Ref. Ares(2025)9370266 - 31/10/2025

BOOST-IN

Uptake of innovative and circular solutions for water

First period clustering and networking report of BOOST-IN project

Deliverable 5.3

WP5

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Date: 27/10/2025

Funded by the European Union

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER	**101135239**		
FULL TITLE / ACRONYM	BOOST-IN: Boosting the uptake of innovative solutions in the context of water and circular economy		
START DATE	1/1/2024	DURATION	36 months
END DATE	31/12/2026		
PROJECT URL	https://boostin.eu/		
DELIVERABLE	First period clustering and networking report of BOOST-IN project		
WORK PACKAGE	Maximizing impact with effective communication and dissemination – phase 1		
CONTRACTUAL DATE OF DELIVERY	30/06/2025 – 31/10/2025		
ACTUAL DATE OF DELIVERY	27/10/2025		
NATURE	Report	DISSEMINATION LEVEL	Public
LEAD BENEFICIARY	WE		
RESPONSIBLE AUTHOR	Alessandro Argo (Water Europe), Angela Magno (BIOAZUL), Isabella Gervasio (Water Europe)		
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM	BOOST-IN Partners		
ABSTRACT	The BOOST-IN project supports the transition of the European water sector toward a circular economy by fostering technological innovation, governance reform, and stakeholder engagement. This deliverable (D5.3) presents the clustering and networking activities carried out during the project's first 18 months. Key actions include participation in EU and regional events, the implementation of an European Open Call, collaboration with the CIRSEAU sister project, and integration of mature solutions into the Water Europe Marketplace (WEMP). These efforts have enhanced BOOST-IN's visibility, policy relevance, and capacity to promote Water Circular Economy Solutions (WACES) across Europe.		

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4
1.0 INTRODUCTION 5
2.0 STRATEGIC CLUSTERING WITH CIRSEAU 6
2.1 Water Projects Europe (WPE) 7
3.0 STRATEGIC NETWORKING AND CLUSTERING ACTIONS 9
3.1 Engagement with European Platforms and Institutional Stakeholders 9
3.2 Synergies with EU-funded Projects beyond CIRSEAU 9
3.3 Innovation Promotion through the BOOST-IN Open Call and WEMP10
4.0 CLUSTERING AND NETWORKING THROUGH EVENTS AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS 11
4.1 Regional Co-Creation and Stakeholder Engagement 11
4.2 Knowledge Transfer and Policy Dialogue Platforms 12
4.3 Outreach and Cross-Sector Engagement 12
5.0 FUTURE OUTLOOK 13
6.0 CONCLUSIONS 14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Deliverable 5.3 of the BOOST-IN project presents the clustering and networking activities carried out between January 2024 and June 2025 under Work Package 5: “Maximizing impact with effective communication and dissemination.” These actions were instrumental in supporting the project’s mission to boost the uptake of Water Circular Economy Solutions (WACES) across Europe through strategic partnerships, targeted stakeholder engagement, and multi-level visibility.

BOOST-IN implemented a multifaceted approach to clustering and networking, combining collaboration with sister projects, participation in policy and innovation platforms, regional co-creation workshops, and outreach to key sectors such as agriculture, urban resilience, and industry. A central pillar of this effort was the structured partnership with the CIRSEAU project, which enabled joint technical coordination, policy dialogue, and the organisation of the Water Projects Europe event in June 2025.

Beyond CIRSEAU, the project engaged with Water Europe Expert Groups, the Water4All Partnership, the JRC Water Reuse initiative, and other Horizon Europe projects such as R3VOLUTION and REWAISE. These interactions resulted in knowledge exchange, cross-project synergies, and the identification of opportunities to align BOOST-IN innovations with emerging policy frameworks and market needs.

Strategic participation in regional and international events enabled BOOST-IN to address real-world barriers and perceptions, especially through WP2-led co-creation workshops and WP3 policy development work. These engagements supported the definition of governance tools, social awareness strategies, and stakeholder-informed recommendations.

In parallel, BOOST-IN launched an Open Call to identify high-TRL innovations in the circular water domain and promoted selected solutions through the Water Europe Marketplace (WEMP). This initiative, integrated with WP1 and WP4 objectives, helped position BOOST-IN as a facilitator of innovation uptake and market access.

