

An isometric illustration of a hydrogen ecosystem. It features wind turbines, solar panels, industrial buildings, a ship, a train, and residential houses, all interconnected by a network of pipes and roads. A large white cloud is in the top left corner. The text 'Clean Hydrogen Partnership' is written in a stylized font, with 'Clean Hydrogen' in green and 'Partnership' in blue. The background is a deep blue gradient.

Clean Hydrogen
Partnership

Project charter for hydrogen project development

Hydrogen Valleys Facility | Knowledge Centre

2025

Roland
Berger

The H2V Facility delivers dedicated support to hydrogen practitioners via PDA services, the H2V Knowledge Centre and the H2V Platform

The Hydrogen Valleys Facility

h2v.eu

Dedicated support via the **Hydrogen Valleys Facility** by



1



Project Development Assistance

Provision of dedicated Project Development Assistance (PDA) for Hydrogen Valleys projects towards Final Investment Decision

2



H2V Knowledge Centre

Sharing & dissemination of knowledge and provision of capacity building for the broader hydrogen community

3

H2V Platform



Maintenance & extension of the Hydrogen Valley Platform to enhance its positioning as the global one-stop-shop for hydrogen flagship projects

Delivery
partners

Roland
Berger



worley

Inycom

Aspirational target

2030

50

Hydrogen Valleys
operational/under
construction

within the EU



This document is part of the H2V Knowledge Centre that offers hydrogen practitioners knowledge material in written and interactive formats

The H2V Knowledge Centre



Structure and scope of the H2V Knowledge Centre

Self-service Knowledge Material

Commercial



Technical



Regulatory



Valley governance



- Knowledge material specifically developed as part of the H2V Facility project
- Links and information to other third-party resources and material

Interactive Formats

- Webinars with content experts (Roland Berger, Worley and external speakers)
- Project Development Assistance experience sessions with Hydrogen Valley practitioners

Target audience



Hydrogen Valleys



Project developers



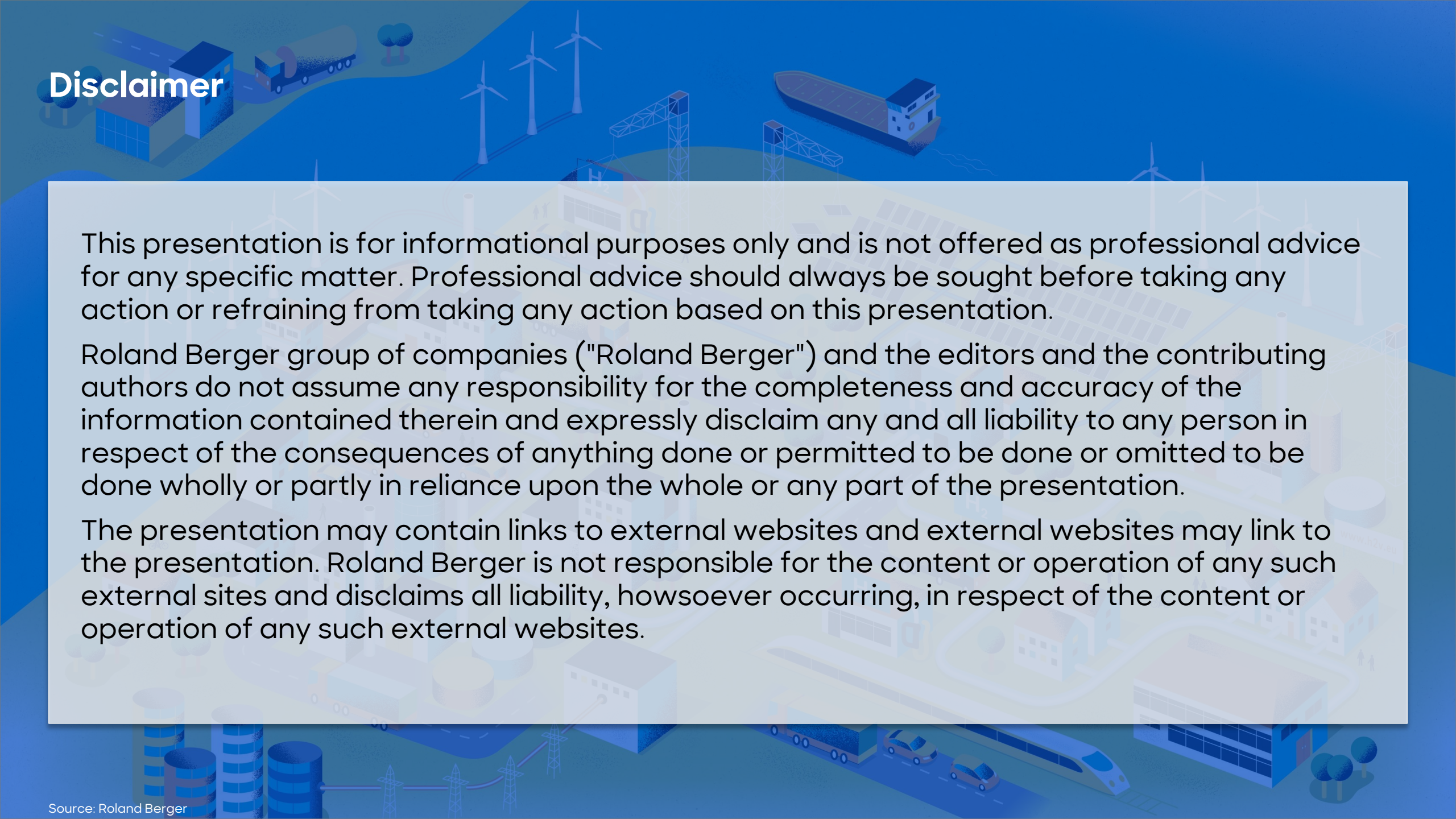
National, regional and local authorities



Investors



Other hydrogen practitioners



Disclaimer

This presentation is for informational purposes only and is not offered as professional advice for any specific matter. Professional advice should always be sought before taking any action or refraining from taking any action based on this presentation.

