D7.5

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSVERSAL TOPICS GOVERNED BY CSAS - INITIAL

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D7.5: Contribution to the Development of the Transversal Topics Governed by CSAs - Initial

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Abstract	This deliverable presents the structured framework for the core collaboration areas between COP-PILOT and its corresponding Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs), specifically focusing on CEI-SPHERE and NexusForum. Centred around four strategic pillars, this initial document outlines and schedules the primary joint initiatives currently planned. To ensure maximum collective impact and remain responsive to the evolving requirements of the broader computing continuum community, this cooperation strategy will be continuously adapted, undergoing continuous updates and adjustments throughout the lifecycle of the projects.
Keywords	Clustering, CSA, collaboration, transversal topics

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable reports on the ongoing collaboration activities and joint tracking frameworks established between the COP-PILOT project and its corresponding Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs), NexusForum, and CEI-SPHERE. It is a formal update on how COP-PILOT has successfully integrated its technical pillars and pilot clusters into the shared European Cloud-Edge-IoT (CEI) ecosystem.

The report is systematically structured into three primary operational blocks:

- **The Community around COP-PILOT (Section 2) provides** an essential overview of the participating projects, detailing COP-PILOT's core architecture and its five real-world industrial validation clusters. It outlines the scope of NexusForum's focus areas and defines CEI-Sphere's governance concepts, including the domain-specific "Spheres" and horizontal "Task Forces".

- **Key Collaboration Actions (Section 3).** This section documents the formal management-level synchronization meetings executed to align project timelines and integrate review feedback. It provides a detailed record of how COP-PILOT's clusters are distributed across the three domain Spheres, traces the progress of their repetitive 3-month operational sprint cycles, and reports partner-level contributions across Task Forces 1, 2, and 3. The section also summarizes the practical dissemination tracking mechanisms, featuring the live chronological table of joint 2026 technical webinars, open consultations, and industrial hackathons used to benchmark and validate the platform's real-world market uptake.

By documenting these completed milestones and outlining upcoming joint plenary presences at major conferences like ENLIT, AIOTI Days, and INSIDE Connect, this deliverable serves as an accurate status report on COP-PILOT's compliance, interoperability alignment, and long-term sustainability layout within the European computing continuum.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIA	Artificial Intelligence Act - Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828
ADRA	AI, Data and Robotics Association
BDVA	Big Data Value Association
CEI	Cloud-Edge-IoT
CER	Critical Entities Resilience Directive - Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC
COP	Collaborative Open Platform
CRA	Cyber Resilience Act - Regulation (EU) 2024/2847 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013 and (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2020/1828
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
CSA2	Cybersecurity Act 2 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), the European cybersecurity certification framework, and ICT supply chain security, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2019/881
DER	Decentralized Energy Resources
DORA	Digital Operational Resilience Act - Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on digital operational resilience for the financial sector and amending Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009, (EU) No 648/2012, (EU) No 600/2014, (EU) No 909/2014 and (EU) 2016/1011
EUCS	European Cybersecurity Certification Scheme for Cloud Services
FSTP	Financial Support to Third Parties
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GTM	Go-To-Market
InfraOrch	Infrastructure Orchestrators
IP	Internet Protocol
IPCEI-CIS	Important Project of Common European Interest on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services
LLM	Large Language Model
LSP	Large-Scale Pilot

MIMs	Minimum Interoperability Mechanisms
NIS2	Network and Information Security Directive 2 - Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148
NBI	Northbound Interface
OEE	Overall Equipment Effectiveness
OSS	Open-Source Software
ROI	Return on Investment
SDV	Software-Defined Vehicle
ServOrch	Service Orchestrator
SIF	Secure Integration Fabric
SLA	Service Level Agreement
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TF	Task Force
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
V2G	Vehicle-to-Grid

1 COP-PILOT PROJECT OVERVIEW

COP-PILOT (Collaborative Open Platform for PILOTing services across emerging smart IoT and Edge environments) is a Horizon Europe Innovation looking to build a secure, AI-driven Collaborative Open Platform (COP). This aims to be a scalable, decentralized, efficient, and adaptable Cloud-Edge-IoT (CEI) system that maximizes industrial productivity, enhances value chains, and promotes open standards for virtualization and cross-domain interoperability, while ensuring strict Service Level Agreement (SLA) compliance and digital sovereignty.

The platform features six fundamental pillars:

- Hierarchical Orchestration: Links a global Service Orchestrator (ServOrch) with local Infrastructure Orchestrators (InfraOrch).
- Unified APIs & Resource Slicing: Partitions multi-domain services into uniform, isolated network sub-slices.
- Zero-Touch Solutions: Employs an LLM-powered multi-modal UI to simplify and accelerate service onboarding.
- "Auto-Pilot" Continuum Tool: Automates platform scaling by letting owners seamlessly register new domain clusters.
- Secure Integration Fabric (SIF): Uses OpenZiti software-defined zero-trust networking for continuous authentication.
- IoT Data Federation: Merges heterogeneous device data streams into scalable cross-domain data lakes.

The platform is validated in real-world conditions across five industrial and urban pilot sectors:

- Cluster 1 (Mining, Sweden): Uses low-power IoT and edge-cloud nodes to process rock seismic data for predictive maintenance.
- Cluster 2 (Smart Cities, Spain): Deploys an edge continuum across Valencia to run real-time traffic, port, and flood AI models.
- Cluster 3E (Grid Reliability, Greece): Mitigates grid congestion in biogas production and EV charging via edge AI forecasting.
- Cluster 3A (ATSI, Greece): Combines sensors, drones, and agri-robotics for precision farming and supply chain tracking.
- Cluster 4 (Smart Vineyards, Portugal): Integrates soil telemetry and drone imaging to optimize agricultural water efficiency.

To drive market uptake, COP-PILOT allocates 4 million euros in cascade funding across two Open Calls. The First Open Call ran during the first half of 2026 (M13 to M19), funding 8 projects with up to €200,000 each in equity-free grants for an 8-month platform integration program. A subsequent second call (€2.4M budget, planned for the second half of the project) will fund 12 additional projects to expand the multi-domain ecosystem.

To fulfill its mission and ensure that its technical breakthroughs reach target markets, industries, and standardization bodies, COP-PILOT establishes a dedicated collaboration framework with the two key Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) appointed by the European Commission for the Cloud-Edge-IoT domain.

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2 THE CSA COMMUNITY AROUND COP-PILOT

2.1 NEXUSFORUM PROJECT OVERVIEW

NexusForum.eu is a European Coordination and Support Action (CSA) co-funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program. Operating along the Cognitive Computing Continuum, NexusForum serves as a physical and strategic bridge that actively facilitates the transition of European Commission-funded research and innovation projects towards concrete industrial and market collaboration. By merging deep research analysis with proactive digital policy, the platform builds a shared innovation roadmap designed to advance Europe's value-driven, sustainable, and secure technological leadership.

