



BOOST-IN

Uptake of innovative and circular solutions for water

Method and best-practice recommendations for co-creation of strategies to address social perception in the frame of water and circular economy (M12)

Deliverable 2.1

WP2

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BOOST-IN project aims to drive the water sector's transition to a circular economy by promoting advancements in technology, governance, mindset shifts, and organisational frameworks. A key focus is the dissemination of innovative Water Circular Economy Solutions (WACES), which enhance water recycling, reclamation, and the recovery of energy, nutrients, and valuable by-products from wastewater.

Public perception is a critical factor in the successful adoption of these solutions. However, limited knowledge and lack of trust often create barriers to acceptance. Recognising this, work package 2 (WP2) of the BOOST-IN project is dedicated to public engagement and training. WP2 implements a co-creation process designed to understand social perceptions and develop regionally tailored strategies to positively influence public attitudes toward circular water solutions. This process is being implemented in the six selected European Regions of Opportunity.

Deliverable D2.1 provides a practical guideline for implementing this co-creation process. Developed as part of Task 2.1, it outlines a validated methodology, identifies best practices, and details the preparation, planning, and facilitation of exchanges between the Regions of Opportunities. Task 2.2 will build on this foundation by conducting the outlined co-creation workshops and analysing their outcomes to inform future actions and improvements. Specifically, Task 2.2 aims to develop action plans and roadmaps to build public support for innovative water solutions in a coordinated manner.

This deliverable includes a comprehensive framework to guide the development of these plans. It proposes a structured workshop series, comprising two face-to-face workshops complemented by opportunities for cross-regional exchange and online peer-to-peer training sessions. By ensuring a concerted yet flexible approach, this guideline supports the BOOST-IN project in fostering effective co-creation and advancing public engagement in circular water economy solutions.



Introduction

The BOOST-IN project seeks to drive the water sector's transition to a circular economy by fostering advancements in technology, governance, and organisational frameworks, alongside cultivating the necessary mindset shifts. A crucial aspect of this effort is addressing public perceptions, which often act as barriers to adopting innovative circular water economy solutions. Enhancing public understanding and support is therefore central to the project's success.

This deliverable, D2.1, was developed as part of Task 2.1 and aims to provide a highly practical guideline for implementing the co-creation process in Task 2.2. Task 2.1 is scheduled to take place from M1 to M30 of the project. It is dedicated to preparing, organising and managing the co-creation process which aims at identifying strategies to address the social perception in the frame of water and circular economy, and facilitating exchange between different regions in Europe.

Task 2.2 (scheduled for M13 – M30) on the other hand is strongly interlinked with Task 2.1 but focuses on carrying out the planned co-creation workshops and thoroughly analysing the outcomes to guide future actions and improvements in specific European regions. Content wise, the co-creation process (Task 2.1 and Task 2.2) will focus on understanding social perceptions and exploring creative, regionally tailored approaches to positively influence public views on specific circular economy (CE) water solutions in six selected European 'Regions of Opportunities'. Eventually, it aims for developing action plans and roadmaps for public support of innovative water solutions in a coordinated way.

Why focus on public perception?

Public perception plays a critical role in the successful implementation of innovative solutions for circular economy in the water sector. A key challenge is that public attitudes, often shaped by limited knowledge and cultural factors, can create significant barriers to the adoption of innovative solutions. According to Frijns, Smith, and Makropoulos (2024), one of the major obstacles for circular and sustainable water solutions is the "Yuck" factor—the instinctive aversion some people feel toward reusing treated wastewater. In addition, a lack of understanding about how new business models for sustainable water management operate can further hinder public acceptance.

Building on previous research, our project aims to explore these barriers in the first phase of implementation. By investigating the public's concerns and misconceptions, we can address these challenges early on and develop more effective strategies for promoting innovative circular economy solutions for the water sector. Engaging the public and addressing their perceptions is crucial to overcoming resistance and ensuring the long-term success of innovative water solutions.

Positioning in the BOOST-IN project: Interconnections across work packages and tasks

This deliverable, D2.1, builds on the foundational work carried out in WP1, with a particular focus on the funnel process established in Task 1.1. This process is instrumental in identifying 24 key case studies, which form the basis for the co-creation activities central to Task 2.1 and Task 2.2 in WP2. By leveraging the earlier work, D2.1 ensures both continuity and alignment with the overarching objectives of the BOOST-IN project.

Task 2.2, as mentioned, focuses on exploring social perceptions of sustainable, circular water innovations and on developing activities and a roadmap to improve these perceptions. The outcomes from this co-creation process can be further utilised in Task 2.3 (capacity building with targeted education and training programmes), Task 2.4 (implementation of innovative awareness raising activities) and Task 3.3 (policy



recommendations for promoting innovative solutions for a circular economy in the water sector at both regional and EU levels). These policy recommendations (Task 3.3, M24 – M 36) will incorporate the main conclusions from WP2/Task 2.2 regarding social perceptions. The aim is to ensure that the insights gained through the co-creation process and other activities are reflected in policies that support the wider adoption of innovative water solutions.

Task 4.2 (M 13 - M36) is designed to engage directly with end-users and investors to enhance the market uptake of innovative solutions for the circular economy in the water sector, thus targeting a different audience than WP2. While this task does not directly align with the Regions of Opportunities, it plays a crucial role in the broader market adoption of water innovations. Activities include organising two “innovation and market adoption group (IMAG)” innovation workshops and two business cafés, creating a platform for innovation and fostering business engagement to drive the commercialization of sustainable water solutions. Insights into social perception can also play an important role here.



1.0 Engagement strategy

The following introduces the comprehensive engagement strategy for the BOOST-IN project for co-creating roadmaps and action plans to address social perceptions within the framework of water and the circular economy of Task 2.2. The engagement strategy was developed by ZSI through an iterative process, incorporating feedback from project partners and leaders of the Regions of Opportunities. The engagement approach aims to guide and support the leaders of the six Regions of Opportunities within the BOOST-IN Project in establishing, strengthening, and enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement.

