

Demo Network Update

From BDG – Business Development Group

TIMISOARA Local Forum has been launched in Western Romania



FIWARE4Water project is 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.

During summer 2021, the project team considered that the creation of a local water forum in TIMISOARA (as a starting point in considering social involvement as an important factor for cooperation in water sector) can be an example for other municipalities in the Danube Lower Basin countries (Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary). Representatives from Municipality of Timisoara, Polytechnic University Timisoara, local NGOs but also citizens aware about water importance in daily life (students in food

sector, constructions or landscapes architects) spent an afternoon initiating first discussions about water as a common cause, with implications at the Regional level.

The Local Water Forums created in other countries already should be considered like a societal answer to the variety of other initiative and regional water policies. The TIMISOARA Water Forum is creating awareness regarding the global issue of water at a local community scale and will contribute to disseminating the progress of more technical aspects of the FIWARE4Water project (as digitalization of water services as main drive). Under the United Nations World Water Quality Alliance (TIMISOARA Water Forum being included in the global network), these forums (created or to be created in the future) are tackling a wider range of water-based issues including water quality, water scarcity, the recovery of green spaces and a more open form of water administration.

In Timisoara, topics initially discussed were about water having no borders and passing through different countries and cultures, water as a balance element, or barriers in different sectors in order to consider water as a product in the market and a resource valuable for other sectors of economy. Expanding the Follower Cities network (cities that will initiate Local Water Forums in the coming months) will be our main project task in the Danube basin countries. The next step will include the organization of a FIWARE4Water Follower Cities (virtual) Workshop in November 2021, in order to demonstrate the viability of engaging citizens in enhancing the effectiveness of innovative technologies developed in the FIWARE4Water project.

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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Project Consortium



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