NexusForum centers its ecosystem expansion and road mapping activities around **four critical industrial focus areas** aligned with the European Computing Continuum:

- **AI for Cloud-Edge**: Pioneering the orchestration, integration, and management of a decentralized, multi-provider continuum.
- **Cloud-Edge for AI**: Enabling, accelerating, and facilitating artificial intelligence execution directly across edge networks.
- **Telco Cloud-Edge**: Addressing next-generation network infrastructure convergence.
- **Cloud-Edge Use Cases**: Validating high-potential architectures across critical industry fields like software-defined vehicles, satellite communications, and hyper-decentralized data layouts.

Transversally, NexusForum integrates four core European priorities into every layer of its work: open-source software sovereignty, green/climate-conscious digital infrastructure sustainability, vendor-neutral interoperability, and stringent cybersecurity.

To bring its strategic goals to life, NexusForum organized unique, flagship physical summits that unite high-profile policymakers, industrial experts, member state representatives, and leading research engineers.

The annual NexusForum Summits served as flagship physical events that systematically drove European cloud-edge research toward commercial and policy realization.

While the foundational **NexusForum 2023** in Brussels established early pathways for sovereign, open-source pan-European edge clouds to support secure European Data Spaces, **NexusForum 2024** shifted "From Theory to Action," marking the first public presentation of the monumental €2.6B Important Project of Common European Interest: Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS) initiative alongside the launch of Europe's initial Cognitive Computing Continuum Roadmap. Building upon that momentum, **NexusForum 2025** Summit was held in November 2025 in Brussels and focused explicitly on the critical convergence of AI, sustainable computing, and digital sovereignty.

2.2 CEI-SPHERE PROJECT OVERVIEW

CEI-Sphere (Coordination and Support Action for the Cloud-Edge-IoT Ecosystem) is the primary Coordination and Support Action (CSA) through which COP-PILOT aligns, collaborates, and benchmarks its technological and market discoveries. Spanning a 30-month duration, CEI-Sphere functions as the central orchestration layer appointed by the European Commission to cross the chasm from pure research into real-world industrial adoption. Its baseline mission is to foster innovation, standardize interfaces, map interoperability parameters, and drive key partnerships across the European computing continuum.

The structural relationship between COP-PILOT and CEI-Sphere is deeply integrated, building on shared standardization tasks and cross-partner involvement. CEI-Sphere acts as an ecosystem orchestrator, facilitating mutual benchmarking, shared workspaces, and coordinated timelines to maximize impact for the European Union and beyond.

CEI-Sphere also connects COP-PILOT with its sister Innovation Action, O-CEI Horizon, ensuring a unified approach to European open edge architectures and market uptake while preventing overlapping efforts. Through this framework, the projects collaborate to turn localized building blocks into standardized commercial products within a sovereign European data ecosystem.

2.2.1 The CEI-Sphere's "Spheres" Concept

To manage the large scope of the Cloud-Edge-IoT domain, CEI-Sphere organizes its coordination actions into three specialized, open operational ecosystems termed "Spheres". These Spheres serve as collaborative, domain-specific touchpoints where Large-Scale Pilot (LSP) use-case holders, external industry experts, early adopters, and organizations gather to eliminate technical blockers, share best practices, and accelerate time-to-market execution. Participation is entirely open, meaning external adopters and industry experts are actively welcomed alongside project partners to build a comprehensive demand-supply ecosystem.

The coordination scope of CEI-Sphere is split across three strategic, cross-domain market segments:

- **Mobility, Logistics, and the Software-Defined Vehicle (SDV) Sphere**: led by BluSpecs, this sphere encompasses 11 use cases as its Primary Sphere and 5 use cases as its Secondary Sphere. It focuses heavily on connected mobility, software-defined vehicle architectures, and deep logistics automation.
- **Energy and Infrastructure Resilience Sphere**: Jointly led by AIOTI and VDI, this sphere oversees 17 use cases as its Primary Sphere and 11 use cases as its Secondary Sphere. It covers grid flexibility, decentralized energy resources (DER), vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and edge-enabled smart energy management frameworks.
- **Industrial Optimization and Productivity Sphere**: Led by INSIDE, this sphere coordinates 18 use cases as its Primary Sphere and 16 use cases as its Secondary Sphere. It addresses smart manufacturing, industrial IoT connectivity, process automation, and the modernization of legacy system data protocols.

2.2.2 The CEI-Sphere's "Task Force" Concept

Alongside the domain-specific collaboration Spheres, CEI-Sphere supports the COP-PILOT Horizon and O-CEI Horizon Large-Scale Pilots (LSPs) through the creation of three dedicated horizontal Task Forces (TFs). These Task Forces serve as the fundamental backbone of collaboration across the Cloud-Edge-IoT community, bringing together representatives from the LSPs, cluster projects, and CSA partners. Led by individual CSA partners, they facilitate an open flow of technical knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices to accelerate the progress of Europe's hyper-distributed computing ecosystem.

- **Task Force 1: Open-source, Architecture, and Standardisation** - This Task Force provides critical technical expertise to the LSPs by unifying system architecture, open-source development, and technical compliance. By merging previously separate efforts in open-source engagement and architectural design, this task force actively works to streamline and unify technical approaches across different projects. Its primary objective is to advance cross-domain interoperability, ensuring that built solutions are robust, reusable, and secure. It focuses on establishing common architectures, shared foundational repositories, and verification/certification frameworks that help projects adhere to strict best practices in open development.

- **Task Force 2: Market Uptake and Industry Engagement** - Focusing strictly on translating technical innovation into concrete business impact, this Task Force helps projects successfully bridge the gap to commercial deployment. It combines broad ecosystem engagement with deep, sector-specific market insights to provide clear guidance on commercialization pathways. The group plays a key role in supporting the design and promotion of the LSPs' open calls, defining go-to-market strategies, and facilitating continuous communication with potential software adopters and commercial industry stakeholders to ensure long-term market sustainability.

- **Task Force 3: Stakeholder Forum and Outreach** - This Task Force leads the strategic coordination, outreach, and stakeholder engagement across the broader digital innovation landscape. Its core mission is to build strong, structured connections with major EU-level initiatives (such as the Chips JU, ADRA, 6G IA and BDVA), national and regional bodies, and underlying industry networks. By merging strategic liaison efforts with cohesive communication strategies, it mobilizes the community through joint events, specialized workshops, and collaborative hackathons. This ensures the project's technical results maintain a highly influential and visible voice across multiple European policy and innovation levels.

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3 KEY COLLABORATION ACTIONS

3.1 CLUSTERING ACTIVITIES WITH NEXUSFORUM

COP-PILOT Horizon and NexusForum successfully established strong institutional relations during the third month of the project (March 2025) through meetings held directly at the project management level, between the two Project Coordinators.

Following this initial alignment, the two initiatives maintained continuous operational collaboration through regular, structured monthly interactions between their respective Communication and Dissemination teams.