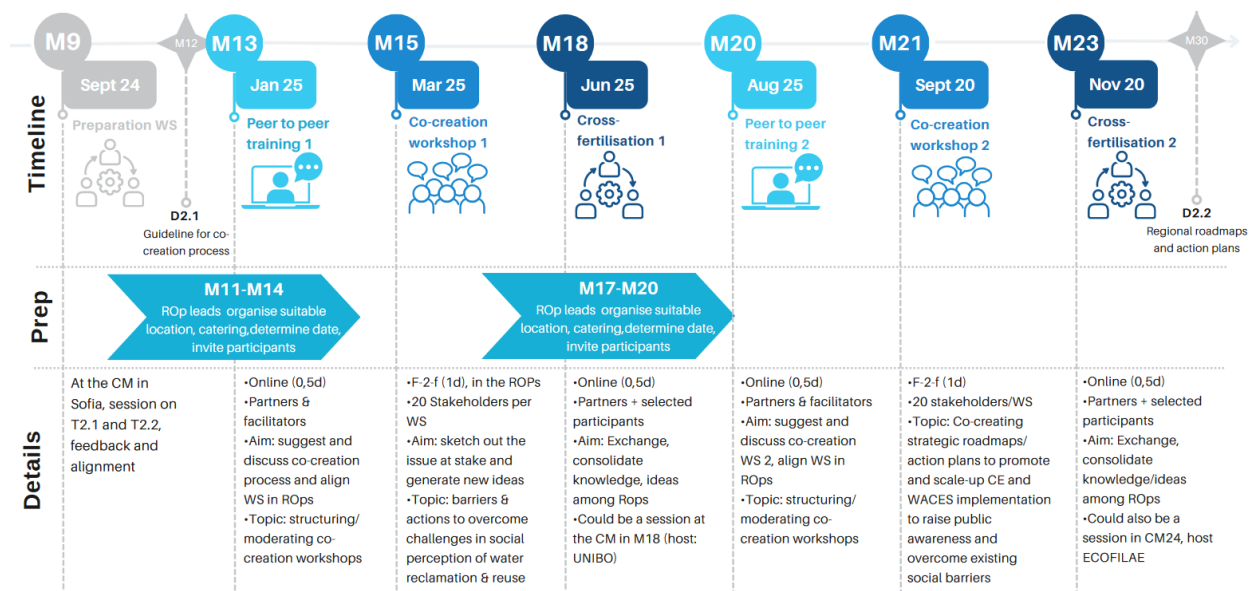
This engagement approach includes both, a coordination between the six selected Regions of Opportunities in the BOOST-IN project, while, at the same time, allowing to consider local specificities of each of the regions, regarding water-related challenges of the region as well as infrastructural, political, socioeconomic, or cultural specificities. Thus, it should mainly be considered a framework to facilitate bringing together various stakeholders to co-create sustainable engagement activities improving the social perception about circular economy water solutions.

The engagement approach for co-creating public engagement roadmaps consists of a series of two workshops per local region of opportunity. Depending on their function, these workshops vary in scope (capacity building, stakeholder workshop, exchange across regions) and length (half day or day). All the workshops are supposed to take place in 2025 (year two of the BOOST-IN project).

Sequence of co-creation process in WP2

Figure 1 provides an overview of the timeline of the engagement approach, containing preparatory and main activities of the co-creation process within WP2. The individual steps are explained below.

Figure 1: Overview of co-creation process in WP2



Preparation workshop: Aligning ideas (M9-M12)

In a first step and to get everyone in the consortium on board, ZSI presented and discussed the overall framework and a structure of the two co-creation workshops at the BOOST-IN Consortium Meeting in Sofia/ Bulgaria (M9, September 2024). Feedback was included in the final draft of the engagement strategy, as was input regarding practicalities (e.g., regarding agenda, invitation strategies etc.). An additional online workshop was conducted to learn more about the challenges that the BOOST-IN Regions of Opportunities face and to allow to better tailor the engagement process to their respective specificities. Further online meetings to support the Regions of Opportunities in preparing the co-creation process have been organised.

Capacity building: Peer-to-peer training workshops (M13)

For capacity building, ZSI supports partners in planning and organising the multi-stakeholder workshops and will conduct peer-to-peer trainings in preparation of each workshop.

The first peer-to-peer training workshop addresses the implementation and reporting of co-creation workshops in the respective regions (M13). In a half-day online workshop, ZSI will present a draft agenda and moderation sheet to project partners and facilitators, who may easily adapt them to the respective local conditions. The workshop will be interactive and allow partners and facilitators to pose questions and discuss insecurities and potential pitfalls, e.g., regarding invitation strategies, dos and don'ts in such workshops etc.

Identifying barriers and actions together: The first co-creation workshop series (M15)

The first co-creation workshop series (around M15) will be conducted face-to-face in each of the six Regions of Opportunities. Ideally, each of the workshops will last a day; however, duration can be adjusted to the needs of the regions. The workshop aims at gathering 20 key stakeholders in each region to sketch out public engagement opportunities (the issue at stake), in particular in relation to the identified case studies, and to generate new ideas about public engagement activities in the region to overcome reluctancies regarding a circular economy of water. Specifically, the workshop aims at identifying barriers and actions to overcome challenges in social perception of water reclamation and reuse. ZSI will provide the introductory power point presentation for the workshop, as well as a moderation sheet, draft agenda and reporting templates for partners and facilitators, which can be adopted according to the need of their region if needed (see Annexes). The workshops themselves will be organized and facilitated by local partners in the regions.

Exchanging ideas: The first cross-fertilization workshop (M18)

The cross-fertilization workshop (around M18) provides an opportunity for partners and facilitators to exchange and consolidate knowledge and ideas among the six regions of BOOST-IN, and to enable procedural learning.

Therefore, partners and facilitators should exchange experiences and major insights on barriers and successful actions to overcome challenges in the social perception of water reuse to kick-off the discussion on engagement strategies and roadmaps, and to carve out common grounds as well as differences between these activities. To do so, in preparation for the workshop, ZSI will analyse and consolidate knowledge of all six co-creation workshops of the first round as a starting point of further discussions towards strategic roadmaps. In addition, the workshop provides an opportunity to exchange



procedural learnings, allowing us to adapt the second series of workshops to the needs of the Region of Opportunities in a concerted manner. The cross-fertilisation workshop is organised as a half-day online workshop. However, depending on time-resources of partners and facilitators, this workshop may instead be combined with the face-to-face consortium meeting in M18 (see Figure 1). Capacity building 2: peer-to-peer training workshops (M20)

As in preparation of the first co-creation workshop, ZSI will conduct an online half-day training workshop for the second co-creation workshop (M20), which, again, will address the implementation and reporting of co-creation workshops in the respective regions. Like the first workshop, ZSI will present a draft agenda and moderation sheet to project partners and facilitators, who may easily adapt them to the respective local conditions. The workshop will allow partners and facilitators to pose questions and discuss insecurities and potential pitfalls.

Co-creating strategic roadmaps and action plans: The second co-creation workshop (M21)

The second co-creation workshop series (around M21) will be conducted face-to-face in each of the six regions. Each of the workshops will last a day; however, duration can be adjusted to the needs of the Region of Opportunities. Ideally, the workshop participants remain the same as in workshop 1; however, this is no requirement. Specifically, the workshop aims at making the visions for the regions as identified in workshop 1 realizable and to develop concrete action plans. ZSI will provide the introductory presentation for the workshop, as well as a moderation sheet, draft agenda and reporting templates for partners and facilitators, which can be adopted according to the need of their region if needed (annex 2). The final outline of the workshop will depend on the results and feedback on the process of workshop 1 and the cross-fertilization workshop 1. Therefore, the proposed workshop outline is open to changes. The workshops themselves will be organized and facilitated by local partners in the regions.

