

The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health

A tool to translate into practice the
human rights to water and sanitation

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“Fresh water agreements and the Human Right to Water”

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UNECE

The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

UNGA Res (2010): Water & sanitation = basic human right

Everyone is entitled to water & sanitation which is:

- ... available
- ... accessible
- ... of good quality / safety contamination
- ... affordable
- ... acceptable

Principles of the human right:

- Non-discrimination and equality
- Information and transparency
- Participation
- Accountability
- Sustainability



The Human Right to Water and Sanitation



States obligation:

- Progressive realisation and maximum available resources
- Respect, protect, fulfil

Human Rights Council Resolution 15/9 (2010)

Calling on States to achieve progressively the full realization of human rights obligations:

- including unserved and underserved areas
- attention to vulnerable & marginalized groups

Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health



The **Protocol** key objectives:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone



A **specific focus on *equitable access***:

“Equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion” (art. 5)



Obligation of cooperation in relation to transboundary waters (incl. adaptation of agreements regarding TB waters to eliminate contradiction with Protocol principles)

Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health

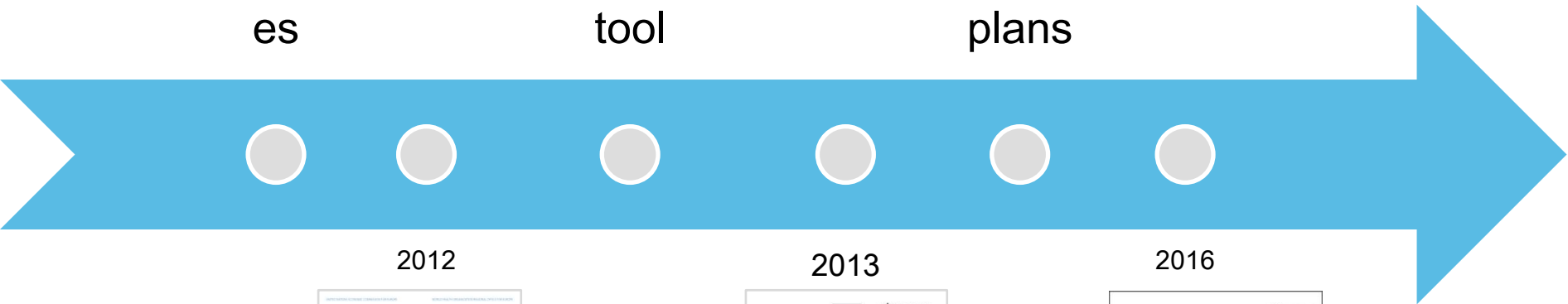
- **Safety:** Ensure «adequate supplies of water free from [...] substances which constitute a potential danger to human health»
 - **Implementation strategy:** Set targets and target dates, develop plan for achieving the targets, provisions for public participation
 - **Monitoring:** Establish arrangement for monitoring achievement of targets, Compliance Committee
- The Protocol: a practical **instrument to progressively implement** the human rights to water and sanitation and contribute to the SDGs implementation

Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

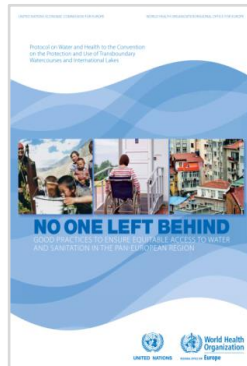
2011
Collection
on
good
practices

2012-2013
Development
& piloting of
self
assessment
tool

2014-...
Support
assessments &
development of
action
plans



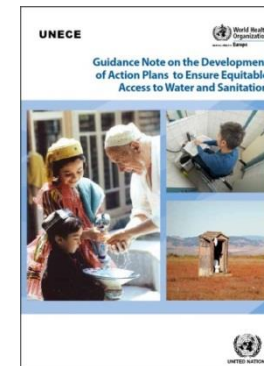
2012



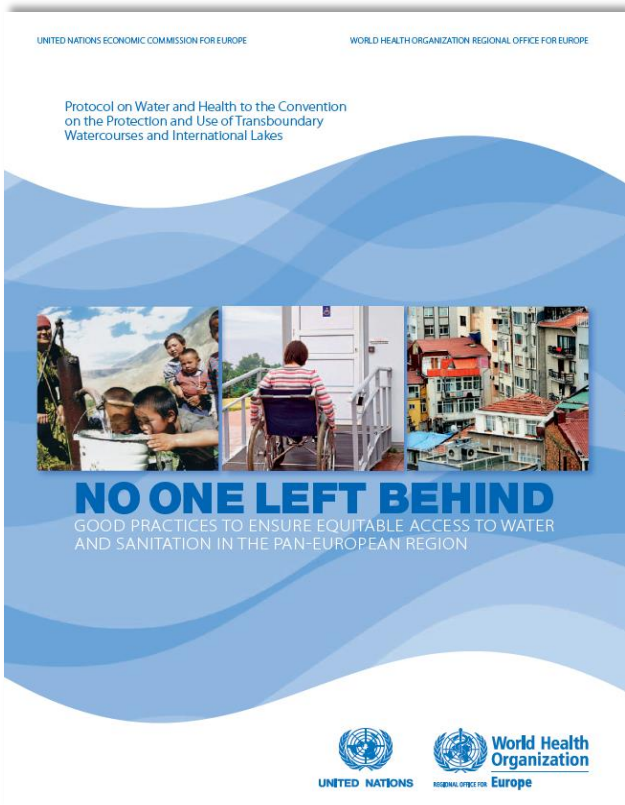
2013



2016



No One Left Behind



- Identifies key **challenges** in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation
- Analyzes **national governance frameworks** and options for them to address equitable access
- Presents concrete **good practices** and lessons learnt on policy options and measures to address inequities

Inequities to be fought on 3 fronts

Dimension	Inequities in access to water and sanitation
Geographical disparities: water resources, WSS infrastructure	Certain areas of a country (rural areas, poor urban neighborhoods) have no physical access or have access of lower quality than other areas
Social disparities: vulnerable and marginalised groups	Within areas with good access, certain groups do not have access because they don't have private facilities, the public and institutional facilities they rely on are not adequate, or suffer unintended or intended discrimination
Economic disparities: affordability issues	Within areas with good access, the water and sanitation bill represents too large a share of disposable income for some households

