

Demo Network#1

Municipalities

Interview

27 October 2021



Could you introduce yourself and your role in F4W as demo network leader?

My name is Ciprian Nanu and I am working for Business Development Group, as SME based in Bucharest, Romania. Water sector is one of our priorities and we aim to develop a pro-active platform for cooperation in development innovative water (and related sector) projects all over the Danube river basin, mainly Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Hungary, Moldova.

Could you describe your demo network and key challenges?

The Danube River is the second longest river of Europe, but our focus is on Lower basin, consisting mainly of 4 countries with very different cultural and economic backgrounds. The water sectors in lower Danube river is public, meaning that all organizations in water sector (including several hundred of water utilities) are owned by public bodies as the local or regional councils. Their main challenge is to consider working together, as the current legislation and past activities does not support such common activities (including innovative technology implementations of the digital solutions). Being public bodies, the interaction with their market (mainly citizens) is very low and inconsistent. The services offered to the citizens are at the minimum, including only constant water delivery at certain quality, but not considering citizens as potential market partners.

How does F4W and digital water help tackling these challenges?

Digital water is a hot topic for all water utilities, as far as I know in Romania (if we take Romania like an example in Lower Danube basin). The digital services provided to contractors, market partners and citizens are at low quality, reflecting the low performance of the departments in the water organizations all over the market (not only the water utilities, but also river basin administrations, local governments, etc.). Introducing digital services like priority topic in water sector will be only as a result of partnership cooperation between different types of stakeholders at local and regional level.

What is the key innovation transferred to your demo network?

With a well-known historical background of centralized decisions, the majority of water stakeholders all over Danube Lower River basin have no ability, skills or trend to involve innovative technologies and solutions in their activities. What we innovate within the Fiware4Water project is the introduction of a new concept of "bottom-up decisions" within water sector, as an innovative way to implement environmental policies. The creation of several pro-active Local Water Forums, as part of the global network of Local Water Forums, will help the decision makers, politicians and water sector in each country, in developing complementary voluntary programs run by the citizens, as a good example of partnerships at each region level.



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Project Consortium



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