D6.1

CASCADE FUNDING AND TRAINING TO THIRD PARTIES – INITIAL

Revision: V1

D6.1: Cascade Funding and training to third-parties – Initial

Report on the outcomes of the initial Open Call

Work package	WP6
Task	T6.1
Due date	30/06/2026
Submission date	30/06/2026
Deliverable lead	D4P (WP6 Leader)
Version	1
Authors	Rafael Oliveira Rodrigues (D4P)
Reviewers	Arzum Koca Celiktenli (Arthurs Legal)
Abstract	Reports on OC objectives, documents and FSTP implemented procedures. D6.1 provides the initial report on COP-PILOT's cascade funding and support to third parties under WP6, with a focus on the preparation, publication and early outcomes of Open Call 1. The deliverable summarises the call objectives, documentation package, eligibility and evaluation procedures, initial result and the tutorials and training activities designed to support third-party onboarding and experimentation. It also establishes the basis for monitoring the implementation of Financial Support to Third Parties and for the follow-up reporting activities foreseen in D6.2 and D6.3.
Keywords	Open Call 1, cascade funding, FSTP, third-party, proposal assessment methodology, piloting clusters, third-party training

Document Revision History

Version	Date	Description of change	List of contributors
V0.1	25/03/2026	Table of Contents	*D4P (WP6 Leader)*
V0.2	30/04/2026	Initial Draft	D4P (WP6 Leader)
V0.3	12/06/2026	Ready to review	D4P (WP6 Leader)

Co-funded by the European Union

V0.5	25/06/2026	Revised	Arthurs Legal
V1.0	30/06/2026	Submission	

Grant Agreement No: 101189819 | **Topic:** HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01-03
Call: HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01 | **Type of action:** HORIZON-IA

DISCLAIMER

Co-funded by the European Union

Project funded by

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

Co-funded by the European Union (COP-PILOT, 101189819). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. This work has received funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Project Co-funded by the European Commission in the Horizon Europe Programme		
Nature of the deliverable:	R	
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public, fully open, e.g. web (Deliverables flagged as public will be automatically published in CORDIS project's page)	X
Classified R-UE/ EU-R	EU RESTRICTED under the Commission Decision No2015/ 444	
Classified C-UE/ EU-C	EU CONFIDENTIAL under the Commission Decision No2015/ 444	
Classified S-UE/ EU-S	EU SECRET under the Commission Decision No2015/ 444	

* R: Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)

DEM: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs

DEC: Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.

DATA: Data sets, microdata, etc.

DMP: Data management plan

ETHICS: Deliverables related to ethics issues.

SECURITY: Deliverables related to security issues

OTHER: Software, technical diagram, algorithms, models, etc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Co-funded by the European Union

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable, D6.1 “Cascade Funding and training to third-parties - Initial Report on the outcomes of the initial Open Call”, provides an integrated account of how COP-PILOT has designed, implemented and launched its first Open Call (OC#1) to engage third-party innovators through Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP). It documents the OC#1 framework, the call documentation and procedures, the cluster specific technical context, and the initial results and lessons learned from the first months of implementation.

The report is centred in Work Package 6 (WP6), which coordinates the preparation, publication and dissemination of open calls (Task 6.1), the assessment of proposals and management of subgrants (Task 6.2), and the training of third parties (Task 6.3). D6.1 demonstrates how these tasks have been operationalised for OC#1, in close collaboration with the technical work packages and piloting clusters, and in alignment with Horizon Europe rules for cascade funding.

The document first introduces the COP-PILOT project, its technical framework, and its open call strategy. It then details the design and implementation of OC#1, including objectives, thematic focus, FSTP framework, call documentation, communication campaign, and support to applicants. The eligibility, evaluation and selection procedures are described to ensure transparency and traceability towards the Grant Agreement.

Subsequently, the deliverable presents for each cluster, the summarised testbed capabilities, open call challenges and technical integration for third parties.

Finally, D6.1 outlines the training strategy and initial tutorial, and training activities prepared to support OC#1 applicants and future sub-grantees and defines the next steps towards the second open call and subsequent deliverables D6.2 Cascade Funding and training to third-parties – Intermediate (M25) and D6.3 Cascade Funding and training to third-parties – Final (M36).

