

Report – ISS-EWATUS 2nd Final Event, Katowice 30-31.01.2017

Summary of the Event

The second of two final events of the ISS-EWATUS project was held in Poland, at the University of Silesia in Katowice on the 30th and 31st of January 2017. The event was organized by three project's partners from Poland: University of Silesia in Katowice (US), Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU) and Municipal Water Company of Sosnowiec (RPWiK). Honorary patrons of the event were prof. dr hab. Andrzej Kowalczyk – Rector of the University of Silesia and dr hab. Danuta Stróż – Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science and Materials Science.

The primary goal of the event was to present the project's results to the local authorities and local community, and start a new era in water consumption with lower leakage. The event was attended by representatives of: water companies – municipal and district water utilities, industry, stakeholders, authorities, NGOs, associations, academics, etc. mostly from Poland, but also from Great Britain, Greece, Spain, Finland and Croatia. About 80 persons took part in the event.

The first day (30.01.2017) included various distinguished invited speakers' presentations and technical presentations from the members of the project. A poster session, presenting the project's results, took place during the second day. The event was an opportunity to discuss and share the project's results with the media. A local newspaper, radio channels and TV stations transmitted the event. Project coordinator dr Ewa Magiera gave interviews for the local radio, TV stations and other media. Posters and banners were presented to the public.

The agenda of the meeting covered lectures and presentations from work packages connected with practical use of the project results, and problems that should be solved locally with a wider implementation of those results. Prof. zw. dr hab. Andrzej Noras (Vice Rector of University of Silesia), dr hab. Danuta Stróż (Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science and Materials Science) and dr Ewa Magiera (Coordinator of the project) welcomed the participants of the event. The general discussion started with a lecture given by prof. Bogumil Ulanicki (De Montfort University, Leicester, GB) and covered the problem of pressure control in urban networks. The problem is connected with both: a leakage and a different use of water during day and night. Automatic controls of pressure can solve the problems of unsatisfied pipe net and other local process. Achievements of the project were presented in details by coordinator and leaders of work packages. An integrated support system for water distribution is an optimum solution for small and big towns and local community companies have recognized the benefits of this system. It is possible to make an optimized model of leakage in water distribution systems. For each area, a model can be appropriately prepared and adjusted. At the end of the project, it is clear that the final aim of the project for local communities and water companies - the sustainable urban water management - can produce quick results due to technical solution established thanks to the ISS-EWATUS project. Through the project partners developed household water consumption decision support system, with practical use in Sosnowiec and Skiathos Island. The technical solution is not complicated, there is no need for big construction repairment during the implementation. Wireless sensing systems can be widely used in flats, houses and other places all over the EU and its surroundings. The optimization of pressure as a part of an online decision support system DSS helps decreasing leakage pressure and finally reduces the costs of water production. More than 70 guests of the event were included in the

discussion. Many discussions started with the presentation of local problems, and solution were recognized in the various possible implementations of the project results.

Posters, pendrives, bags, notebooks and pens with the project logo were printed for the event, as well fridge magnets and 3-language (Polish, Greek and English) calendars. They were passed to guests during registration, together with their name badges. Sadza soaps, as a symbol of the Silesian region with the logo of the project, were also given to all participants.

Issues

The most important items connected with the project were discussed during the meetings. Some points were explained by the lecturers, others during the discussions at the poster presenters. The meeting, lectures and social events presented a very high scientific and practical level. All aspects of the organization: the transport from the airport to the town, excursions, the gala dinner and the presence of special local food shown high level of event organization. What is more, a very professional English-Polish translation was provided. High level of translation was recognized and commented by participants. Organizers put a lot effort into promoting this event. Apart from several posts in the most popular social media, about 200 invitations had been sent to water companies.

Conclusion

There was a great participation of the water utility staff. From the event echo, it is clear that the ideas and practical use of the project results were widely accepted, not only by the water companies, but also for the local environment. The project gained influence in all the countries included in the event. The project should be continued through actions of the governmental authorities to stimulate the implementation of results and instrumentation used in the ISS-EWATUS project on more urban centers and more water oriented companies. At the end of the project it is clear that the results of the project can reduce water consumption and encourage people to lower their water bills and their household budgets.



