FIWARE announces six new iHubs across the world: Canada, Finland, Italy, Spain, and the USA

Berlin, 12 July, 2023 – FIWARE Foundation, the non-profit organization that encourages the adoption of open standards using Open Source technologies for the development of smart solutions on a global basis — announces the new FIWARE Innovation Hubs (iHubs): **MindfulTech Institute (Gatineau, Canada), Open MemoryLab (Mikkeli, Finland), Smarta Byar Smart Village Community (Boston, USA), TOURiLab - Sustainability and Smart Tourism (Fuerteventura, Spain), Urban Service Provider Co (Miami, USA) and MEDiHub (Naples, Italy)**. Most of these iHubs' representatives proudly followed the invitation to receive their official award and their FIWARE iHubs certificates during the Grand Closing ceremony at FIWARE Global Summit, taking place 12-13 June in Vienna, while further upcoming and planned iHubs were announced. The FIWARE iHubs network continues to show fast growth expanding to a network of 39 iHubs meanwhile operating around the world.

By breaking the traditional barriers for technology enablement and business acceleration with the usage of Open Source solutions and standards, these six FIWARE iHubs offer professional training, resources and expertise that help local and regional stakeholders as well as their partners and customers to succeed in their digital transformation journeys and innovations in such domains as Smart Cities, Smart Agrifood, Smart Energy, Smart Water, Smart Industry, Smart Tourism, Smart Buildings or Smart Mobility covering topics of IoT-driven solutions, the Metaverse, Sustainability, Data Spaces, Digital Twins, Robotics or AI.

Think global, act local

FIWARE iHubs have a successful track record in facilitating collaboration between scientific research, non-for-profit, public and private businesses, providing training and mentoring, as well as fostering an entrepreneurial culture and new paths for business to flourish. Being part of the global FIWARE iHubs network provides the iHubs with access to a vibrant community of innovators, experts, and business leaders, encouraging knowledge exchange and collaborations. This extended network can significantly enhance the visibility of the iHubs and its affiliated businesses, allowing them to reach a global market, establish strategic partnerships, and expand their horizons.

MindfulTech Institute (Gatineau, Canada): The MindfulTech Institute mission is to provide a path to digital transformation and promote programs from partners that incubate and mentor startups that have social impact by leveraging connectivity and smart city infrastructures.

"The FIWARE framework is ideal as a foundation and requirement for incubated companies. We expect to benefit from FIWARE's technology, ecosystem, and network by gaining access to cutting-edge tools and a scalable platform for innovative solutions. Being part of the FIWARE network provides global reach, visibility, and opportunities for partnerships and collaborations worldwide. All these benefits align with the MindfulTech Institute mission of driving innovation and empowering digital transformation. That is why improving visibility

and increasing activities by becoming a FIWARE iHub in Canada for the North American market seemed an interesting and very impactful proposition", - says **Mathieu Lemay, Head of the MindfulTech Institute iHub.**

This iHub supports local entrepreneurs and developers through incubation, mentorship, collaboration, and skills development. It aims to stimulate economic growth, create job opportunities, and attract investments. Its impact extends beyond the local region, inspiring neighboring cities and countries to embrace entrepreneurship and digital transformation. Through partnerships and knowledge sharing, the iHub contributes to regional economic development and the advancement of the surrounding digital ecosystem. The team of professionals is planning to organise training sessions, work with universities and regular meetups to promote the use of FIWARE as well as identify impactful projects that may turn into investable companies. Besides, they will continue to work with local governments to provide Smart Communities (Smart City, Smart Town, Smart Buildings) appropriately.

Open MemoryLab (Mikkeli, Finland): The founder of the Open MemoryLab - South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk) established a FIWARE iHub in the region that would create better opportunities for regional companies in their digital transformation activities towards a new data economy. Xamk is already well connected to public authorities, with whom it has been continuously working on projects intended for increasing the viability of the region. Open MemoryLab is planning to meet regional needs and demands by achieving the following goals:

- Bring together the local stakeholders and act as a doorway to the FIWARE local and global ecosystem;
- Offer physical premises for the local community ecosystem;
- Educate about FIWARE from business and technical perspectives;
- Increase the adoption of FIWARE by using the technology in RDI-projects;
- Offer laboratory environment for testing, piloting, certifying FIWARE solutions and services;
- Increase awareness, dissemination, and promotion of FIWARE solutions.

