



Project Acronym: COPILOT

Project Title: Co-creating the next generation platform of PILOT and demo infrastructures, unlocking faster innovations and EU bioeconomy growth

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COPILOT Open Call 3 (OC3) - Overview

This project is Circular Bio-Undertaking

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Circular Bio-based Europe
Joint Undertaking



Bio-based Industries Consortium



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Contents

1	THE COPILOT OBJECTIVES.....	3
2	SCOPE OF THE OPEN CALL 3	3
2.1	Objectives and requirements.....	3
2.1	Eligible applicants	4
3	FUNDING PROGRAMME	4
4	CALL DOCUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION.....	4

1 The COPILOT objectives

The primary goal of the COPILOT project is to establish a reference database and network of open access pilot and demo infrastructures for the European bioeconomy, facilitating the rapid market introduction of biobased innovations. Additionally, the project seeks to unite Infrastructures, Innovators (users of the infrastructures), and Enablers (investors, finance actors, market actors, clusters & incubators, public authorities, and large companies) into a dynamic community. This community will collaborate to create the database and platform, develop and test a business plan to ensure the platform's sustainability. Given the high costs and specialized expertise required for pilot and demo equipment, open access infrastructures are the most cost-effective and efficient way to support the market deployment of biobased, industry-driven innovations. In alignment with the European Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan, COPILOT will create an open access pilot and demo database within a self-sustaining platform by:

- Leveraging experiences and achievements from past pioneering EU projects (Pilots4U and Bioeconomy Venture).
- Encouraging co-creation dynamics within the community to develop a tailored platform for users' needs. This will include engagement and participation in COPILOT activities via three Open Calls (OC). OC1 and OC2 are already concluded. OC3 call is detailed in this document – it is dedicated to a Voucher Network Program.
- Providing key services, training, and matchmaking opportunities to foster collaborations within the community. These efforts aim to facilitate clearer and faster access to bioprocess scale-up in the EU for Innovators and Enablers. This will be done in close collaboration with the entire consortium, which consists of a strong pool of bioeconomy experts, ensuring the involvement of all relevant EU regions to maximize the initiative's outreach.

The **overall budget** dedicated to financing third parties within the open calls framework of the COPILOT project is **€200.000**.

The community, created as a result of the COPILOT project and its open calls, will form a scale-up ecosystem composed of three groups: innovators, infrastructures, and enablers. All members are committed to scale-up capacity building and bioeconomy growth. These three groups will be integrated into a unified community on a platform, with exchanges, connections, and matchmaking facilitated through meetups and events. These activities aim to build synergies and foster cross-collaboration.

To achieve these goals, the project partners have decided to use the Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism to engage with the respective groups and stakeholders. Eligible and selected entities (details provided below) will be required to perform specific actions to receive funding.

2 Scope of the Open call 3

2.1 Objectives and requirements

Voucher Networking Programme (OC3) is a dedicated travel voucher program for relevant stakeholders entities to finance their participation in COPILOT project events/events organised by the COPILOT

consortium (such as open days at the pilot and demonstration infrastructures, Pitch Perfect, BIOKET, IFIB, etc.).

Vouchers funded under the track OC3 will amount to 500 EUR each. 100 vouchers will be distributed.

It is important to note that activities already financed by other grants are ineligible for COPILOT funding, in adherence to the principle of no double funding.

The payment of each voucher will happen **after the delivery of travel report** detailing the activities carried out (a template of the report is provided in the documentation kit). These reports will provide the necessary justifications for COPILOT to proceed with the contracted payments.

2.1 Eligible applicants

The COPILOT Open call 3 targets:

- Bio-innovators: to be start-ups, start-ups, SME, large companies,
- Bioeconomy Enablers: Investors, Research and technology organisations, Incubators, Cluster representatives, Representatives of relevant public authorities / policy-makers responsible for bio-economy sector and research and innovation in an eligible Horizon Europe country, Corporates.

3 Funding programme

The COPILOT Open call 3 will have two opening dates. Each opening date will close 60 days after the opening.

Open date 1: 10th March 2025 (travel vouchers available for events from May until December 2025)

Open date 2: 15th September 2025 (travel vouchers available for events from January 2026 until May 2026)

After the submission deadline, COPILOT will initiate the evaluation and selection stage, consisting of an internal evaluation. The internal evaluation will check all submitted applications against the defined eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the criteria will be notified and receive a rejection letter. The selected applications will be notified to sign a commitment agreement with the COPILOT coordinator (Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant) and COPILOT treasury (F6S). The applications that will be kept on a reserve list, will be notified. If we will not distribute all vouchers available in a certain open date, we will move the remaining to the next opening date.

4 Call documentation and communication

The call documentation is available at the [COPILOT project website](#).

We will organize **two informative webinars** (20th March 2025 and 23rd September 2025 from 11am until 12pm) about the open call 3 and the COPILOT project. The links and the details will be shared at the [COPILOT project website](#).

Any official correspondence connected with OC3 can be conducted at copilot@f6s.com.

