Info Webinars OC Q&A

1) General / Process & Logistics

- **Will the slides/presentation be shared after the webinar?** Yes, recordings for both sessions are available on the COP-PILOT YouTube channel.
- **Where can we download the completed proposal template?** Materials are available on the COP-PILOT open calls portal.
- **Is there official technical onboarding documentation?** Yes, the technical guidelines for the platform can be downloaded directly from the official portal.
- **Will data be available during submission or only after selection?** Data access is granted only after signing the contract.
- **Is prior EU project experience important for evaluation?** No, but a PIC number is strictly required for proposal submission.
- **Is the SME checklist different from the Horizon Europe checklist?** The mandatory SME Checklist specifically tailored for the COP-PILOT OC is provided on the portal.
- **Can you provide a contextual overview of the 46-member COP-PILOT project?** The overarching consortium and project information is available on the website.
- **Does "market-oriented" mean the proposed products or services must be paid subscriptions?** No, there is no such requirement; it simply indicates that the solutions should be readily exploitable if you choose to commercialize them.
- **How should we establish baseline measurements for quantitative KPIs in the proposal?** Because you do not know the COP-PILOT KPIs in advance, it is strongly suggested to outline your own concrete baseline metrics immediately in your proposal.
- **Maximum Page number?** The maximum page number is 12 in total, only the mandatory section of project summary, section 1,2 and 3 are required.

2) Eligibility & Participation

- **Can an SME apply alone, or is a consortium mandatory?** A single SME application is completely acceptable.

- **Can a consortium consist of only SMEs?** Yes, provided that only one assumes the role of coordinator.
- **Does a consortium have a competitive advantage over a single SME?** No.
- **Which countries are eligible to participate?** Applicants must verify their eligibility against the official country list provided in the guidelines.
- **Can a startup with no employees or low turnover qualify?** Yes, provided the company successfully passes the SME checklist.
- **Can a construction company lead a project with an IT partner?** Yes, as long as the designated leader company holds SME status.

3) TRL & Maturity Requirements

- **Is TRL 6 mandatory or just recommended?** TRL 6 is mandatory as the final maturity level for the end solution, and specific cluster technical guidelines must be followed.
- **Can a project start at a lower maturity stage, such as TRL 3, 4, or 5?** Yes, the initial starting point can be lower, but the final outcome must achieve at least TRL 6.
- **Are higher TRLs (e.g., TRL 9) acceptable?** Yes, higher maturity levels are highly welcomed.
- **Can project durations exceed 8 months if justified by TRL advancement?** No, the duration is strictly fixed at 8 months due to the timeline synchronization of multiple winners and the overarching project.
- **Is a functional prototype sufficient?** Yes, provided it strictly follows the definitions of a TRL 6 demonstration in a relevant environment.
- **What happens if a solution does not match the required technical capabilities?** The proposal will fail the evaluation process.

4) Use Cases (UCs) & Challenges

- **Must applicants select an existing use case, or can they propose a new one?** Applicants are free to either utilize a current UC or propose a new solution.
- **Are ideas complementary to existing UCs allowed?** Yes, complementary ideas are accepted, provided the proposal clearly demonstrates its relationship to the Cluster and existing UCs.
- **What is the difference between UCs and challenges?** UCs are active deployments already running in COP-PILOT, whereas Challenges are newly identified innovation opportunities.

- **Are certain UCs prioritized by evaluators?** No, all UCs are of equal importance; proposals are evaluated strictly on the quality of the idea, following the criterion provided in the guide for aplicants.
- **Can a proposal address multiple challenges or clusters?** Proposals can address multiple challenges within a chosen cluster, but they absolutely cannot address multiple clusters.
- **Can the same team or pilot site contribute to multiple clusters?** No, during submission, you must select one distinct cluster.
- **What defines a cross-sector or cross-domain scenario?** This refers to a project that interacts with, consumes data from, or deploys services to at least one of the existing COP-PILOT piloting domains. For example, an application consuming data from multiple domains to execute more informed decisions.
- **Can an applicant expand on existing pilot demands with additional systems?** Yes, expanding capabilities (e.g., adding energy or air quality systems to a smart building) is permissible.