This cross-project synergy was further demonstrated by active partner participation at the high-profile NexusForum 2025 Summit, which provided an effective collaborative space to exchange insights and align technical strategies within the broader computing continuum. The theme of the 2025 Summit was digital sovereignty. Various domains and dimensions of digital sovereignty were discussed, including open source, federated cloud for Europe, AI Continent, and updates were provided on the then-ongoing Cloud and AI Development Act developments. A report of the summit can be found here. Forum served as a vital mobilization space to influence investment priorities, offering targeted panels on open-source cloud innovation for AI and an exhibition showcasing real-world use cases from high-impact Horizon Europe initiatives. The summit was further utilised for further discussions on the ongoing mission and work of NexusForum, including its cybersecurity track, led by RISE, most notably to update the NexusForum R&I Roadmap Cognitive Computing Continuum, which, among others, includes transversal topics such as digital sovereignty, open source, sustainability and energy efficiency, interoperability and cybersecurity.

Arthur's Legal, who is a partner in both COP-PILOT and NexusForum and Co-Chair of the Cloud-Edge Working Group of European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge, and Cloud participated as a speaker in the NexusForum 2025 Summit. Arthur's Legal leveraged the gained knowledge on new or additional notions and recommendations how to create the foundations for a secure, interoperable, and sovereign European computing continuum, such as (i) adopting a holistic and systems-centric approach to cybersecurity, analysing cascading risks and systematic risks in the European computing continuum, (ii) harmonising the markets and regulations within Europe, and support the development of ecosystems and mechanisms for interoperability, to ensure seamless service integration and data portability, (iii) strengthening governance and compliance mechanisms aligned with European hazard- and risk-based regulations in this Digital Age (such as NIS2, CER, DORA, CRA, CSA2/EUCS and AIA), (iv) considering open-source hardware and software technologies as a geopolitical concern, and ensure transparency and long-term sustainability of European digital infrastructure by supporting open-source governance models, for example based on RISC-V, and (v) as the supply of European semiconductor technologies is strengthened, developing an early focus for their uptake by creating a strong demand and market for them in advance.

Within COP-PILOT's collaborative framework, NexusForum acted as an invaluable conduit to major high-level structures, notably the European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge, and Cloud. Through NexusForum's exclusive Working Groups and recurring roadmaps, COP-PILOT can benchmark its zero-touch, zero-trust cloud orchestration frameworks directly against the strategic architectural needs of the main European cloud players.

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By participating in NexusForum's physical project exhibitions and strategic roundtables, COP-PILOT aimed to make its live industrial outcomes highly visible to public administrations and demand-side industrial networks that drive Europe's technological roadmap.

Other recommendations for the NexusForum Roadmap included adding a security blueprint for services operating in Cloud/Edge environments, as well as infrastructure-level security for system-of-systems (such as automated security operations centers). Additionally, the update suggests providing best practice guidance and mapping relevant tools to the underlying infrastructure to improve accountability in cybersecurity. More specific recommendations concerned Zero-Trust Architecture, Federated Authentication, Integration of Hardware-Based Trust Mechanisms, Hazard-Based Approaches, Level of Assurance Frameworks, and Standardization of Compliance Frameworks, most notably to promote simplification and harmonization of EU-level processes and address fragmentation from divergent national standards.

In addition to helping finalize and publish the updated Roadmap, COP-PILOT partners (Arthur's Legal and RISE) have submitted a joint paper titled "Cybersecurity and Cyber-Resilience in the European Cloud–Edge–IoT Continuum: A Survey, Reference Architecture, and Research Agenda." This article explicitly acknowledges the support of the NexusForumEU project and is currently under final review for publication in IEEE Access.

3.2 CLUSTERING ACTIVITIES WITH CEI-SPHERE

3.2.1 Key Cooperation Principles

To govern their interaction throughout the 2025–2027 project lifecycle, COP-PILOT and CEI-Sphere created a collaboration framework. Representatives of the two consortia have established concrete shared intentions and trackable action items aimed at optimizing activities across the CEI-Sphere domain "Spheres" and technical Task Forces. This structured partnership is designed to maximize the collective impact of Europe's hyper-distributed computing ecosystem.

The primary goals driving this collaboration framework include:

- **Strategic European Alignment**: Anchoring COP-PILOT's architectural framework alongside CEI-Sphere and O-CEI Horizon to establish a unified, large-scale pilot (LSP) strategic layout that directly supports Europe's computing continuum priorities.
- **Preventing Fragmentation**: Synchronizing agendas to eliminate operational overlaps and ensure that CEI-Sphere, COP-PILOT Horizon, and O-CEI Horizon push uniformly toward a single, cohesive European cloud-edge-IoT vision.
- **Trends Mapping**: Remaining at the forefront of rapid advancements across the cloud-edge continuum, including market shifts, evolving cloud regulations, technological roadmaps, and international standardization tracks.
- **Maximizing Public Funding Efficiency**: Ensuring optimal utilization of EU taxpayer resources. The participating teams share the core conviction that research outcomes must translate directly into operational, real-world industrial environments to elevate European competitiveness and support democratic digital values. This direct, real-world application underpins the ambition to achieve a high return on investment (ROI) from all project allocations.
- **Driving Synergies**: Mapping a preliminary, flexible index of joint activities designed to complement the inner workplans and targets of each project.

- **Adapting Innovations**: Harmonizing technical developments with breaking trends in an ever-shifting Cloud-Edge-IoT and AI landscape, such as vehicle-to-grid (V2G) implementations, precision data ecosystems, and secure credentials.

- **Co-Executing High-Impact Outreach**: Organizing joint ecosystem activities, including technical webinars, physical workshops, cross-domain hackathons, joint publications, and targeted market actions, to deliver mutual benefits.

To effectively translate these objectives into reality, the collaboration between CEI-Sphere, COP-PILOT Horizon and O-CEI Horizon, is operationalized across two distinct levels:

- **Internal Management-Level Alignment:** The Project Coordinating teams (PCs, Technical Coordinators and WP7 leaders) of the three initiatives hold regular monthly coordination meetings to evaluate emerging opportunities, align project timelines, and co-design joint high-level ecosystem activities.

- **Partner-Level Operationalization:** At the broader consortium partner level, the day-to-day technical development, market analysis, and outreach are executed through active participation in CEI-Sphere's specialized Task Forces and domain-specific Spheres.

3.2.2 COP-PILOT Horizon Management Level Alignment with CEI-Sphere and O-CEI Horizon

To ensure a continuous flow of technical knowledge and to maximize market impact across the European computing continuum, the coordination teams from CEI-Sphere, COP-PILOT Horizon, and O-CEI Horizon establish regular monthly synchronization meetings. These touchpoints serve as a joint governance layer to assess European Commission review feedback, align open-source strategies, track cascade funding, and coordinate cross-domain exploitation assets. By reviewing active timelines and clustering LSP challenges, the management teams systematically bridge horizontal priorities with the distinct vertical requirements of each cluster.

The COP-PILOT's representatives in these meetings are the Project Coordinator (NetCompany), the Technical Coordinator (Ubitech), the WP7 leader (INC), and the Communication and Dissemination Leader (D4P).