Need to steer governance frameworks to ensure equitable access

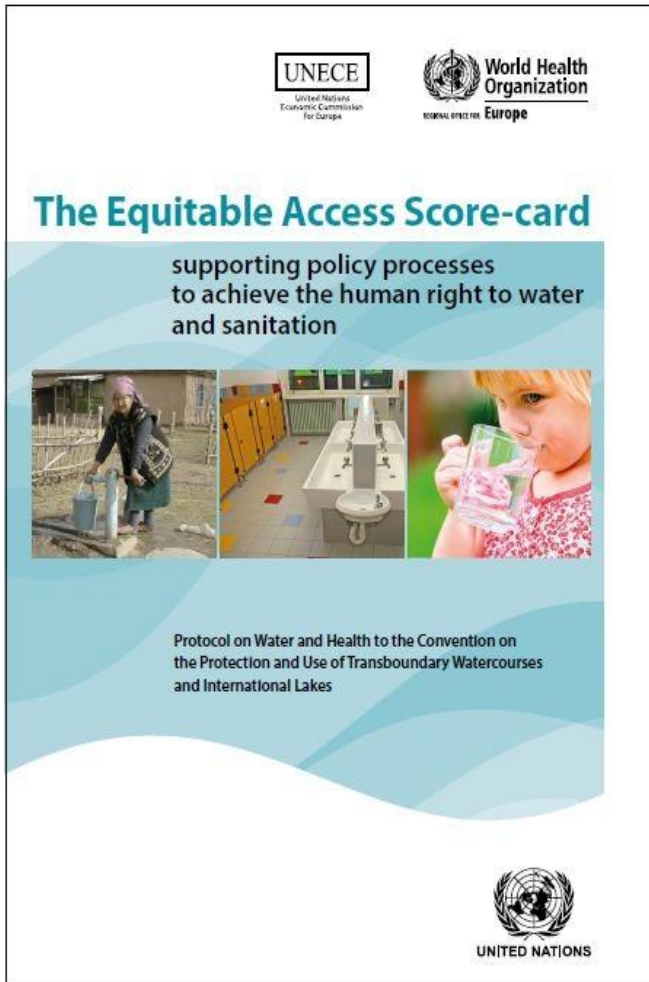
Good water
governance
and
management

- transparency and access to information
- inclusive participation
- efficiency incentives for operators
- accountability and redress mechanisms

“Equitable
access lens” to
speed up
progress

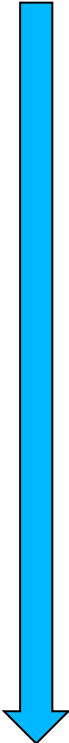
- country situation analysis (indicator-based)
- action plan (results-oriented)

The Equitable Access Score-card



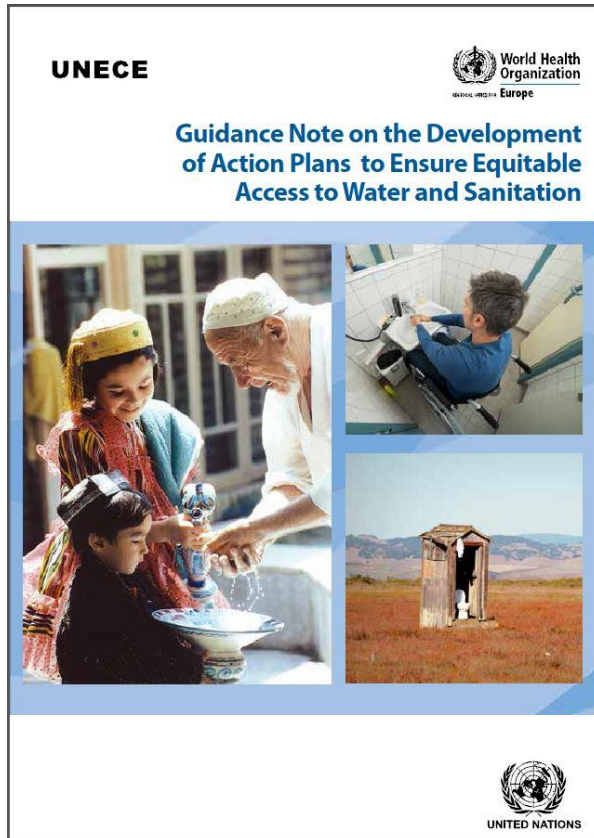
- A self-evaluation **analytical tool**...
- ... that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in **establishing a baseline, tracking progress, and prompting discussions on further actions** needed to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation...
- ... in order to **support the implementation of policies and practices** to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”.

Progress in assessing equitable access

- 
- *Pilot projects (2012-2013)*: France (Paris), Portugal, Ukraine
 - *Finalized assessments (2014-2016)*: Republic of Moldova, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Armenia, Spain (Castelló de la Plana)
On going assessments: Azerbaijan
 - *Upcoming assessments and action planning (2017-2019)*: Serbia, Albania?, Bulgaria?



Guidance Note on the development of equitable access action plans



- *Objective:* To help countries in translating the priorities identified through the self-assessment into actions.
- *Content:* Recommendation on the content of Equitable Access Action Plans and their process of development: identifying priority actions to be implemented and ways of implementing them.
- *Target audience:* government authorities and stakeholders in the water, health, education, social affairs, finance and other relevant sectors interested to take action to reduce inequities in access to water and sanitation services

Thank you for your attention

Invitation

4th session of the Meeting of the
Parties to the Protocol on Water and
Health

(Geneva, 14 - 16 November 2016)

More information at:

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www.unece.org/env/water/

