

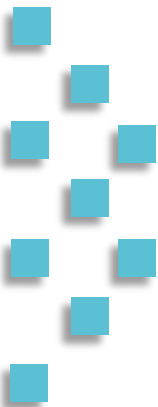


## **D5.2 The Fiware4Water City and Follower City Conference and Joint Declaration of Intent Signed**

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## Project Consortium



## Executive Summary

D5.2 describes the procedure within Fiware4Water to establish a horizontal link between both the pilot municipality, Great Torrington, located in South-West England, the locations of the other project case studies (Cannes, Amsterdam and Athens) and the follower cities who have been contacted during the course of the project in order to guarantee the correct experience and knowledge exchange between municipalities both in the EU and beyond. The report details how the project consortium has worked to replicate within hitherto uninvolved local communities the experience in South-West England, by inviting them to observe the progress of the pilot site and commence the implementation of Fiware4Water in their own municipalities with the support of the project partners. In order to substantiate this objective, a **Follower City Conference** was organised in which the participants were invited to sign a **Joint Declaration of Intent**. The deliverable not only reflects the actions undertaken with relation to the Follower City Conference which was celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 and was attended by 65 participants from 25 countries. It will describe how, to date, 10 municipalities have signed the Declaration of Intent and how the event has led to a further five Eastern European municipalities being intent on creating Local Water Forums during the course of 2022. Furthermore, it considers parallel supranational activities influenced by Fiware4Water and also identifies the advantages and disadvantages of such events in general as well as both the socio-political and dissemination-related repercussions implied by the creation of declarations of intent and agreements of this nature. The results of similar processes in other European funded projects and non-funded initiatives are also noted.

*(The submission of Deliverable 5.2 was due for M24 of the project (May 2021). However, due to the circumstances that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, the commencement of the engagement activities and the **establishment of the Local Water Forum** in Great Torrington (the pilot municipality) was systematically adjourned until the decision to undertake the activity employing a virtual approach was adopted. Whilst both the Local Water Forum in Great Torrington has been created and is currently functioning, and whilst target municipalities in Romania, Hungary and Serbia have been recruited together with other follower municipalities including those who constitute demo-cases of Fiware4WATER (Athens, Amsterdam and Cannes), the full results of Task 5.3, including the organisation of a Follower City Conference were not duly completed until the November of 2021, at which time the project consortium was in a position to submit a full, substantial and relevant deliverable).*

## Related Deliverables

**D5.1: “A study of the current public perception of digital water and other related innovations, and recommendations”** – for the definitions and details about the concepts of Quadruple and Quintuple Helix.

**D5.3: “Report on the application of ConCensus”** – for a more detailed explanation of the process and how it was originally developed, and also for the description of the experiences carried out to establish Local Water Forums in three Fiware4Water demonstration sites, namely Amsterdam, Cannes and Athens.

## Document Information

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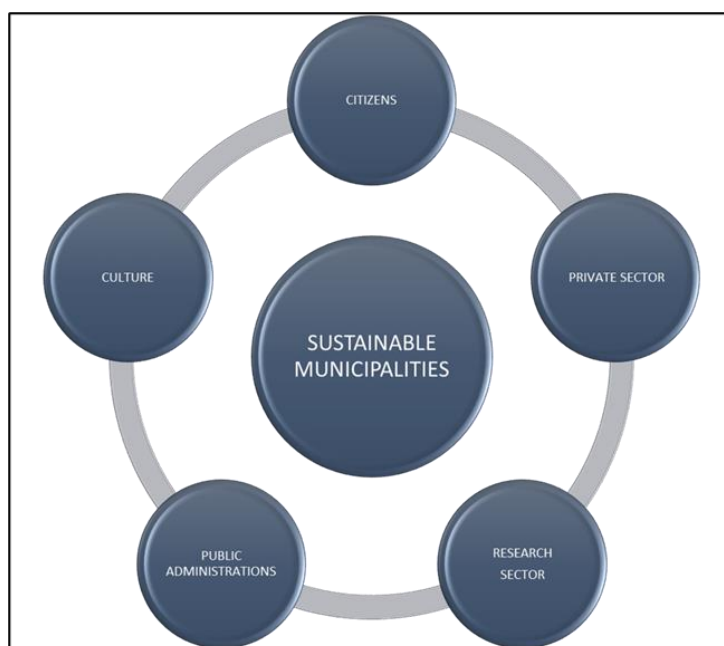
## List of Acronyms/Glossary

<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>F4W</b>	Fiware4Water project
<b>OECD</b>	The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WEF</b>	World Economic Forum
<b>WP</b>	Work Package
<b>WPL</b>	Work Packages Leader
<b>WWQA</b>	World Water Quality Alliance
<b>LWF</b>	Local Water Forum
<b>DSP</b>	Digital Social Platforms
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<b>SEP</b>	Social Engagement Platform

# Introduction

Based on the *ConCensus* approach first defined by Elelman and Feldman in 2018, (1) and building on the foundations laid by former European-funded projects such as BlueSCities (2) and POWER (3), a process was established, whereby in the North Devon town of Great Torrington, the Fiware4Water project demonstrated the viability of engaging citizens and other representatives of the Quintuple Helix in furthering the effectiveness of the technical advances developed by the project consortium. This involved the systemic creation of what became known as **Local Water Forums**, a technique which was simultaneously adopted in 2020 by the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme to form the basis of its Social Engagement Workflow, under the direction of the Fiware4water partner EURECAT, with the participation in its Core Team of the Fiware4Water consortium partners, the University of Exeter and the Romanian SME Business Development Group (BDG).

From the very beginning, there was a **clear socio-political philosophy** behind the actions undertaken by Fiware4Water. The principal objective was to enhance the co-creation and subsequently, the continuity 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. Both international entities have publicly expressed the necessity for, and have indeed demanded the engagement of, all sectors of society which collectively were identified first by Etzkowitz (4) as the Triple Helix, being expanded in both number and definition by writers such as Carayannis and Campbell (5) to the Quadruple and **Quintuple Helix**. (See also D5.1).



*Figure 1: THE QUINTUPLE HELIX Source: The Author*

The composition of the latter is subject to a certain amount of academic debate but is generally acknowledged to be the collective noun to describe the public sector, researchers, the private sector, cultural entities and above all, citizens who earnestly wish to participate in local community initiatives. Citizens are attracted to such actions when there exists a raising of a broad public awareness with regards to the target issue which leads to interest and concern and which in turn becomes 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 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 the more technical aspects of the project such as the enhanced use of smart meters. Under the umbrella of 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 more open forms of water administration.

One of the key common aspects of the work of both Fiware4Water and the WWQA has been, from the outset, 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 the Follower City event was to bring Local Water Forums together for the first time and permit them the opportunity to discuss amongst themselves what really concerns them. It was not intended to be a training session but rather 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. It was not a review of project achievements but rather a means whereby the volunteers could take the initiative and suggest further future developments not only within the context of Fiware4Water but within the long-term vision of the WWQA and the objectives of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Assembly, supported by the European Commission as well as laying the foundations for future inter-community cooperation by signing the Fiware4Water Declaration of Intent. This deliverable describes the Follower City Conference, explains the objectives of the Declaration of Intent and examines the worth of such actions with regards to project exploitation and more importantly, the capacity for the future development of certain initiatives that have come to light during the course of Fiware4Water.

## I. The ConCensus Approach: A brief introduction

The ConCensus approach (The COuNcil of Citizen Engagement in Sustainable Urban Strategies) was the result of practical experience at a municipal government level. During the period 2007-2011, two factors were identified in the city of Figueres in Northern Spain which held, at that time, the Vice-Presidency of Energy-Cities (6). Firstly, as a result of the Covenant of Mayors launched by DG REGIO of the European Commission in 2008 (7) it became evident that an effective means of translating supranational strategy into tangible fact whilst engaging all social sectors was by promoting the role of municipal governments. The Covenant of Mayors became so successful that the continuation of the original scheme now represents the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions having actively involved 10,777 municipalities, representing 335,158,316 inhabitants from 53 nations (Figures dated 22/12/2021) in creating Strategic Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) in order to achieve the 2020 and subsequently 2030 objectives regarding an increase in renewable energy production and energy efficiency together with a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Secondly, it became increasingly obvious that an important key to sustainable development at a local level was policy continuity. The principal obstacle to such continuity was local political-party rivalry which in the case of a change of local government (once every four years in Spain and Germany, once every five years in Italy and once every six years in France) would result in one party's initiatives, regardless of their merits, often being



abandoned before having been completed, thus wasting both public funds and equally important, time.

ConCensus was created as an answer to such an obstacle. The concept is simple. If, from the outset, an initiative is co-created by all sectors of a local community and if all participants in the decision-making process are also involved in the implementation of said initiative, it would no longer be associated with one political party but with the community as a whole. The subsequent move from representative to open democracy would, by making hitherto-uninformed citizens both the spokespeople for, and the overseers of, their policy's progress, impede political-party intervention and thus enhance the guarantees for an initial investment in both funds and working hours. Two results would stand out: public trust and policy continuity.

