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Deliverable 3.1:

BETA VERSION PILOTS4U PLATFORM POWERED BY COPILOT



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
BIs	Bioinnovators
PDIs	Pilot and Demo Infrastructures
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
OC	Open Call
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation

1 Introduction

This deliverable is a key component of the COPILOT project and outlines the design, architecture, and functionality of the COPILOT platform. The primary aim of the project is to create a future-proof, user-friendly, and accessible platform that serves as a central hub for information on open access Pilot and Demonstration Infrastructures (PDIs) across the EU. The platform is designed to facilitate collaboration, resource sharing, and community engagement among stakeholders.

This deliverable provides comprehensive details about the platform's structure, design choices, and database schema, thereby demonstrating how the platform meets its objectives. By linking the technical aspects of the deliverable to the overall project goals, this deliverable ensures that stakeholders can assess both current functionalities and the planned enhancements based on stakeholder feedback.

2 Overview of the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform

2.1 Purpose and Objectives

The Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (the platform) is currently in its beta version, with ongoing development planned based on feedback from the COPILOT co-creation sessions. The platform expands on the existing P4U database, which introduces interactive features that improve usability and functionality. The platform connects Bioinnovators (BIs) and PDIs while supporting scale-up efforts in the bio-based industry. The platform is designed to:

Facilitate advanced user interaction and analytics:

- Registration and identification of users.
- Provide insights into actual usage patterns and user experiences.
- Incorporate comprehensive website analytics to better understand user behaviour, attract engagement, and assess capacity for upscaling technologies.

Support community development and feedback:

- Encourage an active co-creation dynamic within the Pilots4U community by integrating tools for user feedback and iterative improvements.
- Promote continuous interaction between BIs and PDIs

Expand information accessibility:

- Offer comprehensive details on PDIs across the EU.
- Present enriched thematic and geographic search options.

Introduce new services and features:

- Provide both internal (e.g., webinars, scale-up training sessions, events) and external (e.g., market-relevant services) resources for startups and SMEs during or post-scale-up phases.
- Include advanced visual elements like video material, downloadable leaflets, and detailed equipment catalogues.

Ensure flexibility and future adaptation:

- Develop a software environment that supports future-proof features such as traceability of connections, integration of paid services, and comprehensive reporting tools.

Promote inclusivity and market alignment:

- Ensure a high degree of completeness in the database by incorporating all relevant PDIs in the EU, guided by the COPILOT consortium.
- Address challenges related to underrepresentation, capacity gaps, and geographical disparities in the ecosystem.

The beta version represents the foundation of the platform. As feedback from co-creation sessions is collected, the system will evolve with new functionalities and refinements. The platform is currently accessible at: <https://staging.copilot-project.eu/>. Upon completion, it will transition to its final URL: <https://biopilots4u.eu/>.

2.2 Design and Structure

2.2.1 Overall Architecture and Design Choices

The COPILOT platform is developed with modular design, scalability, and accessibility as core principles.

Platform architecture:

- WordPress-based system: the platform is built on WordPress—a system that offers powerful content management capabilities, an extensive plugin ecosystem, and the flexibility required for future enhancements. This choice ensures ease of use, streamlined updates, and adaptability to evolving project requirements.
- Modular design: the architecture follows a modular approach. This design enables individual components or features (e.g., the database, user dashboard, events) to be developed, updated, and scaled independently without disrupting the overall system.
- Scalability: the platform is designed to support future growth, including increased user activity, database expansion, and integration of additional features such as paid services or advanced analytics

Accessibility and inclusivity:

- WCAG compliance: All designs adhere to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). This approach makes the platform accessible to a wide range of users, including those with disabilities. This includes features such as: text alternatives for visual content (e.g., images and videos); clear navigation with logical tab order and keyboard accessibility; sufficient contrast ratios for readability; and compatibility with screen readers and assistive technologies.