Inspirations across countries: The second cross-fertilization workshop (M23)

The second cross-fertilization workshop (around M23) provides an opportunity for partners and facilitators/selected participants to exchange and consolidate knowledge and ideas among the six regions of BOOST-IN. Therefore, partners and facilitators should exchange insights on the development of roadmaps and carve out common ground as well as differences between the regions. In addition, workshop allows for a final reflection on the process, providing ground for future engagement activities in the regions. The cross-fertilisation workshop is organised as a half-day online workshop. However, depending on time-resources of partners and facilitators, this workshop may instead be combined with the face-to-face consortium meeting in M24 (see Figure 1).

Preparation: Regions of Opportunities leads organise the practicalities (M11-14 and M17-20, arrows in the graphic above)

Supported by the materials and peer-training of ZSI, Regions of Opportunities organise the practicalities of the workshop (see section 2.0). This decentralised strategy allows us to consider the specific situations of the regions individually (invitation policy, language, overall settings etc.).



2.0 Co-creation workshops – practical guidelines

This section provides lists of organisational tasks that need to be considered and partly completed three to five months before the two co-creation workshops take place. It serves as a support tool for the leaders of the Regions of Opportunities to ensure that none of the preparatory activities are overlooked. These activities include tasks such as organising locations, setting the invitation policy, and mapping potential participants with diverse perspectives on the topic to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation and gather ideas. The section also includes a list of benefits for participating in the workshops.

Organise logistics – prepare 3-5 months before the co-creation workshops

Find a location that is easily accessible, offers a friendly atmosphere, has natural daylight, and is large enough to accommodate 20 participants plus hosts. The venue should have flexible furniture for group work and, ideally, more than one room.

Organise facilitators, consider that external facilitators might be helpful in case of stalled conversations. If possible, arrange for more than one facilitator, such as one per working group. Ensure that the facilitators are all-partial. Additionally, consider having technical or organisational personnel helping during the workshop to reduce pressure on the facilitators.

Arrange for a photographer or decide whether you will take pictures yourself during the event.

Organise catering and ensure that dietary restrictions of participants are taken into consideration.

Invitation policy

The overall aim of the co-creation workshops is to rethink established pathways for addressing local challenges and to map relevant stakeholders that need to be invited. It is crucial to invite a broad range of participants and identify key stakeholders (as outlined in Section 2.3). Move beyond your usual networks and challenge yourself to engage individuals outside your comfort zone. Striving for gender balance and fostering diversity and inclusion should also be a priority when planning the workshop.

When planning your workshop, consider potential synergies with other events. Are there existing events that already attract the stakeholders you need? Explore opportunities to organize the co-creation workshops back-to-back with other relevant gatherings to optimise participation. Or are there events to avoid scheduling conflicts with?

To ensure a strong turnout, send invitations or at least save-the-date announcements three months prior to the event.

Additionally, inform selected participants about the second cross-fertilisation Workshop, as this information can be particularly relevant for facilitators and organizers. Throughout the invitation process, make a conscious effort to promote gender balance and inclusivity to create an equitable and diverse workshop environment.

Potential stakeholders

It follows a list of stakeholders collaboratively developed during the session on Task 2.1 and Task 2.2 at the consortium meeting in Sofia in September 2024. The list is not exhaustive and can be expanded as needed based on the specific characteristics of each Region of Opportunity. It is also not obligatory to



invite all identified stakeholder groups; the Regions of Opportunities are encouraged to adapt the list to their specific needs and context.

- **Innovators** (start-ups, research, etc.)
- **Local companies** related to the respective challenge (private, part-public, e.g., treatment plants etc.)
- **Decision-makers** (local policy, authorities) and regional planners
- **Civil society organizations** (e.g. NGOs)
- **Science Communication/ Education** (e.g., schools, adult learning)
- **Tertiary education** (Students of dedicated courses)
- **Challenge-specific** stakeholder groups, e.g. farmers, mining companies, associations (e.g. food) etc.
-

Benefit of participating

The following provides an overview of the benefits participants may gain from attending the workshops. This information can be helpful when reaching out to potential participants. Please note that the list is not exhaustive and can be adapted or expanded to reflect regional specificities and insights.

- Gain a more varied picture of the challenges of your region
- Be part of a community on innovative sustainable circular water solutions
- Explore potential solutions to address (missing) public perception and public communication
- Create communication and action strategies together with other stakeholders
- Have a say in how to communicate to the public
- Explore activities that will be implemented (within the project)
-

3.0 Overview on challenges, barriers and identified stakeholder in BOOST-IN's six Regions of Opportunities

The following section provides a comprehensive overview of the key challenges encountered by the six Regions of Opportunities. It outlines the WACES (Water Circular Economy Solutions) identified to tackle these challenges and highlights barriers that may arise during their implementation. Additionally, this section identifies potential stakeholders who will be invited to participate in the workshops focused on public perception, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive approach to addressing these issues.



Table 1: Region’s overview on challenges, barriers, potential water solutions and stakeholders

Challenges	Barriers	Potential WACES	Identified stakeholders
Andalusia, ES			
Water reuse in agriculture	Farmers fear reclaimed water use may harm sales, as consumers might distrust product quality. Insufficient upgraded infrastructure for water reclamation.	Early warning and monitoring systems, Disinfection treatments/products, Filtration systems	Consumers Retailers Farmers associations NGOs (e.g. ecologists) Students/young people/educators Water utilities Authorities
Mediterranean coast, FR			
Water recycling for direct potable reuse Water recycling for indirect potable reuse Aquifer recharge	Regulatory, social acceptability, economic	Tertiary treatment & disinfection technology, water quality monitoring, treatment of waste streams	Municipalities and their water management agencies Regional representatives Regional health agency Regional water agencies Water quality experts
Emilia-Romagna, IT			
Water scarcity in agriculture Implementation of treated wastewater reuse for agricultural irrigation on a larger scale	Economic, regulatory and social barriers	Treatment to ensure quality needed for irrigational reuse Fast and precise water quality monitoring Modelling tools to predict water quality	NGOs Educational sector Journalists Associations representing final consumers Regulatory authorities Wastewater treatment operators Irrigation consortia Associations representing farmers
Lower Saxony, DE			
Nutrient and energy recovery	Economic, legal and social barriers	Nutrient recovery technologies; optional: in	Operators of nutrient and energy recovery plants



