



Project Acronym: COPILOT

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Report on C&D Activities 1



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
COPILOT	CO-creating the next generation platform of PILOT and demo infrastructures, unlocking faster innovation and EU bioeconomy growth
PPBEB	Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024
BBEPP	Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant
VTT	Technical Research Centre of Finland
F+i	FOOD+i Cluster
IBF	Irish Bioeconomy Foundation
KHZ	Knowledge Hub Zealand
BIOEAST	BioEast Hub CR
SGZ	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska
B4C	Bioeconomy for Change
SPRING	SPRING Cluster
F6S	F6S Network Ireland
WP	Work Package
RIs	Research Infrastructures
PDI	Pilot and Demo Infrastructures
BIs	Bioinnovators
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators

1 Introduction

This report presents an overview of the Communication and Dissemination (C&D) activities conducted under the COPILOT project. This document updates the progress made from June 2024 (project month M1) to November 2024 (M6), with a special focus on the activities undertaken to implement the C&D tools, the activities supporting Open Calls (Task 2.1). BBEPP, as the project coordinator, worked in close collaboration with all partners in designing the C&D tools (which are more extensively reported in D5.1), to ensure that all valuable knowledge assets and project outputs were identified and properly disseminated to the intended target stakeholders.

The report is structured into the following sections:

- Section 2: provides a recap of the original C&D plan to give context on the strategic framework that guided the activities.
- Section 3: details the updates made to the communication tools, and the development of new materials for stakeholder engagement.
- Section 4: outlines the exact C&D activities carried out.
- Section 5: presents conclusions and outlines the next steps for enhancing the effectiveness of C&D efforts moving forward.

2 Recap of the C&D plan

The original C&D Plan, presented as Deliverable 5.1, strategies for ensuring the visibility of the COPILOT project. It aimed to promote the project's core objectives and activities, facilitate engagement with key stakeholders, and support the project's contribution to European bioeconomy innovation. The C&D plan established several communication objectives, such as building a recognizable visual identity for the project, building and increasing awareness, engaging stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, and making use of digital channels and traditional outreach methods. The target beneficiaries specifically are listed below:

- European open access PDIs (pilot plants, demo infrastructures offering scale-up from TRL 4 up to TRL 8 for bioeconomy innovations)
- Bioinnovators (BIs) (e.g. start-ups, spinoffs, SMEs, research groups, large companies) including Bioeconomy Clusters and Incubators
- Networks of test rigs, labs & research infrastructures (RIs)
- Investors providing finance for scale-up, demo and further commercialisation
- Corporates
- Other market actors such as equipment providers, consultants, feedstock owners, software solutions, legal advice, specialized B2B media, etc.
- Regional authorities from regions with or without a bioeconomy strategy and/or funding instruments for scale-up
- Policy makers (EC, Macro regional, National / Regional / local authorities, etc.)

Specific communication tools were planned to reach these stakeholders, including press releases, email templates, posters, social media campaigns, and webinars. The approach included targeting the existing visibility of the "Pilots4U" initiative, and integrated it into the newly created COPILOT identity. The C&D plan emphasized using existing relationships and networks to broaden project awareness while also

targeting new potential collaborators. The following actions and objectives were identified within D5.1 (Table 1) to design an effective C&D strategy to be implemented from M1 on:

Table 1 Actions and objectives to define the communication and dissemination strategy

Actions	Objectives
Preparation of press releases	To facilitate communication to inform about the Open Calls and developments of the project to the media
Production of the necessary supporting material, including printed material (i.e. flyer, poster, roll-up, etc.)	To increase awareness of the project's activities, events and its benefits for the bioeconomy sector
Participation to events and conferences	To promote liaison with existing networks and initiatives to identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration
Campaigning on social media	To efficiently communicate with the target groups and relevant stakeholders

2.1 Definition of the communication and dissemination key messages according to the various phases of the project

To design the COPILOT C&D strategy, it is necessary to structure the key messages to effectively target different stakeholders according to the various phases of the project. This approach, consistent with the European Commission's guidelines on dissemination and exploitation of project results¹, will effectively communicate the project's objectives, outcomes, and impacts.