The table below outlines the primary topics addressed during the initial monthly coordination sessions during 2025 and 2026, alongside COP-PILOT's specific contributions and the cross-project outcomes derived from these meetings:

Month	Topics covered	COP-PILOT Contribution & Strategic Outcomes
April – May 2025 (CEI-Sphere COP-PILOT meetings)	Task Forces creation	COP-PILOT partners answered CEI-Sphere survey
July 2025 (CEI-Sphere COP-PILOT meeting)	Onboarding parameters for Task Force tracks Preliminary validation of pilot-to-sphere structural mapping.	Committed to engaging broad consortium partners across the horizontal Task Forces to address concrete technical challenges.

	Upcoming events Technical evaluation of the upcoming Software-Defined Vehicle (SDV) Hackathon.	Reviewed the initial internal configuration arrays to map baseline clusters directly against the domain Spheres.
September 2025 (CEI-Sphere COP-PILOT meeting)	Strategic launch planning for the three core domain Spheres at AIOTI Days. Task Force structural setup and membership IDC Enterprise Market Survey. Cross-project event scheduling and session alignment.	Formally approved and agreed to the functional definitions of *Spheres* To date, a total of 12 dedicated project representatives have been registered within the 3 TFs Input on the survey Input provided
November 2025 (all projects meeting)	Launch review of the Mobility Sphere at the V2G Leaders forum. Cross-project Excel and PowerPoint asset validation for pilot use cases. Technical scoping, infrastructure, and timeline design for the 2026 European Hackathons. Inter-project review of the V2G-focused Enterprise Market Survey. Analysis of low Task Force engagement due to upcoming pilot reporting constraints.	Input provided. Commenced partner-level validation checks to verify that individual cluster use cases match their assigned domain Spheres. Early input provided Evaluated enterprise survey structures to guarantee complete alignment with localized cluster objectives, ensuring zero gaps in reporting scopes. Remediation roadmap to boost Task Force engagement post-reporting period.
January 2026 (all projects meeting)	Initial Hackathon scoping and theme definitions. Cross-project Task Forces status review. Onboarding strategy for the CEI Spheres.	Provided Hackathon theme Follow-ups with partners on TF contribution and participation in Sphere events

	Standardization of the common Use Case Catalogue layout. Preparation of the joint webinar on Open Calls Preparation of the OCR event	Promotion of the OC joint webinar. Presentation of the upcoming COP-PILOT OC during the joint webinar Strategic input on the event agenda, promotion of the event
February 2026 (all projects meeting)	European Commission (EC) review feedback integration Upcoming Hackathons in June and October 2026 CEI-Spheres activities Task Forces activities Use case catalogue Upcoming events, with focus on OCR and workshop collocated with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC41	Strategic input and promo of the hackathon Co-designed the timeline and assigned partner tracking for the real-world situational use case catalogue Strategic input on agenda and promotion of events post meeting
March 2026 (all projects meeting)	Use case catalogue Brochure Upcoming Hackathons CEI-Sphere events Hourglass to Eurostack Open Calls status Upcoming events	Provide strategic input for the UCC/brochure, hackathon and events Provide insights on the evolution of the application to the COP-PILOT OC
April 2026 (all projects meeting)	June Hackathon CEI-Sphere ongoing activities Brochure Open Calls status Upcoming events Briefing on deep dive analysis and market insights	Provide strategic input for the UCC/brochure, hackathon, and events Provide insights on the evolution of the application to the COP-PILOT OC
May 2026 (all projects meeting)	June Hackathon CEI-Sphere June – Sept Action Plan Brochure Task Forces Upcoming events	Provide strategic input for the UCC/brochure, hackathon and events Promotion of hackathon and event meeting

Table 1: Topics addressed during the initial monthly coordination sessions

3.2.3 COP-PILOT Horizon Participation in Spheres

To systematically align COP-PILOT with the broader European Cloud-Edge-IoT community, the project management team and partners conducted a thorough mapping exercise to match the real-world industrial clusters with CEI-Sphere's domain environments. This structural analysis resulted in a clear distribution of our clusters across the three thematic Spheres, as presented below:

- **Sphere 1: Energy and Infrastructure Resilience**

- **Cluster 3E:** Focusing on *Harvesting Real-Time Flexibility from Active Electricity Grids* and *Predictive Maintenance and Monitoring of Biogas Plant Operations* (with *Ensuring Uninterruptible Power Supply for Fast EV Chargers* as a secondary scenario).
- **Cluster 4:** Focusing on *AI-Driven Green Energy Vineyard Management*.

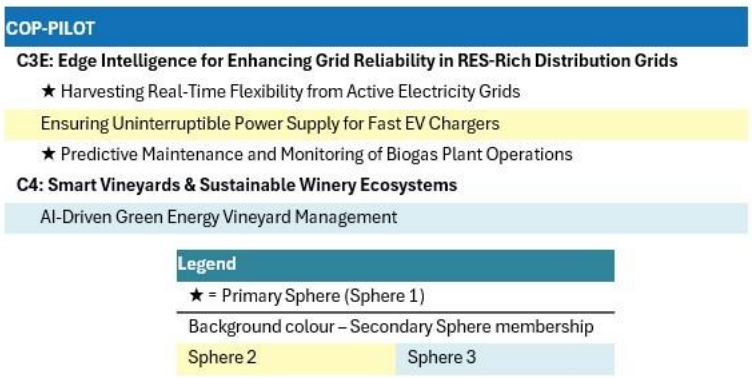

Figure 1: COP-PILOT Partners' Participation in Sphere 1

- **Sphere 2: Sustainable Mobility, Logistics, and the Software-Defined Vehicle (SDV)**
  - **Cluster 2:** Primary Sphere for the Cluster scenarios related to *Smart City Data Monitoring*, *Sustainable Connected Campuses*, and *Advanced Maritime/Terrestrial Traffic Management in Ports*.
  - **Cluster 3E:** Primary sphere for its scenario concerning *Ensuring Uninterruptible Power Supply for Fast EV Chargers*.
  - **Cluster 1 & Cluster 3A:** For these Clusters, Sphere 2 is a secondary Sphere, for their *Logistics IoT* and *Smart Logistics and Supply Chain Optimization* scenarios.

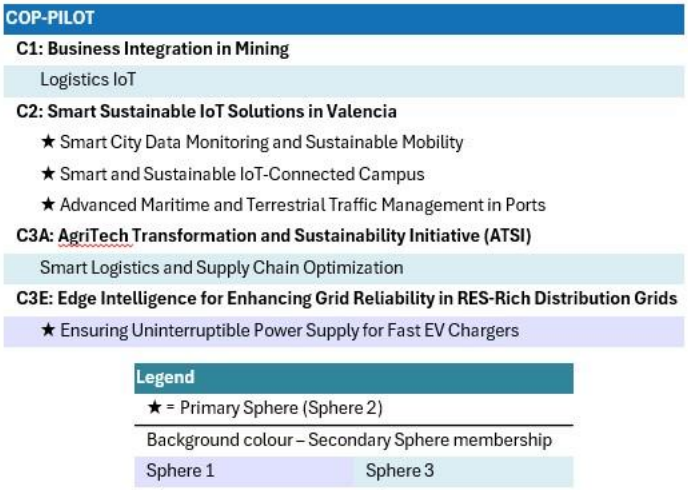

Figure 2: COP-PILOT Partners' Participation in Sphere 2

- **Sphere 3: Industrial Optimisation and Productivity**
  - **Cluster 1 (Mining):** Primary sphere across all four core scenarios (*IoT Mining Seismics*, *Logistics IoT*, *Condition Monitoring/Predictive Maintenance*, and the *IoT-Edge-Cloud Continuum*).
  - **Cluster 3A (AgriTech):** Participating via all four primary lines as primary sphere (*Precision Agriculture*, *AgriRobotics*, *Secure Data Management*, and *Smart Logistics*).
  - **Cluster 4 (Vineyards/Wineries):** Attending as the primary sphere, covering its entire end-to-end operational layout (*Recycling Maintenance*, *Water Use Efficiency*, *IoT-Enhanced OEE Analytics*, and *AI-Driven Green Energy Vineyard Management*).

