



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА  
Министарство  
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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
Ministry of  
Environmental Protection

***Key challenges on SDG 6 implementation  
From assessment to action  
Serbia's experience in ensuring equitable access  
to water and sanitation for all***

Republic of Serbia  
Ministry for  
Environmental Protection  
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# Achievements and benefits

1. **A national-level systematic survey of drinking water quality and sanitary conditions in small systems of rural areas (2016)**
2. **Self assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation (2017-2018) – UNECE score-card methodology (supported by MoEP and UNECE)**
3. **National situation analysis of WASH in healthcare facilities (2019)- (supported by the WHO and the network of IPHs)**



# Projects implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection realized since 2014, implementing PWH targets in accordance with SDG's:

- ❖ Situational analysis of access to safe drinking water and sanitation for primary schools in Central Serbia
- ❖ Development of a Handbook for water supply and sanitary and hygienic conditions in schools,
- ❖ Development of a Score Card for equal access to water and sanitation in Serbia (UNECE support),
- ❖ Action plan to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the region of Šumadija and Pomoravlje
- ❖ Importance of access to adequate sanitation for women's health in Serbia.



## Brief description of the process

- In 2016, Serbia decided to apply the tool at both national and district levels.
- The implementation of the project had a time frame of six months and the leading public authorities involved were the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Health.
- At the district level, self-assessment was performed in the 2 districts (13 Municipalities).
- The Regional Economic Development Agency was responsible for implementing the project,
- As part of the process, two workshops were organized, as well as thematic focus groups in order to ensure effective communications and exchanges with local stakeholders.

# Self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation

- **Key findings:**

- ☐ **Geographical disparities at national level**

- ☐ **Vulnerable and marginalized groups at national level**

- ☐ **Governance framework and geographical disparities at local level.**

- ☐ **Vulnerable and marginalized groups at local level.**

- ☐ **Affordability at local level**



## Action plan on equitable access to water and sanitation

- The self-assessment exercise in Serbia was carried out with the aim of developing an action plan on equitable access to water and sanitation based on its results.
- Action Plan has been developed from June 2018 to February 2019 through a participative process involving relevant local and national stakeholders, including local self-government representatives, NGOs, service providers...
- It was endorsed by the interministerial Joint Body in charge of the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in February 2019.

# Gender equality in water, sanitation and hygiene

Access to adequate sanitation for women and its impacts on women's health in Serbia.

- An overview of existing knowledge related to the impact of access to sanitation on women's health
- An overview of existing data in Serbia related to the impact of access to sanitation on women's health (situation analysis)
- Policy brief



## Financing equitable access to water and sanitation

- Serbia signed a financial agreement with the EU delegation to access the national Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme
- €76 million was approved for the Municipal Infrastructure Support Programme to provide equitable access to water and sanitation.
- The majority of municipalities also has mechanisms in place to encourage service providers to implement action to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation, for example network expansion in rural areas.
- Most local governments carried out an assessment of the budgets necessary for achieving equitable access to water and sanitation.
- During the process of elaboration of the Action Plan, representatives of local municipalities and Public Utility Companies, expressed willingness and interest to consider this document in future budget planning.



# Thank you

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