5) Deployment & Pilot Locations

- **Must solutions be deployed in existing pilot sites (e.g., Greece, Valencia)?** It is not universally mandatory and largely depends on the selected integration workflow.
- **Can execution take place at an independent facility rather than a designated location?** Yes, as long as the proposal outlines a concrete integration plan connecting the independent facility and services to the rest of the COP-PILOT ecosystem.
- **Is remote participation (e.g., from Germany) feasible for integrating infrastructure?** It is completely feasible to onboard external infrastructure remotely via the Secure Integration Fabric and local service deployments.

6) Technical Requirements & Integration

- **What technical standards are required for edge-to-cloud interoperability?** Detailed technical specifications are listed on the official clusters page.
- **What data models are expected?** The primary standard for data interoperability is ETSI NGSI-LD/v2; applicants must convert their existing data models to this format prior to binding with the Data Management platform.
- **Are SAREF semantics directly supported?** There are no specific guidelines for SAREF at the data layer, but applicants are free to propose its use if the solution complies with standard COP-PILOT components.

- **What is the distinction between Workflow 1 and Workflow 2?** Workflow 1 typically involves onboarding and deploying new services, while Workflow 2 integrates new private infrastructure domains. Applicants are permitted to contribute to either or both workflows simultaneously.
- **What infrastructure is acceptable for Workflow 2?** Any infrastructure categorized broadly under compute, network, or data resources is welcome, provided it relates to one of the five clusters.
- **What are the expectations for infrastructure providers?** Providers must integrate their infrastructure following COP-PILOT principles, utilizing the Secure Integration Fabric (SIF) to expose resources and employing DO/DM components for local applications.
- **Can applicants integrate new hardware/devices into the existing infrastructure?** Yes.
- **Must data be moved, or can raw pilot data stay in our environment?** Raw data can safely remain in the applicant's environment via structured API outputs, and applicants have autonomy over the chosen level of integration.
- **Can a new reconfigurable testbed act as a new domain?** Yes, new domains are fully accepted as long as they establish a connection to one of the predefined clusters.

7) Budget & Funding Rules

- **What funding model will be utilized?** The project operates entirely on the Horizon Europe Lump Sum model.

8) Consortium & Legal

- **Is a formal consortium agreement required for submission?** A simplified version is sufficient for the submission phase, but the DESCA model must be utilized by winning proposals prior to project commencement.

9) Cluster-Specific Questions

Cluster 1: Mining

- **Are environmental monitoring solutions relevant?** Yes, environmental solutions (such as monitoring CO2 levels in underground environments) are highly relevant alongside operational efficiency.
- **Can solutions be directly integrated into an active mine?** Due to strict security restrictions, direct application in the mine is prohibited; applicants must refer to

UC1.4 to realistically emulate the mining environment with their own hardware/software.

Cluster 2: Smart Cities (Valencia)

- **Can solutions be deployed outside Valencia (e.g., with another city partner)?**

  It is highly preferred that deployments take place in Valencia. While a very strong proposal for another city might be considered, a Valencia deployment is mandatory for validation. Therefore, any outside solution would effectively need to be replicated in Valencia.

- **Is air quality in Valencia a relevant use case?**

  Yes, but applicants should note that air quality is currently an internal use case. We already have sensors active in ALM and across the city. Proposals are welcome if they align with our goals, but we will evaluate them based on whether they add value or overlap with existing infrastructure.

- **Can TRL 5 wireless/space solutions apply?**

  These can be considered and valued as long as they are technically compatible with the current system. Compatibility is a strict requirement for eligibility.

- **Should focus be on data sharing (e.g., FIWARE/NGSI-LD) or interoperable components?**

  Both. These are core requirements of COP-PILOT. All data must be compliant with the NGSI-LD standard, and all new components must be fully interoperable with the existing deployment and hardware.

- **Can construction site monitoring be considered relevant?**

  It is not a primary focus of the project at this stage, but it is considered an interesting use case. Applicants are welcome to propose it if they believe it fits the call's objectives.

Cluster 3A: Agriculture

- **Are use cases restricted strictly to leafy vegetables?** No, the cluster will not restrict the type of crop provided the applicant possesses the means to validate their approach (e.g., integrating an independent farm and sensors) utilizing COP-PILOT domain components.