EURECAT, in collaboration with the University of California (Irvine), put the theory into practice in locations as diverse as Los Angeles (USA) and Jerusalem (IS), Ramallah (PAL), Milton Keynes (UK), Sabadell (ES) and Leicester (UK). One of the lessons learnt from these experiences, undertaken principally during the course of the Horizon 2020 project 'POWER', was that the simpler the engagement process, the more effective it was. This lesson was applied when creating the original Fiware4Water Local Water Forum (LWF) in Great Torrington under the guidance of the University of Exeter, supported by EURECAT, with the active participation of both the local public administration (Great Torrington Town Council) and the water utility (South West Water).

The specific purpose of the Local Water Forums in Fiware4Water were to achieve a broader social understanding and, subsequently, a long-term political and economic continuity of open technology application in relation to water whilst building bridges of dialogue between all components of the Quintuple Helix such as the research sector which has often failed to establish direct interaction and therefore effective engagement with both politicians and citizens. The householder, the end-user, the customer and the voter constituted the principal targets of the socio-political work implemented by Fiware4Water. The combination of an advanced technical data capacity with the comprehension and support of the hitherto uninformed layperson signifies an important step towards the implementation and continuity of local, environmentally sustainable policies and management practices designed to overcome global challenges. **(A more complete study of the ConCensus process and the development and results of the Local Water Forums in Fiware4Water will be presented as D5.3: Report on the application of ConCensus in March 2022).**

## II. Local Water Forums

An engagement process was initiated in 2020 and a co-creation process, carefully described in the volunteer leaflet written in order to attract lay participants to the Local Water Forums (See Annex A), was executed over the following 18 months. The pilot site was Great Torrington in North Devon (UK) where the procedure in Figure 2 was applied. **(A more detailed explanation of the process and how it was originally developed will be presented in D5.3: Report on the application of ConCensus in March 2022).**

# ConCensus

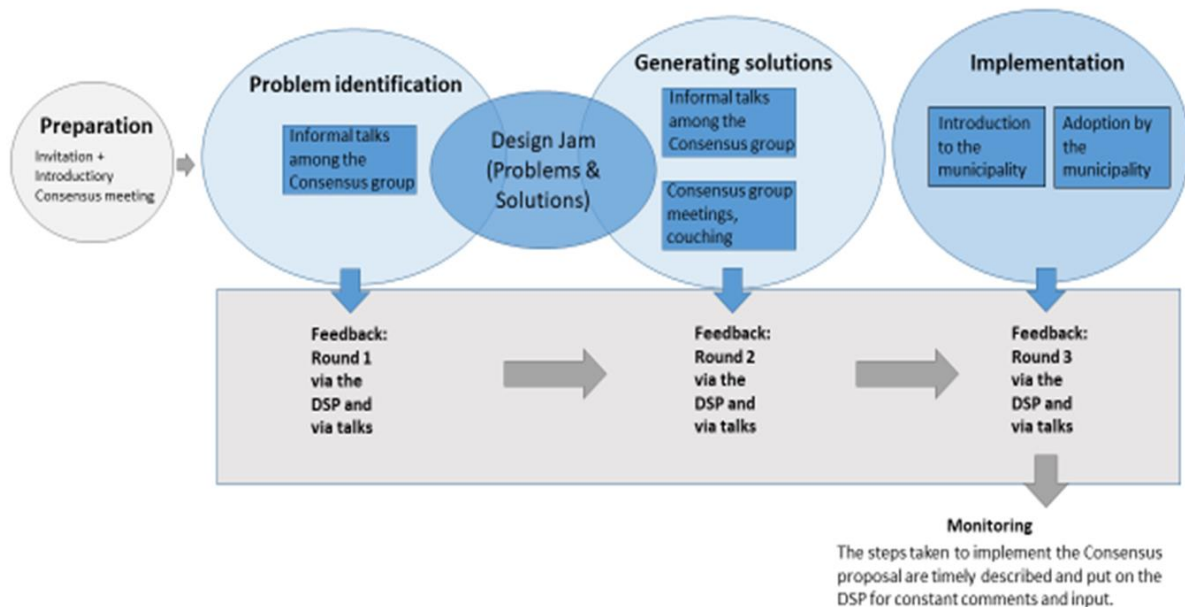


Figure 2: THE ENGAGEMENT AND CO-CREATION PROCEDURE Source: The Author

Initially intended as a face-to-face exercise, the global tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic obliged the Fiware4Water consortium to first, adjourn the beginning of the proposed engagement activities and the establishment of the Local Water Forum in Great Torrington and then, in light of the continuation of the health crisis, to decide to undertake the activity employing a **virtual approach**. Determined to make a virtue of necessity, the decision to proceed employing **Digital Social Platforms (DSPs)** such as TEAMS, ZOOM, FACEBOOK, TWITTER and LINKEDIN, offered the consortium the opportunity to explore the advantages and disadvantages of on-line citizen engagement. Some of the preliminary results of Fiware4Water were included, together with findings from other projects involved in the ICT4Water Cluster, in the report published by the European Commission entitled *'The need for Digital Water in a Green Europe'* which stated that digital mechanisms contributed to the channeling of *'[...] the citizen's enhanced awareness into a proactive involvement both in the co-creation and subsequent implementation of water-based policies'* and that *'The effective use of Digital Social Platforms (DSPs) and Augmented Reality (AR) offer the water sector a wide range of exciting mechanisms to improve transparency and general public perception, capable of demonstrating in a clear and accessible manner both economic and practical benefits thus activating a common sense of purpose'*. The success of the on-line engagement and subsequent actions undertaken by the pilot site of Great Torrington offer a strong argument which demonstrates that the involvement of non-qualified members of a local community (citizens) can be just as efficiently executed without attending physical meetings. Established by the University of Exeter (researchers), involving from the outset both the local government led by the Mayor of Great Torrington (public Sector) and consortium partners from the water utility South West Water (private Sector), the experience in Great Torrington robustly underlined the validity of the Quintuple Helix as its actions proceeded to include local artists (cultural sector). The **on-line Local Water Forum** gradually acquired an important core team of a dozen citizen volunteers who rapidly accepted the challenge to take the initiative in organising and implementing a local awareness campaign concerning the issue of water at both a local and global scale following the steps illustrated in Figure 3.



*Figure 3: THE CREATION OF A LOCAL INITIATIVE Source: The Author*

From a deliberately political neutral beginning, in the guise of an awareness-raising campaign promoting the importance of water and aspects such as the water footprint in consumer goods, the LWF then commenced to collaborate with South-West Water in the design of the Smart Meter Application which has constituted the principal technical investigation in that specific Fiware4Water demonstration site. The feedback and participation of utility customers has now been employed in the design of the smart meter application and will, when released, be a further demonstration of a cross-sectoral, community effort. The latest advance in the relationship between all social sectors represented in the LWF has been a discussion regarding water poverty and how best to approach and support those members of the local community who are unable, principally for financial reasons, to pay the water tariffs. The fact that the Customer Services department of South West Water has approached the LWF on such a delicate matter is a reflection of the mutual trust that has been created by all parties involved.

However, the Great Torrington LWF has not only served as a clear demonstration of the effectiveness of the ConCensus methodology but has also acted, as was the original intention, as a pilot-site, the experience of which was to be disseminated to, and gradually replicated in, further European and non-European locations. Originally, the target area for such an expansion was limited to Eastern Europe but, after the first Fiware4Water project review meeting (February 2021), it was also decided to establish Local Water Forums in the remaining three Fiware4Water demonstration sites, namely Amsterdam, Cannes and Athens, **(the experiences of which will be examined in detail in D5.3: Report on the application of ConCensus)** where the water-based issues contemplated by the respective LWFs also reflected the nature of the technical investigations being undertaken by Fiware4Water in those locations.

Replicating the on-line approach employed in the United Kingdom, contact was established by the consortium partner BDG, based in Bucharest, with a continuously growing number of utilities and municipal governments in Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Croatia and Serbia. As a result, Local Water Forums were created in Timisoara (RO), Cluj-Napoca (RO) Szeged (HUN), Novi Sad (SER) and Sofia (BUL). Simultaneously, the Fiware4Water consortium was to discover a further, supranational opportunity for the dissemination and replication of its methods and socio-political approach, which together with the aforementioned municipalities would constitute the key elements present at the Fiware4Water Follower City Conference.

### III. The Volunteer, the European Commission and the United Nations

Having submitted D.5.1 'A Study of the current public perception of digital water and other related innovations' in the November of 2019, the Fiware4Water consortium prepared to undertake the essentially socio-political tasks of the project planned within WP5 to commence in the early spring of 2020. This, as has already been mentioned, coincided with the initial effects of the COVID pandemic.