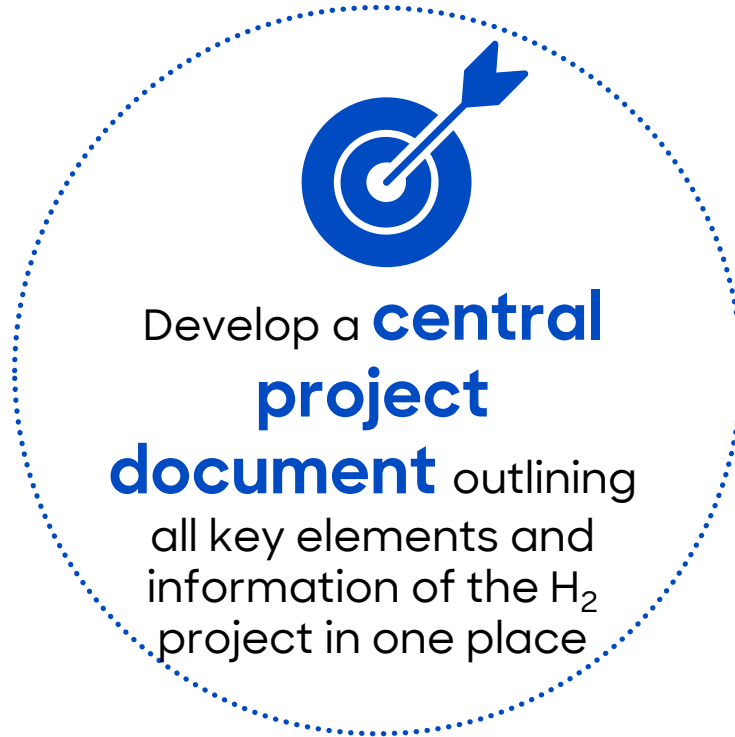
Roland Berger group of companies ("Roland Berger") and the editors and the contributing authors do not assume any responsibility for the completeness and accuracy of the information contained therein and expressly disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of the consequences of anything done or permitted to be done or omitted to be done wholly or partly in reliance upon the whole or any part of the presentation.

The presentation may contain links to external websites and external websites may link to the presentation. Roland Berger is not responsible for the content or operation of any such external sites and disclaims all liability, howsoever occurring, in respect of the content or operation of any such external websites.

This document aims to support Hydrogen Valleys in outlining all key elements of their hydrogen project within one formal document – the Project Charter

Key objectives and content of this document

Key objectives



Key content

- A** **Project outline** (incl. objectives, description and business needs)
- B** **Project breakdown and Work Breakdown Structure**
- C** **Schedule and key milestones**
- D** **Business plan and budget**
- E** **Risks and interdependencies**
- F** **Project governance**

A project charter is essential for Hydrogen Valleys to align stakeholders, define objectives and guide efficient execution

Relevance of a project charter for Hydrogen Valley developers

The complex project and stakeholder set-up of a **Hydrogen Valley** ...



- 1 Management of a complex stakeholder set-up** with diverse interests, oftentimes also involving public and private stakeholders across multiple regions and countries
- 2 Need for multi-project coordination** by aligning dependencies, milestones and interconnected projects within a Hydrogen Valley
- 3 Complex regulatory and financial risk management**

... requires a **binding project framework with central information management**



Aggregation of **all critical information** in **one place**



Provision of a **common understanding among all** external and internal project **parties**



Support for all operational teams via commonly shared clear pathways and objectives

Key elements of a project charter include the project outline, work breakdown structure, schedule and milestones, budget, risks and a governance framework

Structure of a project charter

Project charter

A Project outline

- Background and business needs
- Objectives & outcome
- Project description and scope
- KPIs (schedule, budget, safety)
- Target commercial structure
- Contracting and procurement strategy

B Project breakdown and Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)

- Development:
 - Feasibility study
 - Commercials
 - Stakeholder Mgmt.
 - Engineering
- Construction

C Schedule & key milestones

- Schedule planning
- Key milestones until Commercial Date of Operations
 - Concept study developed
 - FID taken
 - etc.

D Business Plan and Budget

- Business case: key assumptions, P&L, cash flows, BS
- CAPEX and Budget details
- Financing structure and funding needs

E Risks and interdependencies

- Key project risks
- Key interdependencies
- Mitigation measures

F Project governance

- Project organization
- Staffing needs
- Key stakeholders
- Specific committees & reporting
- Roles & Responsibilities

The documentation control provides information on the project charter document, the revision history and the sign-off

Documentation control

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

F. Project governance

Document information

Information	
Document ID	Project Charter
Document owner	Project Board
Issue date	TBD
File name	Project Charter.XYZ
Author	Project manager

Project charter sign-off

Hydrogen Valley lead developer	
Name	XX/XX/XXX
Position	xx
Signature and date	

Hydrogen Valley project co-sponsor(s)	
Name	XX/XX/XXX
Position	xx
Signature and date	

Document revision history

Version	Issue date	Changes
1.0	DD.MM.YYYY	xx
1.1	DD.MM.YYYY	xx
1.2	DD.MM.YYYY	xx
XX	DD.MM.YYYY	xx
XX	DD.MM.YYYY	xx

The project outline describes the most important information of the project, incl. business model, main KPIs, technical and governance aspects

Project outline (1/6)

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

F. Project governance

Project overview

Description

Details about the project, context and background

Business model

Details about the business model

Project location

Details about the project location

Main KPIs

Returns [EUR m; %]

Overall project

Investment

MOIC [x]

ROE [%]

IRR [%]

Cash Flow [EUR m]

Revenues

Net Cash Flow

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

20xx

Technical

Block-flow chart

Details about the value chain (hydrogen production, storage, transportation, end use)

Procurement strategy

Details about procurement management process, pricing and supplier selection

Plan-on-a-page

Milestone	Deadlines
Concept study	Qx 20xx
FEED study	Qx 20xx
FID	Qx 20xx
Financial close	Qx 20xx
Start of construction	Qx 20xx
COD	Qx 20xx

Governance

Project organization

Project organization

Staffing needs

Key stakeholders

Specific committees & reporting

Roles & Responsibilities

Main stakeholders

Hydrogen Valley project organization

Hydrogen Valley project partners

Lenders

EPC contractors

Suppliers & O&M contractors

Others

Next, the background, business needs, key objectives, and expected outcomes of the Hydrogen Valley project are outlined

Project outline (2/6)

