

Demo Network Update

From BDG – Business Development Group

News from Network of Danube Lower Basin Local Forums

FIWARE4Water project started to disseminate activities and results in several Demonstration Networks aiming **to build up a community of pro-active followers (municipalities and water utilities) along the Danube Lower basin countries**. Setting up a platform for cooperation between Eastern European stakeholders at national and international level and helping to **implement IT solutions** in water utilities will also contribute to the reduction of potential technical gaps between them.

The representatives from the water utilities and municipalities in several countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia) took part in virtual presentations which gathered together members of the FIWARE4Water consortium and pro-active stakeholders. On June 24th, 2021, we invited the FIWARE4Water colleagues to get in contact, online, in a virtual event, with the already existing Eastern European networks from the 4 countries. All FIWARE4Water demoscapes in Amsterdam, Athens, Cannes and Great Torrington presented to their Danube river colleagues, their achievements in digitalization of their water services in their respective cities.

A great presentation which created a great impression came from the University of Exeter and South West Water colleagues. The Great Torrington Local Water forum already gave all the impression of a strong community involved in discussing water problems in their area. Mr. Doug Smith, the Mayor of Great Torrington explained to our Eastern European participants how the communities leads the discussions in the Great Torrington Water Forum and how they intend to connect the local community, researchers and local municipality, making them collectively responsible for ensuring that the local co-designed policy in water sector will lead to local practical actions.

All these groups of volunteers in Local Water Forums in different countries (Netherlands, Greece, U.K., France, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, etc.) will be assisted by the FIWARE4Water project team, under the umbrella of UN-Global Water Quality Alliance's plan for the Social Engagement Platform (2020-2023).

The FIWARE4Water innovative activities in the Danube basin also attracted in last month several other Eastern European cities. The level of their engagement will improve in the next months, as we are preparing to reunite all in a Followers Danube Local Water Forums Conference, in late autumn 2021.

Expanding the Follower Cities network will be our main project task in the Danube basin countries. The next steps will include the connection with the FIWARE platform, through its products (probably *iHUBS* being the main assistant in activities that are designed to widen the FIWARE ecosystem), foster innovation and grow digital business models locally but with a global ambition thanks to the cross border interaction between public administrations, businesses and citizens supported by FIWARE interoperability features.

For more details on Danube Lower Basin Follower Cities network please contact Ciprian Nanu at e-mail: ciprian.nanu@bdgroup.ro. You can follow **#fiware4water** on social media for more details.

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