Forming a regulatory body to establish the methodology for determining the price of water
- Subsidizing the affordability for rural areas
- Connecting local water supply systems in an integrated water supply system
- Treatment of wastewater containing fecal matter in urban and rural areas
- Social protection measures