Documentation control		
A. Project outline	Background and business needs Description of project background and business needs. Aspects could include: • Contribution to overarching EU or national policy objectives • Background regarding overall market environment • Other	Objectives & output Description of project objectives along the H₂ value chain • H₂ production and renewable energy sourcing • H₂ storage • H₂ transportation • H₂ end use Description of expected project output • regarding Hydrogen Valley production, storage and end use targets • regarding social and economic impacts of the project (incl. job creation, regional development, contribution to overarching political goals)
B. Project breakdown & WBS		
C. Schedule & key milestones		
D. Business plan & Budget		
E. Risks & inter-dependencies		
F. Project governance		

An overview of the key project KPIs and their targets for the development and construction phases must be established

Project outline (3/6)

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

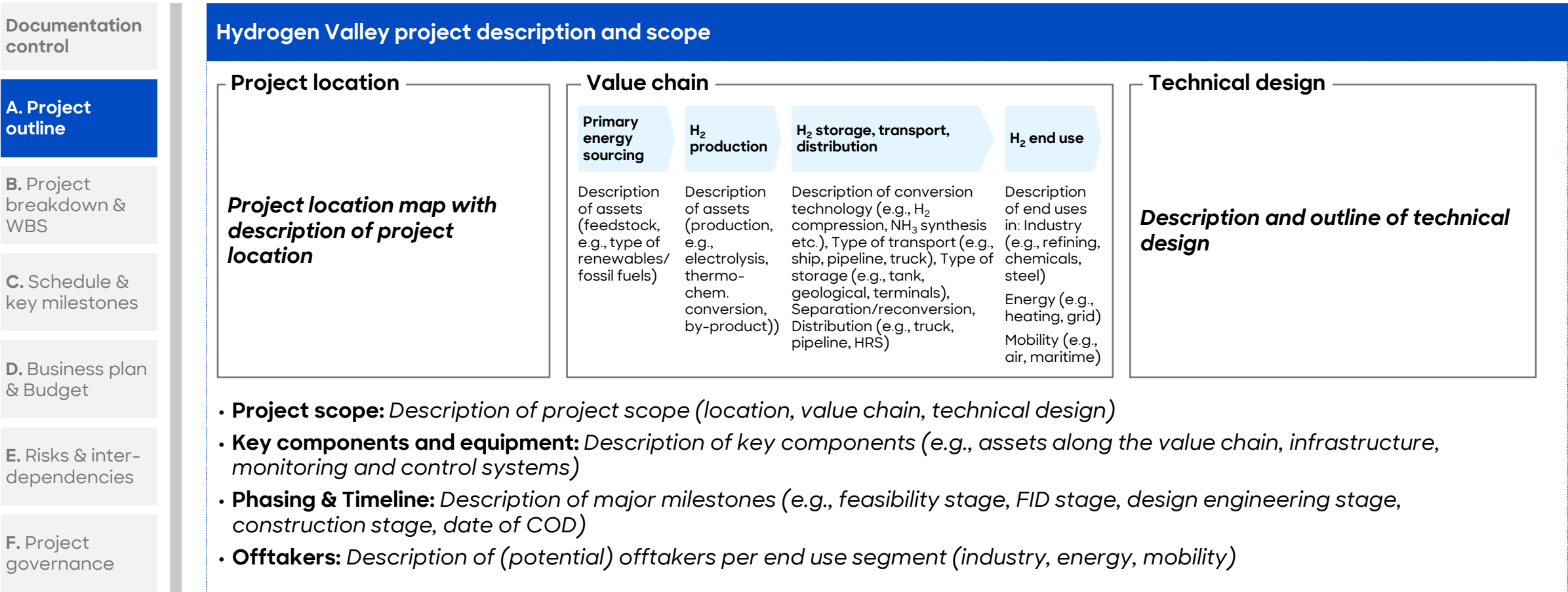
F. Project governance

Project KPIs for the development and construction phase of the Hydrogen Valley	
Competitiveness • Levelized cost of Hydrogen (LCOH) [EUR /kg H₂]: Average cost per kilogram of hydrogen produced over the lifetime of the project, incl. CAPEX and OPEX • Availability Factor (%): Percentage of time the production plant is operational and capable of producing hydrogen. Higher availability reduces downtime losses, ensuring more consistent supply and stronger market position • Specific Energy Consumption (kWh/kg H₂): The total amount of energy required to produce one kilogram of hydrogen. Lower values mean cheaper production and better competitiveness	Schedule • Schedule variance: Actual vs. planned progress of the main milestones of the project • Permitting progress: Percentage of necessary permits acquired versus those required for the project • Critical Path Progress (%): Actual progress made on tasks that lie on the project's critical path, indicating risk of overall delay.
Budget • Incurred development/construction costs versus budget or cost estimated: to be measured during development and construction phases • Total project cost/Project estimated cost to be measured at financial close	Quality • During construction: defects rate, rework rates, nonconformance incidents (NCRs), etc. • (Pre-)commissioning: Adherence to performance guarantees (e.g., output capacity, production efficiency, operating characteristic as per contract, etc.)

Exemplary KPIs – to be adjusted depending on scope and specifics of Hydrogen Valley

The Hydrogen Valley needs to be described in terms of project scope with key components along the value chain and in terms of technical design

Project outline (4/6)



The target commercial structure provides a clear framework for aligning cashflows and contracts, but requires adaptation to the specific project context

Project outline (5/6)