Prior to this, whilst preparing D5.1, the Work Package Leader (WPL) of WP5 had been invited to speak at the General Assembly of the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) organised by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission at Ispra (IT). It was here that the Fiware4Water approach to the creation of citizen engagement was first presented to a high-level audience of supranational institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations and where it was argued that the WWQA under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should initiate a similar process if the aims of the movement concerned with SDG6.3 (Water Quality) were to be achieved.

At that time, the objectives of the WWQA defined between 2013-2015, by the UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on Water Quality, led by UNEP and coordinated by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) (9), were to develop and demonstrate a data and model driven methodology to identify those areas where there existed a deterioration of freshwater quality, investigating both the intensity and sources of water pollution, its impacts on human health and food security and the development of strategies for monitoring. What ConCensus offered and what Fiware4Water strongly advocated was an *inclusive* pathway towards sustainable solutions. (10)

After further meetings with the Joint Research Centre, UNEP, the World Economic Forum and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Geneva on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, it was agreed to initiate a programme of citizen engagement through the creation of Local Water Forums (known then as ConCensus) in what was named the Social Engagement Platform (SEP) Work Stream of the WWQA.



#### Social Engagement Platform Work Stream



Figure 4: THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF WWQA SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM Source: The Author

Led by Fiware4Water in the guise of EURECAT, supported by the University of Exeter and BDG, the creation of the WWQA SEP permitted the project consortium to work with, and indeed lead, such entities as the World Bank, the World Economic Forum, UNEP, the SDC, the World Wildlife Fund, the African Ministers Council of Water and the European Commission in the engagement of the Quintuple Helix in the issue of water at both a local and global scale.

A local volunteer pamphlet was created for both Fiware4Water and the WWQA (See ANNEX A) working together. The result was that the methodology that eventually was put to the test in Great Torrington was disseminated not only to the demonstration sites and follower cities identified specifically within the work of Fiware4Water itself but was extended to a far broader audience in Europe, Africa, North and South America and Asia.

The ‘ConCensus’, first described in the project proposal, became ‘Local Water Forums’ in part, to facilitate a clearer understanding of the concept in very distinct local communities around the globe. The work of WP5 of Fiware4Water has, therefore, combined with the ambitions of the WWQA and has become a partnership (**To be described in more detail in D5.3: Report on the application of Consensus**) that has permitted the success of the initial actions completed in Great Torrington to be replicated to date in the following locations:

<b>ASIA</b>	
PALESTINE	RAMALLAH
INDIA	KOZHICODE
INDIA	TIRUPPUR
ARMENIA	GAVAR
ARMENIA	ALAUERDI
ISRAEL	JERUSALEM
ISRAEL	JERUSALEM
<b>AFRICA/UNECA</b>	
KENYA	KISUMU
SOUTH AFRICA	JOHANNESBURG
KENYA	MASERU
BENIN	COTONOU
UGANDA	MPIGI
KENYA	NAKURU COUNTY
<b>EUROPE</b>	
ROMANIA	CLUJ NAPOCA
ROMANIA	TIMISOARA
UNITED KINGDOM	GREAT TORRINGTON
SPAIN	SABADELL
SPAIN	TOSSA DE MAR
SPAIN	LLORET DEL MAR
SERBIA	NOVI SAD
FRANCE	CANNES
THE NETHERLANDS	AMSTERDAM
GREECE	ATHENS
SWITZERLAND	BAGNES- VERBIER
HUNGARY	SZEGED
<b>AMERICAS / CEPAL</b>	
BRAZIL	BRASILIA
PERU	PUEBLO NUEVO
USA	ANNA MARIA ISLAND (FL)
CHILE	SANTIAGO DE CHILE

The Fiware4Water Follower City Conference therefore was an event to which a wide range of Local Water Forums from around the globe were invited, enhancing the potential of the event itself, demonstrating the strong relationship between Fiware4Water and the WWQA and more importantly bringing for the first time, local groups who had been working in relative isolation, together in order to exchange experiences.

## IV. The Follower City Conference – From Devon to Buenos Aires

**The Purpose:** Having abandoned any hope of being able to organise a face-to face encounter, the principal partners responsible for the Follower City Conference (EURECAT, UNEXE, BDG and OiEAU) agreed to create an on-line event which offered certain economic, logistical and ethical advantages. No longer would representatives of the Local Water Forums have to travel to a specific location, no longer would a venue, accommodation or meals have to be provided and no longer would participants lose time in order to attend the meeting. Furthermore, as countless companies, administrations and interest groups from all over the world have discovered since early 2020 the fact that physical displacement has been severely restricted due to questions of health, has dramatically reduced the carbon footprint of events designed to promote a more sustainable future, thus making them, intentionally or not, far more environmentally coherent to the detriment of airlines, exhibition centres and caterers.

The purpose of the conference was extremely simple. Firstly, to offer established Local Water Forums [the](#) opportunity to meet and to discuss the role of such initiatives in overcoming local and global water-based issues and what support Local Water Forums required from third parties in order to be effective. In order to truly reflect the needs of the LWFs, a questionnaire was sent to all Fiware4Water and WWQA Local Water Forums which asked them for suggestions regarding the key issues to be discussed during the two debate sessions. The questionnaire was to be returned to the organisers by the third week of October 2021.

The second purpose of the conference would be to permit municipal authorities, utilities and other stakeholders who to date, had not been involved in the actions of Fiware4Water and/or the WWQA, to understand the Consensus approach further and finally, it provided an occasion wherein a joint declaration of intent could be presented, aimed at further cementing future collaboration and cooperation between the participants. Whilst placing emphasis on the proactive intervention of LWF volunteers, representatives of Fiware4Water, the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme were invited to speak briefly on the importance of citizen engagement with regards to decision-making in the water sector and an expert was engaged to offer a presentation on how to prepare an effective water awareness campaign within a local community which had constituted the initial purpose of the LWFs.

**The Agenda:** There has been, since the March of 2020, a plethora of on-line events, many (although not all) of which, in the absence of face-to-face networking opportunities, have proved to be a long series of PowerPoint presentations unilaterally extolling the virtues of the speaker or the entity which they represent, while previous speakers or those awaiting their turn to do the same, listen half-heartedly to the speeches whilst writing e-mails or reports of their own. An in-depth conversation over a coffee or during a formal meal organised by the host entity with new contacts has been reduced to a brief exchange of electronic addresses via the on-line chat option, thus eliminating one of the principal perceived benefits for many conference-goers.

Aware of this, Fiware4Water deliberately aimed at creating an event which would last no longer than two and a half hours and at a time which would enable various attendees from different time zones to participate relatively comfortably. The on-line DSP chosen was ZOOM PREMIUM. The result was the following programme [held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2021](#). (See also ANNEX B).



**14.00 - 14.10 WELCOME – REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WWQA AND FIWARE4WATER**

(NINA RAASAKKA OF UNEP AND DR. SONIA SIAUVE OF OIEAU)

**14.10 - 14.20 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CITIZEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF WATER**
**– REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

(DR. BERND GAWLIK OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

**14.20 - 15.05 INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL WATER FORUMS**

- **Introductions**
- **Discussion led by two key questions:**
  - What role does the community have in addressing local and global water challenges?
  - What support do you (water forums) need?

**15.05 - 15.15 COFFEE BREAK**
**15.15 - 16.00 HOW TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE WATER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Barbara Hale, Head of Water Efficiency Engagement at WaterWise to introduce the topic which will be followed by an open discussion

**16.00 - 16.15 THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT**
**16.15 - 16.30 Q&A**
**16.30 - 16.45 CONCLUSION – REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**Dissemination:** The event, finally named the Fiware4WATER FOLLOWER CITIES MEETING in order to emphasise the ambition of the organisers to produce a useful dialogue rather than an exposition of good intentions or past deeds, was advertised through all the channels of communication that Fiware4Water had at its disposal. Over 300 individual entities were contacted individually by e-mail.