User-centric design:

- Responsive design: The platform is fully responsive. It delivers an optimized experience on a variety of devices, including desktops, tablets, and smartphones.
- Intuitive user interface: The design prioritizes simplicity and ease of use, with clear navigation, structured content, and interactive elements that enhance the user experience

Security and maintenance:

- The WordPress platform is configured with robust security measures, including regular updates, secure login systems, and data protection protocols.
- Future maintenance and updates can be easily managed. This approach helps keep the platform current and reliable.

By combining a scalable WordPress framework with WCAG-compliant, user-focused designs, the platform is both future-proof and aligned with the needs of the COPILOT project.

2.3 Description of the Database Schema and Platform Components

The COPILOT database is structured to manage users, PDIs, events, media files, and analytics.

2.3.1 Users

The platform includes a user management system that stores profiles and assigns specific roles based on the user's needs. Each user has a unique ID (user ID - primary key) and is associated with personal and professional details such as name, job title, company, and email.

The platform categorizes users into three roles:

- Facility searchers who browse the database to find relevant PDIs.
- PDI owners who manage and update facility profiles on the platform.
- Premium PDI owners who have access to additional features, such as advanced analytics and promotional tools.

Each user has a securely stored password to ensure safe access to the platform. The user management system enables role-based access control. This system ensures that different user types interact with the database according to their permissions.

2.3.2 PDIs

The database stores detailed information about PDIs. These PDIs are open-access facilities that support scale-up activities. Each PDI has a unique identifier (PDI ID – primary key) and includes key details such as the facility name, description, and location.

The platform provides additional fields to enhance the visibility and accessibility of each facility:

- Social media links to improve outreach and engagement.
- Certifications that highlight compliance with industry standards.
- Infrastructure details, including available equipment, capacity, technology areas, and services.
- Multimedia content, such as videos, brochures, and images, to provide a comprehensive overview.
- Contact information for inquiries, including the name, email, and phone number of the responsible representative.

Each PDI is linked to its owner, who has the ability to manage and update the facility's profile. The structured data format allows users to search and filter PDIs based on thematic and geographic criteria, which makes it easier to find relevant facilities for scale-up projects.

2.3.3 Events

The platform includes an event management system that provides information about webinars, workshops, training sessions, and other bioeconomy-related events. Each event has a unique identifier (event ID – primary key) and contains key details such as the title, description, and location, which may be either physical or virtual.

The system also includes:

- Event schedules, specifying dates and times.

- Registration links, allowing users to sign up for participation.
- Organizer information, which connects the event to a specific user responsible for hosting or managing it.

Events are displayed in a structured format. This makes it easy for users to browse upcoming and past sessions. Each event page provides a summary, details about speakers or key participants, and direct access to registration or additional resources.

2.3.4 Media

The platform includes a media management system that allows users to upload and store various types of content. Each media file is linked to a specific entity, such as a PDI ID or an event ID, to enhance the platform's visual and informational quality.

Supported media types include:

- Images, used for facility profiles, event pages, and promotional content.
- Videos, providing an overview of facilities, equipment, and recorded events.
- PDFs and other documents, such as brochures, technical specifications, and informational leaflets.

Each file is stored with metadata that includes its type, associated content, and location within the platform. The media system helps users access and download relevant materials while ensuring efficient content organization.

2.3.5 Analytics

The platform collects and analyses user activity data to improve performance and enhance user experience. The analytics system tracks:

- Page views, showing which sections of the website attract the most attention.
- Search queries, helping to understand what users are looking for within the database.
- Navigation patterns, identifying how users interact with different features.
- Popular PDIs and events, highlighting the most viewed and engaged content.

This data provides valuable insights for optimizing the platform and identifying opportunities for further development (e.g., the business model). The analytics system will continue to evolve as new features are added. It will integrate feedback from users and co-creation sessions.

2.4 Navigation Structure of the Platform

The platform is structured with a clear and intuitive navigation system that allows users to easily access relevant information and features. The main sections include:

Home: The main landing page introducing the platform, COPILOT project and its mission (Figure 1).

