The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in Practice

Findings and lessons learned from the work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health in the pan-European region

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5th session
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

19-21 November | Belgrade | Serbia
A publication to support governments and other actors in achieving equitable access to water and sanitation.

How?
The publication showcases and analyses the experience of pan-European countries in establishing baseline measures of their situation with regards to equitable access to water and sanitation.

Ultimate objective:

→ Help countries to put into practice the Human Rights to safe drinking water and sanitation by encouraging them to:
  – Engage in multi-stakeholder self-assessments
  – Implement actions across different dimensions
  – Develop strategic approaches to planning and financing for equitable access
Process?
Collaborative effort, building on work developed over the last 9 years

- Self-assessments
- Action plans

Country processes

- Regional workshop
- Expert group meetings

Regional process
FRANCE
Equitable access self-assessment in Greater Paris Area.

PORTUGAL
Equitable access self-assessment at national scale.

HUNGARY
Equitable access self-assessment at national scale.

SPAIN
Equitable access self-assessment at municipal scale (City of Castelló)

UKRAINE
Equitable access self-assessment at national and municipal scales (city of Sebastopol).

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
Equitable access self-assessment at national scale.

SERBIA
Equitable access self-assessment at national scale and in two regions. Equitable Access Action Plan endorsed for the two regions of Sumadija and Pomoravlje.

BULGARIA
Equitable access self-assessment at national scale.

NORTH MACEDONIA
Equitable access self-assessment in three municipalities (Skopje, Veles, Kumanovo). Local Equitable Access Action Plans developed.

AZERBAIJAN
Equitable access self-assessment at national scale.

ARMENIA
The 11 self-assessments offered a mixed and complex picture at national level and some common trends at regional level.

Assessing the current situation is challenging due to lack of information and need for wide-ranging expertise.

Geographical disparities are well recognized, but the specific needs of different vulnerable and marginalized groups are not.

Affordability is a common concern, but options to address it are not well known.

Actions to tackle some equity gaps are in place but fastest progress would require a comprehensive strategy.
In most countries the self-assessments have been instrumental in prompting progress, and three have developed action plans.
Officials and experts struggle to develop a strategic approach to financing equitable access to water and sanitation.

- Financing framework for WASH not enough
- Costs vary widely across actions
- How to influence external support?
- Funding roles unclear
- Some issues covered, others ignored
Detailed country profiles

- **Key findings** (geographical disparities, affordability, governance, vul/marginalized groups)
- **Self-assessment process** (stakeholders involved, scales, lessons learnt)
- **Actions taken to improve the situation** (whether or not in the framework of action plans)
Thank you for your attention

- Publication available in English
- French and Russian versions available early 2020

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