	Acceptance of CE fertilisers by farmers related to quality (standards) for CE fertilisers, revenue schemes, and logistics and market access (for small quantities of fertiliser)	combination with energy recovery technologies (anaerobic treatment processes)	Farmers Authorities (regional, national) Fertiliser industry Scientists (agriculture, chemistry, environmental engineering) Consumer advice centre Organic farming association NGOs
Peloponnese, GR			
Water Scarcity and industrial water and material reuse	<p>Economic, legal and social barriers</p> <p>Addressing industrial perception and regulatory barriers on water and material recovery</p> <p>Industry Pressure and Corporate Responsibility</p> <p>Economic Competitiveness</p> <p>Following needs were identified:</p> <p>Guidelines of reclaimed water for different industrial uses</p> <p>Encouraging policy development for industrial waste valorisation</p> <p>Promote industrial and urban-industrial symbiosis</p>	Wastewater treatment technologies to produce A class water (membranes and disinfection)	<p>Farmers</p> <p>Food and beverage Industries</p> <p>Scientists (agriculture, chemistry, environmental engineering)</p> <p>Local authorities (municipalities, water and sewage utilities)</p>
Srednogorie, BG			
Metal recovery from mining wastewater	Economic, regulatory and social barriers	Extraction of valuable materials	National authorities such as Ministry of Environment and Water, Enterprise for



(and opportunities for extraction of valuable materials)	<p>Addressing industrial perception and regulatory barriers on water and material recovery</p> <p>Acceptance of the treated wastewater from local WWTP in the mining industry</p> <p>Standards for quality of treated water from WWTP in the mining industry</p>	<p>Wastewater treatment technologies to produce A class water (membranes and disinfection)</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Services, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works & Bulgarian Water and Sewerage Holding</p> <p>Companies related to the respective challenge – mining companies</p> <p>University of Architecture, Civil Engineering & Geodesy, University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy</p> <p>Our participated innovators in the WACES collection</p>
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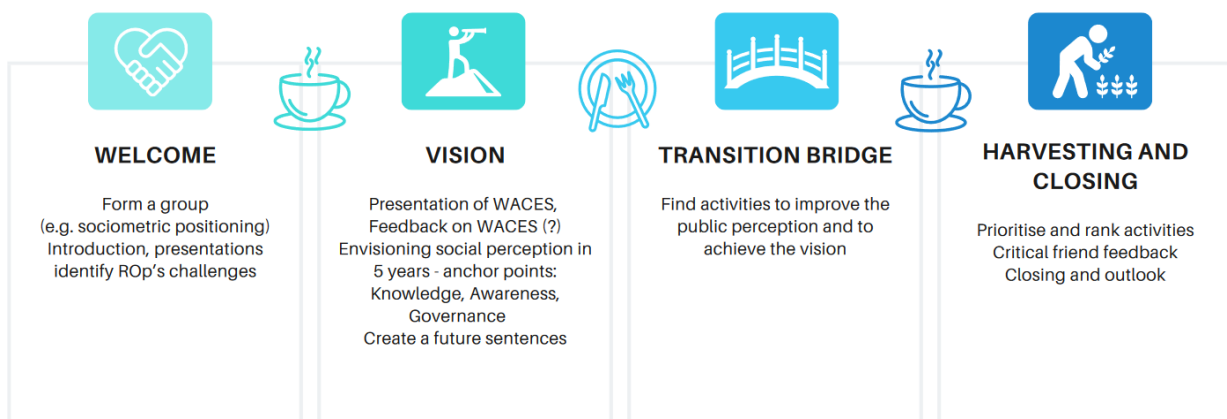
4.0 Co-creation process

Here, we roughly present the structure of the two face-to-face workshops that will be conducted in the Regions of Opportunities. A detailed moderation sheet can be found in the annex.

Structure of co-creation workshop 1

The main objectives of Workshop 1 are to find a vision regarding public perception for each Region of Opportunities, and to identify activities that help meeting the vision.

Figure 2: Workshop 1 - overview



As shown in Figure 2, the workshop consists of four main parts, separated by coffee breaks and a lunch. These breaks are an important aspect of the workshop, providing participants with opportunities to get to know each other informally, engage in discussions, network, and exchange ideas.

The first part, titled "Welcome," is where participants form a group. This section also includes an introduction to the workshop topic, clarifying the framework and what will happen with the results. Together, participants identify and discuss the region's challenges. Building a group that can later collaborate creatively takes time. Group formation always goes through several phases, after which the group can work effectively together. Tuckman's (1965) model of group development outlines five key phases: (1) Forming, where the group comes together, gets to know each other, the roles are unclear, and participants are often polite and cautious. The second phase is called storming (2), as it is the phase where conflicts arise as members express differing opinions, roles and responsibilities. This phase helps establish leadership and direction. After this, in the phase of (3) norming the group starts to establish common norms, roles become clearer, and collaboration improves as trust develops. In phase (4) do participants efficiently and cohesively work toward shared goals, with clear roles and effective communication. The ending phase (5) adjourning, is when the group disbands after achieving its objectives, reflecting on the work and often members of the group feel a sense of loss. These phases highlight how groups evolve from initial formation to effective performance. It also explains why storming phases at the beginning are sometimes beneficial for the collaboration. After forming a functioning group participants identify and discuss the challenges of their region with regards to circular water solutions. Participants will be asked to particularly focus on challenges the regions face with regards to the public perception. They will discuss how the public perceptions hinder or support the water solutions proposed and also what kind of risks the engagement and awareness raising activities might entail at the same time as what support it can offer. Project partners/facilitators kick-off the discussion by presenting four exemplary case studies on innovative solutions for circular economy in the water sector, which have been identified in WP1 and which address the specific challenges of the region. Participants have time to reflect on and assess these innovations individually before breaking out into small groups (one per solution) to discuss their ideas and pitch them to the panel.

The second part, titled "vision" is where the participants start developing visions about the future of innovative water solutions in their region, more precisely about the future of their region in five years' time. They imagine the situation in five years' time - how has the situation regarding circular economy in the water sector developed? Which solutions are there, which are not? How did the social perception of these solutions evolve? Structured along three topics - (1) knowledge (targeted education and training), (2) awareness raising, communication and engagement, (3) governance/involvement of multiple stakeholders in decision processes -, participants write down their ideas on moderation cards, which are then clustered when presenting their ideas to the panel. In a next step, participants split into three groups according to the three topics above - (1) knowledge, (2) awareness raising, communication and engagement, (3) governance/involvement of multiple stakeholders - and develop the clustered ideas further. The aim is to formulate one (or more) clear future sentence(s) that compile all ideas and to present the sentence(s) to the panel.

The third part, "transition bridge", allows to link the vision of the future of each region to the status quo. They define initial steps and activities to be taken (i.e., to kick-off the change that will eventually lead to the imagined future), collect activities that should be implemented and reflect on conditions and requirements necessary to conduct these activities.