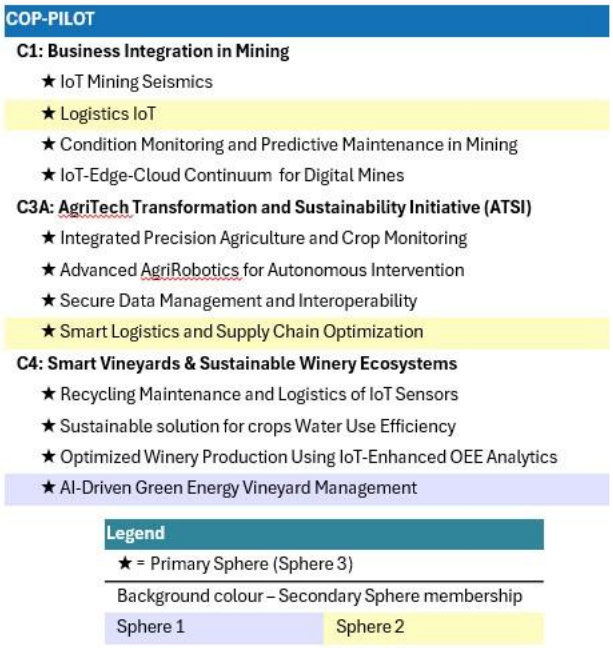

Figure 3: COP-PILOT Partners' Participation in Sphere 3

The following COP-PILOT Horizon Consortium partners are participating in the Spheres activities: Cluster 1 (LTU, ThingWave), Cluster 2 (NES, FiveCom, UPV, VPF), Cluster 3A (AUA, iLink), Cluster 3E (EnakronIC), Cluster 4 (OneSource), NetCompany, University of Brandford, Konnektable and Digital for Planet.

3.2.3.1 The "Spheres" Planned Operational Cycles

The workflow within each individual Sphere follows a structured, repetitive operational rhythm designed to move concrete technological challenges systematically toward validated commercial offerings. The mechanics function through a three-part progression cycle, captured in Figure 4 below:

1. **Stand-Up #1 (Ecosystem Scoping & Pulse Check), March 2026**: The cycle began with an initial touchpoint and challenge alignment session. Communities reviewed broad baseline

requirements and deployed focused ecosystem surveys to capture the biggest technical and operational barriers encountered by pilots on the ground.

2. **Stand-Up #2 (Progress Check & Shaping of the Deep Dive), April 2026**: A secondary touchpoint that reviewed early progress, analysed survey feedback, and defined the structural limits of the upcoming technical challenges. This session was accompanied by a technical webinar to prepare the ecosystem for deeper collaboration.

3. **Deep Dive #1 (Technical Challenge-Solving Workshop), May 2026**: A highly specialized, interactive workshop where external domain experts and standardization bodies were brought directly into the loop. The core focus centred entirely on solving real architectural blockers, cross-project data exchange constraints, and software-defined interoperability challenges identified by the LSPs.

4. **Stand-Up #3, scheduled for July 2026**: This stand-up will serve as a joint plenary session across all three domain Spheres. The objective of this session is to showcase prominent Cloud-Edge-IoT (CEI) market trends and deliver cross-sector technical insights derived from the comprehensive IDC enterprise demand survey conducted across Europe.

5. **Deep-Dive Workshop #2, scheduled for September 2026**: It aims to be strategically aligned with major industry events in September 2026 to maximize ecosystem impact. Specifically, the Mobility and Energy Spheres will be integrated into the AIOTI Days program in Florence, while the Industrial Optimization and Productivity Sphere will be hosted in Palermo during the INSIDE Connect forum.

6. **Standup #4** is planned for **October/November 2026.**

7. **Deep-Dive Workshop #3, scheduled for November/December 2026**: It will be structured around specialized high-profile industry events to finalize the annual project validation cycles. The Energy and Infrastructure Resilience Sphere will execute its deep dive at ENLIT in Vienna, the Sustainable Mobility Sphere will coordinate its session alongside the V2G Leaders forum in Brussels, and the Industrial Optimisation and Productivity Sphere will be hosted in Helsinki during the EFECS conference. COP-PILOT participation at ENLIT is confirmed via a joint stand with CEI-Sphere and O-CEI Horizon.

Figure 4: CEI-Sphere Rhythm – Planned Operational Cycles

Table 2 summarizes the specific Sphere activities executed or scheduled throughout 2026, alongside the direct involvement of COP-PILOT partners across each operational track.

Timing	Sphere activity	COP-PILOT Participation	Outcome	Links
January 12th	Understanding the CEI ecosystem via the Hourglass model webinar	INC, UPV	Participation at webinar	LinkedIn
February 12th	Scaling up CEI pilots: Discover the open calls of O-CEI and COP-PILOT webinar	NetCompany, D4P	Communication/Dissemination of the upcoming COP-PILOT Open Call	Website LinkedIn LinkedIn LinkedIn Mastodon Mastodon
March	Ecosystem survey aiming to identify the main challenge that COP-PILOT Clusters and O-CEI Horizon Pilots are facing	Cluster 2 (Telefonica) and Cluster 3A partners (iLINK)	The main challenge identified was interoperability	NA
April	Call open to all Sphere members, during which the survey results were reviewed.	iLINK	Decisions to organize a workshop on Interoperability – see workshop organized on May 26th	NA
April 23rd	Open Community for Research	UBITECH	The COP-PILOT Open-source and Standardized Platform was presented, and COP-PILOT established synergies with relevant Eclipse Foundation projects that could be potentially integrated with the platform in the future	Website LinkedIn Mastodon
April 27th	Industrial optimisation and productivity – Open Consultation		COP-PILOT supported the promotion of the event	Website LinkedIn
May 5thth	Energy and infrastructure resilience, Energy workshop	EnakronIC	Discussion regarding the interoperability issues faced in the UCs of CL3E and solved using COP-PILOT	Website LinkedIn Mastodon

