



D5.6

Investment-Ready Project Pipeline

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1. Executive Summary

The HOOP project aims to unlock bio-based investments and deploy local bioeconomies in Europe through a systemic and cross-cutting approach. It offers project development assistance (PDA) to a group of eight Lighthouse Cities and Regions to build the technical, economic, financial and legal expertise needed to develop investments to valorise biowaste and wastewater, with the aim of obtaining safe and sustainable bio-based products.

This deliverable comprises the investment-ready project factsheets and pipeline. The factsheets are a structured and comprehensive approach to provide a detailed overview of each investment-ready urban circular bioeconomy (UCBE) project from each HOOP Lighthouse. On other hand, pipeline consists of a summary table of key indicators of all projects described in detail under the factsheets. Both information schemes are fundamental to the investors in order to identify and select, in a quick and succinct way, the projects more suitable to achieve their requirements and interests. From these factsheets and pipeline, HOOP financial partners, project developers and promoters are able to show and matchmake the most suitable investor and/or call funding.

The definition of an investment-ready pipeline, translating the current status and technical and financial overview of 12 UCBE projects from each Lighthouse City and Region, was based on data and information collected during the HOOP PDA, until September 2023. Hence, the list of 12 UCBE projects, and respective data and scope, presented may change over PDA. During the PDA, data and scope of the projects constantly changed as the technical studies and laboratory tests evolved, or in some cases for financial or regulatory reasons. Therefore, in general, the implementation timeline of the projects will start after the closing of HOOP project.

The investment-ready project factsheets and pipeline were materialised through the collection of data and information of each HOOP UCBE project based on following inputs from: i) investment intake form; ii) Project Maturity Level (PML) evaluation form (explained in D5.3 “Circular Evaluation Framework Guidance Report”); iii) new Tailored Lighthouse Business Models; iv) business model assessment input data sheet; v) minutes; e-mails; vi) follow-up meetings; vii) presentations at the 5th HOOP CIB (Circular Investors Board) meeting; viii) deliverables from WP2 (D2.3 “Report of the baseline studies for the Lighthouse Cities and Regions” and D2.4 “Investment Package Manual for the Lighthouse Cities and Regions”) and WP4 (D4.3 “Tailored Lighthouse Business Models (TLBM)” and D4.5 “PDA Business Models Report I”) ix) technical and environmental reports in WP3 (ongoing Tasks 3.3 (technological studies) and 3.4 (environmental studies); x) other ongoing studies as feasibility studies and technical sheets from technology providers and start-ups.

In conclusion, 8 UCBE projects are full-scale, while 4 projects are pilots. Most of the projects exhibit TRL of 6 and 8-9, that is an added value, positioning the projects for good conditions to benchmarking, risk management, funding and financing decisions, and exploitation and replication for other territories and larger markets. Moreover, the average PML of the 12 UCBE projects is 3 to date, having evolved significantly since the beginning of the PDA, as some of them have started from PML 1. The total investment volume required (CAPEX) for all projects is likely ranging between EUR 35 to 40 million. An estimation of CAPEX, OPEX and turnover in detail, accurate and tailored to the specific technology/plants and local conditions (fees, economic indicators, salaries, market landscape) is highly recommended.

D5.6 INVESTMENT-READY PROJECT PIPELINE

The 12 UCBE projects are typically dependent on equity, subsidies, PPP and grants. Given the investment volume required in terms of CAPEX for full-scale plants, grants may not be eligible or feasible for those projects. Therefore, loans, debt, bonds and guarantees may be needed or, if applicable, applying to National Recovery and Resilience Funds and to the most recent European Regional Development Funds for 2021-2027 period.



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