



Improving equitable access to water and sanitation: experiences from other countries

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Progress

- Pilot projects (2012-2013): France (Paris), Portugal, Ukraine
- Finalized assessments (2014-2016): Hungary, Republic of Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Armenia, Serbia, Spain (Castello)
- Ongoing assessments: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria
- Upcoming assessments: ??



Greater Paris urban area

- **Project core team:** City of Paris water operator, Regional water union, Inter-departmental authority for wastewater treatment
- **Main findings:**
 - Challenge of access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
- **Actions taken to reduce inequities:**
 - Law to enable service providers to adopt social tariffs (adopted 2014)
 - Issue of vulnerable and marginalised groups addressed by other sectorial policies: Plan to Fight Against Exclusion in Paris (adopted 2015)
 - National Plan on Health and Environment 2015-2019 (Action 101): “Support equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation” and promotion of equity assessments



Portugal

- **Project core team:** Water and waste services regulation authority
- **Main findings:**
 - Lack of coordination between social protection services and services providers on social tariffs
 - Need for improving awareness and skills of personnel
- **Actions taken to reduce inequities:**
 - Recommendations developed for practitioners on how to implement HRWS
 - Development of a simulator of social tariffs for water and waste services to find best adjusted solutions for mandatory adoption of social tariff by utilities

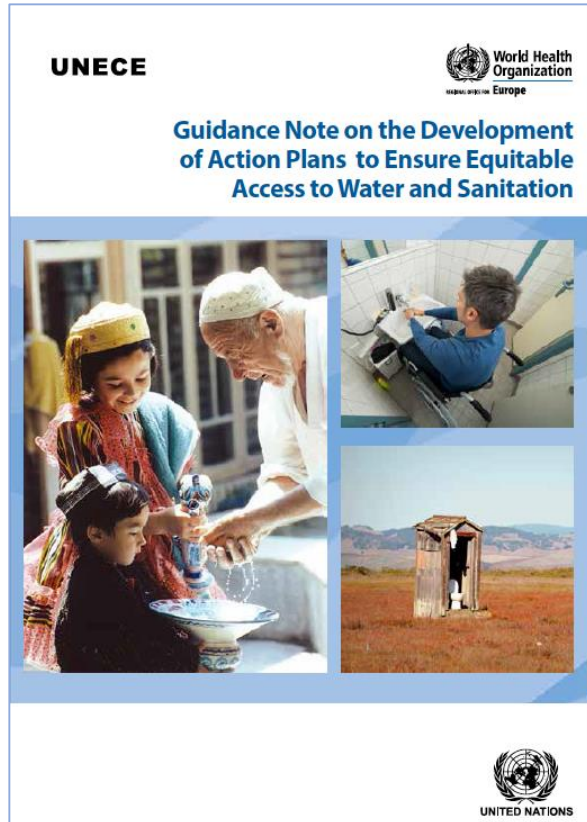


Republic of Moldova

- **Project core team:** NGO Solidarity Water Europe, Support by Ministry of Environment
- **Main findings:**
 - Need strong commitment to reducing large poor/rich and rural/urban inequities
 - No clear guidance on water and sanitation affordability under national Water and Sanitation Strategy
- **Actions taken to reduce inequities:**
 - National target established under Protocol on Water and Health
 - Creation of solidarity fund for water supply and sanitation
 - 2016-2020 Action Plan to support the Roma population
 - 2014-2028 Water Supply & Sanitation Strategy action plan includes focus on rural areas and regional operators



Rationale and benefits of developing an action plan



- Translates the findings of the self-assessment exercise into actions to mitigate inequalities
- Assists the progress towards international commitments
- Can serve as a basis for attracting funding for achieving access

Content of an equitable access action plan

- **Objectives**
- **Brief diagnostic of the situation and priority areas for action**
- **Policy context** (Overview of relevant policy objectives, policy processes and sectoral strategies)
- **Priority measures and related cost** (high priority, short/long term measures, for ex. legal and institutional reforms, targeted investments, capacity building...)
- **Opportunities of integrating priority measures** in existing plans, programmes and projects
- **Implementation arrangements, including timelines** (Responsible / supporting stakeholders)
- **Mapping potential funding sources** (User contributions, national public funding, international financial support)