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

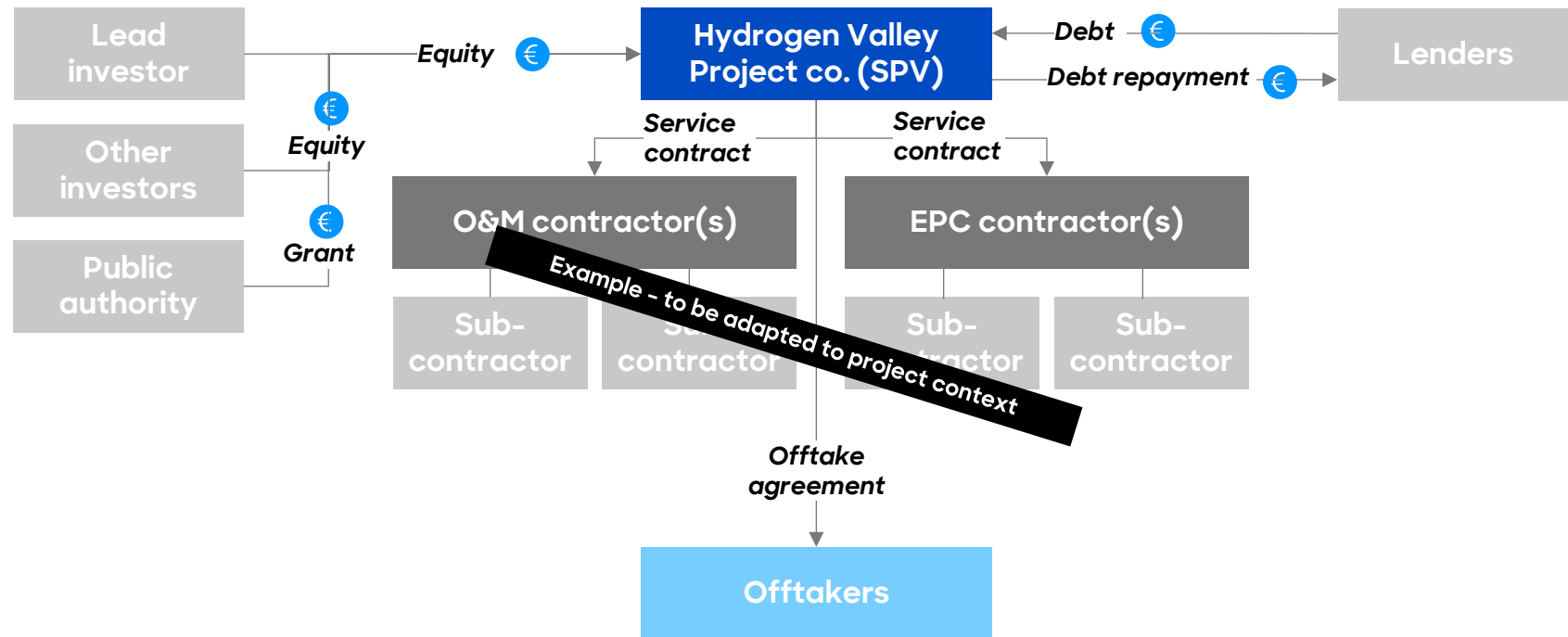
D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

F. Project governance

Hydrogen Valley target commercial structure

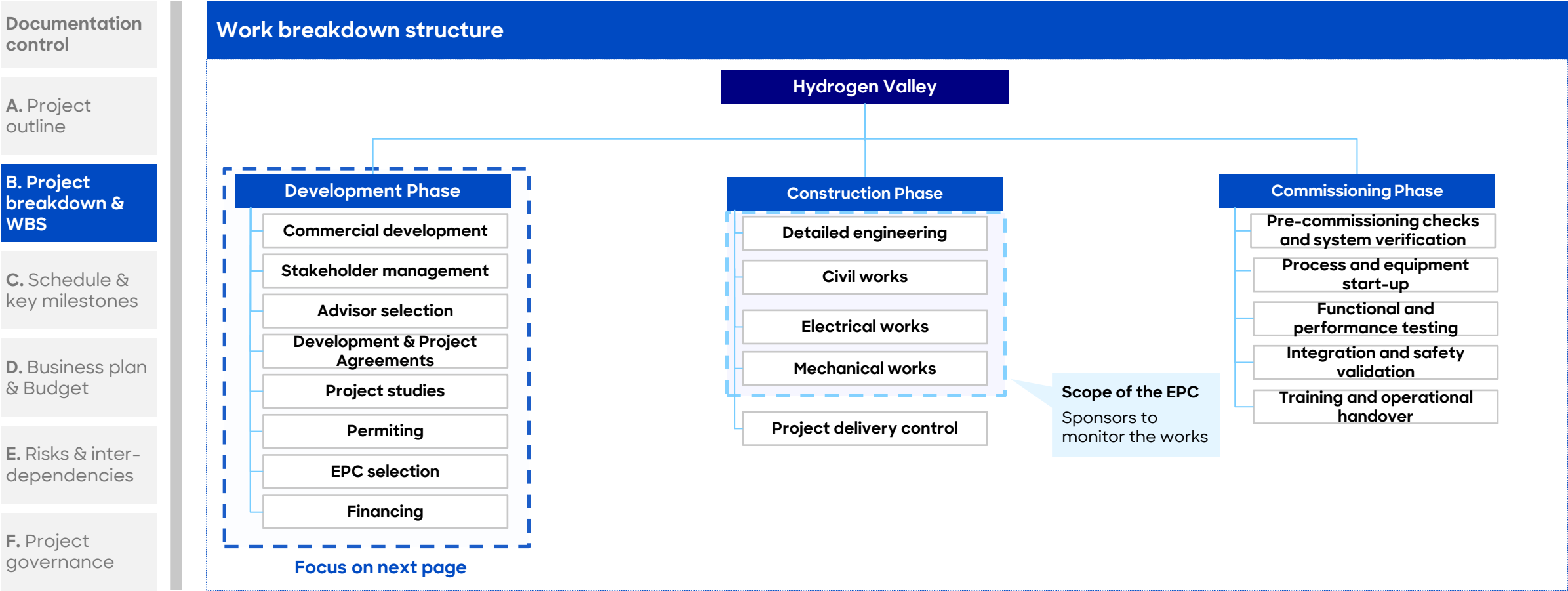
Project-sponsor contracts



Offtake-related contracts

The work breakdown structures the Hydrogen Valley in development phase, construction phase and commissioning phase to ensure a systematic approach

Project breakdown & WBS (1/3)



The development phase is organized into distinct workstreams with clearly defined scopes, deliverables, and assigned responsibilities for accountability

Project breakdown & WBS (2/3)

Documentation control	Development phase			Suitable functions depending on the specific project governance
A. Project outline	Workstreams	Description		Responsibility
B. Project breakdown & WBS	Commercial	Scope: covers the commercial aspects of the Hydrogen Valley, including offtaker prospection, pricing, contract negotiations and revenue models Objective: develop competitive revenue models that are financially viable and meet the needs of stakeholders Expected output: align on commercial model to sign attractive offtake agreement		XX, XX
C. Schedule & key milestones	Stakeholder management	Scope: identify, manage and prioritize stakeholders, their requirements, interests and risks involved in the project Objective: establish a cooperation relationship to ensure the advancement of each stream on time and budget Expected output: stakeholders overview, stakeholders management strategy	Example - to be adapted to project context	XX, XX
D. Business plan & Budget	Advisors selection	Scope: identify advisors, preparation & launch of the RFP, negotiation, contracting, work monitoring Objective: selection of different advisors needed for each stream through competitive tender process Expected output: legal, financial and other advisory services		XX, XX
E. Risks & inter-dependencies	Development & project agreements	Scope: preparation, negotiation, signing of all project agreements needed for the development of the project Objective: Negotiate the contracts respecting the timeline and the different constraints from the different stakeholders Expected output: Development & project agreements signed with good risk allocation		XX, XX
F. Project governance				

