



Equitable access self assessment exercise The Greater Paris experience

Odile.nieuwyaer@paris.fr

City of Paris

Water and Sanitation Department

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

City of Paris and its public operator



The regional wastewater treatment authority



Service public de l'assainissement francilien



Applying the scorecard

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

- ▶ Timeline



- 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 adressed (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 tarif (progressive tarif with a free « necessary » volume of water), a differentiation between professional and domestic users, a seasonal tarification, and the creation of a preventive aid measure dedicated to water
 - ▶ Timeline of the study: [May-Novembre 2015](#)