Developing the new publication of the Expert Group

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Session 5a. Introduction to the new publication

• Objectives
• Proposed structure
• Process
• Messages from self-assessment “findings”
Objectives

• To inspire additional countries to improve the equity of access to water and sanitation.

• To contribute to the international effort to meeting targets 6.1 and 6.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

• By developing a short volume that consolidates the lessons learned and impact of the work carried out in countries of the pan-European region under the Protocol and Water and Health in the area of Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation since 2010.
Proposed structure

0. Executive summary {2 pages}
1. Equitable access to water and sanitation {2 pages}
   • Human rights to water and sanitation, Protocol on water and health, Equitable access to water and sanitation
2. Assessing equitable access {8 pages}
   • Methodology, findings, recommendations for organizing a self-assessment
3. Planning and implementing actions {8 pages}
   • Methodology, examples of actions taken, recommendations for planning
4. Financing actions {8 pages}
   • Issues, examples of financing approaches, recommendations for financing
Annex. Country profiles {2 pages x 7?}
Process

• Proposal and template for country contributions discussed at Budapest (4th meeting)
• Contributions received from five members (Armenia, Azerbaijan, France, FYR Macedonia, Ukraine)
• Draft zero developed for 5th meeting
• Discussions at 5th meeting
• Additional contributions, written comments to zero draft – end August
• Full draft – early November
• Written comments – mid-December
• Revised draft – end January 2019
• Discussion at Working Group on Water and Health – March 2019?
Findings: highlights

• Awareness of equitable access dimensions is uneven.
• Putting together a complete and accurate picture of the current situation regarding equitable access to water and sanitation is a challenge.
• The situation regarding equitable access to water and sanitation varies from country to country.
• In most countries there are a number of mechanisms already in place to tackle some aspects of inequitable access to water and sanitation.
• The traditional silo mentality among public agencies is a major challenge to address inequities in access to water and sanitation.
• The self-assessment has helped some countries to identify challenges of which they were not fully aware.
Findings: governance

• Inequitable access to water and sanitation is largely a governance problem.
• In most cases there are no indicators/tools necessary to manage equitable access to water and sanitation.
• Water and sanitation users are often not aware of their rights.
• There is a need to define equitable access targets, particularly for access by vulnerable and marginalised groups.
• In some countries most gaps have been recognised but a human rights-based approach has not been articulated.
Findings: geographical disparities

• Geographical disparities in access between rural and urban areas remain important.
• There are also disparities in prices between different geographical areas.
• There are geographical disparities beyond the traditional rural-urban split.
Findings: vulnerable and marginalized groups (1/2)

- Access by vulnerable and marginalised groups represents the main challenge in some countries.
- Issues of access to water and sanitation are often absent in strategies, policies and plans dealing with vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- In some countries there is no recognition of the special and different needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups, which are simply identified as the poor.
- Many school children suffer from lack of access to safe water and sanitation.
- Lack of menstrual hygiene management facilities affects users of public buildings including schools but also hospitals.
- Among vulnerable and marginalised groups, the ones receiving less attention tend to be the disabled, the homeless, ethnic minorities (Roma), and dwellers of informal settlements.
• A vulnerable group rarely discussed is female headed households.
• There is a lack of public policies to support delivery of water supply and sanitation services to informal settlements.
• The formulation of public policies is impaired by lack of information.
• Most countries already had some relevant measures in place before the self-assessment.
• Currently there is no policy guidance on how to fund access by vulnerable and marginalised groups.
• While most countries have implemented some measures to promote access by some vulnerable and marginalised groups, there are no integrated approaches.
Findings: affordability

• Affordability is a real issue in all types of countries, not just less wealthy ones.
• Sometimes affordability is an issue for self-supply households, not for households serviced by networks.
• There is an array of mechanisms in place in the different countries to address affordability issues.
• Not all mechanisms to address affordability issues can be used in all countries.
• Governance also affects affordability.
• Some countries have analysed the options to deploy social protection measures under effectiveness and efficiency criteria.
• The processes of tariff reforms represent an opportunity to include affordability concerns.
Discussion

• Do you have any comments on the structure?
• Do the “findings” resonate with your country’s experience?
• Are there any specific issue that you would like to be discussed more in-depth in the group works (after lunch break)?
Session 5b. Group Work

1. Set up: 5 min
   • Form groups
   • Choose a rapporteur – notetaking in computer!

2. Group discussion: 40 min
   Group A - Assessing equitable access
   • What are the most interesting findings from your countries’ self-assessments? (3 per country)
   • What are the most important recommendations for organizing a self-assessment? (5-10 in total)
   Group B - Planning and implementing actions to achieve equitable access
   • What are the most interesting actions recommended or implemented in your countries? (3 per country)
   • What are the most important recommendations for identifying and implementing actions? (5-10 in total)

3. Report back: 10 min
Session 5c. Financing equitable access to water and sanitation

1. PRESENTATION
   • Financing issues
   • Financing approaches used
   • Recommendations

2. ROUNDTABLE
   • 5 minutes per country
Financing issues

• The cost of ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation will vary widely across issues
• Some issues may be reasonably well-financed while others are fully neglected
• The strategic framework for financing access to water and sanitation services often includes some aspects of equitable access but not others
• The responsibilities for funding solutions are often unclear
• There is often limited access to existing financial information on budget allocation and international support
Financing approaches used to address geographical disparities

• Earmarking an allocation in the national budget for supporting access to water and sanitation in rural areas.
• Developing a geographical solidarity fund
• Implementing governance reforms to enhance financial sustainability – such as intermunicipal management of services, pooling of financial resources, and capacity development of operators of regions lagging behind.
Financing approaches used to address vulnerable and marginalized groups

- Developing and implementing issue-specific investment plans.
- Integrating concerns about equitable access to water and sanitation in non-water sector investment plans.
- Integrating concerns about equitable access to water and sanitation in social protection programmes.
- Including “funding of equitable access actions” in the performance contract of water utilities.
- Issuing and enforcing technical standards for public buildings.
- Issuing and enforcing technical standards for private workplaces.
- Including equitable access to water and sanitation actions in donor-funded investment programmes.
Financing approaches used to address affordability

• Facilitating the cross-subsidisation of access of non-connected users by users that are already connected.

• Facilitating the cross-subsidisation of low-income users by all other users.

• Providing financial transfers from public budgets to water and sanitation utilities earmarked for reducing the final water and sanitation bill.

• Including access to water and sanitation in social protection programmes funded by the national budget.

• Developing partnerships to co-fund solutions that reduce long-term costs for users.
Recommendations

• Identify and clarify responsibilities for funding the different aspects of equitable access to water and sanitation.

• Map out existing funding mechanisms that can potentially include funding for ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation.

• Strengthen the existing financial strategy for the water and sanitation sector by incorporating equitable access concerns.

• Lobby to incorporate equitable access to water and sanitation in existing funding mechanisms.

• Think about reducing the long-term costs of equitable access actions.
Roundtable questions

- Are any estimates of the **cost of past or planned actions** to promote equitable access to water and sanitation in your country? If so, what are those estimates?
- How have **past actions** been financed?
- Have there been any discussions on **how planned/future actions will be financed**? If so, who was involved and what were the outcomes?
- Are there **any other relevant issues regarding the financing** of equitable access to water and sanitation that you would like to raise with the expert group?
- What did you take away from the discussion on financing at the **previous expert meeting**?
- Should the **expert group carry out additional work** on financing equitable access to water and sanitation? If so, which type of work would be most useful?