Co-funded by the European Union

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

Co-funded by the European Union

ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
API	Application Programming Interface
ATSI	AgriTech Transformation and Sustainability Initiative
EC	European Commission
ESO	Endo-to-end Service Orchestration
EV	Electric Vehicle
FSTP	Funding Support to Third Parties
IoT	Internet of Things
LLM	Large Language Model
MQTT	Message Queuing Telemetry Transport
OCMB	Open Call Management Board
SIF	Secure Integration Fabric
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
UC	Use Case
WP	Work Package

Co-funded by the European Union

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF D6.1

The purpose of D6.1 is to provide the EC and project stakeholders with a coherent picture of how COP-PILOT has set up and launched its cascade funding scheme via the first open call, and how this scheme is anchored in the project's technical and organisational framework. The deliverable covers the following topics:

- The conceptual and procedural design of OC#1 as a key instrument for engaging third-party innovators.
- The FSTP framework, including operational aspects relevant for third parties.
- The documentation package, guidelines and technical information that shape the call.
- The eligibility, evaluation and selection procedures.
- The initial results of OC#1 in terms of applications received.
- The training and support activities designed to facilitate third-party onboarding.

D6.1 is an "initial" report in the sense that it focuses on the design and early outcomes of OC#1. It will be complemented by D6.2 and D6.3, which together will cover the full implementation of both open calls, the progress and results of funded projects, and the cumulative impact of cascade funding on COP-PILOT's objectives.

1.2 POSITIONING WITHIN WP6 AND LINKS TO OTHER WPS

WP6 is responsible for the design and management of the COP-PILOT open calls, the assessment of proposals, the allocation and monitoring of FSTP, and the training of third parties. Task 6.1 establishes the guidelines, processes, and documentation required for the open calls, coordinates the publication and dissemination of the calls, and organises webinars and support activities for applicants. Task 6.2 manages the evaluation and selection process, involving external experts, and oversees the contracting and financial management of third-party projects. Task 6.3 develops and delivers training materials and events to enable third parties to adopt and integrate COP-PILOT's technologies and testbeds. D6.1 is closely linked to the technical work in WP3–WP5 and WP4 in particular, as the piloting clusters provide the infrastructure and use cases where third-party experiments will be executed. The deliverable also has strong interfaces with WP7, which coordinates dissemination, communication, exploitation and standardisation and provides channels and key performance indicators for measuring the outreach and impact of OC#1.

2 COP-PILOT OPEN CALLS AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 COP-PILOT SHORT PROJECT OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

COP-PILOT is a Horizon Europe Innovation Action under topic HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01-03, aiming to develop a collaborative open platform for robust, end-to-end service orchestration across the IoT-to-edge-to-core compute continuum. The project brings together a large consortium of industrial, academic and innovation actors to validate the platform through large-scale piloting clusters in mining, smart cities and buildings, agriculture, energy, and manufacturing.

The overarching objectives are to enable secure, intelligent and automated deployment of applications across multiple administrative domains, to foster interoperability through open standards and APIs, and to build a sustainable European ecosystem around collaborative edge-to-cloud services. The piloting clusters provide realistic environments and sector-specific use cases to demonstrate the platform's capabilities and to drive adoption in key industrial sectors.

2.2 COP-PILOT TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK AND PLATFORM ARCHITECTURE

The COP-PILOT technical framework is structured around a multi-layer orchestration platform that manages services and resources from the infrastructure layer up to the business management and user portal layer. At the bottom, heterogeneous infrastructures across the IoT-edge-cloud continuum are abstracted by distributed infrastructure services, which interface with a domain-level management layer comprising Domain Orchestrators and Data Management components.

A Secure Integration Fabric (SIF) provides zero-trust, secure connectivity between domains, enabling secure exposure of services and data and supporting data federation across different sites. On top of this, an End-to-End Service Orchestrator (ESO) federates domain-level marketplaces into a multi-domain marketplace of services, while a business management layer, implemented through an LLM-based business portal, offers unified access to the platform for all stakeholders.

This architecture is realised using a range of open-source components and standards, including ETSI OpenSlice, Kubernetes, FIWARE context brokers, OpenZiti, TM Forum APIs, ETSI ZSM, NGSI-LD and others, ensuring openness, interoperability and alignment with relevant standardisation communities. The platform is explicitly designed to be extensible, allowing third-party services and infrastructure domains to be integrated via the open calls.

