



D8.2 Structure of the Virtual Academy

Greenovate! Europe



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Executive summary

The objective of this document is to sketch the outline of the HOOP Virtual Academy and provide guidelines for the upcoming development phase.

The custom developed 'Virtual Academy' (VA) is one of the main tools being developed in the project to make knowledge and learnings available to the members of the [HOOP Network of Cities and Regions](#).

The VA will feature a wide range of resources related to the implementation of urban circular bioeconomy solutions. This will include didactic material on technologies and financial engineering for circular projects, factsheets, circularity evaluation tools, and links to other Horizon 2020 projects on urban circularity.

Before starting to define the structure of the VA, desk research was carried out into similar existing platforms. This was necessary to ensure the HOOP VA will not replicate existing knowledge repositories, and some recommendations were extracted based on what works well, and less well, on these existing sites. Among the recommendations it was decided that the HOOP VA should look to embrace its niche, emphasising its specific focus on Urban Circular Bioeconomy for Cities and Regions. Furthermore, it should focus on providing practical, hands-on materials and tools which can guide Cities & Regions.

To gain input from a wider group of stakeholders (including HOOP partners and members of the HOOP Network of Cities and Regions) regarding the structure of the VA a questionnaire was prepared. The questionnaire was shared in July/August 2021 and had 21 respondents. The questionnaire results reinforced the need to prioritise practical materials such as handbooks, tools, etc over more academic style materials. The results also helped to crowd-source a first list of tags which will be used to organise the materials on the VA.

The VA will host six different types of resources (Handbooks and manuals, Factsheets, Tools, Events, Videos, Reports and studies). The initial content on the HOOP VA will come from the HOOP project and the so-called 'mother projects' SCALIBUR, ValueWaste and WaysTUP!, as well as open access publications from reputable sources such as the European Commission, European Environment Agency and the OECD. It will also be possible for external users to propose additional content via a submission page on the VA.

All content will be arranged into four thematic areas: engage stakeholders, collect and valorise, implement and develop, evaluate and improve. These areas are linked to the different stages of designing and realising an urban bioeconomy and aim to cover the full range of activities cities and regions must engage with to implement an innovative urban circular bioeconomy in their territory.

To make the contents of the VA easily searchable and findable, all materials will be 'tagged' using a set of keywords. There will also be the possibility to filter items by country or city/region to find materials with local relevance.