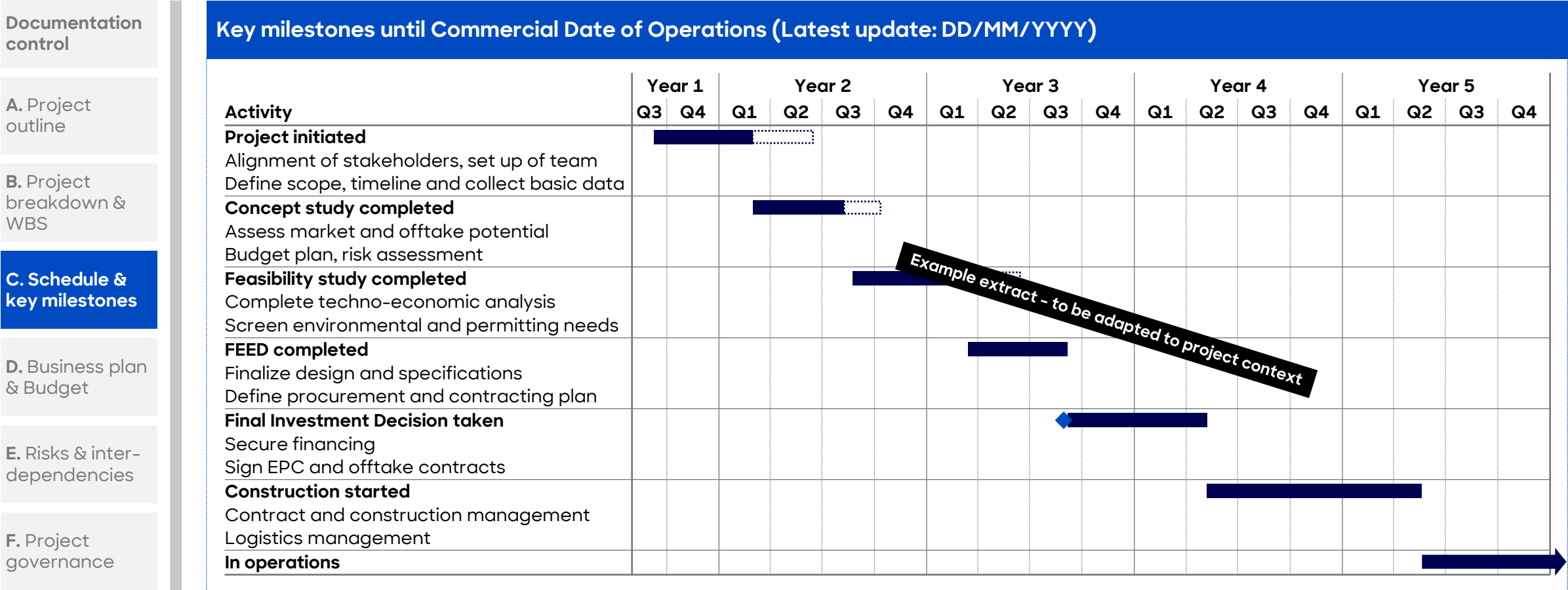
The development phase is organized into distinct workstreams with clearly defined scopes, deliverables, and assigned responsibilities for accountability

Project breakdown & WBS (3/3)

Documentation control	Development phase			Suitable functions depending on the specific project governance
A. Project outline	Workstreams	Description		Responsibility
B. Project breakdown & WBS	Project studies	Scope: design of the project and preparation of the technical specifications alongside the complementary studies Objective: optimize the design with the lowest costs and risks and oversee the complementary studies while respecting the project requirements Expected output: plant design providing necessary requested functions and quality at the lowest cost and gaining valuable insights from the complementary studies		XX, XX
C. Schedule & key milestones	Permitting	Scope: preparation, submission, negotiation and all necessary actions in order to acquire land and different project permits Objective: ensure the issuance of all necessary permits while respecting the project timeline Expected output: all required permits for the project implementation	Example - to be adapted to project context	XX, XX
D. Business plan & Budget	EPC Selection	Scope: define overall procurement strategy, management of the contractors and supplier selection process until financial close Objective: secure optimized contracting structure on cost, on quality and on time Expected output: procurement strategy, tender process management and contacts negotiated and signed with contractors		XX, XX
E. Risks & inter-dependencies				
F. Project governance	Financing	Scope: secure financing for the project and optimize the financial modeling Objective: achieve the financial KPIs including lowering the LCOH while maximizing revenues Expected: competitive LCOH, IRR target achieved		XX, XX

A clearly defined schedule – from early concept to operations – is essential to track progress, manage risks and budget and ensure timely project delivery

Schedule and key milestones (1/2)



Clear milestones with assigned responsibilities, deadlines, and status tracking ensure accountability, alignment, and timely delivery of the Hydrogen Valley

Schedule and key milestones (2/2)