May 19th	Privacy-Enhancing Technologies for Information Security in Edge-Cloud Applications	IPN NetCompany iLINK	Presentation of ongoing technical developments within the project and of the next steps for strengthening privacy and PET adoption across future COP-PILOT developments.	Website LinkedIn Mastodon
May 26th	Solving Connected Data Challenges (AgriTech)	iLINK	Workshop organized following the joint consultation from April. Presentation on how COP-PILOT is transforming siloes into an ecosystem, by integrating plant wearables, drones, UGVs, and 5G-enabled smart logistics through a Secure Integration Fabric (SIF).	Website LinkedIn Mastodon
June 23rd	Regional Workshop Standards for Cloud-Edge-IoT ecosystems	NetCompany	Presentation on how COP-PILOT platform architecture enables seamless multi-domain orchestration while contributing back to the standardization ecosystem. Interaction with other projects: O-CEI, Licorice, Instar Standards and CEI-Sphere.	Website LinkedIn Mastodon
June 30th – July 1st	Code the Continuum Hackathon	University of Patras	The Hackathon will address three challenges, one of them being proposed by COP-PILOT (From Code to Continuum: Orchestrating Distributed Applications with OpenSlice). For More information, you can check here.	Website LinkedIn Mastodon

Table 2: Sphere activities with COP-PILOT participation taking place during H1 2026

The integration of COP-PILOT's clusters into the three thematic Spheres provides a practical framework to validate the project's technical developments against actual market needs. By mapping its pilot activities into the Energy, Mobility, and Industrial sectors, the project successfully aligns its local solutions with broader European infrastructure and computing continuum standards.
This continuous collaboration has proven essential for breaking down technical silos, identifying shared cross-domain challenges, and testing interoperability in rea l-world scenarios.

Moving forward, COP-PILOT will transition from initial challenge mapping into deep-dive validation alongside external industry experts. This focused engagement is expected to contribute to the validation of the project's open platform, technical toolkits, and upcoming open calls, while supporting their potential scalability and longer-term sustainability across the targeted sectors.

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3.2.4 COP-PILOT Horizon Participation in CEI-Sphere's Task Forces

COP-PILOT's active participation across the three European Cloud-Edge-IoT (CEI) Task Forces is a key strategy for turning the project's technical innovations into standardized, market-ready solutions. The project uses this shared coordination layer to test and align its platform architecture against real-world deployment needs, updated EU digital policies, and trust regulations. By embedding consortium partners directly into these monthly sprint workflows, the project helps eliminate the technical integration and interoperability blockers that often slow down distributed computing systems.

Ultimately, this regular collaboration connects COP-PILOT to major European Technology Platforms and market networks, facilitating industry feedback on the platform's open design, open calls, and business models, and supporting their potential uptake and future development beyond the project's official end date.

3.2.4.1 COP-PILOT Participation in Task Force 1

Task Force 1 (TF1) operates as a primary technical coordination layer within the European CEI. Running from September 2025 through March 2027, the task force bridges the gap between conceptual open architecture and industrial deployment realities by bringing together multiple European innovation actions. It focuses on horizontal technical alignment across core pillars, including architecture mapping, open-source development practices, and cross-border certification workflows.

The strategic and technical objectives defined for TF1 are designed to deliver tangible, standardized digital assets for the computing continuum:

- **Co-Creation of Hourglass Models:** Enabling projects to collaboratively build common Hourglass frameworks that visually map specific industrial stakeholder classes against necessary cross-domain technological capabilities.
- **Systematic Ecosystem Mapping:** Identifying and documenting critical actors, underlying standards, target interoperability profiles, Minimum Interoperability Mechanisms (MIMs), and active open-source components.
- **Conflict and Synergy Resolution:** Pinpointing potential areas of technical collaboration or operational conflict across overlapping edge networks.
- **Impact via Standardisation:** Co-developing high-impact outcomes to feed validated, reusable architectures directly into international standardisation bodies and open repositories.

TF1 is led by Trialog and co-led by AIOTI and VDI. To maintain momentum and avoid purely theoretical design, the task force structures its technical workload through a structured 3-Month Sprint mechanism alongside regular monthly meetings to rapidly isolate and resolve specific cross-cutting challenges.

- **Month 1 (Kick-Off & Topic Selection)**: Technical teams review the backlog of listed challenge items, execute collective prioritization sessions, select a single focused challenge, and draft a binding workplan with assigned roles, success criteria, and milestones.

- **Month 2 (Sprint Progress)**: Monthly assemblies are used to highlight technical blocks, share individual progress, adjust workplans if resource reallocation is necessary, and trade software expertise.
- **Month 3 (Sprint Resolution)**: Partners present developed solutions and tangible insights, gather peer feedback, update the permanent backlog, and evaluate whether the challenge needs extended iteration or if the group can progress to a new topic.

A central pillar of TF1's output is the systematic implementation of the CEI Tech Backbone Toolkit, which guides projects through four sequential lifecycle phases:

- **TK1 – Ecosystems Identification Process**: Establishing the absolute boundaries, physical components, and baseline environments of the active deployment fields.
- **TK2 – Ecosystem High-Level Description**: Documenting a uniform, high-level summary of system connections, data assets, and structural dependencies.
- **TK3 – CEI Ecosystem Analysis**: Executing deep, quantitative evaluations of specific edge architectures, connectivity traits, and processing latencies.
- **TK4 – CEI Ecosystem Trust Label Analysis**: Formulating trust certification criteria and establishing a rigorous set of minimum functional requirements to formally verify and certify open data trustworthiness.

As an active contributor, COP-PILOT Horizon relies on TF1 to benchmark its zero-touch, hierarchical orchestration platform. Structurally, the task force coordinates directly with the COP-PILOT Technical Coordinator and the project coordinator to align the definition of internal ecosystems with the broader markets discovered through CEI-Sphere.

The following COP-PILOT consortium partners are formally registered and actively participating within the TF1 technical tracks: UBITECH (leader of the COP-PILOT platform and its OSS activities and main contributor to TF1), Suite5, OneSource, TATA/Netfoundry, UPV, and Konnektable.

To date, seven formal monthly task force calls have taken place. COP-PILOT partners have used these sessions to run initial brainstorming reviews, analyzing cross-domain capabilities, standards, stakeholder concerns, and open-source building blocks.

COP-PILOT Partner	Overview	Specific contribution of the partner
UBITECH	Main COP-PILOT representative in the TF1 monthly calls	So far, UBI has contributed: - the entire Mural board for COP-PILOT, where UBI outlined: (i) a list of stakeholders that benefit from COP-PILOT, (ii) major concerns of stakeholders that COP-PILOT may address, (iii) important standards that the COP-PILOT platform implements to address interoperability, (iv) open-source building blocks that constitute the COP-PILOT platform, and (iv) platform capabilities that act as enablers for the COP-PILOT pilots.

