

# Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation Experience in the Republic of Macedonia

***Prof. Mihail Kochubovski***  
***Institute of Public Health of the***  
***Republic of Macedonia***

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACHIEVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER  
AND SANITATION: FROM ASSESSMENT TO ACTION

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# Background and objectives of the equitable access assessment

- \* The **Protocol** aims to protect human health and well-being through better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases.
- \* The Work Program 2014-2016 gives special emphasis on the promotion of **equitable access to water and sanitation services** for all members of the population.

# Process: Applying the Equitable Access Score-card

In the first step **leader of the project** was elected - the **Institute for Public Health** as a government institution and **JHR** as NGO.

We chose **3 municipalities** for conducting the self-assessment:

- \* **Skopje, Kumanovo (Rankovci, St. Nagoricino, K. Palanka, Kratovo) ) and Veles**
- \* 01.04.2015-29.02.2016 two workshops in **Skopje** (16-17.06.2015) and in **Veles** (20-21.01.2016)
- \* To present the processes and main results of the assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation in 3 municipalities (Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo).
- \* To discuss and prioritize the main challenges identified by a wide range of stakeholders.
- \* To discuss the possible actions that can be taken to correct the deficiencies and to pave the way for improvements in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation.
- \* To raise awareness of the challenges of equal access to water and sanitation.
- \* Defining the Action Plan.

# Process: Applying the Equitable Access Score-card

Establishing **task forces** and **working groups** in the three municipalities and election of **leaders**.

Complexity of the topic and request for comprehensiveness.

**Leaders** of the teams are employed in the **Centers of Public Health in Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo**.

The following **stakeholders** are involved: Ministry of Health; IPHRM; CPH Kumanovo and Veles; MAFWE; MLSP; MLSG; MTC; MoEPP; MES; FVA; SSHI; State Statistical Office; Red Cross; Association for the rights of consumers; relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the field of environment, gender equality, health and human rights; Service providers for water and sanitation and / or relevant associations with particular emphasis on rural areas; representatives of donors, agencies for cooperation and international organizations and other relevant organizations and partners.

# Outcomes of the assessment: main findings

- \* **Geographical disparity**
- \* **Lack of finance**
- \* **Missing UWWTP (except in municipality Kumanovo)**
- \* **Lack of public toilets (except in Veles)**
- \* **Lack of MHM in schools (except in one private school in Veles)**
- \* **Lack of access to drinking water and sanitation for homeless**
- \* **Bacteriologically improper drinking water in rural areas (20-40%)**
- \* **There is access for disabled people to public health facilities, but not to toilets**
- \* **No access to drinking water and sanitation in religious facilities**

# Communication of the outcomes

- \* **Public policies to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups**
- \* **Increasing capacity for Users in Homes for the elderly – homeless people**
- \* **Tariff measures**
- \* **Forming a regulatory body to establish the methodology for determining the price of water**
- \* **Subsidizing the affordability for rural areas**
- \* **Connecting local water supply systems in an integrated water supply system**
- \* **Treatment of wastewater containing fecal matter in urban and rural areas**
- \* **Social protection measures**