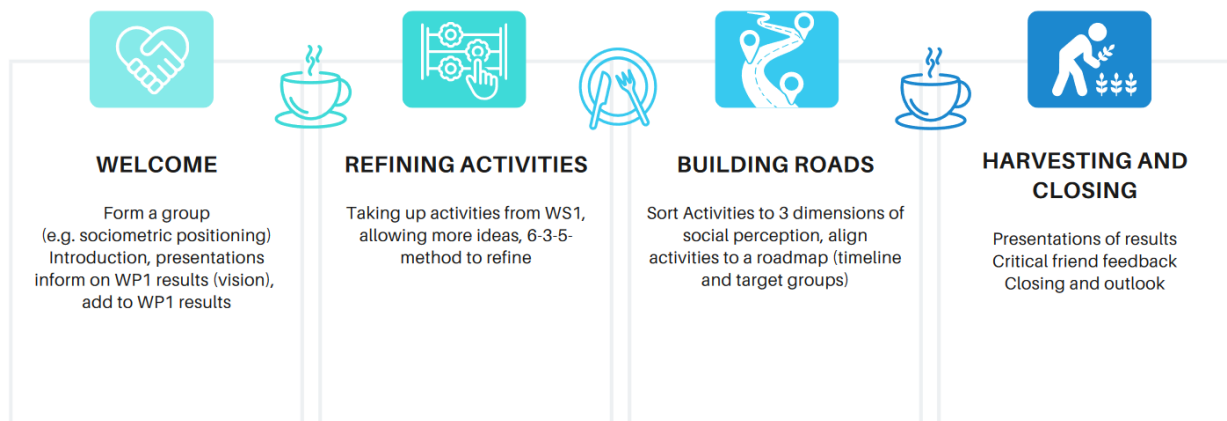


Finally, “Harvesting and closing” serves to sharpen the ideas and bring them into a logical sequence. This is done by conducting a mock press conference where one group presents their ideas and rough outline of actions to their ‘critical friends’. Eventually, the feedback is integrated into the drafts of the action plans.

Structure of co-creation workshop 2

The main objectives of Workshop 2 are to complete the co-created activities and ideas of the first workshop, and to organise them into a roadmap-framework, which can be structured by time dimension (short-, medium-, and long-term) and by target groups.

Figure 3: Workshop 2 - overview



As shown in Figure 3, the workshop again consists of four main parts, separated by coffee and lunch break. These breaks are an important aspect of the workshop, providing participants with opportunities to engage in discussions, network, and exchange ideas.

The first part, titled "welcome," is where participants again form a group. Considering that the participants may vary between the first and the second workshop, this step is crucial to ensure a seamless collaboration between participants.

The second part, “Refining activities”, starts by introducing the results of the first co-creation and the first cross-fertilization workshop. After these initial presentations, participants are asked to reflect and comment on the future sentences (visions) and the dedicated activities that were formulated in workshop 1. In the panel session, each participant gets the opportunity to share his or her thoughts. Subsequently, participants will elaborate on the activities defined in workshop 1, i.e. by an adapted version of the 6-3-5 method. This method allows to spell out a selection of activities further in a collaborative way (by passing on a piece of paper where everyone adds to the original idea). The results are then presented in plenum.

The third part, “Building roads”, eventually allows to collectively integrate the specified activities into a timeline and assign responsibilities to stakeholders/target groups (canvas), according to the three topics



of the visions (knowledge, awareness raising and outreach, governance/ involvement of multiple stakeholders).

Finally, the fourth part of the workshop “Harvesting and Closing” allows participants to present the results of their work to the plenum to receive feedback on their roadmaps. WS2 and its detailed moderation guidance will be set up after the first series of workshops are completed and experiences shared.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

This deliverable D2.1 provides a comprehensive engagement framework to support the development of roadmaps and action plans aimed at improving public perception in the six Regions of Opportunities within the BOOST-IN project. The primary objective is to guide the leaders of the Regions of Opportunities through the co-creation process established in Work Package 2. It introduces a series of two face-to-face co-creation workshops, complemented by opportunities for cross-fertilization after each co-creation workshops and a peer-to-peer training conducted beforehand to ensure a harmonised yet adaptable approach. Regular online exchange meetings will also facilitate ongoing discussions and alignment of procedures and activities among the Regions of Opportunities.

The annex to this deliverable includes supporting materials such as detailed moderation sheets for both workshops, as well as practical tools like consent forms, PowerPoint presentations, participant signature lists, canvases, and reporting templates. These resources are designed to support implementation in a structured yet flexible way. Notably, the Regions of Opportunities are encouraged to adapt the workshop concepts to their specific requirements, allowing for contextual relevance and effectiveness. Furthermore, the design of the second workshop may evolve based on insights and experiences gathered during the first workshop, demonstrating the responsive and iterative nature of the co-creation process.

This deliverable emphasizes flexibility and collaboration as central to the success of the BOOST-IN project, equipping the Regions of Opportunities with the tools and guidance needed to co-create impactful strategies that enhance public perception.



ANNEXES

Annex 1: Moderation sheet Workshop 1

WS1/Part 1 - Welcome

Start	End	Duration	Topic	Details	Method	Moderator	Additional staff	Materials	notes
09:00	09:30	00:30	Participants arrive	Consent files Participant list Welcome participants, offer coffee, tea, snacks		Workshop moderator	Table moderators: time keeper; note taker	Coffee, snacks; letter of consent; participant list, pens	
09:30	09:40	00:10	Introduction and welcome	Welcome participants; introduce moderation team and roles; Agenda, goals, non-goals, workshop etiquette	presentation			Flip charts: Welcome, Agenda, Goals, non-goals, Etiquette	
09:40	10:25	00:45	Participants get to know each other /warm up	25 min: Speeddating: = Name, Or gesture = Why am I here today? (rounds depending on number of participants - 2 min per round) 20 min: systemic constellation = Toothbrush (Name and time of tooth brushing in the morning. Position in row from earliest to latest) -> Ask, if somebody got up very early, very late, etc. = Anchor on the floor: Participants position themselves according to their professional background (education and research, regional and strategic development, arts/culture and entrepreneurship, economy) = Ask each participant about details and their link to CE and WACES. = How long are you working in this area? From my first day to many many years. (this can be skipped, if time does not allow anymore)	Speed dating; systemic constellation				
10:25	10:55	00:30	Introduction to topic and project - The actual situation Perspectives on challenges in the region	15 min: Project presentation, description of ecological/technical challenges in the region (ROD) and presentation of WACES In the break-out group we will then focus on challenges in the region with regards to social perception. What are the social challenges and why? (E.g., political counter-lobbying, useful social media channel is missing, people are misinformed, why, deformed, why,.... 20 Whisper groups- participants in pairs or group of three: 10: Participants receive 4-6 big post-its and discuss in groups of 2 challenges of the region with regard to the respective water issue: =What are in your opinion the main challenges in social perception? =What problems do you see with regard to water and social perception in the region? 10: in plenary group sits in circle, moderator asks participants to share their post-its one after the other, post-its can be clustered on the floor in the centre of the circle	Presentation; Whisper groups			Printouts, pins, keywords summarizing results, pens, moderation cards, post-its	Challenges with regards to Social perceptions : e.g., there is no useful social medium in place, mayor is lobbying, political counter-lobby, it needs to be clear that we focus on challenges concerning the social perception, this workshop focuses on social perception and how to improve it.
10:55	11:15	00:20	Break	PREPARE NEXT SESSION 10 min: Presentation of 4 WACES (case studies) for the region	individual/ group work				This session aims to get insights on both, (1) social perception and its impact (challenge, support, etc) with regards to the specific WACE and (2) whether the participants think that the suggested WACE is a feasible solution. The perspective on the social perception is in this WS more important. We assume that the social perception issues don't differ very much from each other.
11:15	11:55	00:40	Feedback on WACES/case studies	10 min: Brainwalk the 4 WACES/Case studies are presented on A3 sheets, each next to a flip chart, individuals walk in silence in the room, read the keywords again and add their thoughts and ideas regarding the = What do you think about the cases/solutions? Will the WACES be at risk if the social perceptions stays at it is? How? How could the social perception influence the implementation of the WACES? = Do you think they are feasible? How, why not? = Empty fifth flipchart which is empty and open for other, better solutions/activities? 10 min: group work Make four groups, one per case study/WACES. Groups discuss in depth and present in short elevator pitches their results 10 min: reporting to group 1 Rapporteur per group, presents 1 minutes each in the panel.					This session could be merged with "Introduction into topic and project" before, depending on the WACES role in this workshop.