		- a summary of the above information to the COP-PILOT clusters, asking Cluster partners to propose some target stakeholders where the CEI TF1 activities shall focus on the next phase (i.e., a target ecosystem per Cluster). - 5 figures (one per Cluster), where, in collaboration with the Cluster partners, COP-PILOT mapped the 5 Clusters to the Hourglass model designed by CEI Sphere. These figures showcase how common COP-PILOT platform components, along with Cluster-specific services and technologies, jointly address market needs.
TATA/Netfoundry	Participating in TF1 activities and providing input related to COP-PILOT Secure Integration Fabric (SIF), OpenZiti, secure architecture, open-source software, and standards alignment.	Contributed input on OpenZiti as the open-source basis for COP-PILOT SIF, including identity-first service connectivity, policy-driven reachability, secure cross-domain service exposure, and reduced dependence on VPNs, firewall rules, static IP allowlists, and broad network-level trust.
OneSource	Contribution to the identification of ecosystems for Cluster 4 within TF1	OneSource contributed to the TF1 exercise requesting projects to identify their ecosystems by providing Cluster 4 input on markets, pilot context, and ecosystem definitions, supporting the mapping of the vineyard/winery pilot into the CEI-Sphere framework.
Suite5	Participation in the TF1 monthly calls; provided contribution in Business Portal architecture and its subcomponents' interfaces	So far, Suite5 contributed through: - active participation in TF1 monthly calls, representing Suite5's technical perspective on the components under development; - technical input on the Business Portal architecture, including the definition of its sub-component interfaces and their integration points - cross-partner communication to align on component requirements, functionalities, and expected interfaces, ensuring interoperability across the AI Layer, and - contributions to relevant technical deliverables related to Suite5's components.
UPV	Participation in the TF1 regular calls	UPV has actively participated in the TF1 monthly calls, proposing target ecosystems and stakeholders for the next phase, and has also contributed to the design of the Hourglass model for Cluster 2.

KON	Participation in the TF1 calls; contributed to the Business Portal architecture and development of the dashboards.	- Actively participated in monthly calls to represent KON's technical perspective on the components under development. - Dashboard Architecture: Provided direct technical input on the centralized operational dashboard, including UI requirements and remote integration points. - Partner Alignment: Facilitated cross-partner communication to align on dashboard functionalities and ensure secure data interoperability. - Technical Documentation Authored the required input for KON's dashboard components within the relevant technical deliverables.

Table 3: COP-PILOT partners' involvement in Task Force 1

COP-PILOT's active collaboration within Task Force 1 serves as a strategic technical alignment layer, transforming localized project innovations into standardized, market-ready solutions for the broader European ecosystem. By participating directly in the structured monthly sprint workflows, the project coordinates closely with the coordination teams to align baseline architecture designs, open-source practices, and cross-border compliance tracks. This continuous interaction effectively eliminates technical integration and interoperability silos that frequently slow down hyper-distributed computing environments. Ultimately, this joint effort ensures that the core infrastructure complies with updated digital policies and trust regulations, securing long-term industry validation and sustainability across the computing continuum.

3.2.4.2 COP-PILOT Participation in Task Force 2

Focusing on turning innovation into practical impact, Task Force 2 helps projects reach the market and connect with industry stakeholders. By combining ecosystem engagement with sector-specific market insights, it provides guidance on commercialization strategies, supports participation in open calls, and facilitates communication with potential adopters. This group plays a key role in ensuring that project results are not only technically sound but also positioned for real-world uptake and long-term sustainability in the market.

TF2 focuses on refining the design of Open Calls by developing clear and precise specifications that are fully aligned with existing technical blueprints and the overall platform objectives. In parallel, TF2 seeks to define suitable pilot challenges that Open Call winners can realistically address. These challenges should be carefully selected to deliver tangible added value, demonstrate scalability, and, where possible, create synergies across clusters.

A critical area of focus is the clarification of market positioning and value proposition. TF2 looks to articulate how each cluster delivers value, identify target markets and users, and define competitive differentiation. This should be complemented by a broader, unified narrative that explains how the platform translates into real-world applications and benefits.

To support adoption, TF2 looks to strengthen market validation efforts and develop robust evidence of return on investment. This includes engaging industry stakeholders early, leveraging pilot activities to generate proof points, and addressing key barriers such as cost, integration challenges, and regulatory uncertainty.

Another priority is the development of data-driven business models, also taking into consideration the application of open source. TF2 will ensure that data generated across pilots is effectively leveraged, with clear pathways for interoperability, value creation, and monetization. Business models should be designed to link technical output with sustainable economic value.

TF2 is led by BluSpec and co-led by IDC. To maintain momentum and avoid purely theoretical design, the task force structures its technical workload through a structured 3-Month Sprint mechanism alongside regular monthly meetings to rapidly isolate and resolve specific cross-cutting challenges.

From COP-PILOT Horizon, INC, and UBITECH are participating in this TF. Currently, TF2 has suspended its activities and will resume at a later stage.

COP-PILOT Partner	TF2 activity	Contribution of the partner
UBITECH	Glue TF2 activities with platform-related aspects addressed in TF1	COP-PILOT Cluster partners are not fully aware of core platform capabilities, as they mainly focus on their cluster business. For this reason, more general questions about COP-PILOT that fall outside of a cluster's duties require a person to address COP-PILOT more broadly. The role of UBI in this TF is to provide input to these general questions regarding COP-PILOT.
INC	Synchronize activities related to the market uptake and industry engagement	The role of INC in this TF is to facilitate the collaboration between CEI-Sphere and COP-PILOT. The initial scope of TF2 is to identify challenges related to market uptake and industry engagement. INC participated in the calls of TF2 and organized the collection of information from the clusters within COP-PILOT. During the first meeting, the aim was to map the solutions that are developed by clusters and identify pain points, challenges, and main benefits.

Table 4: COP-PILOT partners' involvement in Task Force 2

3.2.4.3 COP-PILOT Participation in Task Force 3

Task Force 3 (TF3) manages strategic outreach, stakeholder mobilization, and ecosystem engagement tracks for the CEI community. Operating from October 2025 through March 2027, TF3 looks to establish structured interfaces between LSPs, CSAs, the European Commission, and relevant regional or national networks. The task force merges strategic liaison efforts with standardized communications to secure high visibility and alignment across European policy and innovation initiatives. TF3 is led by Trust-IT.

TF3 has two primary objectives:

- **Ecosystem Coordination & Strategy Alignment**: Establishing horizontal links across participating projects to create common dissemination methodologies, identify collaboration

areas, and prevent operational duplication. This includes the joint production of technical webinars, workshops, hackathons, and post-event documentation.

- **External Visibility & Targeted Growth**: Expanding the external footprint of the CEI ecosystem by prioritizing underrepresented stakeholder groups. This objective is achieved by delivering sector-specific communication assets, utilizing network multipliers, promoting open calls, and anchoring all outreach in a unified strategic narrative that links CEI architectures to market requirements and EU policy priorities.

The task force uses a structured 3-month Sprint framework combined with regular monthly assemblies to isolate and resolve communication and outreach challenges systematically.

During the initial kick-off workshop in October 2025, participants used an interactive Mural board to run a challenge mapping. The session identified core structural challenges within the ecosystem, specifically tracking:

- The delayed emergence of tangible pilot results relative to project lifecycles.
- The long timelines required to enable scalable replication through Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) and market initiatives.
- The difficulty of translating highly customized pilot findings into generalizable market solutions before technical configurations become obsolete.