2.3 OPEN CALL STRATEGY AND FSTP APPROACH IN COP-PILOT

COP-PILOT uses open calls and FSTP to accelerate innovation, expand the platform's capabilities, and engage SMEs, startups and other innovators in real-world piloting activities. Two open calls are foreseen, each associated with the COP-PILOT piloting clusters and focusing on onboarding new services and integrating new infrastructure domains.

The FSTP scheme is designed in line with Horizon Europe provisions, using a competitive selection process and transparent evaluation criteria. Third-party projects are expected to validate the COP-PILOT platform, contribute innovative services or infrastructure, and demonstrate

cross-domain collaboration within the piloting clusters. D6.1 focuses on the first open call (OC#1) and its initial implementation.

2.4 OVERVIEW OF OC#1

OC#1 is scheduled within the period M12–M25 so from December 25 to Q1 2027, with preparation starting around September as part of Task 6.1 and publication in March 2026, following finalisation of the call documentation and technical guidelines. The call is aligned with the availability of the initial COP-PILOT architecture and piloting infrastructure, so that third-party projects can benefit from an operational platform and mature testbeds.

D6.1, captures the state of play of OC#1 after proposals submissions, while D6.2 will report on the complete outcomes and lessons learned after the closure and implementation of open call projects.

Open Calls	Duration of 3rd party projects	Max funding (€)	Number of projects	Total funding (€)
COP-PILOT-OC1	8 Months	200.000	8	1.600.00
COP-PILOT -OC2			12	2.400.00
Total			**20**	**4.000.000**

Figure 1 COP-PILOT OC table

3 OC#1 METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 COP-PILOT OC#1 METHODOLOGY

The OC#1 during the preparation phase had a series of meetings collecting input and feedback from the OCMB (Open Call Management Board) which is led by the D4P and includes the partners involved in technical and financial aspects of the open call: the Project Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, the partner responsible for the 3rd party projects integration, the partner responsible for monitoring the implementation of the 3rd party projects, key technical partners and the pilots' Leaders. With this core group we developed the methodology in figure 2. As it is possible to observe, the methodology is divided in 6 phases, the ones marked with the green arrow are completed at the time of submission of this deliverable.