About: Contains background information on the platform and project, including its goals, partner organizations, and overall mission (Figure 2).

Database:

- Displays a searchable list of PDIs (Figure 3).
- Each PDI has a dedicated page with detailed information, contact details, and multimedia content (Figure 4).

Events:

- Lists upcoming and past events such as webinars, training sessions, and networking opportunities.
- Event pages include schedules, descriptions, speaker details, and registration links.

Add a Facility: A streamlined form allowing users to quickly add or update a facility (PDI) in the database.

Dashboard (for registered users, Figure 5):

- User login: to access personalized features.
- Manage PDI: allows users to update, register, or track the status of their facilities in the database.
- Activity Insights: Users can view analytics and reports related to their facilities' engagement on the platform.
- Profile Settings: Manage personal or organization details and preferences.

Contact: Provides a contact form and support details for inquiries or technical assistance.

Each section is designed to support users in finding relevant information, submitting data, and interacting with the platform efficiently. Future updates will refine the structure based on feedback from co-creation sessions. Examples of user workflows are shown in Figure 6 and 7.

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Pilots4U platform. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Database, Add a facility, Events, About us, Contact, and a Login/Account menu. The main content area features a large hero section titled "Discover the new PILOTS4U database" with a search bar and a "Find a facility" button. To the right, there are two featured facility cards: "Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant" and "Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024". Below this is a section titled "Our database" with a sub-header "The next generation Pilots4U database" and a brief description. A search bar is present with filters for Technology and Country, and a search button. Below the search bar is a map of Europe with several locations marked. Underneath the map are four facility cards: "BBEPP - Demo", "Biosphere of BIO@PHERE", "LignoBase demo plant", and "Biorenewables Development Cent...". Each card includes a logo, key processes, and a location. The bottom section is titled "Who we are" and "Committed to Advancing the Bioeconomy", featuring a video player and a quote from Hendrik Wöppmann. A "Contact" section at the bottom provides phone and email information, social media links, and a mailing list sign-up form. The footer includes logos for the European Union, Bio-based Industries Consortium, and Circular Bio-based Europe, along with copyright and privacy policy information.

Figure 1 Screenshot: the Homepage of the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version)



Figure 2 Screenshot: the "About Us" section of the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version)

Pilots4U Database Add a facility Events About us Contact My account

Check out our community

The next generation Pilots4U database

The Pilots4U database is an easily accessible database of multipurpose open access pilot and demo-infrastructures for the European bio-economy. Within this particular database, "bioeconomy" is translated into the 11 following main technology areas: size reduction and homogenisation, thermal and pressure techniques, pulping, fermentation and digestion, enzymatic catalysis, chemical conversions, thermochemical conversions, material technologies, separation technologies, sterilisation technologies, Algae technologies. You can further finetune your search into 51 different technologies.

Technology Country Search facility or keyword Search

6 results

Map Satellite

BBEPP – Demo

- Steam explosion
- Milling

Kontich, Belgium

[Discover this facility →](#)

Biosphere srl

- Biomass and precision fermentation

Forli, Italy

[Discover this facility →](#)

LignoBase demo plant

- Drying

Buxtehude, Germany

[Discover this facility →](#)

Biorenewables Development Cent...

- Anaerobic digestion

York, United Kingdom

[Discover this facility →](#)

Biosphere srl

- Biomass and precision fermentation

Forli, Italy

[Discover this facility →](#)

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant

- Biomass and precision fermentation
- Gas fermentation

Gent, Belgium

[Discover this facility →](#)

Contact

+32 475 82 03 00 (Stef)

stef.denayer@bbeu.org

Social

Join our mailing list

Enter email address

I accept the [privacy policy](#).

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Figure 3 Screenshot: the Database of the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version)

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant

About this facility

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant is an independent, state-of-the-art facility that operates from a laboratory level to a multi-ton scale. Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant is a service provider for process development, scale-up and custom manufacturing of bio-based products and processes. A wide and flexible spectrum of modular unit operations combined with the experience of our highly competent engineers and technicians enables us to translate your laboratory lab protocol into a viable industrial process.

