

**Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**  
**Actions by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

**Title:**

**Increasing access to water and sanitation services to low-income and vulnerable groups in the pan-European region by supporting assessment of the equity of access and the development of action plans**

*Focus area 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being*

**Description:**

In the framework of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health:

1. Support giving priority attention to equity aspects in policymaking processes related to the provision of water and sanitation services;
2. Contribute to the development of baseline studies on the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation to inform policy development and improvement actions in countries;
3. Strengthen capacity in addressing challenges and adopting possible solutions to ensure equitable access in the pan-European region.

**Timeframe/milestones:**

Activities will be developed in the framework of the Protocol's programme of work for 2017-2019 and beyond. Results will be reviewed at the fifth session of the Protocol's Meeting of the Parties in 2019.

**Type of action:** capacity-building, assessment and monitoring, policy development

**Economic sectors:** water supply and sanitation.

**Reference instruments and sources:**

Website of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health:  
[http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh\\_text/text\\_protocol.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_text/text_protocol.html)

**Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:**

Reduced social and economic inequalities, positive health impacts and education outcome, poverty reduction

**SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement**

1.4, 4 a, 6.1, 6.2, 11.1

**Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:**

Access to water supply and sanitation and in particular disaggregated data for rural areas, income and for specific vulnerable groups.

**Partners:**

Lead Party(ies) for this area of work and WHO/Europe co-secretariat  
Subsidiary bodies under the Protocol on Water and Health  
National and local administrations  
Private companies, in particular water supply and sanitation providers  
NGOs

**Contact points**

Francesca Bernardini  
Co-Secretary, Protocol on Water and Health

francesca.bernardini@unece.org

Tel: +41 22 917 10 32

In the WHO/Europe secretariat

Oliver Schmoll

Co-Secretary, Protocol on Water and Health

[schmollo@who.int](mailto:schmollo@who.int)

Tel: +49 228 815 0476