To address these parameters incrementally, the task force organized its deliverables into continuous operational blocks:

- **Sprint 1 (October – December 2025)**: Finalization of a shared stakeholder database and a joint project presentation slide deck.
- **Sprint 2 (January – April 2026)**: Development, user testing, and public deployment of the interactive Innovation Ecosystem Visualisation Tool.
- **Sprint 3 (May – July 2026)**: Execution of external joint dissemination actions and structured engagement with European Technology Platforms.
- **Sprints 4 and 5 (until December 2026)** will still likely focus on the execution of joint dissemination actions and participation in third-party conferences such as AIOTI days and ENLIT
- The final **Sprint 6** (January to March 2027) will likely be focused on the sustainability strategy of the task force and the handover to follow-up CSAs for the continuation of the support to the LSPs progressing beyond the duration of CEI-Sphere

The plan of the remaining sprints will be confirmed as the TF activities progress and may change based on any emerging priorities.

The COP-PILOT partners participating in TF3 are: D4P, INC, AUA, UPV, Ubitech, and TATA.

The progression of TF3 is tracked through regular monthly sessions:

Month	Topic	COP-PILOT partner contribution
October 2025	(Kick-Off): Defined the task force mission, established working formats, and launched the initial challenge identification sprint.	UPV, AUA, and TATA/NetFoundry. Feedback provided by the COP-PILOT representatives: **Strategic communication narrative & connection to policy** - Ensure that the outcomes have in mind all upcoming relevant policy updates (Cloud/AI/Data Act) - Communication and presentation of the pilots, link to new activities and policies **Reach out missing/ under represented stakeholders** - Think about concrete activities (reports, workshops) with other communities to engage with them and find common links. **Timing and generalizability issues** - Pilot-related tangible results come (most often) late in the project. - Enabling replication through FSTP or market activities takes long (in most cases, after the end of the project). - Replicability and Scalability of Results and their re-use
November 2025	Reviewed stakeholder mapping matrices compiled by Trust-IT, IPN, and VDI/VDE. Members approved a shared slide deck to serve as a joint presentation asset across projects, integrating market data, historical EU funding overviews, and pilot use case parameters.	Feedback provided and contribution to the meeting (INC, UPV, IPN)
December 2025	Finalized the core stakeholder database and communication assets, establishing a rolling repository for active project use.	Feedback provided (INC)
January 2026	Launched Sprint 2, initiating technical scoping and reviewing the functional dimensions for the interactive Innovation Ecosystem Visualisation Tool mockup developed by CEI-Sphere.	Feedback provided (D4P and INC)

February 2026	Coordinated the operational layout and promotional actions for the open calls webinar executed on 12 February 2026.	Provided input on the Visualization Tool (D4P and INC). Synergized for the Open Calls Webinar promo strategy. (D4P)
March 2026	Evaluated the data metrics and user feedback compiled during the February CEI-Sphere UX workshop to refine the interface architecture of the Visualisation Tool.	Feedback provided (D4P and INC)
April 2026	Approved and validated the final release version of the Innovation Ecosystem Visualisation Tool.	Feedback provided (D4P and INC)
May 2026	Conducted a comprehensive technical overview of prominent European Technology Platforms to build long-term strategic dissemination cooperation.	Feedback provided (INC)
June 2026	Planned: Preparatory activities for the joint presence of CEI-Sphere, O-CEI, and COP-PILOT at the energy-focused conference ENLIT to be held in November 2026	Feedback provided with respect to Communication & Dissemination (D4P), past ENLIT events (INC). Separate follow-up meeting organized by CEISphere, COP-PILOT, and O-CEI C&D teams to discuss the branding of the joint stand, as well as Communication materials to be developed for the stand.
July – September 2026	Planned: Preparatory activities for the joint presence of CEI-Sphere, O-CEI and COP-PILOT at the energy-focused conference ENLIT to be held in November 2026	
October – December 2026	Planned: Preparatory activities for the joint presence of CEI-Sphere, O-CEI and COP-PILOT at third party events or for the organization of joint webinars and workshops	
January – March 2027	Planned: Sustainability of the TF, handover of its activities and future steps	

Table 5: COP-PILOT partners' involvement in Task Force 3

Active participation in Task Force 3 serves as a core mechanism for amplifying COP-PILOT's external visibility and stakeholder mobilization across the European landscape. By engaging in structured communication frameworks, joint dissemination strategies, and interactive ecosystem mapping, the project aligns its outcomes directly with evolving digital policies and market expectations. Moving forward, coordinated placements at high-profile international conferences and joint workshops will secure strong commercial validation and ensure long-term sustainability for COP-PILOT.

The involvement of COP-PILOT across the three Task Forces has provided a structured mechanism to transition the project's technical developments into sustainable, market-aligned outcomes. By establishing explicit roles across different consortium partners, the project drove collaboration and systematically addressed the core operational challenges facing European cloud-edge-IoT deployments.

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4 CONCLUSIONS

This deliverable concludes the initial reporting period on the cross-project synchronization and alignment activities executed between COP-PILOT Horizon, NexusForum, and CEI-Sphere. By moving beyond independent development tracks, the formal collaboration framework has allowed COP-PILOT to validate its platform components, open-source structures, and business models within the wider European computing continuum. The strategic data gathered across these initial operational cycles demonstrates that close coordination with both CSAs is an essential requirement for maximizing the project's long-term industrial impact.

NexusForum and CEI-Sphere were used as the primary mechanisms enabling COP-PILOT to meaningfully contribute to the broader Cloud-Edge-IoT ecosystem:

- **NexusForum as a Strategic and Policy Bridge:** Cooperation with NexusForum connected COP-PILOT to high-level European cloud networks. By benchmarking its zero-trust orchestration framework within NexusForum's working groups, COP-PILOT aligned its features with the needs of major European cloud players, like European Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge, and Cloud, making COP-PILOT's industrial outcomes visible to the networks driving Europe's technological roadmap.

- **CEI-Sphere as a Technical and Market Orchestrator**: Cooperation with CEI-Sphere has structurally embedded COP-PILOT into the three domain-specific Spheres and the horizontal Task Forces. This has enabled COP-PILOT to share its platform components, evaluate technical integration barriers, and align directly with sister initiatives like O-CEI. This active technical alignment helps reduce fragmentation and supports the development of reusable and interoperable digital assets that can contribute to Europe's digital ecosystem.

Next Steps and Future Actions

As the NexusForum project concluded in June 2026, the collaboration will continue only with CEI-Sphere. The upcoming phases of the relation will transition from initial architecture mapping into deep market validation, technical exploitation, and sustainability planning. First, project partners will utilize Task Force 1 to progress into advanced ecosystem analysis and trust label certification (TK3 and TK4) using the CEI Tech Backbone Toolkit. Second, Task Force 2 will be leveraged to refine specifications and optimize target requirements for the upcoming second Open Call. Third, COP-PILOT will execute a coordinated external presence at major late-2026 industrial events, including AIOTI Days, INSIDE Connect, and a dedicated joint exhibition booth at the ENLIT conference. Finally, the relationship will conclude in early 2027 with formal sustainability planning and asset handovers during the final task force cycles to guarantee the long-term continuity of COP-PILOT's open-source repositories and mapping tools.