"We seek to support the local entrepreneurs and developers by helping them to have better access to FIWARE technologies, and train and educate them in how to use it. We believe this will boost the local economy and create new jobs to the area, as well as vibrant innovation and an entrepreneurship ecosystem to our region. The establishment of the iHub will also increase collaboration opportunities with neighboring cities and countries", - says **Sami Jantunen, Head of Open MemoryLab iHub**.

Smarta Byar Smart Village Community (Boston, USA): The iHub is established by the Consortium of Red Hat Collaboratory with Boston University and the Smarta Byar organization from the village of Veberöd (Sweden), that is developing the IoT Smarta Byar Smart Village platform. This platform is a working data space that can securely receive Smart Model entity data from the Edge to the Cloud. This iHub builds open APIs matching the Smart Data Models with Role Based Access Control or Fine Grained Resource Permissions backed by Red Hat Single Sign On, and Keycloak.

"We learned about the FIWARE Marketplace, the strong community of FIWARE Innovation Hubs and partners while attending the FIWARE Global Summit 2022 in Gran Canaria. Creating with the FIWARE context broker means that we can combine our data with the rest of the FIWARE Marketplace applications to discover new ways to visualize our data. Connecting our Smart Village Operator and platform with the FIWARE

Marketplace applications will create greater adoption and open source contributions around the world", - says **Andrea Battaglia, Head Of Edge/AI Business Development - EMEA Ecosystem Market Incubation.**

FIWARE's IoT solutions and open standards for Smart Data Models make the projects of Red Hat Research credible in the industry and deployable at the Edge. FIWARE enables easy collaboration between different services using a common data space based on trust, which is why the iHub incorporates the FIWARE organization's open standards into the Smarta Byar Smart Village platform. The Smart Village Operator automates the deployment of the [Orion-LD Context Broker](#), IoT Agents, and Smart Data Model devices as custom resource definitions on the best open source cloud application platforms, like Kubernetes, Red Hat OpenShift, and Red Hat MicroShift. This makes it even easier to deploy FIWARE's open standards as open infrastructure as code. These standards built on the best in Red Hat's enterprise software powers Smarta Byar Smart Village community.

Andrea Battaglia adds: "Smarta Byar Smart Village Community is the outcome of resources Red Hat is investing in the development of a modern and better world. The collaboration with Boston University leads the way to the implementation of new solutions that help customers to solve their business and technical challenges".

[TOURiLab - Sustainability and Smart Tourism](#) (Fuerteventura, Spain): The iHub founded by Mannix Manglani (MNX Online) is a vital proponent in the adoption and promotion of FIWARE, leveraging its Open Source technology to transform and digitize businesses within the region. Through initiatives such as [TOURiLab-SDG](#) and the establishment of a FIWARE iHub, MNX Online is fostering collaboration and innovation across the region, utilizing FIWARE technology to set a strong precedent for sustainable and digital development.

The TOURiLab iHub is set to play a critical role in stimulating local innovation, enhancing the skills of entrepreneurs and developers, and propelling economic growth in the Canary Islands. It aims to provide tailored support to startups and businesses, enabling them to develop market-ready products using open-source technologies, fostering competitiveness and growth. The successful establishment and operation of the iHub will serve as an exemplary model for digital transformation in neighboring cities and countries, encouraging knowledge exchange, collaborations, and wider regional development. Using FIWARE's open-source technology and Smart Data Models, the iHub will empower local businesses to develop interoperable and scalable smart solutions, effectively addressing local needs while promoting standardization.

Joining the FIWARE iHub network, TOURiLAB is focusing on the implementation of following activities:
- Develop smart and sustainable tourism through technology;
- Promote FIWARE among both private tourism sector and public bodies;
- Boost innovation in the Canary Islands;
- Offer specific Data Space for tourism.

"TOURiLab FIWARE iHUB is a lighthouse of digital innovation, illuminating the path to sustainable and smart tourism in the Macaronesia region. Here, we connect ideas with technology, creating solutions that drive prosperity for our community and enrich the visitor experience. Together, we're crafting the future of tourism", - **Mannix Manglani Mankani, Head of the TOURiLAB iHub**.

Urban Service Provider Co (Miami, USA) focuses on providing solutions within the concept of Smart Cities both on premise and as a service, and targeting the market of small and medium cities in the USA with initial focus in Florida and Texas. As Urban Service Provider Co (UrbanSP) focuses on Smart Territories, it has strong regional connections and holds close relationships with a large number of Florida Cities, [Florida League of Cities](#) and other national cities institutions as well as the Entrepreneurship Center of Florida International University (FIU).