As the project moves forward, the solid foundations built through these clustering and networking efforts will guide the scaling and replication of WACES in the six Regions of Opportunity and beyond.

This updated version of the report addresses the feedback received on the June 2025 submission. In particular, it integrates **quantifiable results** from the clustering and networking activities, including the number of stakeholders engaged and solutions submitted to the Open Call, to provide a clearer picture of the progress achieved. The document also offers **additional detail on the development of synergies** with other projects.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The BOOST-IN project aims to "boost the uptake of innovative solutions in the context of water and circular economy" by fostering systemic change in the European water sector. Through a combination of technological innovation, governance reform, stakeholder engagement, and market support, BOOST-IN contributes to advancing a water-smart and circular society across Europe. Deliverable 5.3, developed under Work Package 5 (WP5), reports on the project's clustering and networking actions during its first implementation period (January 2024 – June 2025), highlighting how these activities serve as essential enablers of visibility, impact, and collaboration.

In Horizon Europe, networking and clustering are recognised not only as dissemination tools but also as strategic mechanisms to accelerate innovation transfer, align projects with EU policy goals, and foster synergies that amplify collective outcomes. In this spirit, BOOST-IN has implemented a multifaceted strategy that goes beyond participation in external events: it includes structured collaborations with peer projects, targeted outreach to institutional platforms, multi-actor co-creation workshops in the Regions of Opportunity, and support to innovators through visibility and matchmaking actions.

A flagship component of this approach is the structured partnership with the CIRSEAU sister project, which has resulted in joint policy coordination, dissemination tools, and the co-organisation of the Water Projects Europe event. Additionally, BOOST-IN has engaged actively with the Water4All Partnership, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), and Water Europe Expert Groups, expanding its presence in policy and innovation fora.

Many of these activities are closely connected to other Work Packages. Co-creation workshops under WP2 have produced critical insights for WP3 policy tools and WP5 communication strategies. Participation in technical and policy events has enabled BOOST-IN to contribute to the EU agenda on circularity and water reuse (WP3), while also supporting WP4 objectives around market uptake by linking innovators with end-users and potential adopters. The Open Call and the promotion of high-maturity WACES via the Water Europe Marketplace further reinforced the project's innovation funnel and commercial impact.

This deliverable presents an integrated overview of these actions, highlighting their thematic focus, strategic intent, and contributions to the broader BOOST-IN objectives. It demonstrates how targeted clustering and networking can lay the groundwork for large-scale replication, policy influence, and long-term sustainability of circular water solutions in Europe.

2.0 Strategic Clustering with CIRSEAU

BOOST-IN has pursued a structured collaboration with CIRSEAU, a sister initiative launched in December 2024 under Horizon Europe, with shared ambitions in advancing sustainable water governance and circular economy solutions. From the very start, the coordinators of both projects identified clear thematic and operational synergies. This mutual recognition led to an informal agreement to deepen cooperation through joint activities, shared methodologies, and coordinated stakeholder engagement, facilitated by Water Europe.

The collaboration evolved from preliminary bilateral exchanges into the formalisation of a joint workstream, which is displayed in Table 1 below. A common clustering agenda was established around several thematic priorities, including governance frameworks, end-of-waste criteria, innovation standardisation, and regional deployment. To support this, a shared list of stakeholders and upcoming events was developed, enabling the coordination of outreach and the avoidance of duplication. Methodological alignment was also pursued through shared tools for solution validation, communication planning, and knowledge transfer.