FIWARE4Water and The World Water Quality Alliance  
invites you to

# THE FOLLOWER CITIES WORKSHOP

November 25th, 2021 14:00 -17:00 CET

An ONLINE discussion to bring LOCAL WATER FORUMS from all over the world together.  
Establish synergies, exchange knowledge and local views and work together to discover  
solutions to current and future water challenges

@fiware4water
www.fiware4water.eu
f4w@bdgroup.ro

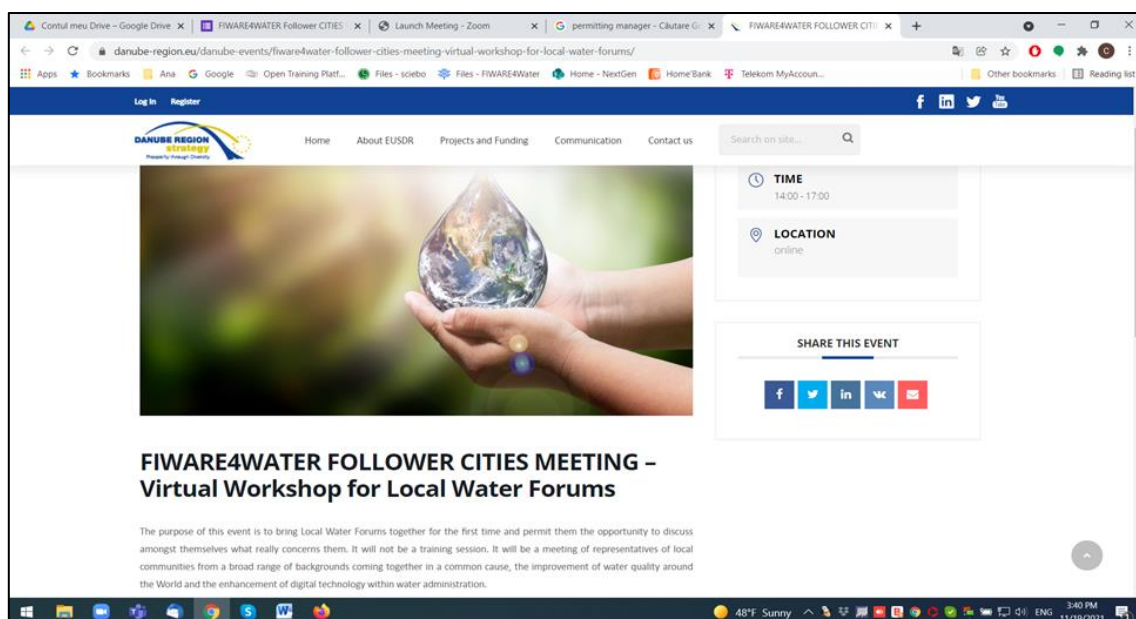


Figure 5: DISSEMINATION OF THE EVENT Source: [www.danuberegion.eu](http://www.danuberegion.eu)

**The Participants:** The WWQA SEP announced the event to the Local Water Forums that had been created under its mandate and special attention was paid to attracting entities from Eastern Europe. As a result, 65 people registered for the event, representing LWFs and other entities from the following 25 countries:

**Europe:** United Kingdom, Rumania, Moldavia, Hungary, The Netherlands, France, Greece, Spain, Bulgaria, The Ukraine, Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Belgium, Latvia and Italy.

**America:** Argentina, Peru, the United States, Brazil and Costa Rica.

**Africa:** South Africa, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Participants represented the following categories:

**Researchers:** 22 (33.8%)

**Local Water Forums:** 18 (27.6%)

**Utilities:** 10 (15.3%)

**Public Administrations (Supranational, National, Regional and Local Level):** 8 (12.3%)

**Non-Governmental Organisations:** 2 (3%)

**SMEs:** 5 (8%)

From the figures above, one can identify certain positive and negative facts. The number of inscriptions is relatively low. However, this is a phenomenon which has extended as the Covid pandemic has progressed and the number of on-line conferences has multiplied. People, unless specifically invited to speak, are tiring of the numerous invitations which appear in their in-box each morning and it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract a target audience's attention when competing with so many other events.

The Fiware4Water conference succeeded in attracting a wide variety of nationalities and representatives of four out of five of the components of the Quintuple Helix – the research sector,



citizens, the private sector and the public sector. However, it failed to convince more members of existing LWFs to attend. The principal reason, and this is only a supposition, may well be that a majority of members of the LWFs are volunteer citizens who on a weekday (Thursday) at 14.00 CET may be working and were therefore unable to attend. The majority of the LWF meetings that take place at a local community level begin at 18.00 or 19.00 in their respective time zones, after working hours. Given that, the event was designed specifically so that LWF volunteers from different locations could speak to each other, it is a lesson that must be learned for future events. The problem of course are different time zones and different working habits depending on the country. Whilst in the United Kingdom, the nine-to-five system is well established, in Spain, for example, the working day can end at eight o'clock in the evening.

What this does reinforce is the fact that when working with local communities, different cultures, distinct daily habits and language must be taken into account. When approaching potential LWFs, the volunteer pamphlet (See Annex A) has often been translated into the local language (Spanish, Dutch, Greek and Romanian) and the methodology itself (as will be explained in D5.3) often needs to be adapted so that local communities with different socio-political traits can feel comfortable with what is being proposed. It is possible that the fact that the event was not translated and that the language employed was exclusively English, also dissuaded more volunteers from non-English-speaking communities from participating.

**The event:** Introduced and moderated by Dr Kate Baker of the University of Exeter, the participants were welcomed by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme, Wanjiku Njuguna who, after introducing the overall concept of the World Water Quality Alliance, placed emphasis on the three basic pillars of the movement: the global assessment of water quality, the identification of water quality priorities and the establishment of a bottom-up approach. Here the relationship between the WWQA and Fiware4Water was highlighted and the strategic importance of the Social Engagement Platform established by members of the F4W consortium was described as the workflow which connects with and informs all other WWQA workflows. Local Water Forums are '*enormous assets*' capable of identifying and transmitting the water-based problems identified *in situ* while providing the '*human face*' of water quality issues to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

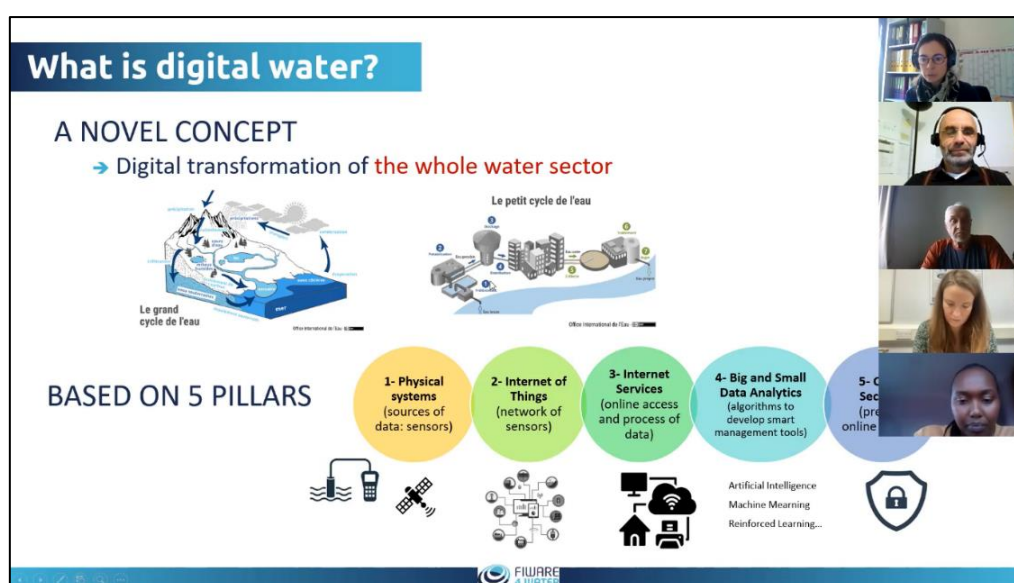


Figure 6: THE PRESENTATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL WATER Source: Fiware4Water

Dr. Sonia Siauue, speaking on behalf of Fiware4Water, described the importance of digital technology for water, linking the participation of citizens to the promotion of new technical advances which would enhance water management (see figure 6). This reflects the essence of the work of WP5 whereby engaged citizens have been offered the opportunity to support and promote the more technical issues which have been addressed in the four demonstration sites of F4W.

The representative of the European Commission was unable to attend due to an emergency meeting of the Covid Sentinel Committee. This permitted the conference to commence the session in which Local Water Forums could introduce themselves and discuss two basic issues: the role of the local community when addressing local and global water challenges and the support which Local Water Forums required from external agencies in order to be of value. In what proved to be an informal, relaxed discussion, members of the LWFs from Athens, Great Torrington, Amsterdam, Pueblo Nuevo in Peru, Timisoara and Cluj from Rumania, as well as a utility in Buenos Aires which described themselves as keen to commence a LWF immediately, entered into a lively debate which explored a number of aspects of the LWF concept.