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

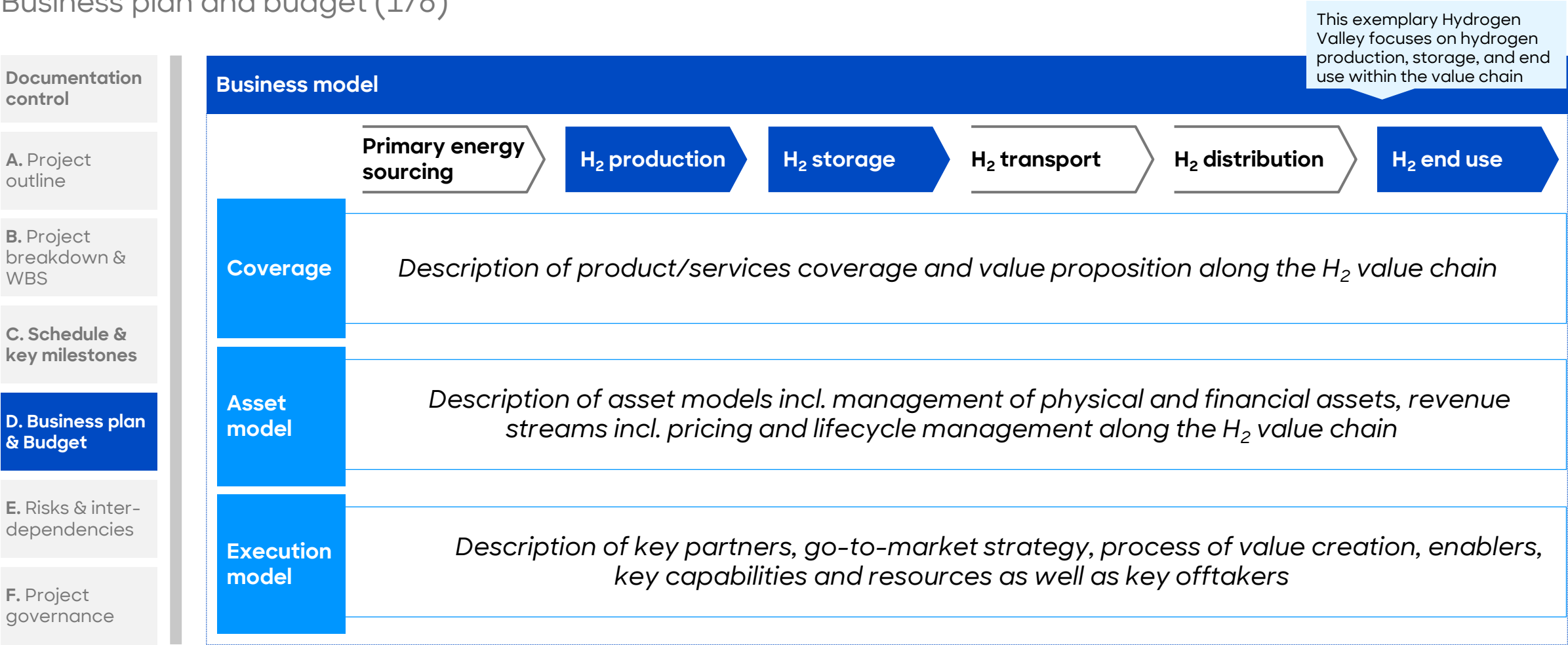
F. Project governance

Key milestones & responsibilities

Workstreams	Milestones & sub-milestones	Deadline	Stakeholder	Responsibility	Status
Contractual/ commercial	Concept commercial framework	-	-	-	-
	Commercial structure outlined	-	-	-	-
	Offtake negotiations	-	-	-	-
	MoUs negotiated	-	-	-	-
	Offtake agreement signed	-	-	-	-
	Land & site agreements	-	-	-	-
	Site options/leases secured	-	-	-	-
	Land use permits	-	-	-	-
Engineering	Topographical survey	-	-	-	-
	Selection of contractor	-	-	-	-
	Start survey	-	-	-	-
	Preliminary survey results	-	-	-	-
	Survey results accepted	-	-	-	-
	Basic design	-	-	-	-
	Contractor selected	-	-	-	-
	Technical studies reviewed	-	-	-	-
	Conceptual/basic design developed	-	-	-	-

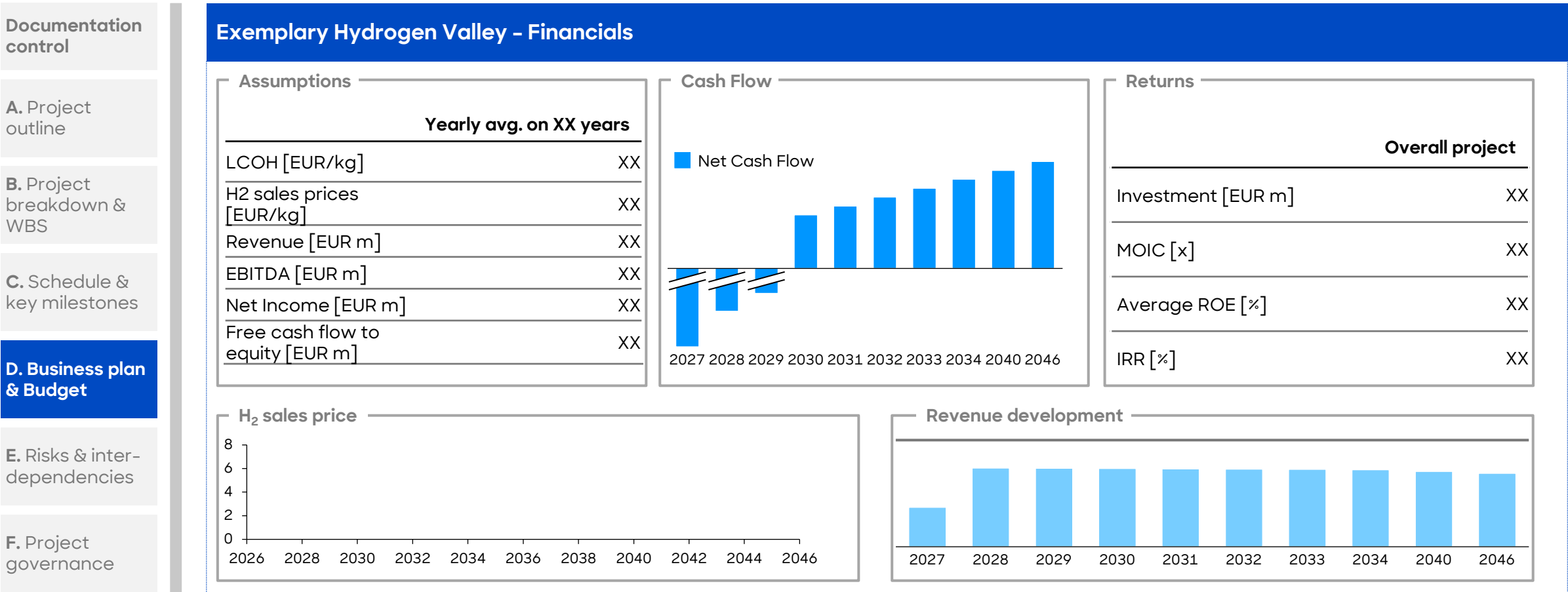
For the Hydrogen Valley business model, 3 elements, i.e., the service coverage, the asset model and the execution model are specified along the value chain

Business plan and budget (1/6)