Communication actions focused on raising awareness and sharing information about the project to ensure a wide understanding among diverse audiences. These actions intend to build interest in COPILOT's objectives and activities. The communication activities during the first six months, as the initial phase, are primarily aimed at informing stakeholders about project objectives, expected outcomes, and anticipated impacts. Communication channels used include social media, newsletters, and press releases to lay the foundation for building a multi-stakeholder community.

Dissemination actions, on the other hand, involve sharing specific project results and promoting the use of knowledge generated by the project. These activities are designed to reach more specialized audiences, such as BIs and PDIs, with the aim of fostering collaboration and uptake of project outcomes. The second phase, beginning in month six, will emphasize stakeholder engagement by involving them in co-creation events, participation in the Scale-Up & Growth and Connect & Exchange programs, and promoting the next-generation Pilots4U database. Dissemination efforts will continue through conferences, workshops, and social media, to make sure targeted audiences are aware of new project developments.

The final six months of the project will concentrate on dissemination and exploitation activities. During this period, communication actions will be aimed at promoting awareness of the upcoming project

¹ https://rea.ec.europa.eu/dissemination-and-exploitation_en

results, while dissemination activities will focus on facilitating the adoption and use of the next-generation Pilots4U database and its associated business model. This phase will involve targeted messaging to support the use of project outcomes through various channels, including conferences, social media, and a final event aimed at maximizing impact.

2.2 Implementation of the C&D strategy: the initial phase

To implement the C&D strategy (as defined in Deliverable 5.1), a set of tailored tools was designed and continuously updated to effectively reach the various COPILOT target stakeholders with key messages. The strategy was structured to address the different needs of stakeholders at different stages of the project. During the first phase of the project, which focused on informing and increasing awareness, activities carried out on social media channels aimed to introduce the COPILOT initiative and stimulate interest in its contribution to the bioeconomy sector. The messages provided were designed to introduce the project objectives, expected outcomes, and the potential impact on stakeholders, thereby reaching not only the general public but also other mapped stakeholders who might be interested in the project. This phase also focused on promoting the Open Calls, which played an important role in engaging stakeholders to join the co-creation sessions.

In addition to social media posts, direct mailing and press releases were used to communicate key project messages. These channels helped to ensure that the target audiences, especially PDIs and BIs, received timely information about COPILOT activities and opportunities for engagement. Internal stakeholder databases (Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) were created during this phase, with the aim of supporting future dissemination activities and engaging stakeholders in co-creation activities.

3 Communication tools preparation

Since the initiation of the COPILOT project, significant progress has been made in updating and developing the communication tools. The tools included various resources designed to facilitate consistent and effective dissemination of project information to different stakeholders.

3.1 COPILOT project website

The COPILOT project website, available at <https://copilot-project.eu/>, serves as a central hub for all C&D activities. It provides detailed information about the project, including its objectives, partners, ongoing activities, and news updates. The website also includes resources such as Open Call documents and event announcements, to ensure that stakeholders can easily access relevant information about COPILOT. The website plays an important role in raising awareness about the project and engaging a diverse audience, especially BIs and PDIs.

3.2 Press release

A press release (**Annex 1**) was issued on 27 August 2024 to announce the launch of the COPILOT Open Calls, in order to invite BIs and PDIs to co-create the next-generation Pilots4U platform. The press release outlined the objectives of the Open Calls, such as selecting members for co-creation groups, building a future-proof Pilots4U platform, and nurturing stakeholder communities through the Scale-Up & Growth and Connect & Exchange programs. This press release received coverage through project partners' networks and industry-related media channels, which increased the visibility of the Open Calls and the overall COPILOT initiative.

3.3 Email template

Email templates (**Annex 2**) were developed to aid outreach activities and ensure targeted communication with PDIs and BIs. The emails were used to invite potential participants to apply for the COPILOT Open Calls, which detailed the purpose and benefits of the calls, such as the opportunity to co-create the next-generation Pilots4U platform, receive grants, and participate in co-creation workshops. These emails were key in giving stakeholders all the information they needed and helping them understand how they could contribute to and benefit from the project.

3.4 Postcards

A promotional postcard (**Figure 1**) was designed to support our outreach efforts and promote Open Calls at events and conferences. The postcard featured the "Pilots4U powered by COPILOT" branding, which highlights key aspects of the project, such as the Open Calls, the Scale-Up & Growth program, and the Connect & Exchange program. The postcard was distributed at various public events to visually convey the project’s objectives and encourage participation from relevant stakeholders. Additionally, a digital version of the postcard was used on social media channels to expand its reach and effectively promote COPILOT’s initiatives.



