Equitable access self assessment exercise
The Greater Paris experience

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The self assessment exercise

2012-2013
The self assessment exercise

- **Initial objective:**
  - For Paris:
    - to have a global assessment and identify improvement perspectives,
    - to collect data at a metropolitan scale/ compare our practices
  - The pilot team: Greater Paris urban area (3 utilities)
  - For the expert group: to test the tool at a regional scale

- **Background information:**
  - Considered as a totally urbanized area: 99% access to W&S services
  - High average incomes/ important disparities (13.3% of people in Ile de France live below the poverty rate)

  → Main issues are keeping water and sanitation affordable, and ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
Applying the scorecard

- Project team composed of
  - Paris and *Eau de Paris*,
  - *SEDIF* and *Veolia Eau IDF*,
  - *SIAAP*
  - French Ministry of Health

- Timeline

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<td>First draft Pilot team</td>
<td>2 day workshop Pilot team and stakeholders (25)</td>
<td>Final version of country report and scorecard Pilot team</td>
<td>Meeting of the expert group City of Paris</td>
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- UNECE, WHO, other pilots
- State representatives: ministries of foreign affairs, environment, regional health agencies, river basin agency
- NGOs (consumers, human rights, right to water)
- Expert
- Trade union
- Social services
- Other local authorities within the pilot project scale
Main findings on equitable access to water and sanitation in the Greater Paris area

What works:

- The governance frameworks to deliver equitable access exist (has evolved since the exercise- « Brottes » law)
- Specific funds exist to help the poorest to pay their water charges
- Very high level of access (99%)
- The needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups have been partially addressed (f.i, provided by the City of Paris: 400 public toilets, 1200 fountains, 18 places to shower, all free of access)
Main findings on equitable access to water and sanitation in the Greater Paris area

- Remaining challenges:
  - Geographical disparities in terms of tariff can be very important (relates to the affordability issue)
  - Access to W&S is linked to housing → Access of vulnerable and marginalised groups can be improved: in France, 140,000 homeless people do not have access to drinking water, and 2 million people do not have a sufficient access to W&S (Foundation Abbé Pierre, Aug. 2014)
  - Affordability issues: for some people the water bill still represents more than 3% of their income
Lessons learnt

- On the results of the self assessment
  - The biggest challenge is less the affordability issue (that remains important) than the access of vulnerable and marginalised groups to W&S (esp. for nomadic communities, or in some places like in prisons)

- On the methodology
  - Very positive results of the stakeholders’ workshop
  - Gives an exhaustive overview but it is time-consuming: some stakeholders could not be involved during the time of the exercise (f.i prisons)
  - It was possible to do the exercise at a regional level, but it implied to know the national legal framework, and to associate the national level
Next steps

2013 - ...
Actions to be taken

- The results were judged very positively
- The issue of affordability was identified (depends on W&S utilities and a new law enabled utilities to adopt social tariffs)
  - **April 2013**: Brottes law: avoid disconnection from the network, and local authorities can test new social measures to increase affordability
  - **March 2014**: Municipal elections
  - **Dec. 2014**: City of Paris and SEDIF volunteered to test new measures in Brottes law

- The issue of vulnerable and marginalised groups is addressed by other sectorial policies than W&S
  - Plan to fight against exclusion in Paris adopted in **March 2015**
Measures already taken (Paris)

- The plan against exclusion
  - A partnership between the City and institutions (police, health agencies, state services, utilities...) to help homeless people and prevent people from losing their home

- The City of Paris plans to implement 200 new public toilets during the next years and is studying new locations for fountains

- Launching a study of water and sanitation tarification
  - In order to achieve equitable access and affordability
  - 4 options are studied: social tariff (progressive tariff with a free « necessary » volume of water), a differentiation between professional and domestic users, a seasonal tariffication, and the creation of a preventive aid measure dedicated to water
  - Timeline of the study: May-Novembre 2015