"We are fully committed to promote and extend the adoption of FIWARE as the standard platform for deployment of Smart Territories; we believe that providing a space where cities, educational institutions, developers and others can coexist is key to accelerate and promote adoption", says **Gerardo Guarino, official representative of UrbanSP.**

The iHub aims to promote and extend the adoption of FIWARE as the standard platform for deployment of Smart Territories. UrbanSP supports the local entrepreneurs, developers, and the local economy and therefore, it is planning implement following activities:
- Organise events at our Experience Center where the Ihub has multiple IoT / Smart Technologies deployed;
- Organise training sessions for partners and students;
- Develop marketing in social networks;
- Organise event and partner collaboration with entities such as [StartUpFIU](#), that will improve the awareness and knowledge on the Smart Cities with focus on outcomes and not technology.

MEDiHub (Naples, Italy) is founded by Meditech 4.0, a public-private non commercial competence center that develops digital opportunities for its stakeholders (including 8 universities, 30 large enterprises, over 90 SMEs) in Southern Italy. MEDiHubs aims to support and promote the smart and sustainable transformation of cities, sea economies, tourism, culture and heritage ecosystems in the South of Italy. The iHub has already worked with FIWARE by jointly organising and delivering two FIWARE bootcamps as well as using FIWARE as its strategic platform for smart app development and projects in the region.

"With FIWARE, we will unlock boundless innovation, embracing the power of open standards and collaborative potential. With MEDiHub, Meditech will join forces with FIWARE to shape the future of digital ecosystems in the Southern of Italy. Together, we will empower businesses to thrive in the age of smart solutions and seamless connectivity, and we will redefine what's possible", said **Angelo Giuliana, Managing Director at Meditech.**

To accelerate the further joint work and achieve successful results the iHub focuses on such strategic activities as:
- Promote FIWARE Open Source technology;
- Train local professionals to grow together with the FIWARE certified experts;
- Provide services for test before investment;
- Create local FIWARE developers in the region;
- Integrate in R&D projects, FIWARE professional global community;
- Create digital services to support projects, knowledge and competencies growth.

To meet these and all other FIWARE iHubs and to learn more about the global FIWARE iHubs network, follow the [official website](#).

FIWARE iHubs awarding ceremony, FIWARE Global Summit, 12-13 June, 2023, Vienna City Hall, Vienna, Austria.

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About FIWARE iHubs

A FIWARE iHub is a center devoted to the adoption of FIWARE technologies, aiming to drive within a certain business area while linking it to an educational and innovative ecosystem. It supports the creation of or facilitates startups, SMEs and larger companies with the access to a global market. Focusing on improving their competitiveness by using the open source technology, it promotes the diversification of the local and regional economies.

A FIWARE iHub is made up of one or more competence centers where a number of activities are carried out to foster the development of the FIWARE ecosystem at a local or regional level. These activities include technical support, consultancy, coaching, training, testing, certification, etc. on FIWARE technologies, the promotion of FIWARE in different events, the engagement of local companies in different FIWARE-related programmes and building the connection of different stakeholders (companies, academia, public administration, etc) between them and in connection with the overall global FIWARE network and with FIWARE's ecosystem.

About FIWARE Foundation

Together with its members and partners, FIWARE Foundation drives the definition – and the Open Source implementation – of key open standards that enable the development of portable and interoperable smart solutions in a faster, easier and affordable way, avoiding vendor lock-in scenarios, whilst also nurturing FIWARE as a sustainable and innovation-driven business ecosystem. Serving diverse domains, FIWARE is today the world leading Open Source technology for the digitization of smart cities and regions.

The foundation achieves this through its offering of reference architectures, standard building blocks, roughly **1,200 Smart Data Models**, a standard API, its **39 Innovation Hubs (iHubs)**, the FIWARE Marketplace, and the support of its fast-growing global community that shares a common vision and combines their efforts toward making FIWARE the Open Source technology of choice for industries, governments, universities and associations to reach their full potential and scale up their activities, thereby, entering new markets and growing their businesses. Founded in 2016, the foundation has **Madinah City, Atos, AWS, Engineering, NEC, Red Hat, and Telefónica** among its **600+ members.** For further information, visit fiware.org and follow the organization on Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube**.**