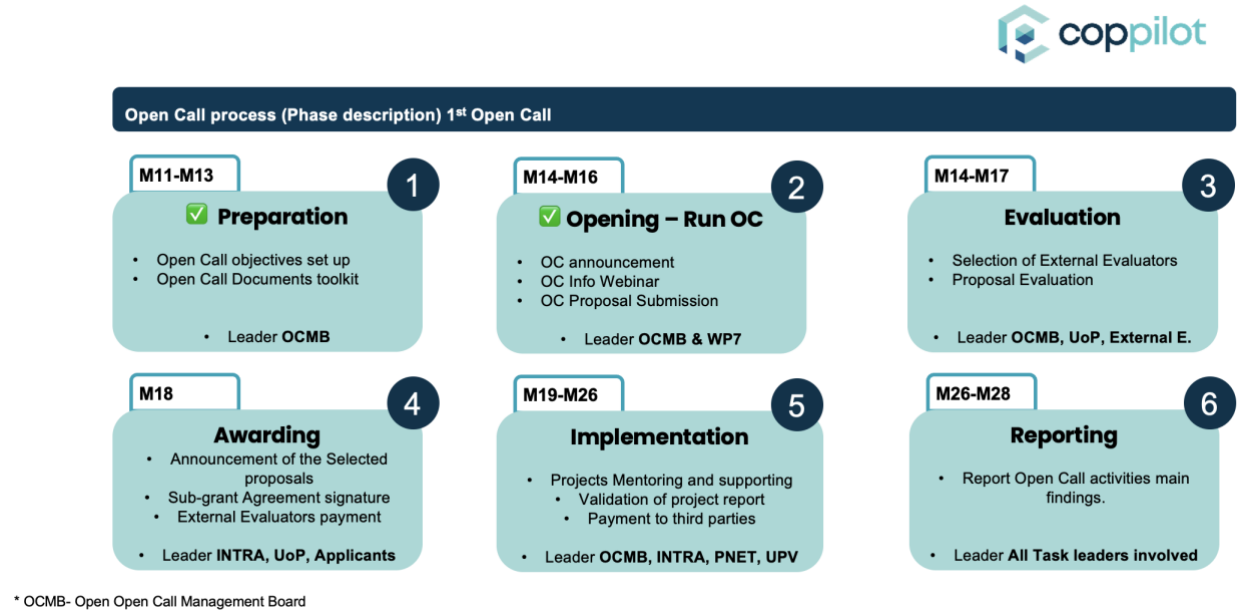


Figure 2 OC Methodology

After careful alignment with the technical work packages, and in order to provide a complete timeline to better suit the project technical progress, the cluster capacity of integrating new solutions the OC#1 and OC#2 will then follow the next timeline, represented in figure 3. In this figure one can observe the current stage, which is represented by the blue arrow depicted on the left side of this figure.

Co-funded by the European Union

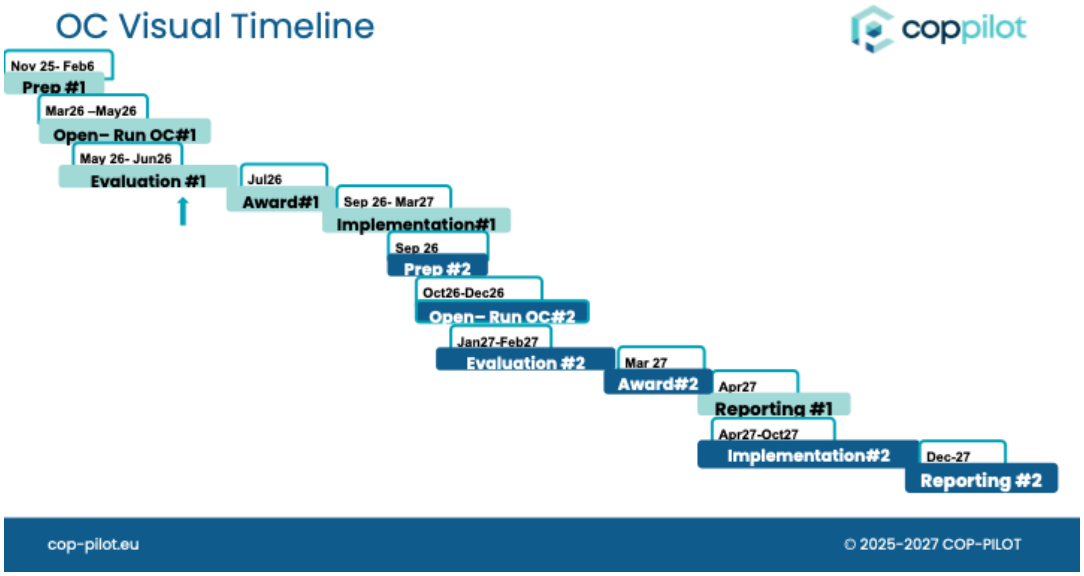


Figure 3 OC process full timeline

3.2 OBJECTIVES AND TARGET GROUPS OF OC#1

OC#1 aims to engage third-party innovators, primarily SMEs and startups, to design, integrate and validate innovative services and applications on top of the COP-PILOT platform, or to integrate new infrastructure domains into the piloting clusters.

The objectives include: Validating the COP-PILOT platform's core innovations, such as LLM-assisted onboarding, end-to-end orchestration, automated SLA assurance, and secure domain integration via the SIF. Expanding the ecosystem with new vertical applications and platform services relevant to the five piloting clusters. Introducing new infrastructure domains and data sources that can be federated into the COP-PILOT marketplace. Demonstrating cross-domain collaboration and interoperability based on open standards and APIs.

OC#1 addresses companies, research organisations and other entities with solutions at TRL5–6 that can reach TRL7–8 during the project, and that are able to integrate with the COP-PILOT platform and cluster-specific infrastructures.

3.3 THEMATIC FOCUS AND CLUSTERING CONCEPT

OC#1 is structured around five piloting clusters that represent distinct vertical sectors and use case families.

Cluster 1: Business Integration in Mining focusing on digital transformation and business integration across mining operations, with use cases such as seismic monitoring, underground logistics, predictive maintenance and a digital mine testbed.

Cluster 2: Smart Sustainable IoT Solutions in Valencia targeting smart city and smart building scenarios in the Valencia region (details can be found in cluster-specific guidelines shared through the Appendix A Cluster 2).