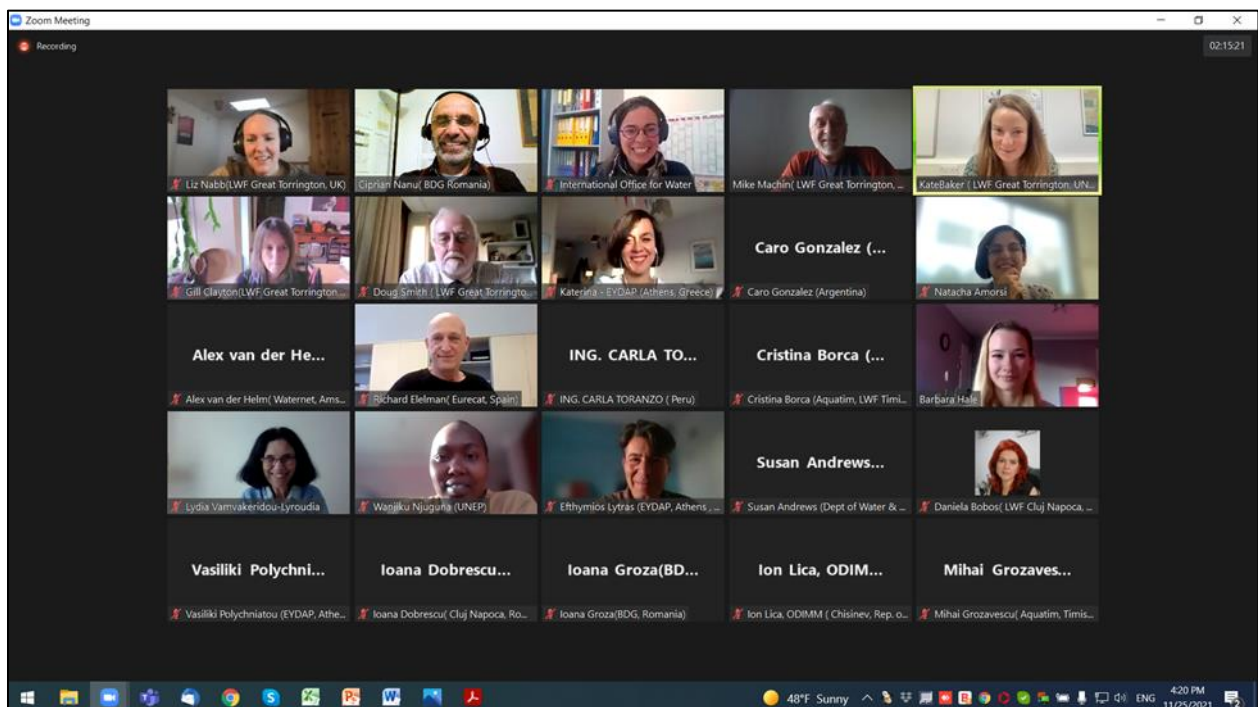


Figure 7: SCREENSHOT OF THE LWF DEBATE Source: Fiware4Water

The fact that volunteers from different countries could exchange opinions openly in an informal atmosphere was important. As the conversation developed, more attendees representing other LWFs felt capable of contributing to the discussion, providing both F4W and the WWQA with valuable feedback on the movement which they had initiated. As was to be expected, various members of the Great Torrington LWF provided an eloquent description of how a successful LWF maintains a rhythm of work and that how, from raising awareness of the global issue of water within their community, they had proceeded to raise new issues and seek new means of establishing themselves as a permanent feature of local life.

There is no doubt that the fact that the Mayor and the regional water utility serving Great Torrington have embraced the idea is an important factor in the success of the group, but their contribution to the discussion demonstrated that in the beginning at least, nothing more than a will to participate had propelled the group to achieve much in a short space of time.

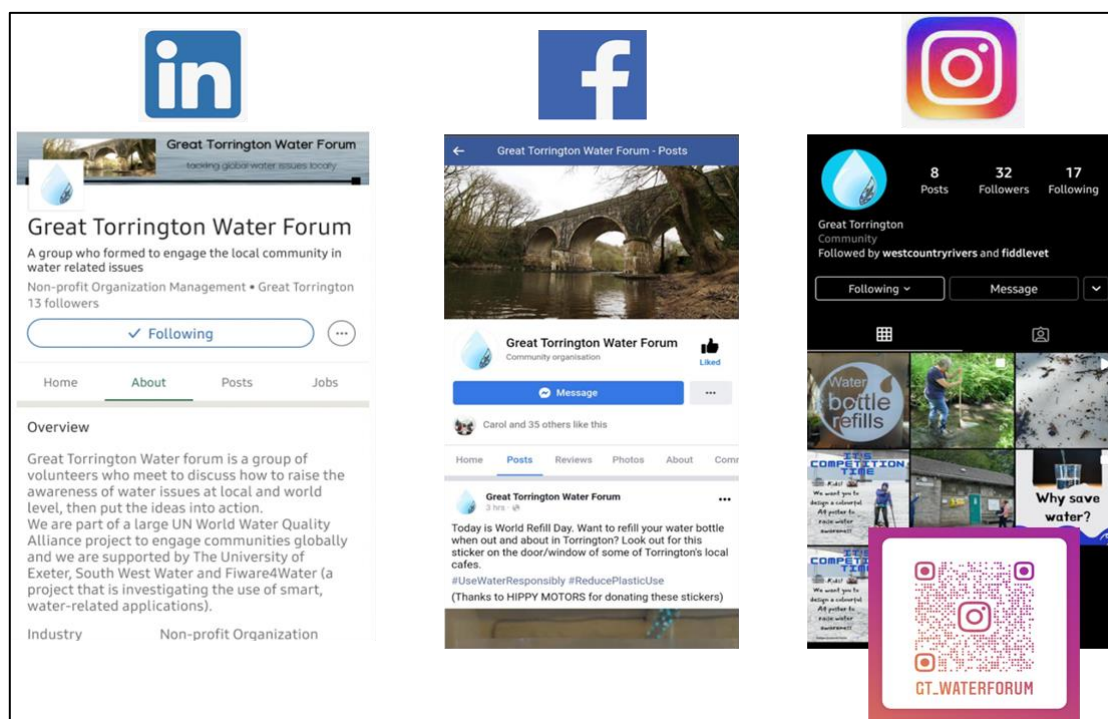


Figure 8: THE PRESENCE OF THE GREAT TORRINGTON LWF IN SOCIAL MEDIA Source: Great Torrington LWF

The representative of the LWF in Pueblo Nuevo in Peru offered an example of how existing local water initiatives had become followers of the activities of F4W and the WWQA and subsequently had transformed themselves into an LWF. This indeed is an important aspect that F4W has discovered and one which will be examined closely in D5.3. Very often, approaching a local community via the elected local administration can prove to be a slow means of initiating a LWF, whereas pre-established activities gaining support from F4W and the WWQA provide a more efficient and often more productive means of creating new international partners.

However, the most important conclusions that were expressed by almost all of those who spoke were a) satisfaction with the basic concept of LWFs b) the advantages of not only local community cooperation but the need to enhance the dialogue between different LWFs across the globe in a positive approach to knowledge exchange and mutual support and c) above all, the capacity to overcome local cultural idiosyncrasies.

One of the representatives from the LWF of Cluj in Rumania pointed out that what would be considered normal in Western Europe was a major challenge in countries such as Rumania, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia and Bulgaria. People are not accustomed to being invited to form part of such initiatives and indeed there is a high degree of skepticism if not, distrust of such movements in that region.

This opinion was supported by BDG who have worked tirelessly to contact communities in the Eastern European zone. Timisoara, together with Cluj and other LWFs have demonstrated that the social obstacles are not insurmountable but that, as all the participants agreed, each individual LWF must be based on local social foundations. The capacity to engage one's community was also extremely dependent on the use of local cultural agents (the fifth sector of the Quintuple Helix) and all the representatives from Africa, Europe and South America strongly reaffirmed this view.

This prevailing perception was reinforced as a result of the presentation by Barbara Hale, the Head of Water Efficiency Engagement at WaterWise, who offered practical advice on how to create an effective water awareness campaign within a local community. Having described various steps to ensure that a clear, concise message was created and efficiently disseminated, the participants once more, through their questions, discussed the capacity to overcome cultural differences and multi-cultural challenges.