Table 1: CIRSEAU & BOOST-IN Synergies

Synergies	Contact CIRSEAU	Contact BOOST-IN	Potential actions
Event list	Iciar Serrano (INNCO)	Maria Mirachtsi (WE)	Shared list; Identify joint events (e.g. themes, topics (e.g. policy)) that both projects could deliver together (e.g. Workshop) instead of a shared list.
Stakeholder list	Stefania Munaretto (KWR), Frank Rogalla (AQUA), Dimitris Xevgenos, Abubakar Bilyaminu (TUD)	Angela Magno and Rafael Casielles (BIOAZUL); Mike Kaminiaris and Zisis Tsiropoulos (AGENSO); Cameron Mclennan (ECOFILAE)	Working group to define the structure of a common database for innovations/case studies/stakeholders
Market Place & EurEau innovation platform	Frank Rogalla (AQUA); Dimitris Xevgenos (TUD); Alessandro Argo (WE); Christos Makropoulos (NTUA); Sébastien Mouret (EUREAU)	Anne Kleyböcker (KWB); Angela Magno (BIOAZUL); Mike Kaminiaris and Zisis Tsiropoulos (AGENSO)	Working group for further development of Water Europe Marketplace
EoW criteria	Kristina Wencki (IWW); Sébastien Mouret (EUREAU)	Rafael Casielles (BIOAZUL); Christian Remy and Anne Kleyböcker (KWB)	Joint Policy Brief or workshops
Standardisation	Herman Helness (SINTEF); Kristina Wencki (IWW)	Thomas Track and Aleksandra Jurewicz (DECHEMA); KWB	Joint CEN workshop

Regions of opportunities / case studies	Frank Rogalla (AQUA); Dimitris Xevgenos (TUD)	Angela Magno and Rafael Casielles (BIOAZUL for Spain); Anne Kleyböcker (KWB for Germany); Remi de Clercq (ECOFILAE for France); Stevo Lavrnic (UNIBO for Italy); Elena Koumaki (NTUA) and Mike Kaminiaris (AGENSO) for Greece; Dimitar Mihalkov (BWA for Bulgaria)	TBD
Dissemination activities	Iciar Serrano (INNCO); Ana de León, Maria Mirachtsi (WE)	Angela Magno (BIOAZUL); Ana de León, Maria Mirachtsi (WE)	Joint events; Shared social media campaigns; shared posters/events materials
Policy and other barriers	TBC	Guido Schmidt, Nike Sommerwerk and Thomas Gloessl (FT)	Harmonisation of approach (assessment, classification, recommendations), for greater added value of a sample of case studies/ technologies

2.1 Water Projects Europe (WPE)

A key milestone in the strategic collaboration between BOOST-IN and CIRSEAU was the co-organisation of the Water Projects Europe (WPE) event, held on 23 June 2025 in Brussels. Framed around the theme "Building a Water-Smart and Resilient Europe," the event brought together policymakers, innovators, researchers, and regional actors to explore the conditions needed to scale circular water solutions across Europe. In a context where climate change, population growth, and resource stress demand more than isolated innovation, the session spotlighted how hands-on implementation and systemic governance can be effectively bridged.

Held online, the event gathered 70 registered participants and reached a broader audience of 1,765 viewers through its livestream (1,643 on LinkedIn and 52 on YouTube). **A detailed post-event report is available**[1] and the video recording is accessible at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs4E38LsGRI

BOOST-IN and CIRSEAU were presented as two complementary drivers of transformation. While CIRSEAU focuses on redesigning governance structures, enabling cross-sector collaboration, and delivering policy-level recommendations for a water-smart society, BOOST-IN brings the regional and operational perspective—empowering local actors to co-develop and adopt circular solutions on the ground. This synergy was showcased across a structured agenda combining project overviews, expert interventions, and a moderated panel on cross-fertilisation. BOOST-IN's contributions included presentations by project coordinators (BIOAZUL), Isle Utilities on market challenges for circular products, DECHEMA on

[1] https://boostin.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/BOOST-IN-WPE1-post-event-report.pdf

standardisation barriers, and AGENSO on accelerating innovation through the WEMP and the WACES open call. These highlighted the diverse methods through which BOOST-IN is advancing both technological and non-technological enablers for uptake.

The panel discussion, moderated by Water Europe, revealed the growing coherence between the two projects and their alignment on key challenges: regulatory fragmentation, investment uncertainty, and the need for harmonised frameworks for reuse and recovery. In particular, BOOST-IN's participatory co-creation model and CIRSEAU's high-level policy analysis were discussed as mutually reinforcing approaches, capable of informing both bottom-up and top-down policy making. A strong call to action followed, urging stakeholders to actively engage with multi-actor platforms, regional innovation ecosystems, and communities of practice to support the Water-Smart Society and Economy vision.

Beyond the event, the partnership has evolved through technical coordination and aligned outputs. Joint working groups have been established to co-develop a shared innovation database, harmonise classification criteria, and identify replication pathways based on regional case studies. BOOST-IN's Open Call process and stakeholder engagement methods have directly supported CIRSEAU's analytical work on innovation maturity, contributing to a common foundation for evaluating water-related innovations.