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant enables the conversion of renewable feedstocks into saccharides, biomaterials, biofuels and other products by using technologies such as biomass pretreatment, biocatalysis, gas fermentation, green chemistry and product recovery and purification.

Technology Areas & scope

- Fermentation and digestion
- Fermentation and digestion

Address
 Ballestrubekwal 1, 3043 Oude, Belgium

Extra information
 What "non-technical" services relevant to scale-up does your organisation offer?
 other

Contact this facility
 If you'd like to know more about this facility or have any questions, please fill in the contact form below.

What is your first name?

What is your last name?

What is your email address?

What is your phone number?

What is your question?

I accept the privacy & cookie policy

Contact
 +32 475 82 03 00 (Staf)
 staff@demovier@bbep.org

Social

Join our mailing list

I accept the privacy policy

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Figure 4 Screenshot: a dedicated page of a Pilot and Demo infrastructure (PDI) on the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version)

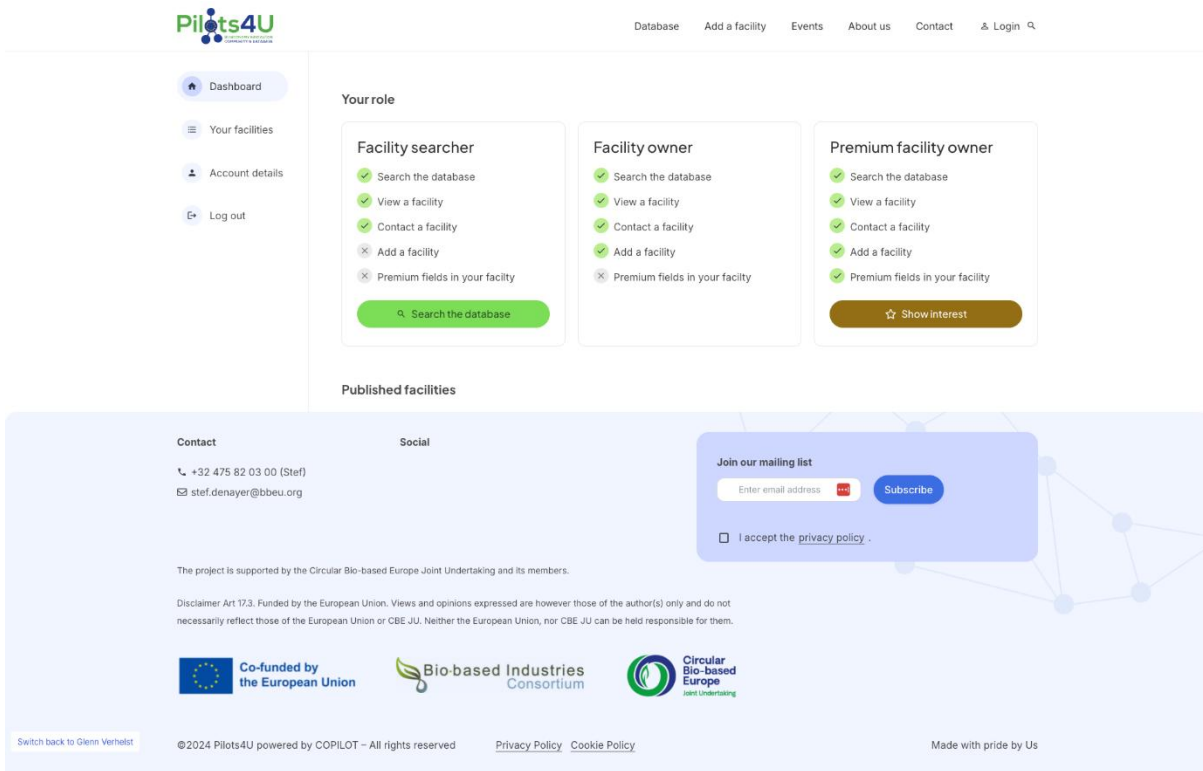


Figure 5 Screenshot: the dashboard of a registered user on the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version)