- **Can new UCs be introduced?** Yes, new use cases are completely permissible.

- **Is farmer-reported operational data accepted?** Yes, any format of relevant data is accepted; the primary objective is ensuring the data becomes consumable by the deployed services.

Cluster 3E: Energy

- **Must the pilot site be located within Western Greece?** No, applicants are permitted to integrate their own operational infrastructure located outside of the current geographical boundaries.
- **Are building-heating flexibility and building-side forecasting in scope?** Yes, both are in scope, though it is highly preferable that flexibility metrics are published back to the system via the provided COP-PILOT APIs.
- **Will energy data be provided for AI modeling?** Yes, a comprehensive summary of available energy data will be distributed to relevant applicants.
- **Must AI models be validated before deployment?** No, applicants can deploy and subsequently improve their models remotely within the cluster, provided it delivers tangible value.

Cluster 4: Agriculture & Water Ecosystems

- **Is this cluster limited to vineyards?** It primarily focuses on the wine ecosystem, but proposals addressing other horticultural crops will be considered if they directly align with overarching cluster objectives.
- **Can external vineyards be integrated?** Yes, integrating an external vineyard equipped with accessible sensors is an excellent candidate for this cluster.
- **What historical data is currently available?** The Nokia Matanza testbed offers several years of historical data covering soil moisture, weather, and energy metrics to support AI model preparation. Real-time data sources also exist but require integration preparation.
- **Can mathematical models substitute real-world validation?** Models and simulations can uniquely complement physical metrics (especially to bridge seasonal early-growth gaps), but they strictly cannot act as a full substitute for real-world TRL 6-7 validation.
- **Are new soil sensor deployments accepted?** Yes, the cluster is highly open to new hardware deployments if they facilitate stronger analytics and validation.
- **Is the LLM-UI plugin mandatory?** No, it is strictly optional; the primary requirement is establishing a workable integration path.
- **Is Cluster 4 limited to vineyard crops only, or does it also accept other horticultural crops such as tomato, pepper, or lettuce?** Cluster 4 is primarily

focused on vineyards and the wine ecosystem. However, proposals involving other crops may also be considered when they are technically relevant and clearly aligned with the Cluster 4 objectives.

- **Which testbeds already have historical data applicable to UC4.2 from the use-case perspective?** The Nokia Matanza testbed has historical data including several years of vineyard-related sensor data, such as soil moisture, weather, energy-related measurements, and other field sensor information.

- **Does Cluster 4 provide both real-time and historical data, for example for AI training? What sampling time is expected?** Historical data is available from the Matanza testbed and can be used to support model preparation and testing. Real-time data sources also exist at the testbed level, but they should be considered subject to integration and preparation before being used directly for AI training or experimentation. Sampling time depends on the metric and sensor type; weather and rain-related data may be available around 10-minute intervals, while soil humidity and other measurements may use longer intervals.

- **If testing is planned on vineyards in Hungary that rely exclusively on rainfall, how does the plant vegetation period align with the 8-month project duration?** If the 8-month experiment starts around June, it may miss some early-season data, but it can still cover a significant part of the active vineyard cycle. Historical data can help compensate for early-season gaps where needed.

- **Could simulation based on a mathematical model be accepted instead of full real-world validation in UC4.2, considering the seasonality constraints and the TRL 6-7 expectation?** Simulation or mathematical modelling can be used as a complement to measured data and real-world validation, especially where seasonality or field constraints make full validation difficult within one cycle. It should not be positioned as a complete substitute for validation. A suitable approach is to combine available sensor data with modelling to estimate water deficit or surplus and support UC4.2 evaluation while remaining aligned with the expected TRL 6-7 maturity.

Disclaimer

This document provides general guidance based on COP-PILOT Open Call Webinars.

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, for definitive information regarding evaluation criteria, eligibility, or technical specifications, always refer to the official COP-PILOT documents and contact the project team at opencalls@cop-pilot.eu.

Specifications, timelines, and operational details are subject to change as the project evolves.

Always check https://cop-pilot.eu for the latest updates.