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**Set of criteria and
thresholds for the Urban
Bio-Circularity Label**

Development of a Urban Circular Biobased Label
methodology for cities

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The HOOP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon
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1. Executive summary

The Horizon 2020 project HOOP has been set up to support 8 European cities to accelerate the circular economy and boost investments in projects for the collection, treatment, and processing of biowaste and application of biowaste-based materials. Within the HOOP project, innovations are introduced that go beyond the state-of-the-art, to foster investments to valorise Organic Fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (OFMSW) and Urban Wastewater Sludge (UWWS) in urban areas.

To demonstrate the good work on circular bio-economy and to prove actual progress, cities and regions can benefit from an assessment scheme. Over the years, many labels, certificates, and indicator frameworks have been developed to measure performance regarding circularity. Each of them designed for a specific scale (micro, meso and macro) or typical objectives. Even though many well-established labels exist, their focus lies mainly on products, value chains and processes. A proper scheme to reward cities and regions for their efforts and achievements towards full circularity seems to be lacking.

That is why the HOOP project has set the objective to develop, test and implement a dedicated assessment scheme and the HOOP Bio-Circularity Label. The development of the scheme and its results will be explained in detail in this report.

The HOOP Bio-Circularity Label will provide a framework assessing to what extent cities have successfully implemented circular measures, policies, and initiatives. Additionally, the Label gives an insight on the topics a city or region can improve. The HOOP Bio-Circularity Label will be awarded to cities and regions who demonstrate maturity in circular policies, programs and projects.

Besides the status on the circular urban bio-economy, the Label also detects areas cities can improve on in their local bio-economy. Here cities and regions can learn from real-life examples, aiming to stimulate the circular urban bio-economy. So, the Label demonstrates the effectiveness of green policies.

Our ambition for the HOOP Bio-Circularity Label is to become the standard in Europe, to qualify cities and regions as leaders in urban circular bio-economy.

The Label consists of a list of indicators related to urban biobased waste streams including Organic Fraction Municipal Solid Waste (OFMSW) and Urban Wastewater Sludge (UWWS). The assessment covers the political ambitions, strategies and implemented policies, participation, awareness and initiatives of the society, consumption, and waste patterns as well as waste treatment. Cities and regions showing a high maturity in circular policies, programs, projects will be awarded with the HOOP Bio-Circularity Label.

To assess the circular performance of cities or region in a comprehensive and fair way the Label includes several dimensions that go beyond collection or recycling rates. By doing so, the Label will install confidence in the intentions and actual circular performance of the city or region.



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The Label consists of four dimensions including (Figure 1):

- **Policy** (political ambitions, strategies and implemented policies).
- **Society** (participation, awareness, and initiatives).
- **Consumption and waste patterns** (including water and organic waste).
- **Resource management** (collection, reuse, recycling, distribution, use).

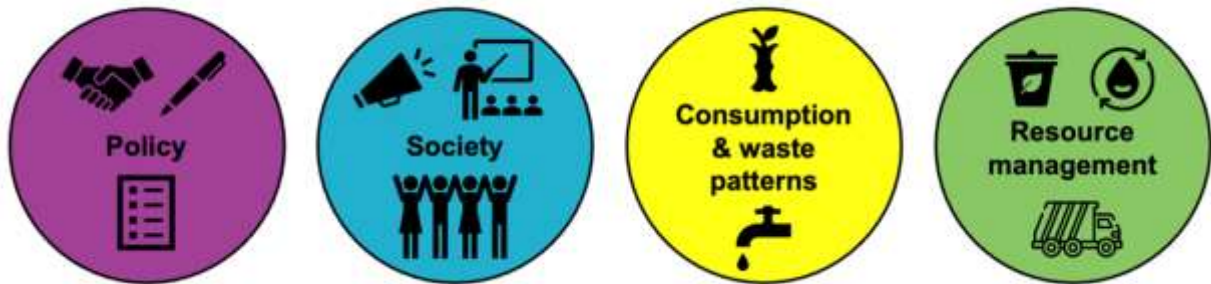


Figure 1. The four dimensions of the HOOP Bio-Circularity Label.

The HOOP Bio-Circularity Label is based on a standardised scoring system. Here the cities and regions are assessed on their circularity performance based on nine Circularity Levels (CL). Each level indicates the level of maturity of the circular bio-economy on a European level. The higher the CL obtained, the better a city or region is performing. Where CL 5 is the European average.

The Label will be integrated in the [Urban Circular Bioeconomy Hub](#) (UCBH), where cities and regions can apply for the Label by filling in the online questionnaire. The main target group of the HOOP Bio-Circularity Label are cities and regions. The main objective of the HOOP Bio-Circularity Label is to offer a balanced assessment of the actual performance of a city or region and the possible steps to further improve, particularly for high-level decision-makers. The Label aims to benefit cities and regions manifold:

- Guidance towards efficient and effective circular policies and actions.
- Creation of a level playing field.
- Engagement of investors; improved confidence to make investments.
- Increased attractiveness for its citizens and, investors and companies.
- Increased awareness and citizen engagement.
- Increased circular efforts in the local economy.