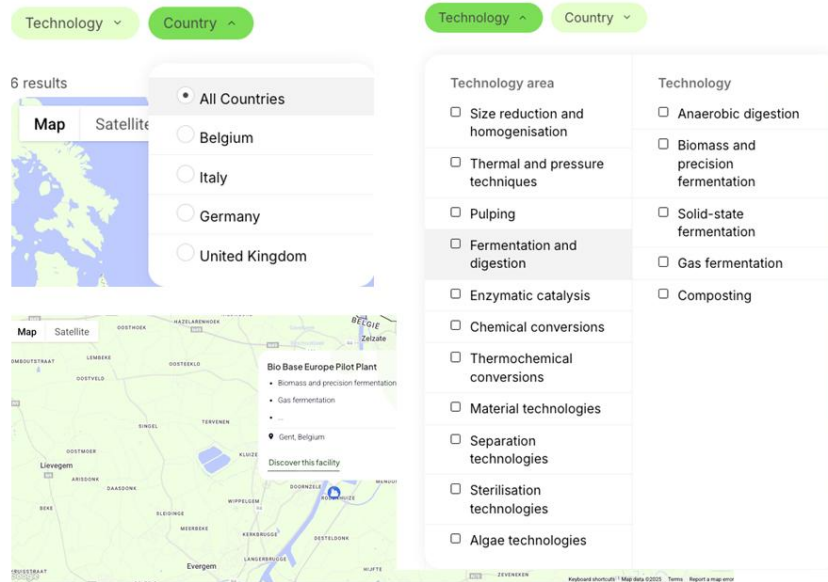


Figure 6 Example of a user searching for a Pilot and Demo Infrastructure (PDI) on the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version), with filtering options by country or by technology

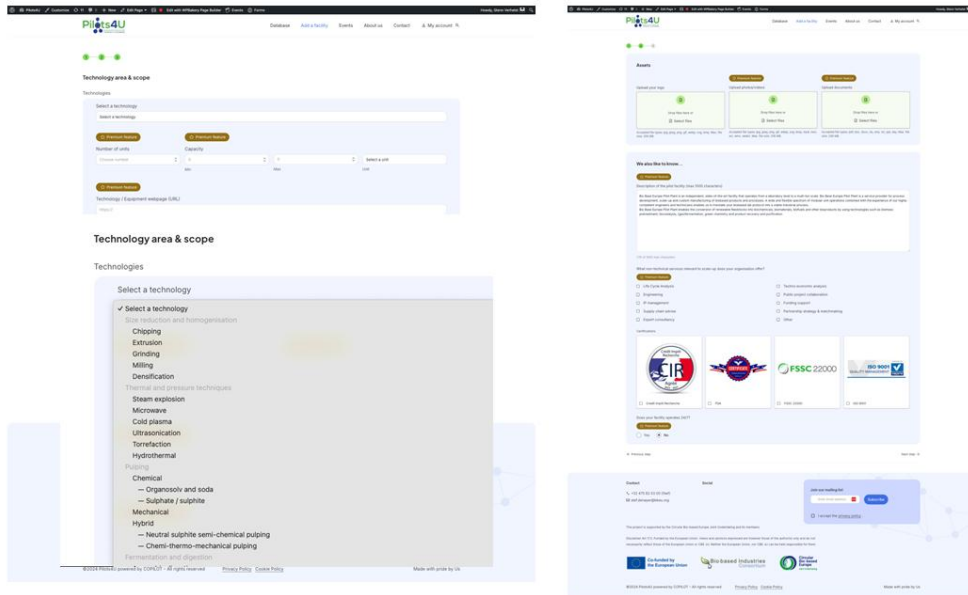


Figure 7 Example of a Pilot and Demonstration Infrastructure (PDI) adding content to its dedicated page in the beta version (beta version)

3 Design and Functionality

3.1 Database Design

The schema showcasing relationships between data entities is shown in Figure 8. The platform utilizes a well-structured metadata framework to ensure that all data is accurately described and thoroughly documented. This metadata structure is essential for data organization, accessibility, and effective querying.