Cluster 3A: AgriTech Transformation and Sustainability Initiative addressing data-driven leafy vegetable production, pest detection, smart logistics and farm management.

Cluster 3E: Edge Intelligence for Grid Reliability focusing on distributed energy resources, biogas plants, EV charging and edge-based grid management.

Cluster 4: Smart Vineyards and Sustainable Winery Ecosystems addressing vineyard monitoring, water use efficiency, winery production optimisation, circular IoT and 5G-enabled agriculture.

Each cluster provides its own technical guidelines in the Appendix A specifying cluster objectives, testbed infrastructure, data sources, open call challenges and innovation opportunities. OC#1 applicants are expected to align their proposals with one cluster, demonstrating clear technical integration and expected impact.

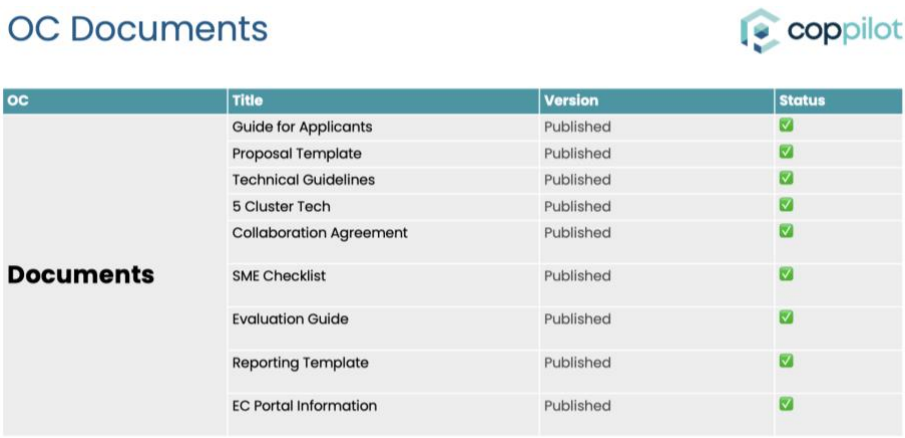
3.4 FSTP FRAMEWORK

The OC#1 FSTP framework follows the rules specified in the Grant Agreement, including maximum EU contribution per third-party project, total funding, and compliance with Horizon Europe eligibility and cost rules. The COP-PILOT consortium acts as intermediary, launching the call, evaluating proposals, and concluding sub-grant agreements with selected third parties.

The sub-grant agreement template is based on standard Horizon Europe cascade funding practices and includes provisions on: Scope of the sub-project and link to COP-PILOT objectives. Budget, payment schedule and conditions linked to milestones and deliverables. Intellectual property rights, including access to COP-PILOT foreground where necessary. Data management, open science obligations where applicable, and ethics compliance. Reporting and monitoring arrangements.

3.5 OC#1 DOCUMENTATION PACKAGE

The documentation produce for the OC#1 can be seen in the image below and some available here:


OC Documents

coppilot

OC	Title	Version	Status
Documents	Guide for Applicants	Published	✅
	Proposal Template	Published	✅
	Technical Guidelines	Published	✅
	5 Cluster Tech	Published	✅
	Collaboration Agreement	Published	✅
	SME Checklist	Published	✅
	Evaluation Guide	Published	✅
	Reporting Template	Published	✅
	EC Portal Information	Published	✅

Figure 4 OC#1 Documents

3.5.1 Guide for applicants and proposal templates

The OC#1 Guide for Applicants provides an overview of the call objectives, scope, funding scheme, eligibility conditions, application process and evaluation criteria. It describes the structure of the proposal form, including administrative information, excellence, impact, and implementation sections, and outlines the page limits and required annexes. Applicants submit proposals via the COP-PILOT Website OC form, using the templates provided in the Guide for Applicants and Proposal Guidelines, which also explain the evaluation process and timeline. The templates request information on technical concept, alignment with COP-PILOT clusters, integration with the platform, expected results, workplan, consortium composition, ethics and data management.

3.6 CLUSTER-SPECIFIC TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

Cluster-specific technical guidelines describe, for each piloting environment, the cluster objectives, existing use cases, available infrastructure, and the challenges and innovation opportunities that OC#1 applicants can address.