Figure 1 The postcard designed for promoting Open Call 1 and 2

Another dedicated poster was created for the Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024 (PPBEB) events to attract participants and provide information about the pitching sessions, matchmaking opportunities, and networking activities (Figure 2). This poster is used to promote the event both online and at key bioeconomy-related gatherings. It included event details such as keynote presentations, pitching sessions, and networking opportunities held from 2nd to 4th December 2024 at the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel and BBEPP in Ghent, Belgium. The poster helps raise awareness and generate interest among BIs, PDIs and investors to actively participate in the PPBEB event. Moreover, selected PDIs and BIs from the Open Call 1 and 2 will be also given the opportunity to pitch during this event, which will showcase their innovations and strengthening collaboration within the COPILOT ecosystem.



BOOST PITCH PERFECT the EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY 2024

Register Now

Call for Pitch Abstracts Open

2 December: Satellite Events and Pre-Conference: Keynote and Networking Dinner
 3 December: Pitching, Matchmaking, Networking Event
 4 December: COPILOT Satellite Events
 Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel
www.pitchperfectbioeconomy.eu

Co-organizers:

Bio Base Connect, Pilots4U, ShapingBio, PROTEINCLUB, planet bio, BioInvest, INN PRESSME, enterprise europe network, biotope

2 DECEMBER 2024 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm
 Location: Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel

Satellite Events:

- Final event INN-PRESSME project
- ShapingBio workshop
- The Protein Club industrial sounding board meeting

2 DECEMBER 2024 6 pm - 10 pm
 Location: Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel

Pitching, Matchmaking, Networking: Pre-conference Program

- Keynote presentations
- Walking dinner
- Networking, networking, networking

www.pitchperfectbioeconomy.eu

3 DECEMBER 2024 9 am - 6 pm
 Location: Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel

Pitching, Matchmaking, Networking Pitch sessions on

- Start-ups/SMEs looking for finance
- Microbial protein players
- Artificial Intelligence in service of biomanufacturing
- Microbes and gaseous feedstocks
- Emerging innovative technologies for the bioeconomy
- Leading pilot facilities for the bioeconomy
- Scale-up of novel biomaterials and processes

4 DECEMBER 2024 9 am - 5 pm
 Location: Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant, Ghent

Free shuttle bus Brussels Airport to Ghent and back

- Study visit to Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant
- Scale-up accelerator workshop
- Co-creation workshops

Powered by: **Pilots4U** powered by CoPilot

Figure 2 The postcard designed for promoting PPBEB event



3.5 Roll-Up banner

A roll-up banner (Figure 3) was created to further promote the COPILOT project at conferences, workshops, and events. The banner included key information about the project, which emphasized the next-generation Pilots4U database and platform, the co-creation sessions, and the Scale-Up & Growth and Connect & Exchange programs. The banner served as a visual tool to attract attention, provide a quick overview of the project, and support the overall visibility of COPILOT among participants at events and conferences.

Figure 3 The roll-up banner designed for COPILOT project

4 C&D activities

This section describes the C&D activities performed under the COPILOT project during this reporting period. COPILOT partners participated as speakers in various conferences and organized webinars with stakeholders (PDIs and BIs) to present project objectives, introduce Open Calls, and establish new collaborations. The following subsections provide an overview of these activities aimed at engaging different target stakeholders.

4.1 Publication of press release, articles and newsletters

COPILOT consortium members issued articles on their official websites, and in newsletters, to further disseminate information about the COPILOT project, the Open Calls and the PPBEB events, also in their local languages. These articles contributed to reaching a broader audience and ensuring that the project's activities and opportunities were visible to stakeholders across Europe (Figure 4 - 9).

