

FIWARE4WATER FOLLOWER CITIES MEETING

A virtual workshop for Local Water Forums



25th of November 2021

14.00 - 17.00 CET

Introduction

A process was established whereby in the town of Great Torrington, the FIWARE4Water project demonstrated the viability of engaging citizens and other representatives of the Quintuple Helix¹ in furthering the effectiveness of the technical advances demonstrated by this European-funded project. The systemic approach of creating Local Water Forums², developed before and during the initiative, was simultaneously adopted in 2020, by the World Water Quality Alliance under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme. This formed the basis of the UN-WWQA Social Engagement Workflow, under the direction of FIWARE4Water partners such as EURECAT (Spain), the Business Development Group (Romania) and the University of Exeter (UK).

The objective to enhance the co-creation of local policies which would answer the needs of supranational strategies such as *the Twin Transition to a Green Economy and a Digital Economy*, promoted by the European Commission and *the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* of the United Nations requires the engagement of all sectors of society which collectively are known as the Quintuple Helix. This includes the public sector, researchers, the private sector, cultural entities and above all, citizens who earnestly wish to participate in environmental initiatives. Citizens are attracted to such actions when there exists a raising of a broad public awareness which leads to interest and concern and which in turn becomes to a desire to be engaged. Full inclusion of all socio-political sectors at a municipal level can ensure a stronger capacity for policy continuity based on consensus.

Local Water Forums are created in Follower Cities in answer to a variety of local and/or global water-based concerns. Those which have been established within the FIWARE4Water project have aimed at a) creating awareness regarding the global issue of water at a local community scale and b) contributing to and disseminating the progress of more technical aspects of the project such as the enhanced use of smart meters. Under the WWQA, Local Water Forums 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.

One of the key aspects of the work of both FIWARE4Water project and the WWQA is the desire to ensure that Local Water Forums from different regions, countries and continents establish a strong relationship between each other, exchanging knowledge, experience and perspectives. The purpose of this event is to bring Local Water Forums based in Follower municipalities together for the first time and permit them the opportunity to discuss amongst themselves what really concerns them. It will not be a training session. It will be a meeting of representatives of local communities from a broad range of backgrounds coming together in a common cause, the improvement of water quality around the World and the enhancement of digital technology within water administration.

¹ The Quintuple Helix framework describes the interrelationship between research-industry-government-public-environment sectors within an established forum.

² A Local Water Forum is a group of people in a municipality who are willing to participate in actions which contribute to resolving problems related to water. The only qualification which is required for a member of such a forum is the desire to take part in a water-based initiative at the local level.

The Agenda(draft)

14.00 -14.15 WELCOME – REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WWQA AND FIWARE4WATER :
HARTWIG KREMER (UNEP) ; SONIA SIAUVE (OIEAU)

14.15 – 1430 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CITIZEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF WATER
– REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION : DR. BERND GAWLIK ,JOINT
RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISION

14.30 – 15.15 LOCAL WATER FORUMS DISCUSSION 1. (THE SUBJECT WILL BE DECIDED
BY THE LOCAL WATER FORUMS WHO WILL HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL FOR ISSUES TO
BE RAISED BY THE END OF OCTOBER 2021).

15.15 – 15.45 COFFEE BREAK

15-45 – 16.30 LOCAL WATER FORUMS DISCUSSION 2. (THE SUBJECT WILL BE DECIDED
BY THE LOCAL WATER FORUMS WHO WILL HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL FOR ISSUES TO
BE RAISED BY THE END OF OCTOBER 2021)

16.30 – 1650 THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

16.50 – 17.00 CONCLUSION – REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
(VIOLETA KUZMICKAITE, PROJECT OFFICER OF FIWARE4WATER, TBC)