FIWARE strengthens its Smart City model and transforms cities into engines of innovation

Fifteen European cities already participate in this global-oriented ecosystem

FIWARE shows, at Smart City Expo World Congress, the most innovative developments for Smart cities inside an artistic space made by Boa Mistura. During the 18th, 19th and 20th of November, real services, demos, conferences and training sessions will take place in the Fira de Barcelona.

18th of November 2014, Barcelona.- An innovative stand designed by the art group Boa Mistura will be the meeting point in Smart City Expo for cities, entrepreneurs and technology providers to exchange their views on the opportunities that FIWARE offers for the development of Smart Cities. The main European ICT companies, with the support of the European Commission, have been working since 2011 on building this ambitious platform. Web architects and representatives from different city councils will have the opportunity to learn about different apps that have been developed for cities with FIWARE. They will also discover what FIWARE is achieving amongst urban entrepreneurship networks, strengthening itself as a firm bet for innovation and entrepreneurship in European cities.

The FIWARE ecosystem brings together in a single platform city representatives and entrepreneurs that can develop intelligent solutions to improve the efficiency of municipal services and the well-being of its citizens. On one hand, cities can use it as a place to share their open data and present specific needs; on the other hand, developers have access to the necessary tools to build innovative applications according to those needs. This meeting point is materialized in the environment called "FIWARE Lab", the laboratory to experiment with the platform for free. The applications built and tested in this environment can be deployed in cities that have integrated FIWARE in their Smart City platform.

Fifteen cities are already smart thanks to FIWARE

"Cities publish their data on FIWARE Lab through files or in real time", says Sergio García, FIWARE Data Chapter Architect. "These data sets are obtained through sensors, municipal systems (public transportation, for instance) or files". Currently, FIWARE Lab's environment is distributed through 16 data centers in Europe and Latin America and used by 15 European cities such as Torino, Trento, Espoo, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Valencia, Santander, Malaga, Seville and Lisbon. New cities in Italy, Germany, Israel, Holland, United Kingdom and Portugal are expected to join the project shortly.

Cities working with FIWARE and entrepreneurs developing services for them are made visible thanks to FIWARE Lab. Furthermore, cities can involve local ICT companies, contributing to the creation of this innovation ecosystem. "This improves the lives of the citizens; and, in addition, if the project is pioneer, it can be exported to other cities around the world", says the platform architect.

Almost ten of the apps that make the most of FIWARE for Smart Cities are present in the agenda at Smart City Expo. Demos and live examples, in which participants will be able to interact, are complemented with conferences, workshops and training sessions. At the same time, technical coaching for entrepreneurs will be held by Barcelona City Council and the accelerator IMPACT (part of the programme that aims to foster entrepreneurship in Europe, the FIWARE Accelerator Programme). Other representatives of this

programme will attend the event: frontierCities, SpeedUp! Europe, INCENSe and FI-C3, aiming to disseminate the possibilities offered to entrepreneurs with bright ideas to improve cities. The programme will distribute a total amount of 80 million euros in equity-free grants.

Smart Cities at the reach of your hand

Malaga, Seville, Santander and Valencia are some of the Spanish cities in effective collaboration with FIWARE. This collaboration allows to control water healthiness, urban gathering places in real time or weather and environmental conditions. Representatives of these cities will show their technologies at the Fira.

Accessibility will play an important role at the FIWARE stand of Smart City Expo World Congress with the presentation of the apps EsAccesible and Outbarriers. The latter will offer participants the opportunity to walk through a labyrinth made by Boa Mistura and test the technology live. The app Virtual Oulu will allow participants to paraglide a virtual representation of the Finnish city of Oulu.

Last but not least, conferences like "FIWARE: transforming cities into ICT enablers based on Open data/APIs and the connection to the Internet of Things" and "Opportunities for cities to build FIWARE-based infrastructures connected to FIWARE Lab" will be part of the Smart City Congress programme; and workshops like "What can FIWARE do for your city?" and "How can your app benefit from the FIWARE ecosystem?" will take place at the FIWARE stand and complete the agenda, which details can be found at http://www.fi-ware.org/scewc

About FIWARE

FIWARE is a software platform that sustains an ecosystem in which entrepreneurs can materialize their ideas and quickly and easily develop their applications and services in the Cloud. This ecosystem is formed by application developers, technology providers and entities that demand new applications based on the data they publish. Such is the case of Smart Cities, who open their data to facilitate the creation of applications built by developers that form part of this ecosystem. Building applications based on FIWARE is quick and easy because they make use of pre-fabricated components in its cloud, share their own as well as access to open data from cities. This saves time and money for the developer while creating his application and offers him the opportunity to test his application with real data from cities.

The European Commission and the main European ICT companies started in 2011 this ambitious Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to create a platform that served as an open option for the development and global display of applications. The APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) offered by the components of this platform, known as FIWARE, are open and completely royalty-free. Furthermore, its specifications are backed by open source reference implementations.

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