Supporting progress to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation in Bulgaria

The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health

18-19 January 2018

Ministry of Health, Stamboliyski Av. 39, Sofia

Agenda

Thursday 18 January 2018

9:00-9:30 Registration

Part I Opening and introduction

9:30-10:10 Opening remarks

- Ms Svetla Yordanova, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Ms Malina Krumova, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
- Ms Mariana Stoilova, Board Member, Earth Forever
- Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Introduction to the objectives and programme of the workshop, Dr. Katalina Valkova, Ministry of Health

10:10-11:10 Session 1 - Improving equitable access to water and sanitation in Bulgaria – why do we matter?

- International, regional and national commitments to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation
  Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE
- Situation of equitable access to water and sanitation in Bulgaria
  Ms. Katalina Valkova, Ministry of Health, Bulgaria and Ms. Diana Iskreva, Earth Forever
- The Protocol on Water and Health: a sound framework to contribute to a better access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all people
  Protocol on Water and Health video
  Ms. Natasa Djurasinovic, Chair of the Protocol on Water and Health, Ministry of Health, Serbia
- Questions and answers

11:10-11:30 Morning coffee break
Part II - Launch of the self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation in Bulgaria

11:30-13:00 Session 2 – Assessing the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation: concept and methodology

- Introduction round of all participants and interactive exercise: what do we mean by equitable access to water and sanitation? Moderated by Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE and Ms. Diana Iskrova, Earth Forever
- Main challenges faced in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation and supporting tools Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE
- Introduction of the Equitable Access Score-card and planned assessment in Bulgaria (Objectives and expected outcomes of the equitable access self-assessment; process and timeline) Ms. Katalina Valkova, Ministry of Health, Bulgaria and Ms. Diana Iskrova, Earth Forever
- Questions and answers

13:00-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-15:50 Session 3 – Countries experiences in assessing and improving equitable access to water and sanitation

- Assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation in Serbia Ms. Natasa Djurasinovic, Ministry of Health, Serbia
- Assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation in Hungary Ms. Marta Varga, Institute for Public Health, Hungary (by skype)
- Lessons learnt from other assessments of equitable access to water and sanitation in countries Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE
- Questions and answers

15:50-16:10 Afternoon coffee break

16:10-17:30 Session 4 – Planning for the equitable access assessment in Bulgaria

Small groups’ discussion focusing on:

1. possible sources of information
2. mapping of stakeholders to be involved in providing data
3. national policy processes / strategies / measures to be considered

on the following items:

- Steering governance frameworks to enable delivery of equitable water and sanitation services, facilitated by Dr. Katalina Valkova
- Reducing geographical disparities, facilitated by Ms. Diana Iskrova
- Ensuring access for vulnerable groups, facilitated by Ms. Pavlina Delcheva
- Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all, facilitated by Ms Zornitsa Dimitrova

(Group work - 45 minutes, plenary reporting - 15 minutes, general discussion - 20 minutes)

18:00 Diner
Friday 19 January 2018

Part III - The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health

9:30-09:45 Welcome

09:45-11:00 Session 5 - Introduction to the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health

- The Protocol on water and Health: main principles, obligations and benefits for countries
  Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, co-secretariat of the Protocol, UNECE

- Ratifying and implementing the Protocol on Water and health: experience from Serbia
  Ms. Natasa Djurasinovic, Ministry of Health, Serbia

- Benefits of being a Party to the Protocol for a EU country: experience from Hungary
  Ms Marta Varga, Institute for Public Health, Hungary (by skype)

11:00-11:20 Morning coffee break

11:20-12:20 Session 6 – Could the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health be useful for Bulgaria?

- A legal and technical opinion: potential benefits of the Protocol on Water for Bulgaria
  Mr. Plamen Peev, independent expert

- Benefits for Bulgaria of being a Party to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes
  Ms. Violeta Royachka, Focal Point, Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

- Open discussion

12:20-12:30 Concluding remarks

13:00 Lunch