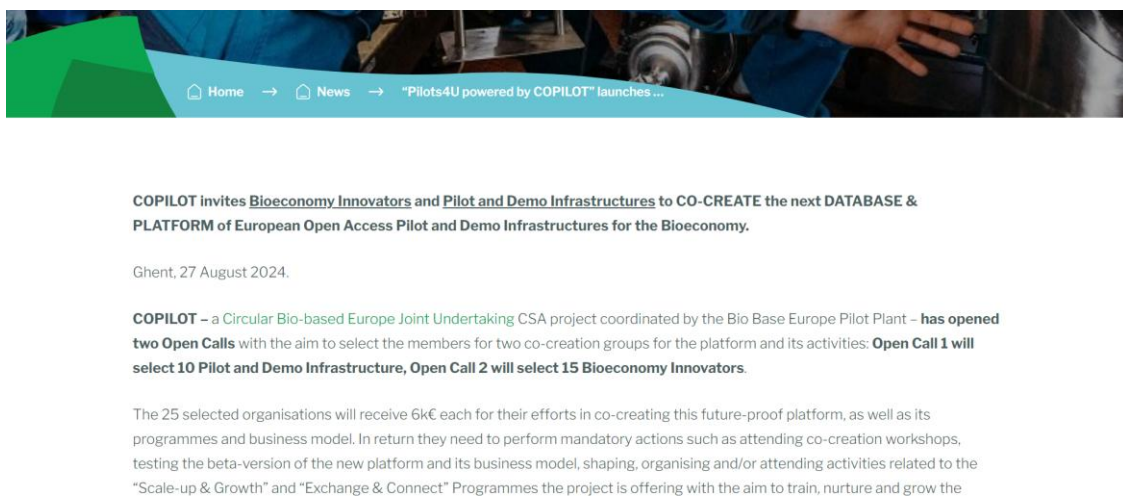


Figure 4 The press release published on the website of Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant



Figure 5 Article and to introduce COPILOT project on the website of SPRING in Italian



27/08/2024

COPILOT - un progetto CSA di **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** coordinato dal Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant, di cui SPRING è partner - ha aperto **due Open Call** con l'obiettivo di selezionare 25 attori che andranno a formare due gruppi di co-creazione per la piattaforma e le sue attività.

- Open Call 1 selezionerà 10 Infrastrutture Pilota e Demo;
 - Open Call 2 selezionerà 15 Innovatori della Bioeconomia.
- 🕒 Il termine ultimo per la presentazione delle domande è il **10 ottobre 2024** alle ore 17:00.

[Per tutte le info](#)
[Press Release](#)



COPILOT - un progetto CSA di Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking coordinato dal Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant, di cui SPRING è partner - ha aperto due Open Call con l'obiettivo di selezionare 25 attori che andranno a formare due gruppi di co-creazione per la piattaforma e le sue attività.
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Il termine ultimo per la presentazione delle domande è il **10 ottobre 2024** alle ore 17:00.

[Per tutte le info sulla Call](#)



Figure 6 Newsletter to promote Open calls and PPBEB events on SPRING website (left) and newsletter to promote Open Calls on the "SPRING Bio-magazine" issued by SPRING (right), both in Italian



Figure 7 Articles to introduce COPILOT and Open Calls on the website of Food+i in Spanish



Figure 8 Article to introduce COPILOT project on the website of SGZ in Slovenian



Figure 9 Articles to introduce COPILOT Open Calls on the website of B4C in French

4.2 Emailing stakeholders to promote Open Calls and PPBEB events

COPILOT consortium members utilized the "central stakeholder databases" developed in Work Package (WP) 1 to reach out to PDIs and BIs in August 2024. Using the email template created for outreach, approximately 150 PDIs and over 1,400 BIs (including 1000 relevant contacts from previous international projects in the F6S pipeline). The primary objective of this email campaign was to invite PDIs and BIs to participate in the Open Calls, as well as to encourage them to take advantage of the opportunities offered by COPILOT.

To further prompt participation, two reminder emails were sent in September and October 2024, to ensure that stakeholders remained informed and motivated to engage with the Open Calls. Additionally, the promotion of the Open Calls was incorporated into communications about the PPBEB events. Several email rounds were sent to encourage BIs to participate in the events, with details about the Open Calls included in the same messages. This approach ensured broader dissemination and increased awareness about both the PPBEB events and the Open Calls. All emails adhered to etiquette guidelines established in the C&D Plan, which ensured a professional and respectful approach to communication. The targeted email campaign played a key role in increasing interest and involvement in the Open Calls. It led to stronger connections with key stakeholders and encouraged active participation in the project.