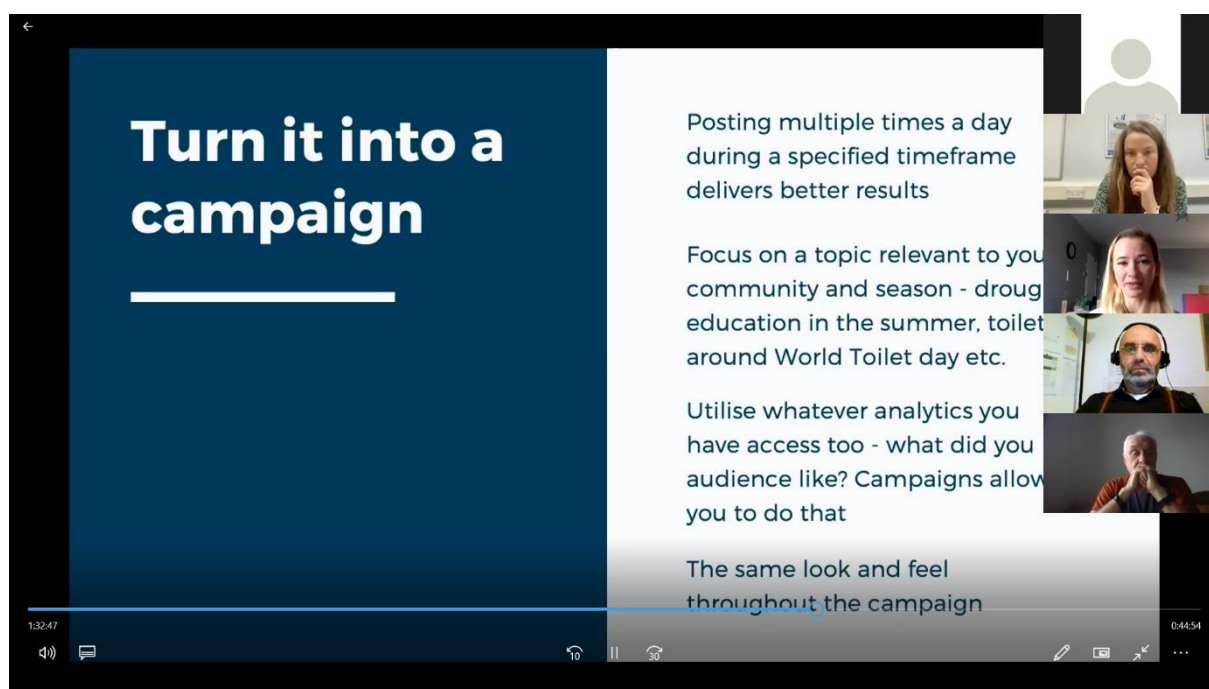


Figure 9: PRESENTATION BY WATERWISE Source: WATERWISE

The key message of the day was that LWFs must understand their own socio-political circumstances and communicate with their communities accordingly. No-one is better qualified to identify such idiosyncrasies as the volunteers themselves. A standard framework is required but a *standard approach to the implementation* of the ambitions of both F4W and the WWQA approach is not practicable and indeed would prove counterproductive.

Nevertheless, a common, long-term vision is possible and indeed has been created and the event demonstrated that such meetings are necessary in order to promote a global platform for mutual assistance and collaboration thus reinforcing the ambitions of the WWQA led by F4W.

Perhaps, what provoked the most satisfaction on the part of the organisers of the event was the facility and eagerness with which members of different LWFs from a highly diverse range of backgrounds exchanged views and conversed, united in the intention to make a success of their own LWFs and to learn from the others. There was, at no time, any attempt to criticise each other's work or to describe one's local success with a condescending tone. The atmosphere was one of mutual collaboration and a strong desire to work more closely together in the future. This conclusion was emphasised by EURECAT as it presented the F4W Declaration of Intent.



## V. The Fiware4Water Declaration of Intent

Prior to the celebration of the conference, all registered participants had been asked with regards to what, they themselves, would like to see included in the programme. It was hence included the intervention of an external expert who described simple methods to begin an awareness campaign. The participants had also received a copy of a declaration of intent, the text of which had been agreed upon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

**Definition:** According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a declaration of intent is ‘*a document giving details of what a person or group hopes to do or achieve, but which is not a legal contract*’. (11) In the United States, it is the formal declaration of a candidate to run for political office. More broadly, within socio-political circles, a declaration of intent represents a first step towards a multi-lateral agreement without dissuading potential signatories by including legally binding obligations agreed to beforehand. It is instead, a gateway to future political agreement, more in-depth discussion and collaboration and above all a means of signalling one’s willingness to remain involved in a specific initiative without formally undertaking to implement a concrete measure or policy. It is, therefore, a useful mechanism to create a sense of group and mutual purpose without the need to agree specific actions. It is, in layperson’s terms, the definitive ‘political icebreaker’. Evidently, at high-level political negotiations, such a document can prove to be a double-edged sword. What appears at first to be a promising opening to negotiations can also, at a later stage, prove to be a weapon wielded by one party or the other in order to avoid signing a final agreement. The *Political Declaration setting out the framework for the future relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom* is by definition a declaration of intent which proved in the chaotic aftermath of BREXIT to be a misleading source of heated debate between the governments of London and Brussels. (12). But in the context of European funded projects, declarations of intent can prove to be an effective means of creating a movement towards post-project continuity and exploitation.

**The use of a declaration of intent:** Declarations of intent have formed part of strategies of previous Horizon 2020 projects. BlueSCities presented the Declaration of Dubrovnik, which led to the creation of the Urban Water Atlas of Europe (13) whilst POWER presented the Declaration of Pisa to follower entities. In both cases, the documents proved to be of use, in that entities from different sectors of the Quintuple Helix maintained an interest for the results of the project in question beyond the duration of the funded activity itself.

In relation to POWER, in which, the original concept of the LWF was first explored, albeit in an extremely early stage of development, the result of the Declaration of Pisa was that a number of signatories were to become involved in the development of the WWQA Social Engagement Platform and municipalities such as Sabadell (ES) and Jerusalem (IS) were to constitute two of the original LWFs.

For Fiware4Water, a declaration of intent was considered necessary for a number of reasons:

- 1) As had been the case of the projects BlueSCities and POWER, a declaration of intent would put into writing the intention of both organisers and participants of the conference and the project as a whole to work further, beyond the deadline of the project itself, in order to fully exploit and develop not only the socio-political results of the initiative but also to further the promotion of the technical issues which Fiware4Water has addressed in relation to digital water.
- 2) The declaration of intent would further highlight the intention of Fiware4Water and the entities with which the consortium had cooperated to pursue the objectives of both the

European Twin Transition to a Digital Economy and a Green Economy, together with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, especially SDG 6.3.

- 3) The declaration of intent would include the logos of both Fiware4Water and the World Water Quality Alliance, further demonstrating the close relationship between both initiatives.
- 4) As advocated by the ICT4WATER cluster (14) of which Fiware4Water is a member and as described in the white paper “The need for digital water in a green Europe” (8) the declaration of intent would reaffirm the importance of local communities in the achievement of supranational environmental objectives when it states that *‘The involvement of local stakeholders by means of Local Water Forums has resulted and will result in a positive local influence on international issues whilst enhancing science and evidence-based decision-making supported by digital technology in the field of water. This is the essence of the bottom-up approach publicly supported by institutions such as the United Nations and the European Commission.’*

The result of these ambitions was the document found in ANNEX C. Constituting the final act of the conference, it reflected the general feeling of the participants of the event, who were invited to sign the document and send it to the Fiware4Water consortium.

To date, the following entities have signed the document:

**The Caroma Nord Foundation from the City of Balti (MOL)**

**The Municipality of Singera (MOL)**

**The Basin Water Authority of Moldova (MOL)**

**The water utility of Cluj-Napoca (RO)**

**The NGO responsible for the LWF of Timisoara (RO)**

**The Municipality of Galati (RO)**

The following have indicated that they will sign the declaration:

**Waternet of Amsterdam (NL)**

**The Municipality of Athens (GR)**

**The Municipality of Great Torrington (UK)**

**The Municipality of Sofia (BUL)**

## Conclusions: The value of the Fiware4Water City and Follower City Conference

Most, if not all, European-funded projects give rise to conferences, workshops, seminars and a long series of meetings. They are considered a necessary component of the dissemination and communication aspects of an initiative, but in recent years, questions have been raised concerning the true purpose of these events. Conferences were, it was argued, expensive affairs where those who attended did so in order to be heard rather than to listen and learn, where networking was more important than intellectual exchange and where the logistics of the event often plainly contradicted the theme of the conference itself, especially when referring to issues such as sustainability, energy efficiency and transport. Academic interaction was becoming commercial display, the explanation of research was becoming part of an institution's public relations strategy.

The debate surrounding the true worth of public events became more heated as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic signified that the erstwhile travellers to international events became, from March 2020 onwards, on-line interlocutors who needed to venture no further than their desk to participate in the conference of their choice. The escape from airports, corporate meals and indistinguishable hotel rooms was greeted by some with heart-felt relief but there were many others who lamented the lack of face-to-face interaction, perhaps the most attractive aspect of conventional conferences as on-line debate became the norm. The arguments for on-line-versus face-to-face versus hybrid are not new. As early as the 1990s, optimistic researchers had suggested that online activity would lead to more egalitarian discourses and that the influence exercised by factors of gender and social status would be reduced, whilst others produced evidence that no matter the situation or means of communication be it a microphone on a stage or a laptop at home, *'men and high-profile members of the community'* continued to *'dominate conference communication.'* (15)

As the situation of 2020 continued into 2021, it was argued that the human capacity to concentrate online could not be maintained beyond 30 minutes whereas at a live event, a person would be able to listen carefully often for hours. So, the question is, can an online event lasting between 2-3 hours really hold the audience's attention? The event described in this document was planned for approximately two and a half hours. Its aim was to avoid the speaker-audience approach often supported by PowerPoint presentations, unless a specific explanation was deemed necessary as was the case of Barbera Hale's introduction to the creation of an awareness campaign. The objective for the remainder of the event was, above all, to permit engaged citizens and hitherto unengaged but interested stakeholders to proactively contribute to a debate concerning the objectives and the needs of LWFs. It needed to be long enough to permit everyone an opportunity to express themselves, but short enough to not lose the participants' interest. To this end, the timing was apparently correct.

