



## 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 Iskrevva, 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 Iskrevva, 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 Iskrevva, 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 Iskrevva*
- 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