



PRESS RELEASE

FEBRUARY 2026

COP-PILOT HORIZON PROJECT LAUNCHES FIRST OPEN CALL

Up to €200,000 Equity-Free Funding to Pilot Cloud–Edge–IoT Solutions Across Europe

Athens, February 16th, 2026 - *The COP-PILOT project, an Innovation Action funded under the Horizon Europe programme, has officially launched its First Open Call, offering up to €200,000 in equity-free funding per project to innovators ready to pilot and scale their solutions within a large-scale European Collaborative Open Platform.*

COP-PILOT is developing a Collaborative Open Platform (COP) that enables secure, interoperable, and AI-driven orchestration across Cloud-Edge-IoT infrastructures. The project pilots real-world use cases across critical European sectors, including Mining, Smart Cities, Agriculture, Energy, and Vineyards, supporting cross-sector collaboration and accelerating the adoption of advanced digital technologies.

To foster innovation and extend the impact of its platform, COP-PILOT will run two Open Calls:

- **1st Open Call:** Focused on selecting innovative solutions that can be integrated, tested, and validated within the existing COP-PILOT platform and pilot environments. The call was launched on February 16th, 2026, and will receive applications until April 17th, 2026, 17:00 CET (Brussels time)
- **2nd Open Call:** Planned for the second half of 2026, with details to be announced at a later stage.

The 1st Open Call invites innovators to contribute directly to COP-PILOT by developing and piloting solutions that address real-world challenges defined within the project's clusters. A total of **8 projects** will be selected and supported through a comprehensive acceleration programme that includes:

- **Up to €200,000 in financial support per project**, covering 100% of eligible costs (no co-financing required)
- **8 months of technical mentoring and platform training**
- Integration and validation within a major Horizon Europe initiative
- Access to COP-PILOT's pilot sites, infrastructure, and expert network

The call is open to single applicants or consortia based in EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. COP-PILOT welcomes proposals from a broad range of multidisciplinary actors, including SMEs and startups, industry and technology providers, research and scientific organisations, universities, academic institutions, and other innovation-driven stakeholders.

“With COP-PILOT, we are turning collaborative, multi-domain orchestration into a practical reality,” said Ioanna Drigkopoulou, Project Coordinator of COP-PILOT. “Through our first Open Call, we invite innovators to connect their solutions to real infrastructures, real data, and real industrial challenges. This is an opportunity for European SMEs, startups, and research actors to receive funding, and to validate, scale, and position their technologies within a standards-aligned, future-ready digital ecosystem.”

For full details, eligibility criteria, and application guidelines, visit:

<https://cop-pilot.eu/open-calls>

ABOUT COP-PILOT

The rise of edge computing, combined with advanced 5G connectivity, has enabled large-scale deployments of private edge systems, driving innovation across various industries and advancing market digitization. As infrastructure technologies mature, services and platform software are expected to lead in delivering added value through automation and intelligence at the network’s edge. Fully exploiting the potential of edge intelligence requires more than enhanced IoT processing and low-latency services; it demands the development of collaborative platform environments that enable advanced services and inspire growth across the value chain.

As an Innovation Action funded under the EU HORIZON program, COP-PILOT aims to develop a Collaborative Open Platform (COP) piloting framework that enables end-to-end orchestration across service domains. The platform looks to integrate novel AI-driven tools, SLA-preserving automation, and secure infrastructure while piloting diverse real-world applications across sectors like energy, smart cities, agriculture, and manufacturing to drive cross-sector collaboration, innovation, and societal impact.

For more information, please visit:

- <https://cop-pilot.eu>
- LinkedIn | [COP PILOT Horizon](#)
- Mastodon | [@COP_PILOT_Horizon](#)
- [Newsletter](#)