A financial dashboard with transparent assumptions and revenue projections enables informed decision-making and robust business planning

Business plan and budget (2/6)



A transparent overview of key assumptions ensures consistent, comparable, and reliable business planning and budgeting across multiple locations

Business plan and budget (3/6)

Key assumptions				
		Location 1	Location 2	
Revenue	Electrolyzer capacity [MW]	XX	XX	
	Gross Capacity factor [%]	XX	XX	
	Degradation rate [%]	XX	XX	
	Average H ₂ production [tons]	XX	XX	
	H ₂ sales price [EUR/kg]	XX	XX	
OPEX	Yearly Average O&M [EUR/MW]	XX	XX	
	Yearly Average G&A [EUR/MW]	XX	XX	
CAPEX	Electrolyzer price excl. freight [EUR/kW]	XX	XX	
	EPC Price (excl. ELY purch.) [EUR/kW]	XX	XX	
	Contingencies [% of EPC costs]	XX	XX	
	Development costs [EUR m]	XX	XX	
Financing	Target leverage [%]	XX	XX	
	Tenor [years]	XX	XX	
	Financing costs [all-in]	XX	XX	
	Target EIRR [x]	XX	XX	

A consolidated budget gives hydrogen valley developers clear cost visibility and control

Business plan and budget (4/6)

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

F. Project governance

Project budget - Consolidated overview

Overview

TechnologyXX

Electrolyzer capacity [MW]XX

Offtake agreement period [years]XX

Main milestones

Project startXX

FIDXX

Construction periodXX months

CAPEX & Financing

Electrolyzer price (excl. freight)XX EUR/kW

EPC priceXX EUR/kW

ContingenciesXX

Development costs (EUR m)XX

Tenor (years)XX

Target EIRRXX

CAPEX [EUR m]

Year	CAPEX [EUR m]
Year 1	0
Year 2	10
Year 3	20
Year 4	10
Total	40

CAPEX breakdown [EUR m]

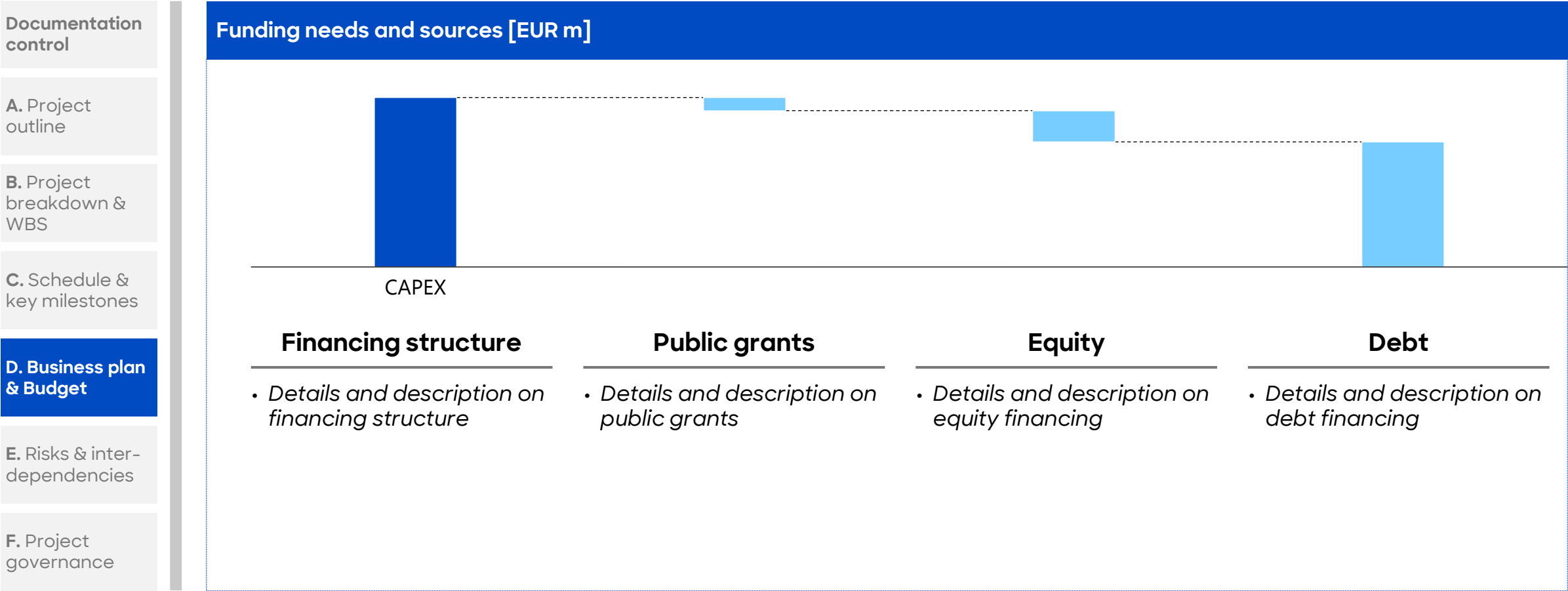
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Electrolyzer incl. plant	-	XX	XX	XX	XX
Insurance	-	XX	XX	-	XX
Taxes	XX	XX	-	-	XX
Development costs	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
Senior Debt - IDC	-	-	XX	XX	XX
Senior Debt - Fees	-	XX	XX	XX	XX
Initial WC Requirement	-	-	XX	XX	XX
Total	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX

Comments

• Descriptions and additional explanations on CAPEX and financing

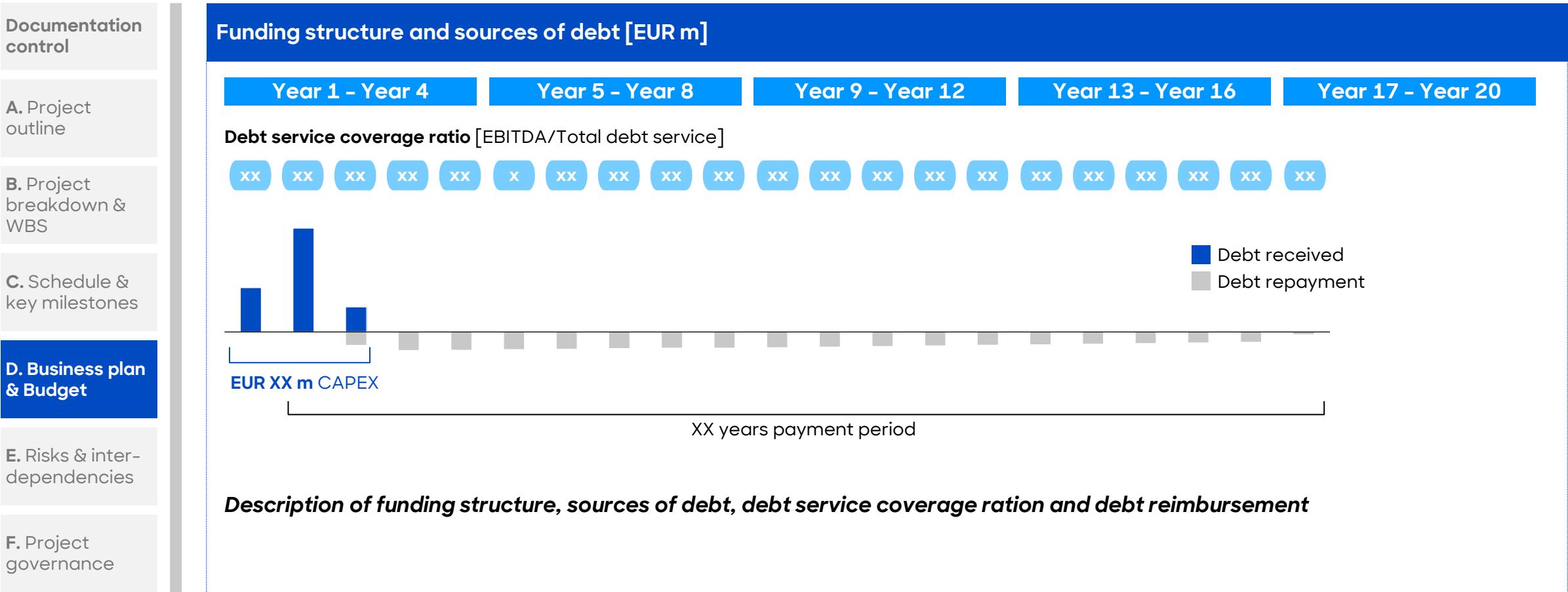
An overview of funding needs and sources is key for financial feasibility, investor transparency, and internal clarity on capital requirements

Business plan and budget (5/6)



An overview of debt funding - its structure, sources, DSCR, and repayments - is essential for financial feasibility

Business plan and budget (6/6)



A key element of the hydrogen valley project charter is identifying risks and interdependencies and defining a corresponding mitigation and action plan

Risks and interdependencies

Documentation control	Key risks				
	Risks	Impact	Likelihood	Controls / Mitigation plan	Action plan
	Risk 1: Design Risk Design of Hydrogen Valley is inadequate, doesn't meet technical standards, or requires changes, leading to delays or increased costs	Low - Poor design could result in rework, cost overruns, or reduced plant efficiency	Medium - Depends on contractor and engineering expertise	- Engage experienced EPC and conduct detailed feasibility studies - Review designs with third-party advisors and stakeholders to ensure suitability	- Request a performance guarantee from EPC/MC/O&M contractor - Implement a strict design approval process - Schedule regular design assessments
	Risk 2 : Construction Risk Cost overruns, delays, compliance with health and safety standards, and quality control issues during construction	Low - Directly impacts project budget and delivery schedule	Medium - Common in large-scale infrastructure projects	- Engage an experienced EPC contractor with proven track record in similar projects - Implement strict construction oversight and risk sharing clauses in contracts	- Develop a robust project management and quality control plan - Regularly monitor construction progress - Ensure compliance with health and safety standards
	Risk 3 : Operational Risk Risks associated with performance, increasing operational costs, compliance with maintenance standards, resource availability, or external disruptions	Low - Could lead to lower performance, increased maintenance costs, or operational delays	Low - Assuming proper construction, operational risks should be manageable	- Ensure clear operational guidelines, maintenance contracts, and service availability agreements - Develop contingency plans for unexpected operational disruptions	- Set up a maintenance schedule and operational performance monitoring system - Implement a long-term O&M contract to minimize disruptions
	<i>Example risks – to be adapted to project context</i>				

Within the project governance chapter, the organizational structure of the project organization and roles and responsibilities are established

Project governance (1/2)

Documentation control

A. Project outline

B. Project breakdown & WBS

C. Schedule & key milestones

D. Business plan & Budget

E. Risks & inter-dependencies

F. Project governance

Project organization

Organizational structure of a project organization

Chief Executive

PMO

Engineering

Surveying

Logistics

Risk

Finance & internal functions

Controlling

HR

Commercial

Business Dev.

Procurement

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
CEO	Responsible for strategic leadership and oversight and key decision-making
Head of Engineering	Responsible for design and construction methodologies to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness while preserving performance
Head of Financing	Responsible for securing financing (debt and equity) to fund the project development and construction
Head of Commercial	Responsible for market analysis, contract negotiation, stakeholder engagement and pricing strategy
Business Development	Responsible for the identification of strategic opportunities and partnerships to secure project delivery and value creation
Procurement	Responsible for the identification, evaluation and selection of suppliers, cost management and quality assurance
PMO	Responsible for project governance, sub-project management, resource allocation, support of other functions (e.g., Engineering, Commercial etc.)
Human Resources	Manages overall recruitment necessary to strengthen teams along projects development lifetime
Risk	Produces initial risk assessment of the stream and associated projects

For effective project governance in a Hydrogen Valley, it is important to have clarity on key contacts and maintain all contacts in a single, accessible location

Project governance (2/2)

Documentation control	Key contact persons			
A. Project outline				
B. Project breakdown & WBS				
C. Schedule & key milestones				
D. Business plan & Budget				
E. Risks & inter-dependencies				
F. Project governance				
	Name	Role	E-Mail	Phone number
	Hydrogen Valley lead developer			
	Name, Surname	Business Development	name.surname@hydrogenvalley1.com	+32XXXXXX
	Name, Surname	Technical Office	name.surname@hydrogenvalley1.com	+32XXXXXX
	Name, Surname	Value Engineering	name.surname@hydrogenvalley1.com	+32XXXXXX
	Name, Surname	Project Financing	name.surname@hydrogenvalley1.com	+32XXXXXX
	Name, Surname	PMO	name.surname@hydrogenvalley1.com	+32XXXXXX
	Partner 1			
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Partner 2			
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Public/local authority			
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