WS1/ Part 2 - Vision

Start	End	Duration	Topic	Details	Method	Moderator	Additional staff	Materials	notes
11:55	12:55	01:00	Collect aspects and ideas for five years vision Focusing on communication	<p>10 min Introduction We think about our region in 5 years. We think about the possibilities (case studies/WACES/other ideas implemented) in five years. What does already exist? Where did we evolve to? How did the social perception evolve?</p> <p>You see three anchors on the floor. * Knowledge: Which skills/knowledge, training offers are there? * Awareness raising, communication and engagement: What awareness is there? Which outreach activities are there? * Governance / involvement of multi-stakeholders: Which institutions and initiatives support WACES/other solutions? What funding does exist, etc. to support the regional development? What legal framework does support the WACES?</p> <p>The group goes from one anchor to the next, collects ideas and aspects key for them in their vision. First participants think individually in silence and note their ideas on moderation cards (one idea per card!). In a next step, one person after the next presents their ideas and results and puts them on the floor to the anchor. Let participants cluster. Clarify if everything is clear. Provide space for ideas that not necessarily only fit to one field.</p>	plenary, floor anchors, brainstorming		Moderation cards (a lot!! One color per vision field), flip chart markers		
12:55	13:55	01:00	Lunch break						
13:55	14:15	00:20	Formulate a clear future sentence for the vision	<p>Three groups - one per vision field (knowledge, awareness raising and governance) Each group has a look at the ideas and aspects collected in their field. The group adds things if needed and clusters the ideas with the aim to make one (or more) clear future sentence(s) that compile all the ideas. These sentences should make the vision clear and understandable. In five years in our region ...</p>	Group work: Future sentence		Prepare room for group work. Pin walls divide the groups. Prepared flip chart for final future sentence, pens		
14:15	14:25	00:10	Exchange and validation in plenary	Each group presents their sentence(s). Others give feedback and see if they find their thoughts and ideas covered.	Plenary				



WS1/ Part 3 and Part 4 – Transition bridge and Harvesting and Closing

Start	End	Duration	Topic	Details	Method	Moderator	Additional staff	Materials	Notes
14:25	15:25	01:00	The way to reach the vision	<p>Transition bridge - to improve social perception: Places for group work are prepared. Tables, with paper on it, collected ideas and aspects as well as future sentence(s) are well visible, chairs. Moderators introduce the transition bridge symbolizing the way from the actual situation in the region to the vision. The group moderator follows these guiding questions (they are ranked by importance). Make notes, help team visualizing discussion. Additionally audio record this session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Which first steps do we have to set to reach the vision? * Which activities come to our mind, to implement these steps? * What are the requirements for these steps? * What are the potentials in the region and how can we use them? (Persons, Multiplier, existing infrastructure, yearly big events, existing networks,...) * Who can support us in this? With whom do we collaborate? Who absolutely needs to be on board? * How can we motivate these stakeholders? 	Transition bridge		Moderation card, post-its, markers, flip chart or other big paper sheets on table, etc.	Print guiding questions for each group moderator	
15:25	15:40	00:15	Break						
15:40	15:45	00:05	Energizer						
15:45	16:05	00:20	Work on priorities, identify most important activities	Each group prepares to present (short pitch of 2 minutes) their results on their ideas and how they plan to reach the innovative 5 years vision to the panel, they will take up the roles as critical friends. Critical Friends have a positive stance towards the presenters and their idea, they want the presenters to succeed, they are trusted and raise concerns and suggest ways forwards.	Critical Friends - preparation			Team: prepare room for press conference.	
16:05	16:30	00:25	Identification of critical aspects; get feedback from other groups, further ideas to reach the vision.	Presentations and discussions with critical friend start. After each presentation, critical friends ask questions and try to find solutions or to uncover blind spots. They are also most welcome to emphasise specifically good aspects. Make sure that the atmosphere is appreciative!	Critical Friends - discussion			Video record if all agree	
16:30	16:40	00:10	Integrating feedback, ideas and critical aspects	Back in the initial groups, the team integrate the feedback they gathered in the press conference.	group work			can be skipped	
16:40	16:50	00:10	Closing and Feedback	Feedback round; Outlook	Feedback and outlook				



Annex 3: Guiding presentations

The following Annex provides an overview of the guiding presentation. The leaders of the Regions of Opportunities will be provided with the presentations in powerpoint format to allow for customization and adaptation as needed for co-creation workshops.

Guiding presentation for co-creation workshop 1



BOOST-IN
Uptake of innovative and circular solutions for water

Welcome!

