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Press release

A New European Funding for Aquatim, as Partner in a Research Project with Long-Term Benefits

Last week, for two days, in Timișoara, Aquatim took part in a particularly important event - "Microbial Risk Assessment" Seminar - part of the EU H2020 SPRINGS project. The SPRINGS project, with a total value of around 6.5 million euros, which will last for 5 years, involves Aquatim and several prestigious institutions, namely universities from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Italy, hospitals and public health institutions from several countries.

The four Dutch specialists, Dr. Vanessa Harris MD, PhD – internist, specialist in infectious diseases and Assistant Professor Department of Global Health, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Prof. Ana Maria de Roda Husman, head of the environment department at the Center of Infectious Disease Control RIVM, Harold van den Berg, researcher in environmental microbiology at RIVM and Ioana Popescu, professor of hydroinformatics at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in Delft, Netherlands, shared their knowledge with Aquatim specialists and defined the role of each entity within the project.

The first day of this experience exchange took place mostly at Aquatim's water quality analysis laboratory, together with Aquatim's water quality analysis specialists.
On the second day of the event, representatives of Timișoara Public Health Directorate, Dr. Corneluta Fira-Mladinescu, Dr. Ioana Marin and Dr. Sînmarghițan Adrian, also joined the round table. The discussions took place at the Water Museum, including a visit to Aquatim's Water Plant No. 1.

The SPRINGS project brings together climate, environmental, health and social scientists to collaborate with communities, industry, public authorities and policy makers from all socio-economic backgrounds. The project aims to study the future impact of global climate change on local water quality and quantity and on diarrheal diseases. In case studies from 4 countries, including Romania, the impact of climate on water quality is measured and the risks of diarrheal diseases specific to pathogens are listed, while the safety of water supply systems is also checked. These studies involve citizens and communities to observe existing practices, to improve communication and risk-taking. Together with policy makers, we are designing frameworks for assessing the economic impact of climate-related diarrheal diseases and calculating the value of global health interventions to prevent these diseases.

Ultimately, the project will increase long-term adaptation capacity and resilience to climate change in Europe and beyond, preventing unnecessary illness and death from waterborne diarrheal diseases.