4.3 Participation in conferences and events

The COPILOT project consortium members actively participated in several key conferences to disseminate information, build relationships with stakeholders, and encourage collaborations. Among these were the 7th International Conference on Technologies & Business Models for Circular Economy and the International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy (IFIB) 2024.

At the 7th International Conference on Technologies & Business Models for Circular Economy, which took place in Maribor, Slovenia (06/09/2024), Pilots4U stakeholder relations manager and SGZ, as the COPILOT representatives, presented the project's role in supporting circular bioeconomy through open-access PDIs. This conference provided an excellent platform to engage with experts in circular economy and discuss innovative technologies aimed at creating sustainable business models.

During the International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy (IFIB) (03-04/10/2024), held in Florence, Italy, COPILOT representatives: Pilots4U stakeholder relations manager and SPRING participated in panel discussions and networked with industrial leaders and innovators (**Figure 10 and 11**). The COPILOT project was introduced for its efforts in bridging the gap between research and market application through collaboration with BIs and PDIs. The IFIB event allowed COPILOT to strengthen its network within the bioeconomy community and build new partnerships.



Figure 10 Pilots4U stakeholder relations manager gave a presentation about COPILOT project at IFIB 2024



Figure 11 Postcards to promote the COPILOT Open Calls were distributed by SPRING during the International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy 2024

COPILOT is also the co-organizer of the PPBEB events, which features mainly pitches by BIs, and provides an opportunity for them to showcase their innovative projects to an audience that included numerous enablers. With over 300 registrations already, this event will prove to be an ideal platform for promoting COPILOT's initiatives and encouraging collaboration. Moreover, through the PPBEB event, COPILOT will take the opportunity to promote the first study visit, which will be hosted by BBEPP, as well as accelerator workshops. These initiatives are all linked to the co-creation activities that form the core of COPILOT's mission to accelerate bioeconomy innovation.

4.4 Social media channel activities

LinkedIn, addressing a more professional audience, has been chosen to:

- Publish information about ongoing activities and live events the project is organizing
- Involve and engage stakeholders in the project's activities

The Pilots4U by COPILOT LinkedIn social media account was created and launched in June 2024 to support the C&D activities targeted at stakeholders. The first post (Figure 12) was launched in June 2024 to announce the COPILOT project. As of October 2024, this LinkedIn page has 1,184 followers. Additionally, to increase visibility, all COPILOT consortium partners shared and reposted content on their company and personal LinkedIn pages. This effort reached an audience of over 8,000 professionals

in the bioeconomy sector, which is the combined number of followers of all consortium partners' LinkedIn pages. To further enhance engagement, a LinkedIn strategy will be developed during the upcoming consortium meeting. This strategy will produce a clear list of types of posts to be made regularly to expand the community and ensure continuous engagement.



Figure 12 The first post on COPILOT LinkedIn page to introduce the launching of COPILOT project

The following subsections describe more extensively the type of content and social media campaigns carried out to reach the above-mentioned objectives.

4.4.1 Social media campaign to promote COPILOT project, Open Calls and PPBEB events

To promote the COPILOT project, especially Open Calls, a targeted social media campaign was executed through LinkedIn. The campaign (started from 19/08/2024) aimed to reach BIs and PDIs across Europe and eligible countries. Posts included detailed information about the objectives of the Open Calls, the application process, and the benefits for participants (**Figure 13, 14, 15 and 16**). Visual elements such as infographics (digital postcard) were used to capture the attention of potential applicants and drive engagement. The campaign successfully gained significant interest which resulted in increased visibility and interactions from stakeholders interested in co-creation opportunities. A total of 14 posts and reposts were launched on LinkedIn till the deadline of Open Call application (10/10/2024).