Workshop 1
DATE

Funded by the European Union

Today's team

ROLE Institution

Person A Person B Person C Person D

Agenda

09:30 - 09:40 Introduction & Welcome
09:40 - 10:25 Warm up
10:25 - 10:55 Perspectives on challenges in the region (BOOST-IN and ROp challenges)
10:55 - 11:15 Break
11:15 - 11:55 Feedback on Case Studies - what did we miss?
11:55 - 13:00 Collect aspects and ideas for five years vision - communication
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 14:30 Future sentence: In five years in our region...
14:30 - 15:30 Transition bridge - our way to reach the vision
15:30 - 15:50 Break & Energizer
15:50 - 16:10 Preparation for press conference
16:10 - 16:40 Press conference and feedback
16:40 - 16:50 Closing and Feedback

Goals and Non-Goals

Goals

- Discuss opportunities & challenges
- Get inspired by the ideas of others
- Develop visions for the region
- Collect actionable points to enhance the acceptability of innovative solutions for the water sector

Non-Goals

- Outcomes are open, not pre-defined
- Technical Assessment of innovative water solutions
- To cover all needs/challenges

Workshop etiquette

EACH INPUT IS VALUABLE!

- Share your experiences and listen to others
- Be open for new ideas and concepts
- Discussions and criticism should address topics, not persons
- Please respect instructions of the moderators
- Be open for interactive exercises
- Be present and turn off phones

ENJOY!

Attendance and consent

- Please sign attendance list
- Please read consent form *carefully*
- Sign consent form



Warm up

Speed dating
Systemic constellation

09:40 – 10:25

Funded by the European Union

Perspectives on challenges in the region

10:25 – 10:55

Funded by the European Union

Boosting the uptake of innovative solutions in the context of water and circular economy



HORIZON-CL6-2023-CIRC-BIO
Coordination and Support Action (CSA)
01/2024 – 12/2026
Total Budget: 1,799,819.50 €

BOOST-IN Consortium




BOOST-IN projects



MULTIDISCIPLINAR APPROACH

TECHNOLOGY Scouting Impact assessment Digital solutions	POLICY Policy recommendations Risk management
MINDSET Social perception barriers Roadmaps and Action Plans Training & knowbase	MARKET Business models Monitoring Match-making

Regions of Opportunity (ROp)



Engaging stakeholders




<h3>Challenges of the region</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placeholder: please insert here 5 slides on your region - main challenges etc (similar to website) 	<h3>Whisper groups</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In your opinion, what are the main challenges? Which problems do you see regarding water in the region?
<h3>Coffee</h3>  <p>10:55-11:15</p> <p>Funded by the European Union</p>	<h3>Feedback on innovative solutions (case studies)</h3> <p>11:15-11:55</p> <p>Funded by the European Union</p>
<h3>PPT WACES (4 per region)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placeholder: please insert 4 WACES 	<h3>Brain walk</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think about the cases/solutions? Do they tackle the main challenges identified in the session before? Do you think they are feasible? How, why not?
<h3>Group work</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make four groups, one per case study → discuss in depth and present their results (elevator pitches) 	<h3>Creating a vision</h3> <p>11:55-13:00</p> <p>Funded by the European Union</p>



Think about your region in 5 years

- Which possibilities are there?
- How did the social perception evolve?

Collect ideas regarding...

<p>... Knowledge Which skills/training/knowledge offers exist?</p>	<p>... Governance Which initiatives support innovative solutions & how (funding, legal framework etc.)?</p>	<p>... Awareness raising, engagement & communication Which activities exist?</p>
---	--	---

LUNCH



13:00-14:00

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In five years in our region....

Formulate and present one vision sentence per group according to field (knowledge, governance, awareness raising)

14:00-14:30

Funded by the European Union

Transition bridge


14:30 -15:30

Funded by the European Union


Transition bridge to improve social perception (Group work)

- Which steps are necessary to reach the vision?
- Which activities come to our mind to implement these steps?
- What are requirements for steps?
- Who can support us in this? Who absolutely needs to be on board?
- How can we motivate these stakeholders?

Activity canva - example



Coffee and Energizer



15:30-15:45

Funded by the European Union

Critical friends

Preparation 15:50 -16:10
Role play 16:10 - 16:30
Reflection 16:30-16:40

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Critical friends

- help their friends succeed
- provide feedback aimed at improvement
- Support and focus on facts and fairness

- **Step 1:** Break out groups prepare presentation
- **Step 2:** Each group pitches their idea's on how to reach future sentence, listeners in the panel act as critical friends
- **Step 3:** Break out groups integrate feedback into to their ideas / poster

Wrap up and Outlook

14:30 -15:30

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Next steps in BOOST-IN

- Analysis and synthesis of today's results
- International cross-fertilization workshop
- 2nd stakeholder engagement workshop
 - From analysis to action: developing a roadmap to improve societal perception of innovative water solutions

Thank you for your participation! See you next time!

Next workshop
DATE, PLACE, HOW TO REGISTER

Do you have any questions?
Names - Emails
www.boostin.eu

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Guiding ppt presentation for co-creation workshop 2



BOOST-IN



Uptake of innovative and circular solutions for water

Welcome!

Workshop 2
DATE

Funded by the European Union

Today's team

ROLE	Institution	ROLE	Institution	ROLE	Institution
	Person A		Person B		Person C
	Person D				

Agenda

09:30 - 09:40	Introduction & Welcome
09:40 - 10:25	Warm up
10:25 - 11:05	Introduction of the project & Recap of WS 1
11:05 - 11:20	Break
11:20 - 12:05	Collecting ideas to improve social perception
12:05 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	Crafting roadmaps
15:00 - 15:15	Break & Energizer
15:15 - 16:15	Presenting the roadmaps
16:15 - 16:45	Feedback and Outlook

Goals and Non-Goals

Goals	Non-Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take ideas of last workshop further • Create roadmaps with concrete activities and responsibilities • Collect actionable points to enhance the acceptability of innovative solutions for the water sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes are open, not pre-defined • Technical Assessment of innovative water solutions • To cover all needs/challenges



Workshop etiquette

EACH INPUT IS VALUABLE!

- Share your experiences and listen to others
- Be open for new ideas and concepts
- Discussions and criticism should address topics, not persons
- Please respect instructions of the moderators
- Be open for interactive exercises
- Be present and turn off phones



ENJOY!

Attendance and consent


- Please sign attendance list
- Please read consent form *carefully*
- Sign consent form



Warm up

2 truths, 1 lie
Sociographic constellation


09:40 – 10:25



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Introduction of the project and WS 1

10:25 – 11:05



Funded by the European Union

Boosting the uptake of innovative solutions in the context of water and circular economy



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BOOST-IN projects



MULTIDISCIPLINAR APPROACH

 <p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Sourcing Impact assessment Digital solutions</p>	 <p>POLICY</p> <p>Policy recommendations Risk management</p>
 <p>MINDSET</p> <p>Social perception barriers Roadmaps and Action Plans Training & showcase</p>	 <p>MARKET</p> <p>Business models Monitoring Match-making</p>



Regions of Opportunity (ROp)



- Lower Saxony - Nutrient/Energy recovery
- Bretagne and Pays de la Loire - Indirect potable reuse
- Andalusia - Water reuse for irrigation
- Emilia-Romagna - Water reuse for irrigation
- Stredozemie - Metal recovery from mining wastewater
- Thessaloniki - Industrial water and material reuse

Engaging stakeholders



- March 2025**: Co-creation Workshop 1: First activities to change the public perception
- September 2025**: Co-creation Workshop 2: Strategic roadmaps and action plans
- June 2025**: Cross-Verification 1: Exchange among six Regions of Opportunity on workshop 1 results
- November 2025**: Cross-Verification 2: Exchange among six Regions of Opportunity on workshop 2 results

Results of WS 1

- Placeholder: please insert here 3 slides on your results


Brain walk

Read the 3 future sentences and activities. Write down on post its:

- What do you think about the vision? Do you still agree? What would you change/add?
- Do you think the visions are feasible? How, why not?