Both projects are also supporting the expansion of the Water Europe Marketplace with BOOST-IN contributing concrete WACES use cases, stakeholder profiles, and evaluation metrics to enhance the platform's practical value. Co-branded communications, shared visual identity elements, and mutual representation in external panels further underline their effort to amplify joint visibility.

This collaboration exemplifies the strategic value of clustering as a tool to scale project outcomes, foster policy integration, and drive systemic change across the European water innovation ecosystem. As both BOOST-IN and CIRSEAU advance into the next implementation phase, their coordinated actions on policy harmonisation, co-dissemination, and regional alignment will remain central to achieving their shared mission: building a water-smart Europe that is resilient, inclusive, and future-ready.

3.0 Strategic Networking and Clustering Actions

Beyond the structured collaboration with CIRSEAU and BOOST-IN's participation in EU-level events, the project has proactively engaged in bilateral interactions and targeted exchanges with key European and national initiatives. These strategic networking actions have served to reinforce BOOST-IN's visibility within the European circular water ecosystem, foster alignment with ongoing EU priorities, and create new opportunities for innovation transfer and policy engagement.

3.1 Engagement with European Platforms and Institutional Stakeholders

Collaboration with Water4All EU Partnership
Type of action: Bilateral meetings
Topics discussed: BOOST-IN objectives and Water4All's thematic focus on water and circular economy; upcoming 2025 call; potential synergies in stakeholder engagement.
Key outcomes: Water4All expressed interest in BOOST-IN; discussed opportunities for innovators in the BOOST-IN database to receive support in future calls and join the Living Labs network under Water4All.

Strategic Dialogue and Technical Participation in JRC Water Reuse Activities
Type of action: Participation in a series of online workshops and consultations
Topics discussed: Risk management plans, contaminants of emerging concern, onsite industrial reuse, national implementation of reuse regulation, and long-term EU strategies.
Key outcomes: BOOST-IN actively contributed to at least five JRC workshops and surveys; aligned with future policy priorities; maintained visibility in strategic EC-hosted fora on water reuse.

Project Engagement within Water Europe Expert Groups
Type of action: Expert group presentations and roundtable contributions
Topics discussed: BOOST-IN's circular innovation approaches; relevance to water reuse, resource recovery, and agri-food sustainability.
Key outcomes: BOOST-IN presented multiple times within the Expert Group on Water Efficiency, Reuse, and Circularity (led by Rafael Casielles), and was also featured in the groups on Resource Recovery and Water & Agri-Food. The project was showcased in a round-table of the Community of Practice on Water & Industry, increasing visibility among industry stakeholders and aligning with Water Europe's Water-Smart Society vision.

Interaction with the WFD CIS Water Reuse Working Group
Type of action: Policy platform engagement and expert input
Topics discussed: Contribution to EU-level guidance on risk management, validation monitoring, and the broader promotion of water reuse beyond agriculture, including in urban and industrial settings.
Key outcomes: BOOST-IN has been connected to ongoing policy developments aligned with the Water Reuse Regulation and the Circular Economy Action Plan. The project has access to updates on different tasks of the 2025–2027 workplan, which address technical guidance, environmental risk, and cross-sector water reuse strategies. This platform is also considered a valuable channel for BOOST-IN to present its results and policy briefs at a more advanced stage of the project, supporting broader dissemination and uptake of project recommendations.

3.2 Synergies with EU-funded Projects beyond CIRSEAU

Contact with R3VOLUTION Project (Horizon Europe)
Type of action: Online bilateral exchange
Topics discussed: Opportunities for cross-dissemination, co-organisation of events, joint participation as speakers and collaboration in outreach activities related to circular water innovation.

Key outcomes: Mutual interest in exploring synergies; initial coordination to define concrete joint activities in the second half of 2025.

Participation in REWAISE Working Group on Water Reuse Governance
Type of action: Attendance at REWAISE stakeholder workshop and coordination meetings
Topics discussed: Municipal water reuse in agriculture; governance barriers in the Andalusia Region of Opportunity; integration of cost-benefit analysis approaches.
Key outcomes: BOOST-IN coordinator invited to REWAISE's local working group; REWAISE invited to contribute to BOOST-IN co-creation workshop in Málaga; synergies explored around innovation uptake and stakeholder mobilisation.

