Experiences of Hungary in the self-assessment exercise

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Hungary in the Protocol

- Hungary has been part of the Protocol process since the very beginning (London, 1999)
- Ratified the Protocol in 2001 - the Protocol is announced in the Hungarian legislation (Governmental Decree No. 213 in 05.10.2005)
- Under the current Program of Work:
  - Co-lead with Georgia on PA2.4 Water, sanitation and hygiene in school
  - Co-lead with France on PA5 Equitable access to water and sanitation
Equitable access in Hungary

- Piped, centralized water supply: 95 %
  - General assumption: practically everyone
- Piped, centralized sewage collection: 72 %
- JMP data: access to 100 % improved drinking water and sanitation
- But if we look behind the figures…
Hungary

- Use of improved sources is 100% for both urban and rural
- Disparities in level of service: piped on premises
  - Urban richest: 98%   Urban poorest: 89%
  - Rural richest: 99%   Rural poorest: 66%
Hungary

- Use of improved facilities is 100% for both urban and rural
- Disparities in level of service: piped to sewerage
  - Urban richest: 100%  Urban poorest: 81%
  - Rural richest: 100%  Rural poorest: 50%
Targets under the Protocol related to some aspect of equity

- Chemically compliant water to 96% of the population
- Assess vulnerable population
- Establish affordable tariff system
- Introduce WSP
- Improved waste-water collection and treatment
Process of applying the score-card 1.

- Translation of the scorecard in summer of 2014
- Workshop for the stakeholder government organizations and NGOs on October of 2014
- Invited organisations (participated):
  - UN ECE, WHO; ERSAR (by Skype)
  - Ministry of Human Capacities (health, social)
  - Ministry of Interior (water supply and environment)
  - Ministry of Agriculture
  - Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority
  - Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
  - Hungarian Central Statistical Office
  - Office of the Chief Medical Officer
  - NGOs: Water Suppliers Association, Red Cross, GWP Hungary, Oltalom Charity Society, Hungarian Scientific Society of Rural Health
  - Some absentees agreed to co-operate
Workshop highlights

• Aim: setting the scene and clues to find the roles of the invited organisations

• Main messages of the presenters
  • Human rights angle – non-conventional in Hungary
  • Success story and adequacy of the Scorecard
  • Chief access related challenges in Hungary
  • Pushing the true targets of self-assessment and turning aside political concerns
  • Practical hints on working methodology and looking for feedback
Process of applying the score-card 2.

- Inception meeting of the working group formed to complete the scorecard in December, 2014
- Unexpected challenge: some participants are unable to proceed without high-level permission/order
  ➨ Letters were written for support at the interministerial level
  ....took 4 months to arrive...

Good news: next meeting is scheduled for May 28th thanks to the special support of the office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
How to proceed?

- Achieve high level approvals for relevant governmental organisations to get involved
- Collect relevant background statistical data
  Mid-June?
- Prepare Scorecard versions by all participant organisations
  End June?
- Involve relevant NGOs to endorse collated final version
- Present final Scorecard and recommendations
  End July?
Progress and challenges towards equity

- Government considerably reduced all living costs including water prices – affordability 😊, sustainability 😞?
- Water safety planning is a legal obligation – safety 😊 and continuity 😊
- DW quality improvement programme – safety 😊
- Inequalities: urban – rural areas, poorest – richest still remain (piped supply)
- Access for vulnerable and marginalized groups is still a concern (homeless, refugees)
- Legislative options to exclude of non-paying customers from service – public health aspect?
Thanks for your attention!

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