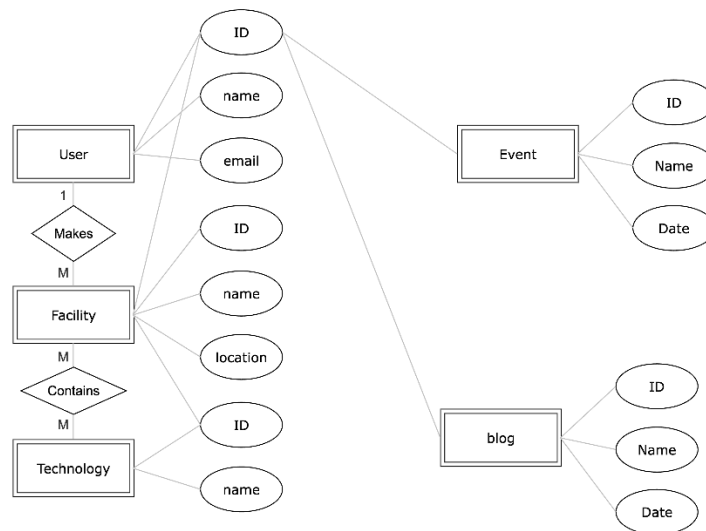


Figure 8 Relationships between data entities of the Pilots4U powered by COPILOT platform (beta version); 1 (one) and M (many) indicate the number of relationships, e.g., one user has many facilities, Many facilities can be connected to one user, and many facilities can have many technologies

Facility metadata:

Each PDI entry includes metadata fields such as facility name, geographic location, available certifications, equipment descriptions, and social media links. Additional metadata allows for categorization based on technological focus, capacity, and services offered.

User metadata:

User profiles are documented with metadata fields such as username, job title, company name, user role (Facility Searcher, PDI Owner, or Premium PDI Owner), and registration status. This ensures a personalized user experience and facilitates role-based platform functionalities.

Search metadata:

Metadata tracks search activity, such as the types of filters applied (e.g., certifications, location) and frequently searched terms. This data supports analytics and optimization for search functionality.

Data provenance:

Metadata includes timestamps for data creation, updates, and interactions. This ensures traceability and supports auditing and data integrity checks.

WCAG compliance:

Metadata for visual and descriptive elements (e.g., alt text for images and videos) ensures that the platform meets WCAG accessibility standards, enabling inclusive user interaction.

Custom fields:

The metadata structure allows for flexibility with additional fields for future needs, such as multimedia attachments (e.g., videos or PDF brochures for facilities).

This structured metadata approach ensures that the platform remains scalable, user-friendly, and aligned with the objectives of the COPILOT project. It also facilitates data maintenance, reporting, and integration with third-party systems when necessary.

3.2 Data Usage

The COPILOT platform utilizes the *WordPress All Export Pro* plugin to provide flexible and efficient data querying and extraction capabilities. This tool enables administrators to extract specific datasets based on predefined or custom criteria. Some examples of how data can be queried or extracted are listed below:

Filtering data by user role:

Administrators can extract data specific to Facility Searchers, PDI Owners, or Premium PDI Owners. This capability supports detailed reporting and analysis.

Exporting facility information:

Facility-related data, such as certifications, social media links, and geographic location, can be exported for further processing or sharing with stakeholders.

Custom search queries:

Data can be queried based on specific parameters, such as facilities with certain certifications, users from specific regions, or search trends.

Dynamic file formats:

The plugin allows exports in various formats, such as CSV, Excel, or XML, a feature that guarantees compatibility with external tools and reporting systems.

Data segmentation:

The plugin supports segmenting the exported data, such as retrieving only new facilities added in a specific timeframe or filtering out incomplete entries.