3.3 Innovation Promotion through the BOOST-IN Open Call and WEMP

As a core part of its first-period dissemination and engagement strategy, BOOST-IN launched a Europewide Open Call for Circular Economy Solutions in the Water Sector, inviting applications from innovators, and solution providers working on the interface of water and circularity. The goal was to identify innovative water and circular economy technologies that demonstrate high potential for replication and scalability, supporting the transition toward a water-smart and circular economy.

The call was made publicly accessible via a dedicated online platform and broadly disseminated across project communication channels and partner networks. The call remained open through mid-2024 and targeted both technological and non-technological innovations, including digital tools, treatment solutions, and advisory or training materials.

The objectives of the open call were twofold: to enrich BOOST-IN's database of WACES with scalable and replicable innovations and to enhance the project's engagement with external actors, particularly SMEs and applied research institutions. By prioritizing solutions with high Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) and Business Readiness Levels (BRL), the call focused on identifying mature innovations capable of achieving near-term deployment and market uptake. The task scouted 665 Water and Circular Economy Solutions (WACES).

The open call invited innovators to upload their technologies to a dedicated platform, integrated with the **Water Europe Marketplace** taxonomy. Its objectives were to:

- Promote the visibility of innovators and their solutions.
- Identify market-ready products
- Support selected innovators through mentoring, matchmaking, and integration into the Water Europe network.

In terms of outputs, the open call generated significant interest across multiple sectors, resulting in numerous submissions. Many applicants have already been invited to participate in follow-up activities, including capacity-building webinars and matchmaking sessions. Furthermore, the open call process has allowed BOOST-IN to establish new connections with solution developers and regional authorities, laying the groundwork for future collaboration and replication within the project's six Regions of Opportunity.

Complementing the open call, BOOST-IN also launched a targeted campaign to promote selected high maturity WACES through their integration into the WEMP, in collaboration with Water Europe. This effort aimed to provide added visibility and market exposure for those innovations that demonstrated both technical robustness and a high degree of commercial readiness. The Water Europe Marketplace was identified as a key strategic dissemination channel, offering innovators access to a curated platform that connects them with potential buyers, investors, and partners across the water sector. Through the Open Call, 156 innovators were identified and engaged.

These solutions, identified from both BOOST-IN's internal scouting process and the open call submissions, now benefit from enhanced digital visibility, thematic categorisation, and placement within a professional network dedicated to accelerating the transition to a circular water economy. Their inclusion in the WEMP ecosystem also increases their eligibility for participation in future brokerage events, thematic showcases, and business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking activities coordinated by Water Europe.

This initiative marked a significant milestone in BOOST-IN's ability to actively facilitate the transfer and scaling of circular water innovations. By supporting innovators beyond the project's internal activities and enabling their access to sector-wide platforms, BOOST-IN strengthens its role as a connector between solution providers, end-users, and market enablers. The success of this campaign reflects the project's ongoing commitment to building sustainable pathways for the deployment of WACES and ensuring long-term impact beyond the project lifecycle.

4.0 Clustering and Networking Through Events and Strategic Engagements

Throughout the first 18 months of the BOOST-IN project, strategic participation in events has played a critical role in reinforcing stakeholder engagement, fostering policy dialogue, and enabling cross-project synergies. Rather than isolated dissemination actions, these events served as dynamic platforms for co-creation, visibility, and validation of the project's circular water innovations (WACES). The section below presents these engagements grouped by strategic function, demonstrating their added value to the project's overarching goals.

4.1 Regional Co-Creation and Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the BOOST-IN project, the **Regional Co-Creation Workshops** were designed to activate the so-called *Regions of Opportunities*—territories across Europe identified as particularly suitable for implementing and testing WACES. These regions serve as living laboratories where local actors, institutions, and innovators come together to identify barriers, co-develop governance pathways, and shape practical solutions adapted to their socio-economic and environmental contexts. The workshops aimed to strengthen local ownership, foster cross-sectoral collaboration, and ensure that circular water innovations respond to real regional needs while feeding evidence and feedback into the project's policy and governance frameworks.