For example, the platform technical guidelines present the COP-PILOT architecture, workflows for service onboarding and domain integration, and expectations regarding validation of platform features. The guidelines for Cluster 1 detail the digital mine testbed, including IoT sensor networks, edge and cloud infrastructure, and open call challenges aimed at resilient edge-to-cloud mining solutions. Similar documents exist for Clusters 2, 3A, 3E and 4.

3.7 OC#1 COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH, AND SUPPORT TO APPLICANTS

The COP-PILOT consortium implements a multi-channel communication campaign to publicise OC#1, leveraging project web channels, partner networks, social media, and participation in relevant events. The Guide for Applicants and FAQs provide answers to common questions, and webinars and information sessions are organised to present the call and respond to prospective applicants.

A helpdesk function was set up to support applicants, providing clarifications on eligibility, scope, and technical integration via email and dedicated webinar sessions. This support was complemented by the cluster-specific technical guidelines in Appendix A, which help applicants understand the technical requirements and opportunities of each piloting environment.

Co-funded by the European Union

4 OC#1 ELIGIBILITY, EVALUATION, AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

4.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ADMISSIBILITY CHECKS

The eligibility criteria for OC#1 are defined in the Guide for Applicants and in accordance with the FSTP rules in the Grant Agreement.

They cover: Type of applicants (e.g. SMEs, startups, research organisations, other legal entities established in eligible countries). For the COP-PILOT OC, was mandatory for the applications to be led by and SME either alone or in a Consortium, if in consortium the composition rules, were outlined. Alignment of the proposal with at least one COP-PILOT cluster and with the scope of OC#1. Compliance with submission rules (use of templates, deadlines, completeness of information). Admissibility checks are conducted by the WP6 team and the OCMB to verify that proposals meet the formal submission requirements and that applicants are eligible. Ineligible or inadmissible proposals are not forwarded to external evaluation.

4.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA, SCORING, AND THRESHOLDS

Proposals that pass eligibility and feasibility checks are evaluated by independent experts according to predefined criteria and scoring rules. The main criteria are foreseen as:
Excellence: quality and credibility of the proposed innovation, soundness of the technical approach, and relevance to COP-PILOT clusters.
Impact: expected contribution to the COP-PILOT platform and clusters, scalability, business potential, and alignment with EU priorities such as green and digital transitions.
Quality and efficiency of implementation: appropriateness of the workplan, resources, risk management, and team expertise.

- **Criterion 1: EXCELLENCE (Score 0-5, minimum 3)**
  - 1.1 Clarity and Pertinence of Objectives

  Wherein proposal template: Section 1.1.1 "Concept and Objectives"
  Evaluators look for:
    - SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)
    - Clear problem statement
    - Alignment with COP-PILOT goals and cluster objectives
    - Platform validation contribution stated
    - Measurable success criteria

  - 1.2 Soundness of Methodology

  Where in template: Section 1.1.1 (methodology part) + Section 1.2 "Infrastructure Requirements"
  Evaluators look for:
    - Technical approach is scientifically/technically sound
    - Standards compliance (FIWARE, TMForum APIs, Eclipse Arrowhead, GAIA-X)
    - Infrastructure requirements realistic (testbed, computing, storage)
    - Integration protocols specified (MQTT, OPC UA, REST, etc.)
    - Risk assessment and mitigation

  - 1.3 Ambition & Innovation

  Where in template: Section 1.1.2 "State of the Art and Innovation"
  Evaluators look for:

- State-of-the-art analysis (what exists currently)
- Clear advancement beyond existing solutions
- Novel approach or technology
- Realistic ambition for Cloud/Edge/IoT ecosystem
- TRL progression (typically TRL 5-6 → TRL 7-8)

- **Criterion 2: IMPACT (Score 0-5, minimum 3)**
  - 2.1 Strategic Fit & Expected Impact

Where in template: Section 1.1.3 "Relevance to COP-PILOT Scope" + Section 2.2 "Expected Outcomes"
Evaluators look for:

- Specific cluster and use case (UC#) targeted
- COP-PILOT platform integration described
- Platform components leveraged identified
- New capabilities/extensions proposed
- Cross-sector scenarios supported
- Platform validation demonstrated:
  - Platform component validation (ServOrch, SIF, LLM-UI, etc.)
  - Ecosystem expansion (new services via Workflow 1 or new domains via Workflow 2)
  - Cross-domain collaboration (interaction with existing COP-PILOT clusters)

