

Equitable access to water and sanitation Social pricing of water

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Workshop on setting targets under the Protocol to support
implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

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Protocol on Water and Health

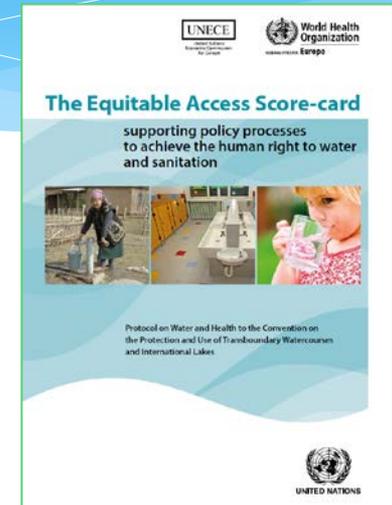


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1 – The Right to Water and Sanitation

The equitable Access Scorecard :

- supports policy processes to achieve the Human Right to Water&Sanitation
 - contains recommendations on how to plan for self-assessment exercises
 - provides a “high resolution” analysis of the situation
 - is useful to identify inequities and to support the development of action plans to address the identified equity gaps
- Workshops in Paris in May 2015 & Geneva March 2016
(UNECE, OHCHR, French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, ...)



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2 - Achievements important for the region

Assesment exercises :

- show what the obligation under the Protocol (and SDGs) to provide equitable access means into practice
- highlight the important need to build capacities of various stakeholders (in ministries, operators, associations, etc.) and to support coordination and cooperation between them
- facilitate awareness raising and provide solid basis for objective debate on improvements needed to fill identified equity gaps

→ In France, the assessment exercise in 2012-2013 in great Paris showed the importance of affordability for equitable access

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3. Context and objectives

French Legislative framework : Law "Brottes" introduced in 2013, for the communities that wish it, the possibility of experimentation with a view to promoting Access to water and Social water pricing, under the conditions laid down in Article 72 of the Constitution

- to provide operational responses to make water affordable for all, under economically acceptable conditions for all
- to identify solutions adapted to the different situations of water and sanitation services (public or private),
- to assess the impact on various users and management costs

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4 - Main provisions - Framing

Voluntary communities have the opportunity, in a period of 5 years

- to set up new tariffs for water and / or sanitation
- as well as Payment of the water bill to ensure better access to these services.

For example, the experimentation may concern :

- the definition of tariffs taking into account the composition or income of the household, which may include a first tranche of free consumption
- the granting of assistance for the payment of water bills.

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5 - Main provisions - Funding

- For the financing of the devices, the experimentation also allows :
- the financing from the communities general budget of all or part of the aid for the payment of water bills → in derogation of French legislation CGCT which defines the rule of prohibition for municipalities to take charge in their own budget for expenditure on public water services and sanitation services
 - to raise the maximum amount of the grant allocated to the social fund for housing FSL → in derogation of French legislation CGCT which allows public water services to contribute, by means of a grant, to the financing of these aid (percentage of taxes on W&S)

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6 - Monitoring the effectiveness of projects

A governmental instruction specified in 2014 the modalities for the follow-up of the experiment, which is carried out by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Environment (Water Directorate).

The National Water Committee (CNE) or “Water Parliament”, on its behalf the Advisory Committee on Price and Quality Water and sanitation services, is responsible for drafting national reports.

→ A mid-term national report has been published in March 2017

At the local level, communities must ensure their report on price and quality of services (RPQS) drawn up annually and submitted to the deliberations of the competent assembly.

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7 - User information and public participation

Ex : Nantes Métropole

- A model resulting from the consultation of agents&associations
- A simulator was created on the website to test its (household) eligibility and to know the steps
- Nearly 8,000 information brochures were distributed. The experimentation has been presented in several articles on the internet and in local newspapers to invite those entitled to go to the Town hall.
- In a barometer of satisfaction achieved by Nantes Métropole in November 2016, only 14% of metropolitan areas knew that Nantes Métropole is experiencing solidarity pricing.

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8 - Conclusions

- Experiment is a device that can create a right not to spend more than 3% of its revenues on a water bill (ex : Nantes Métropole)
- An official text of 31 July 2015 lists the 50 communities selected to participate in the experimentation for a social pricing of water.
- These 50 communities come from 11 of the 13 metropolitan areas and 3 out of 5 Overseas regions (Guyana, Martinique, La Réunion).
- They serve a population of the order of 12 million inhabitants.
- At the end of this experiment, the solutions implemented that have proved to be the most relevant, coherent and effective, can be generalized throughout the territory.

Merci pour votre attention