Automation and scheduled exports:

WordPress All Export Pro also allows for scheduled exports, ensuring that stakeholders regularly receive updated datasets without manual intervention.

This solution provides efficient and user-friendly data extraction. As a result, the platform's data is readily accessible for reporting, analysis, and informed decision-making. An example of data extraction is shown in Figure 9.

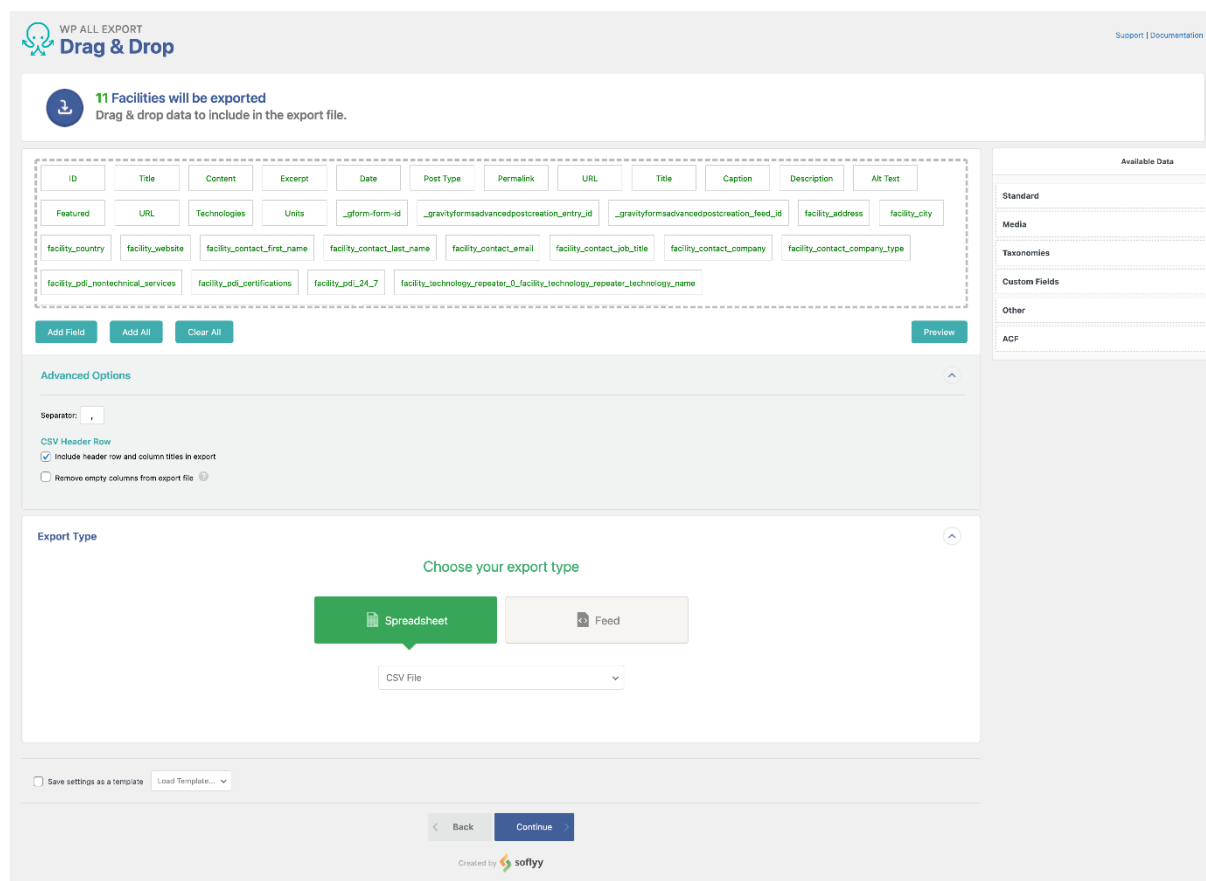


Figure 9 An example of how data could be exported from the platform: choose from different fields, then export in CSV file

4 Beta Version Testing and Feedback

4.1 Testing Status

The platform is currently undergoing iterative testing. It follows a structured approach to incorporate stakeholder feedback and achieve optimal functionality.