- 2.2 Sustainability & Replicability

Where in template: Section 2.1 "Expected Impact and Sustainability" + Section 1.1.4 "Data Management"
Evaluators look for:

- Technical, economic, scientific, environmental/social impact described
- Dissemination plan (how results will be shared)
- Sustainability plan (solution valuable after project ends)
- Replication potential to other clusters/sectors
- Open access/data sharing plans

- **Criterion 3: IMPLEMENTATION (Quality & Efficiency) (Score 0-5, minimum 3)**
  - 3.1 Work Plan Quality & Feasibility

Where in template: Section 3.1 "Work Plan and Timeline"
Evaluators look for:

- Clear phases (Design, Implementation, Testing, Evaluation/Reporting)
- Mandatory milestones:
  - M4 intermediate report (period M1-M3)
  - M9 final deliverable (period M4-M8)
- Realistic 8-month timeline
- Resource allocation per activity
- Dependencies and critical path identified
- Gantt chart or timeline table provided

- 3.2 Consortium Capacity & Expertise

Where in template: Section 3.2 "Team Qualifications"
Evaluators look for:

- Necessary expertise present
- Sufficient resources available
- Single applicant OR consortium (2-5 partners maximum)
- Track record in similar projects

- Clear role distribution among partners
- Publications or project references

- 3.3 Management & Resources Where in template: Section 3.3 "Budget & Justification"

Evaluators look for:

- Budget ≤ €200,000 (mandatory)
- Budget breakdown table completed:
  - Personnel (person-months)
  - Travel
  - Equipment & Software
  - Subcontracting
  - Other Direct Costs
  - Indirect Costs (max 25% of direct costs)
- Justification for each budget line
- Proportional to expected results (value for money)
- Efficient resource allocation

SCORING SCALE

Evaluators will score each criterion on the following **0 to 5 scale**:

Table 1: Scoring Scale

Score	Definition	Description
0	**Fail**	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to missing information.
1	**Poor**	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	**Fair**	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	**Good**	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary. **(Minimum Threshold)**
4	**Very Good**	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
5	**Excellent**	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

FINAL WEIGHTED SCORE

To calculate the final proposal ranking, the raw scores (0-5) are weighted. **Excellence** is given a higher weight to ensure operational feasibility.

To pass, a proposal must meet TWO requirements:

1. **Individual Threshold:** Score at least **3** (Good) in *every* criterion.

2. **Overall Threshold:** Achieve a total weighted score of at least **60 points**.

Table 2: Weight Calculation

Criterion	Raw Score (0-5)	Weighting Factor	Max Possible Score	Minimum Weighted Threshold
1. Excellence	0-5	**x 8**	40 points	**24 points**
2. Impact	0-5	**x 6**	30 points	**18 points**
3. Implementation	0-5	**x 6**	30 points	**18 points**
TOTAL			**100 POINTS**	**60 POINTS**

4.3 EXTERNAL EXPERTS AND EVALUATION PANELS

External evaluators are recruited based on criteria defined in Task 6.1 and confirmed in Task 6.2, ensuring appropriate expertise across the technical, business and sectoral domains relevant to OC#1. Evaluators are required to sign confidentiality, declare there is no conflict-of-interest and follow the evaluation guidelines. Proposals are typically evaluated by at least two independent experts, and consensus meetings or panel reviews are organised to consolidate scores and comments. WP6 and the coordinator ensure that the process is fair, transparent and aligned with Horizon Europe standards.

4.4 RANKING, SELECTION, AND RESERVE LISTS

Based on the individual and consensus scores, proposals are ranked, and a selection list is established, taking into account the available budget, the quality of proposals, and the need for a balanced portfolio across clusters, sectors and geographies. A reserve list may be created to allow for replacement projects if selected proposals withdraw or fail to sign the sub-grant agreement.

Co-funded by the European Union

5 INITIAL RESULTS

The initial results can be consulted in the COP-PILOT social media and in the image below:

Figure 5 COP-PILOT SM LinkedIn Applications[1]

The image above and related post can be found below in 1, besides LinkedIn CO-PILOT also as a dedicated mastodon and YouTube regularly updated with the latest news regarding the project activities

[1] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cop-pilot-horizon_cop-pilot-horizon-1st-open-call-submission-activity-7457421426325745664-y-_9 .