Share your thoughts in plenary!

Coffee



11:05-11:20


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Collecting ideas to improve social perception

11:20-12:30

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Activity canva - example



Feel free to discuss and add additional ideas (post its), alone and in pairs!

6 - 3 - 5 method

- Read through all the ideas on the post its
- Select one and write it on A4 paper
- Elaborate on the idea (5 min)
- Signal: Pass paper to your neighbor on the right
- Work on the idea you received and pass it on
- After 6 rounds (à 5 min) collect your idea and integrate new aspects in Canva
- Share the elaborated version in the plenary!

LUNCH



12:30-13:30

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Crafting roadmaps

13:30-15:00

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- Integrate ideas and create a roadmap according to the three vision topics
 - Knowledge
 - Awareness raising and outreach
 - Governance / involvement of multiple stakeholders
- Don't forget to assign responsibilities! Who should do what and when?

Roadmap – example (Canva)



YEAR	2027	2030	2032	2055
KEEP DOING				
MID TERM				
LONG TERM				

Coffee



15:00-15:15

Funded by the European Union

Presenting the roadmaps

Present your roadmaps (max. 10 min) in plenary!
Learn from your critical friends!

15:15-16:15

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Feedback and Outlook

16:15 -16:45

Funded by the European Union

Next steps in BOOST-IN

- Analysis and synthesis of today's results
- International cross-fertilization workshop
 - Feedback on the process and comparison of results
- Publication of roadmaps





*Annex 4: Reporting template***Reporting template of 1st co-creation workshop**

Date:

Place:

Notetaker name and e-mail address:

No of participants:

(Adapted) Workshop agenda**Overview of who is here – Warm up***Speed dating*

Take minutes: Name + Organisation (if possible); why am I here (expectations)

Systemic constellation

Number of participants per stakeholder group

- Policy:
- Practitioners (e.g. energy community):
- Citizen and citizen's representatives:
- Business and industry (e.g. energy providers):
- Other:

Identification of challenges and gaps – perspectives on challenges of the region (whisper groups and plenary)

Integrate picture of post its of whisper groups and in the plenary (clustering). Translate to English afterwards and take notes during the presentations.

Please make sure to answer the following questions per group:

- In the group's opinion, what are the main challenges?
- What problems does the group see regarding water in the region?



Feedback on innovative solutions (individual and group work)

Integrate picture of A3 sheets and flip charts where people write on. Translate to English afterwards and take notes during the elevator pitch.

Make sure to answer the guiding questions for each group.

- What do you think about the solutions?
- Do the solutions tackle the main challenges identified in the session before?
- Do you think they are feasible? Why/why not?

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

Creating a vision (plenary with anchors)

Integrate picture of moderation cards next to anchors, translate into English.



Take notes when people present their ideas (ideas and key aspects for the vision) according to three anchors

- Knowledge: Which skills/knowledge, training offers are there?
- Awareness raising, communication and engagement: What awareness is there? Which outreach activities are there?
- Governance/ involvement of multi-stakeholders: Which institutions and initiatives support these solutions? What funding, legal framework etc. does exist to support regional development?

Anchor 1 - Knowledge

Anchor 2 – Awareness raising, communication and engagement

Anchor 3 – Governance/involvement of multi-stakeholders

Vision sentences

Integrate picture of vision sentences on cards.

Take notes when people present their sentences and get feedback.

Group 1

Group 2



Group 3

Transition Bridge

Audio record the session. Collect notes and integrate pictures of flip charts on the table.

Critical friends

Take notes when people present their activities and receive feedback.

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Feedback

Feedback of the participants (final round)



Feedback on the process (own assessment)

Please not any challenges/difficulties and what worked well down here.

Publishable summary



Annex 5: Signature list

A vision for our region

BOOST-IN 1st national stakeholder workshop, participants list

DATE MONTH XX, 20XX, time

Location: XXXX

Contact person:

Full name – Email – Phone Number

NAME	Signature

Annex 6: Consent form

Photography/ filming consent form

We, (_____) would like to take photos and/or film footage at this event / project number (_____), during the date of the activity: (____/____/____). It shall be held by the organization in accordance and in compliance with the GDPR guidelines (the General Data Protection Regulation). Material will be stored securely and will not be kept for longer than they are needed for the purposes listed below;

I understand the following:

- The photos/videos may be used on the requesting organisations website, social media and other communication channels, including offline publication(s);
- My photos/videos may be used for promotional materials, publications, in articles and potentially for publicity/marketing purposes;
- Photos/videos shared with this group shall only be used by participants for personal purposes only (unless permission is asked of the organisation);
- Photos/videos may be shared with third party organisations (direct partners of this project, or of the requesting organisation) for use in their printed and online publicity;
- I can withdraw consent for this at any time. By sending an email to: _____ if I change my mind.

*Note: this will not apply to material already published. We cannot control already published material or recall them.

Copyright: Photos, films and other media can only be used with the permission of the person who created them. That means if someone takes photos at this event, they should only be used with their permission. Hereby we ask permission to use all the shared footage for the purposes stated above.

I am giving this consent in my own free will, and not under duress or in any form of threat.

By signing I state I read and understand all the above.

Hereby I give my consent.

No.	FULL NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE





The quantity and quality of water resources are serious problems in many European areas, mostly being a joined result of climate change and anthropic influences. The BOOST-IN project aims to develop a successful strategy that promotes technological changes, governance schemes, shifts in mind-set and organizational structures to solve these problems through a better management of the water sector and application of the circular economy principles, enabling water reuse and recovery of different materials (e.g. energy, nutrients). However, implementation of these changes still faces several barriers (e.g. technology, economy, knowledge, social perception) that need to be overcome. BOOST-IN will achieve these goals by an effective identification, selection (through a specifically designed dynamic funnel method) and transfer of innovative Water Circular Economy Solutions (WACES) to further close and improve the water cycle.

The project will develop and apply its approach in six Regions of Opportunities evenly distributed across Europe (Spain, Greece, Germany, France, Italy and Bulgaria) by organization of co-creation workshops to increase public awareness and support for WACES implementation, barriers overcoming as well as by the specific risk management plans design.



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