According to Hadzialic, in an article looking principally at social media, *'...new technologies can be used for producing opportunities for creative construction of a new model of citizen participation'* (16) and one of the principal aims of the Fiware4Water City and Follower City Conference was to further enhance and disseminate a new model of citizen participation. Did it succeed?

It must be stated that the event was less of a conference and more of a workshop/meeting. The protagonists, expertly moderated by the University of Exeter, were not the representatives of the Fiware4Water consortium or the United Nations, but rather the citizen volunteers from a number of LWFs who were able to offer an honest description of their experiences to date. Trust is an essential element in engagement and the voice of an earnest citizen rings far truer to a layperson's ear than that of a researcher or representative of a supranational institution. Therefore, the message that the organisers desired to transmit was done so through testimony rather than theory and the listeners were able to proactively challenge and question the methods described, permitting the audience to feel a part of the event.

The fact that it was on-line was undoubtedly, in this case, an advantage. As the title of Chapter V suggests, attendees from Devon to as far away as Buenos Aires could participate. A physical event could not have supported the cost of bringing participants from 25 different nations together. If the role of a conference is to *'gather individuals from across the globe, to learn, discuss thoughts...share ideas, create new ideas and to ignite motivation'* (17) then the results would suggest that to a modest extent, this was achieved. Together with the ten locations who have signed or who have confirmed that they will sign the Declaration of Intent, further stakeholders from Argentina and South Africa, Moldavia, Bulgaria and Rumania have stated that they wish to establish an LWF.

New ideas were not forthcoming but an analysis of the needs of the methodologies developed during the course of Fiware4Water and the development of the WWQA Social Engagement Platform was discussed and provided important indicators for the future. Although none of the existing LWFs were dissatisfied with the experience, they clearly advocated the establishment of a regular means of communication between different local communities in order to build upon the network which had begun to evolve and above all, they expressed the necessity to overcome the barriers of local cultural idiosyncrasies, illustrated, unfortunately, by the event itself, which took place exclusively in English. Material translated into the local language, Local Water Forums led by local people and a system flexible enough to adjust to the demands of different socio-political realities are factors that must be enhanced and addressed accordingly as indeed do the financial needs of the LWF as their activities progress. Although, to the surprise of the organisers, this subject was not of paramount importance during the debate, it is an aspect that requires careful planning and the use of creative formulas if the future of the LWFs is to be guaranteed.

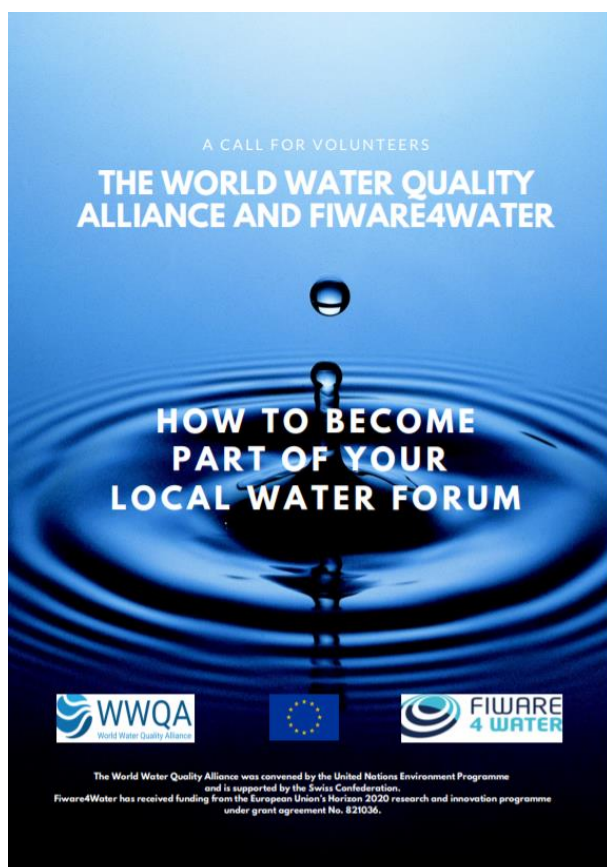
The results of the event expressed in the Declaration of Intent were positive in that new stakeholders were contacted and engaged, though perhaps not in the numbers one would desire. The true test of the success of such an action will be the future progress of the Local Water Forums and their desire to continue meeting either on-line or face-to-face in the future to continue creating public awareness about water-based issues and to continue advocating the transition to a digital management of the water sector.



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# Annex A: LOCAL WATER FORUM VOLUNTEER LEAFLET



## What is the World Water Quality Alliance and Fiware4Water?

The World Water Quality Alliance brings people and organisations from around the World together to put ideas about water into action. Water is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st Century and everyone has a role to play in the future of our planet's most valuable natural resource. Fiware4Water is a project funded by the European Commission investigating the use of smart, water-related applications.

## What is a Local Water Forum?

A Local Water Forum is a group of people from your village, town or city who want to participate in actions which will contribute to solving water-related problems. Everyone is welcome to join; young and old, local councillors, scientists, businesspeople, artists, nature-lovers and citizens who are concerned about the future of the planet and want to do something about it at a local level.

## What qualifications do I need?

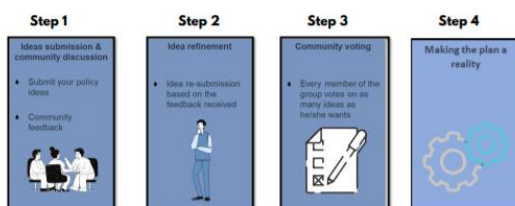
None whatsoever. Just a desire to help and to ensure that one day, everyone no matter where they live, will have access to clean water.



## What does a Local Water Forum do?

Volunteers will meet together with members of the local council or local water company and representatives of Fiware4Water. They will be given an introduction to the water situation in the World and then asked about local water issues. Then they will create an idea for a local water plan.

What the plan is about depends a lot on where you live. Perhaps flooding is a major problem. Perhaps it's a lack of water at certain times of the year or perhaps the biggest problem your community faces is the pollution of water. You and the other volunteers will decide. The most important thing is that people are aware that, no matter where they live, they consume water from all around the World. So, a good first plan, for example, is a local campaign to raise awareness. How does this happen?



## Step 1 Idea Submission and Community Discussion

As a volunteer you will be invited to an initial meeting organised by the WWQA and Fiware4Water and the local contact (The Local Government, the Local Water Utility or an active Interest Group). Under normal circumstances this would take place at a venue in your village, town or city but due to COVID-19 the meeting will probably take place using one of the many digital platforms available such as ZOOM, WEBEX or TEAMS.

Once the Local Water Forum members have been registered and after an introduction to the water problems which exist in the World you will be asked to share your opinions regarding water at an international and a local level.

We are interested in listening and learning about your community's relationship with water, or maybe you are not aware of any water issues. You will be asked to think about ideas for a water policy in your village, town or city. The most common policy to begin with is the organisation of a citizen awareness campaign.

You will be given two weeks to think more about your ideas and share them via email with the other members of the Local Water Forum. Then you will present the idea to the Local Water Forum in a second meeting, where everyone will offer comments and suggestions to everyone else.

At all times, people from the Local Government, Fiware4Water and the WWQA will be available to give you support and technical advice, so you do not have to know anything about water or have previous experience. We want people who are willing to participate and share their views.

## Step 2 Idea Refinement

In the second meeting, you will have the opportunity to listen to the other volunteers' comments and suggestions. Then you will be given more time to develop your idea.

Many volunteers from different sectors of local society like to team up with each other to work on one specific idea. So, businesspeople, scientists, shopkeepers, artists and local residents from all walks of life come together to produce ideas which will then be put into action. Other people prefer to work on their own idea. It's up to you. Remember that technical support and advice will be available for whenever you need it.

## Step 3 Community Voting

In the third meeting, all the members of the Local Water Forum vote for what they think is the best idea for a citizen awareness campaign (or other action if that is what your Forum decides). The most voted idea is then adopted by the Local Council. You will have participated in the creation of a local plan.



#### Step 4 Making the plan a reality

So now your Local Water Forum has created a plan. Now the plan has to become a reality. With professional help from FIWARE4Water and the WWQA, together with local government workers, scientists, local business, schools, colleges and cultural groups you will be invited to participate in the carrying out of the plan. There is no obligation. We understand that people have busy lives so you can participate as much as you want. It's up to you.

What would you do? The Local Water Forum can contribute to all stages of carrying out the plan. But there are some specific tasks we would especially like your Forum to do. In order to be able to do these tasks you will receive training from our experts.

- Firstly, you are now the supervisors of the plan. It is up to the council, researchers, etc. to carry out the plan but they have to report to you and tell you about the progress.

- As a member of the Local Water Forum, you will be invited to become a spokesperson and tell other citizens in your community about the importance of your plan. You will be taught how to do this and how to work with the local press.