6 TRAINING, TUTORIALS AND SUPPORT FOR THIRD PARTIES

Task 6.3, led by UPV, aims to disseminate COP-PILOT methodologies, technical concepts and tools and to train third-party open participants to use the platform, clusters, use cases and technologies effectively. The training strategy is closely coordinated with WP7 and T5.2 and is foreseen to include online tutorials, webinars, namely the second one already available here, and other events, as well as reusable training materials, that can support both open call participants and broader dissemination efforts.

The training objectives are to: Provide third parties with sufficient understanding of the COP-PILOT platform, including the architecture, workflows and APIs. Enable integration with cluster-specific infrastructures and data platforms (e.g. FIWARE, OpenSlice, OpenZiti, Hyperledger Fabric). Support good practices in data management, security, ethics and standardisation. Foster a community of practice around COP-PILOT technologies.

Training materials for OC#1 build on the platform and cluster technical and administrative guidelines available as the Appendix A, together with the webinars already organised and their recordings. Reusable templates and supporting documentation are also being prepared to facilitate the onboarding and implmentation of the selected projects. Additional step-by-step guides and instructional materials explaining how to perform specific tasks on the COP-PILOT platform and testbeds were prepared and will be available at a later stge. Examples include: Tutorials on onboarding new services and domains via the COP-PILOT workflows and business portal, as well as cluster-specific tutorials on accessing testbed resources, deploying applications, and consuming data streams.

COP-PILOT organised webinars during the OC#1 opening period to present the call, explain the platform and cluster environments, and provide guidance on applications, as requested in the GA. Additional hands-on sessions and workshops will be planned to support sub-grantees during the onboarding and implementation phases, using preferentially online formats.

In addition to the training activities, a structured monitoring and support approach will be established for the selected third parties. Each project will be assigned a main contact from the corresponding cluster to facilitate communication and provide technical guidance. The support activities are expected to include an initial onboarding session to introduce the project expectations and available resources, regular follow-up meetings to monitor progress, collect feedback and address technical or organisational challenges, and a final review meeting to discuss project outcomes, lessons learned and potential follow-up actions.

To improve future open calls and training activities, COP-PILOT will collect feedback from applicants and funded third parties through some of the example methods of surveys, interviews or debriefing sessions. This feedback will cover the clarity of documentation, the usefulness of training materials, the usability of the platform, and any barriers encountered.

Additionally, at the end of the open-call projects duration, developed work and lessons learned tutorials will be recorded and made available for replication and extension purposes.

The outcomes of the Open Calls projects will also be showcased through relevant dissemination events, where appropriate, to maximize the visibility of the developed solutions and encourage their replication and uptake.

Co-funded by the European Union

7 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

D6.1 shows that COP-PILOT has put in place a comprehensive framework for cascade funding through OC#1, integrating a robust FSTP model, detailed technical guidelines, and a cluster piloting environment that can host and validate innovative third-party solutions. This deliverable provides transparency on the call design, documentation, and evaluation processes and outlines the methodological framework for monitoring and training.

At this stage, some information, particularly quantitative data on applications, funding distribution and training participation, remains to be collected and validated once OC#1 evaluation and early implementation phases have been completed.

Next steps include phase 3 and 4 OC#1 evaluation and contracting. In addition, the complexity of OC#1 documentation will be reassessed and adjusted before OC#2 based on the feedback as recommended in the General Project Review Consolidated Report shared in February 2026. D6.2 and D6.3 will build on this foundation to provide a full account of the outcomes and impact of cascade funding in COP-PILOT.

Co-funded by the European Union

APPENDIX A: GUIDELINES

- Guide for Applicants
- Technical Platform
- Cluster 1 – Business Integration in Mining
- Cluster 2 – Smart Sustainable IoT Solutions in Valencia
- Cluster 3A – AgriTech Transformation and Sustainability Initiative (ATSI)
- Cluster 3E – Edge Intelligence for Enhancing Grid Reliability in RES-Rich Distribution Grids
- Cluster 4 – Smart Vineyards and Sustainable Winery Ecosystems

Co-funded by the European Union