iWIDGET is a collaborative EC project aimed at delivering novel ICT solutions to support the integrated management of water by drastically improving the efficiency of water use, reducing household waste and enabling water utilities to better manage the domestic demand for water.

The project runs for three years, from November 2012 to November 2015, as part of the EU FP7 programme and is funded under Grant 318272 (€5million).

At a supplier level...
Using ICT capabilities, the novel iWIDGET system will analyse the water usage pattern of households and present data, analytical results, comparisons and feedback to help with the development of water pricing strategies, demand forecasting and demand management.

At a household level...
iWIDGET will help provide information about individual household water usage behaviour and the behaviour of others and offer customised suggestions on how to reduce use and take advantage of pricing schemes. It will raise alarms if local leakage is suspected.

Driving force behind iWIDGET
The focus underlying the iWIDGET project is a drive for increased efficiencies in water resource management, as a result of the following current issues:

- Impact of climate change on water resources
- Population increase with an increase in water demand
- The energy crisis and the need to cut energy demand

Population growth and the change to more water intensive lifestyles have led to a growing deficit between available water resources and demands.

The project will address social (information and behaviour), economic (water pricing, business model and business networks) and environmental (leakage control and energy efficiency) measures in an integrated manner, helping support the Europe 2020 Targets on climate and energy...

- 20% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020
- And a 60%-80% reduction by 2050

“iWIDGET will support our Europe 2020 environmental targets by enabling efficiencies in water supply and demand, to help improve water resource management”

Prof. Dragan Savić, iWIDGET Project Director, University of Exeter, UK
Project objectives

iWIDGET has a set of targeted objectives…

- To understand detailed requirements of householders and utilities with respect to water supply and demand;
- To research and develop a system (WIDGET) that will;
  - enable householders to understand their water use and help to modify that usage (demand) leading to financial savings, reduced demand for water and consequently effluent treatment and reduced demand for energy;
  - enable householders to identify and remedy household leakage earlier;
  - enable householders to compare their usage against local and national figures;
  - enable householders to exploit any pricing policy to their advantage;

- Where householders are willing to share information with suppliers, iWIDGET will;
  - enable the supplier to identify and act on householder leaks earlier,
  - provide suppliers with real-time information (demand forecasting) for decision making throughout the water supply and distribution network
  - provide suppliers with a better understanding of usage patterns for efficient operations and system design, and reduced demand for energy
  - enable the supplier to better develop pricing policies that will encourage more efficient water use;

Project partners

The partnership assembled to deliver the iWIDGET project is a combination of key players in the field:

Testing

The iWIDGET system will be evaluated in two substantial real-life operational environments in Portugal and the UK, in collaboration with responsible water authorities and utilities.

Exploitation

The project will evaluate the anticipated cost, benefits and market prospects for the iWIDGET system and develop a business plan for commercial development and roll out.

Contact

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For more information visit www.i-widget.eu

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