These workshops, conducted primarily under **Work Package 2 (WP2)**, served as key mechanisms to engage local stakeholders, understand context-specific barriers, and co-develop suitable governance and technical solutions. The insights gained were not only used to tailor regional approaches but also informed outputs from **WP3 (governance tools and enabling conditions)** and **WP4 (Boosting market uptake)**. They provided the practical foundation for many of BOOST-IN's subsequent policy and implementation efforts. An average of 15-25 participants attended the events.

- **Italy (Emilia-Romagna, 10 April 2025):** Coordinated by UNIBO, this activity gathered local governments, agencies, and cooperatives to discuss institutional fragmentation and technical gaps in wastewater reuse. The event resulted in the formation of a local working group and input to governance tools under WP3.
- **Spain (Málaga, 13 March 2025):** Conducted during Foro TRANSFIERE, this session focused on public perception. Key challenges identified included safety misconceptions and communication gaps. A draft outreach strategy was developed (linked to WP5), and piloting opportunities were explored (feeding into WP4).

- **France (Montpellier, 3 April 2025):** This workshop tackled cultural acceptance of water reuse. Insights on public trust and decentralised governance were translated into qualitative indicators for BOOST-IN's monitoring tools (WP2/WP3).
- **Greece (Patras, 2 April 2025):** AGENSO led a workshop assessing feasibility and perception of WACES, uncovering regional policy gaps and generating pilot interest from cooperatives. Findings feed directly into WP2 outputs on stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy.
- **Germany (Braunschweig, 16 June 2025):** This workshop focused on nutrient recovery and the application of secondary fertilisers. Outputs included needs for certification streamlining and improved logistics among WWTPs, informing the design of enabling tools and regional replication plans.
- **Bulgaria (Pirdop, 9 April 2025):** The focus was on water-related challenges and social perceptions in the Srednogorie mining region, discussing four WACES solutions with 7 stakeholders from municipalities, the mining sector, academia, and civil society.

4.2 *Knowledge Transfer and Policy Dialogue Platforms*

The events grouped here contributed significantly to **WP3** and **WP5**, facilitating strategic dialogue with other EU-funded initiatives, regulatory actors, and innovation networks. These platforms helped BOOST-IN validate its findings in broader contexts, align with European policy trends, and identify enablers and barriers for scaling up WACES. BOOST-IN also played an active role in events that addressed EU-level policy challenges, technical validation, and market pathways:

- **IWA Resource Recovery 2025 (19–23 May 2025):** BOOST-IN co-organised a workshop on End-of-Waste criteria, leading to the creation of a Community of Practice and raising awareness on regulatory and market barriers. Over 300 stakeholders reached.
- **Resource Recovery Conference (21 May 2025):** KWB presented German WACES deployment outcomes, expanding technical contacts and policy discussion.
- **ReWater Conference (21–22 October 2024):** BOOST-IN strengthened ties with stakeholders in Lower Saxony and promoted the open call, supporting regional outreach.
- **P-Net Meeting (15 January 2024):** Engagement with German WWTPs and researchers enabled collaboration on phosphorus recovery and co-creation methods.
- **REUSE EUROMED (29–31 October 2024):** BOOST-IN was invited to contribute to Mediterranean working groups and policy toolkits, expanding influence beyond the EU. Over 300 stakeholders reached.
- **Congress of European Farmers (23–25 October 2024):** BOOST-IN presented water reuse strategies to Copa-Cogeca and opened the door to long-term collaboration with the farming sector. Over 400 stakeholders reached.
- **CONAMA 2024 (2–5 December 2024):** Policy feedback was collected, and clustering with Spanish CE projects initiated, expanding BOOST-IN's cross-sector influence. Over 5,000 stakeholders reached.

4.3 *Outreach and Cross-Sector Engagement*

Led by **WP5**, these outreach actions ensured BOOST-IN's visibility beyond traditional research and policy circles. They created bridges with SMEs, cities, industry, and civil society, boosting participation in the **WP1 Open Call**, and contributing to early-stage adoption paths under **WP4**. Many of these actions also

intersected with **WP2** objectives related to inclusiveness and perception, reinforcing the project's holistic engagement strategy. Events were also instrumental in engaging SMEs, industry, and citizens, while extending the impact of the open call and innovation uptake:

- **Water Innovation Europe (17–19 June 2024):** BOOST-IN shared its WEFE Nexus approach and contributed to joint policy brief efforts with CIRSEAU. Over 300 stakeholders reached.
- **Expo AgriTech 2024 (26–28 November 2024):** Exposure in the "Innovative Projects Zone" led to new expressions of interest and requests to replicate BOOST-IN's methodology in other regions. Over 7,800 stakeholders reached.
- **Ecomondo 2024 (5 November 2024):** The project reached new Mediterranean clusters and innovation actors, promoting the open call and circular water approaches. The event counted over 100,000 stakeholders in total, approx. 10,000 per day.
- **EURESFO 2024 (26–28 June 2024):** BOOST-IN pitched its open call to city representatives, generating submissions from urban innovators. Over 450 stakeholders reached.
- **Blue and Circular Wastewater Management (12 September 2024):** BOOST-IN shared its innovation mapping strategy with academic and technical audiences, encouraging solution submissions.
- **II Women Leaders Forum (25 April 2024):** The project showcased its commitment to gender-inclusive innovation and initiated collaborations with women-led rural cooperatives in Southern Spain.

Together, these strategic engagements have allowed BOOST-IN to position itself as a reference actor in the European circular water ecosystem. From empowering regional stakeholders to contributing to EU-wide policy dialogue, the project has effectively used events as levers for scaling innovation, shaping narratives, and connecting actors across the water and circular economy landscape.

5.0 Future outlook

The activities reported in this document reflect the actions implemented during the initial phase of the project. In the next and final phases, efforts will continue to strengthen the dissemination and communication of project results. In particular, a second Water Projects Europe (WPE) event will be organised jointly with the sister project, involving additional EU-funded initiatives to expand collaboration and visibility.

Synergies with other projects will be further reinforced, while engagement with European platforms, Working Groups, and Expert Groups will remain a key priority. BOOST-IN will also consolidate its presence at major international events to disseminate results, foster knowledge transfer, and support policy dialogue at the European level, including in the Regions of Opportunity.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Clustering and networking actions have played a pivotal role in BOOST-IN's first implementation period, serving as core enablers of innovation transfer, stakeholder mobilisation, and visibility across multiple levels. Through a combination of strategic partnerships, high-impact events, and proactive engagement with relevant initiatives, the project has strengthened its position as a reference in the circular water innovation space.

The collaboration with CIRSEAU not only fostered technical alignment and joint dissemination but also illustrated the value of cross-project harmonisation for policy influence and system-level transformation. Meanwhile, BOOST-IN's active participation in Water Europe structures, JRC workshops, and co-creation spaces across Europe enabled the project to gather diverse perspectives and integrate them into its stakeholder engagement (WP2), policy (WP3), and market uptake (WP4) strategies.

The regional workshops developed under WP2 provided critical input for understanding social perception, regulatory gaps, and user needs. These findings directly contributed to WP3's development of enabling frameworks and WP5's communication and training activities. At the same time, WP1's innovation funnel was reinforced through the open call and further amplified by the integration of solutions into the Water Europe Marketplace, helping accelerate adoption pathways consistent with WP4 objectives.

By month M18, BOOST-IN reached the following main results:

- Organised one Water Project Europe sessions jointly with the sister project CIRSEAU, reaching 70 participants and +1,695 online viewers.
- Engaged with 4 European Platforms (Water4All partnership, Joint Research Centre, Water Europe Expert Groups, Water Framework Directive).
- Created synergies with 3 EU-funded projects (CIRSEAU, R3VOLUTION, REWAISE).
- Organised 6 Region Co-Creation Workshops engaging with 141 participants.
- Participated in 7 policy oriented international events, engaging with more than 8,000 stakeholders
- Participated in 6 cross-sector international events, reaching more than 18,550 stakeholders.
- Scouted 665 WACES, of which 156 solution for inclusion in BOOST-IN database.
- BOOST-IN website had recorded 32 blog posts, 1,390 sessions with an average visit duration of 3 minutes and 52 seconds.

As BOOST-IN transitions into its next phase, these consolidated relationships and knowledge flows will be crucial to support replication in the Regions of Opportunity and sustain impact beyond the project's lifecycle. The groundwork laid in this period ensures that BOOST-IN is not only a source of solutions, but also a connector of actors and a catalyst for systems change in water and circular economy across Europe.

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 Opportunity 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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