- You will be invited to give your opinion on the results of the plan. You may then begin to think of new ideas and to suggest future actions.



Jerusalem



Sabadell, Spain



Leicester, UK.

You will become a representative of your village, town or city within the World Water Quality Alliance. You will be invited to meet and explain your experiences with other Local Water Forums from around the World through what is called the Social Engagement Platform.

## THE WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE

  
INTERESTED?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE:  
BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR  
LOCAL WATER FORUM

For questions and concerns, call 0034 608545528

or email [richard.elelman@eurecat.org](mailto:richard.elelman@eurecat.org)

More information is available at <https://www.fiware4water.eu/> and

<https://communities.unep.org/display/WWQA>





## Annex B: THE PROGRAMME



**FIWARE4WATER FOLLOWER CITIES MEETING**  
**A virtual workshop for Local Water Forums**



**25<sup>th</sup> of November 2021**  
**14.00 - 17.00 CET**



## Introduction

Having established a process whereby in the town of Great Torrington, the FIWARE4WATER project demonstrated the viability of engaging citizens and other representatives of the Quintuple Helix in furthering the effectiveness of the technical advances demonstrated by the European-funded project, the systemic approach of creating Local Water Forums, 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 to form the basis of its Social Engagement Workflow, under the direction of FIWARE4WATER partners such as EURECAT, Business Development Group and the University of Exeter.

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 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 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 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.



### **The Agenda**

#### **14.00 -14.10 WELCOME – REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WWQA AND FIWARE4WATER**

(NINA RAASAKKA OF UNEP AND SONIA SIAUVE OF OIEAU)

#### **14.10 – 14.20 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CITIZEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF WATER**

– REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

(DR. BERND GAWLIK OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

#### **14.20– 15.05 INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL WATER FORUMS**

- Introductions

- Discussion led by two key questions:

- What role does the community have in addressing local and global water challenges?
- What support do you (water forums) need?

#### **15.05– 15.15 COFFEE BREAK**

#### **15.15– 16.00 HOW TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE WATER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Barbara Hale, Head of Water Efficiency Engagement at ~~WaterWise~~ **WaterWise** to introduce the topic which will be followed by an open discussion

#### **16.00 – 16.15 THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT**

#### **16.15-16.30 Q&A**

#### **16.30 – 16.45 CONCLUSION – REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

## Annex C: THE FIWARE4WATER DECLARATION OF INTENT



### THE FIWARE4WATER DECLARATION OF INTENT

**Having being informed on results of the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 2021** on-line meeting in which municipalities, water utilities, local water-based initiatives and local community projects from Europe, South America and Africa have provided input with regards to the purpose and creation of **Local Water Forums** under the umbrella of the **World Water Quality Alliance** and the project named **Fiware4Water<sup>1</sup>** financed under the terms of EU Horizon 2020 programme,

and

having discussed practicable means of addressing the issue of water, at both a local and global level and having been encouraged to assess the current situation, and to support local community integration and inter-municipal cooperation, stakeholder engagement and international networking linked by a common approach to raising people's participation in policies and choices on water whilst emphasising the dialogue between different levels of public administration and the different social sectors engaged,

**The signatories recognise that** there exist challenges of water and climate change to be addressed;

**The signatories therefore affirm that:**

Municipalities are centres of economic growth, employment, creativity, culture and innovation; municipalities are producers, consumers, and sources of a host of global environmental problems,

The initiatives to safeguard water resources often omit to underline the importance of municipalities, local communities and local initiatives as a means of addressing the challenges and co-creating long-term solutions regarding sustainable water use,

There exists a need to create adequate opportunities in order to ensure that municipalities, local communities and pre-existing local initiatives become the catalyst for the improved management of

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<sup>1</sup> [www.fiware4water.eu](http://www.fiware4water.eu)

water resources supported by the employment of Digital Platforms (DPs) and Digital Social Platforms (DSPs),

Local communities can create and/or be incorporated as Local Water Forums and provide solutions to global issues when they develop a coherent long-term integrated strategy and implementation plan regarding the raising of public awareness of the issues not only of water but of said resource's importance in relation to energy, food, eco-systems and health.

**And thus, the signatories state that:**

The involvement of local stakeholders by means of Local Water Forums has resulted and will result in a positive local influence on international issues whilst enhancing science and evidence-based decision-making supported by digital technology in the field of water. This is the essence of the bottom-up approach publicly supported by institutions such as the United Nations and the European Commission.

**Hence the signatories supported by the consortium of the Fiware4Water project and the Social Engagement Workflow of the World Water Quality Alliance** seek to work together to implement and exchange experiences in order to provide answers to these challenges:

Ensure improved exchange synergies between their respective communities and involve their respective local stakeholders, researchers and users, decision-makers and consumers, industry, SMEs and national and international authorities in said process,

Establish the issues of water within the consciousness of citizens as a critical component fostering consensus in the participating communities in relation to water with the aim of increasing international understanding and awareness at local, regional and national levels of best practices in Urban and Rural Water Cycle Services,

Be informed of the progress of both the Fiware4Water and World Water Quality Alliance initiatives.

**And therefore the signatories declare their intent to:**

**Form part of a learning alliance and community of best practices for water between the local communities,**

**Seek to implement at least one aspect of the Citizen-Engagement procedures which have been presented in the present meeting,**

**Participate in future events to be informed and to inform others of the progress of the aforementioned Local Water Forums.**

Signed:

Date:



# Annex D: SIGNATORIES OF THE Fiware4WATER DECLARATION OF INTENT

ii) Establish the issues of water within the consciousness of citizens as a critical component fostering consensus in the participating communities in relation to water with the aim of increasing international understanding and awareness at local, regional and national levels of best practices in Urban and Rural Water Cycle Services,

iii) Be informed of the progress of both the Fiware4Water and World Water Quality Alliance initiatives.

And therefore the signatories declare their intent to:


- a) Form part of a learning alliance and community of best practices for water between the local communities,
- b) Seek to implement at least one aspect of the Citizen-Engagement procedures which have been presented in the present meeting,
- c) Participate in future events to be informed and to inform others of the progress of the aforementioned Local Water Forums.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021

Municipality of Galati

Mayor,

Ionuț-Florin PUCHEANU



GALATI

component fostering consensus in the participating communities in relation to water with the aim of increasing international understanding and awareness at local, regional and national levels of best practices in Urban and Rural Water Cycle Services,

iii) Be informed of the progress of both the Fiware4Water and World Water Quality Alliance initiatives.


And therefore the signatories declare their intent to:

- a) Form part of a learning alliance and community of best practices for water between the local communities,
- b) Seek to implement at least one aspect of the Citizen-Engagement procedures which have been presented in the present meeting,
- c) Participate in future events to be informed and to inform others of the progress of the aforementioned Local Water Forums.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 25.11.2021

Vasile GRAMA,

"BASIN WATER  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY"  
of Moldova.



THE BASIN WATER AUTHORITY OF MOLDOVA

component fostering consensus in the participating communities in relation to water with the aim of increasing international understanding and awareness at local, regional and national levels of best practices in Urban and Rural Water Cycle Services,

- iii) Be informed of the progress of both the Fiware4Water and World Water Quality Alliance initiatives.

And therefore the signatories declare their intent to:

- Form part of a learning alliance and community of best practices for water between the local communities,
- Seek to implement at least one aspect of the Citizen-Engagement procedures which have been presented in the present meeting,
- Participate in future events to be informed and to inform others of the progress of the aforementioned Local Water Forums.

Signed: Rodica Frecautanu, Executive Director "Caroma Nord"

Date: November 22, 2021



## CAROMA NORD

component fostering consensus in the participating communities in relation to water with the aim of increasing international understanding and awareness at local, regional and national levels of best practices in Urban and Rural Water Cycle Services,

- iii) Be informed of the progress of both the Fiware4Water and World Water Quality Alliance initiatives.

And therefore the signatories declare their intent to:

- Form part of a learning alliance and community of best practices for water between the local communities,
- Seek to implement at least one aspect of the Citizen-Engagement procedures which have been presented in the present meeting,
- Participate in future events to be informed and to inform others of the progress of the aforementioned Local Water Forums.

Signed:

Date: 23.11.2021



Valeriu Popa, Mayor, Singera

## SINGERA

component fostering consensus in the participating communities in relation to water with the aim of increasing international understanding and awareness at local, regional and national levels of best practices in Urban and Rural Water Cycle Services,

- iii) Be informed of the progress of both the Fiware4Water and World Water Quality Alliance initiatives.

And therefore the signatories declare their intent to:

- a) Form part of a learning alliance and community of best practices for water between the local communities,
- b) Seek to implement at least one aspect of the Citizen-Engagement procedures which have been presented in the present meeting,
- c) Participate in future events to be informed and to inform others of the progress of the aforementioned Local Water Forums.

Signed:  
Aida Szilagyi  
President CNPCD

Date: Timisoara, 03.12.2021



TIMISOARA