Internal testing:

Internal testing was conducted prior to the initial soft launch to identify and resolve any technical issues and ensure baseline functionality across all components of the platform.

Soft launch and feedback (December 2024 – February 2025):

The beta version of the platform was presented during the first co-creation session (4th December 2024), where participants (OC1 and OC2 winners) provided valuable feedback on its current features and potential improvements. The discussion highlighted some key areas that users consider essential for increasing engagement, usability, and long-term impact. While the current Deliverable presents an overview of the preliminary insights, a detailed analysis will be included in Deliverable 3.2. Some insights related to the platform are listed below:

Networking and collaboration:

- Participants emphasized the importance of partnership-building tools that connect stakeholders across the bio-based industry.
- Features such as matchmaking functionalities and communication tools were identified as priorities.

Transparency:

- Stakeholders highlighted the need for dashboards, request ticket system, and Traffic analytics for PDIs.

Recognition and feedback

- Users highlighted the potential benefits of success story showcases to enhance credibility and engagement.

Based on the input and feedback, updates and improvements are being implemented throughout January and February 2025 to address usability concerns, refine features, and enhance the user experience

4.2 Next Steps

The next steps focus on refining platform functionalities, optimizing user experience, and preparing for the full launch.

Comprehensive testing (March 2025): A more detailed testing phase will take place in March, involving the OC1 and OC2 winners again. The objective is to evaluate:

- Overall platform functionality and ease of use.
- Performance under different user interactions and data loads.
- Effectiveness of key features.

Feedback from this phase will be systematically collected to identify areas requiring improvement.

Development and adjustments post-testing (April–May 2025): insights from the March testing phase, as well as from the second co-creation sessions will shape further development and refinements. Key actions will include:

- Enhancing platform features based on user feedback.
- Fixing identified issues related to navigation, usability, and system performance.
- Ensuring optimization for scalability and integration of additional functionalities.
- Development of the business model.

By the end of this phase, the platform will be refined and prepared for broader accessibility.

Open beta testing (June 2025): the beta version will be made available for broader use within the COPILOT community. This phase will:

- Allow a much larger audience to engage with the platform.
- Provide further validation of its functionality and real-world usability.
- Help identify final refinements before the full launch.

Full launch (November 2025): By November, the platform will transition from beta to full release, accompanied by its business model and long-term sustainability plan. At this stage, the platform will be:

- Fully operational with all core features implemented.
- Optimized for ongoing maintenance and support.
- Positioned as a key digital resource for the Pilots4U network and the broader bio-based innovation ecosystem.

The phased approach ensures that the platform is tested, refined, and fully optimized before its official launch. This process results in an effective and sustainable tool for scale-up initiatives. The try-out of its business model will be starting in June 2026.

5 Compliance and Ethical Considerations

The platform complies with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) standards and follows established data protection policies to ensure user privacy and security.

Users are informed about data collection and processing through clear consent mechanisms (Figure 10). The platform provides:

- **Cookie Policy:** Users can review how cookies are used and manage their preferences at [Cookie Policy](#).
- **Privacy Policy:** The platform outlines data protection measures and user rights at [Privacy Policy](#).

For a detailed overview of data management practices, including storage, sharing, and security measures, refer to Deliverable 6.1 – Data Management Plan 1.

What is your first name?

What is your last name?

Choose a username

What is your job title?

What is the name of the company you work for?

What type of company/organization is this?

Which country are you from?

What is your email address?

What is your phone number

Generate a password

Enter Password

Confirm Password

Strength indicator

I accept the privacy & cookie policy *

Add me to the mailing list

[Create an account](#) [Already have an account? Log in. →](#)

Figure 10 User need to agree with the cookie and privacy policies before completing the registration