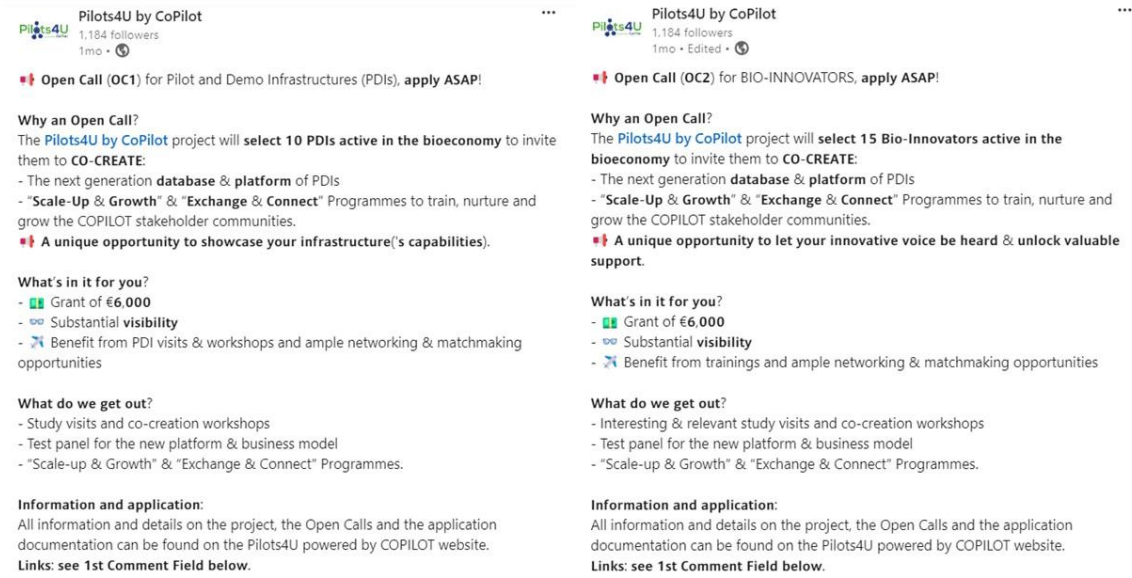


Figure 13 LinkedIn posts to promote the Open Call 1&2

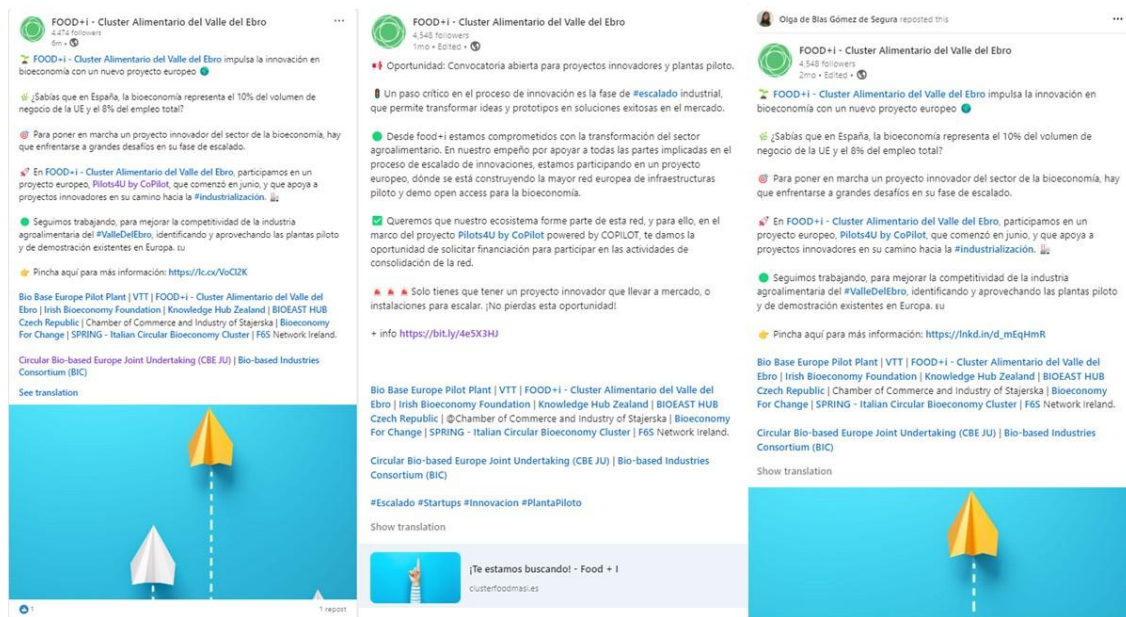


Figure 14 Consortium member FOOD+i promoted Open Calls 1&2 in Spanish on its LinkedIn page and shared on their personal LinkedIn pages in Spanish.

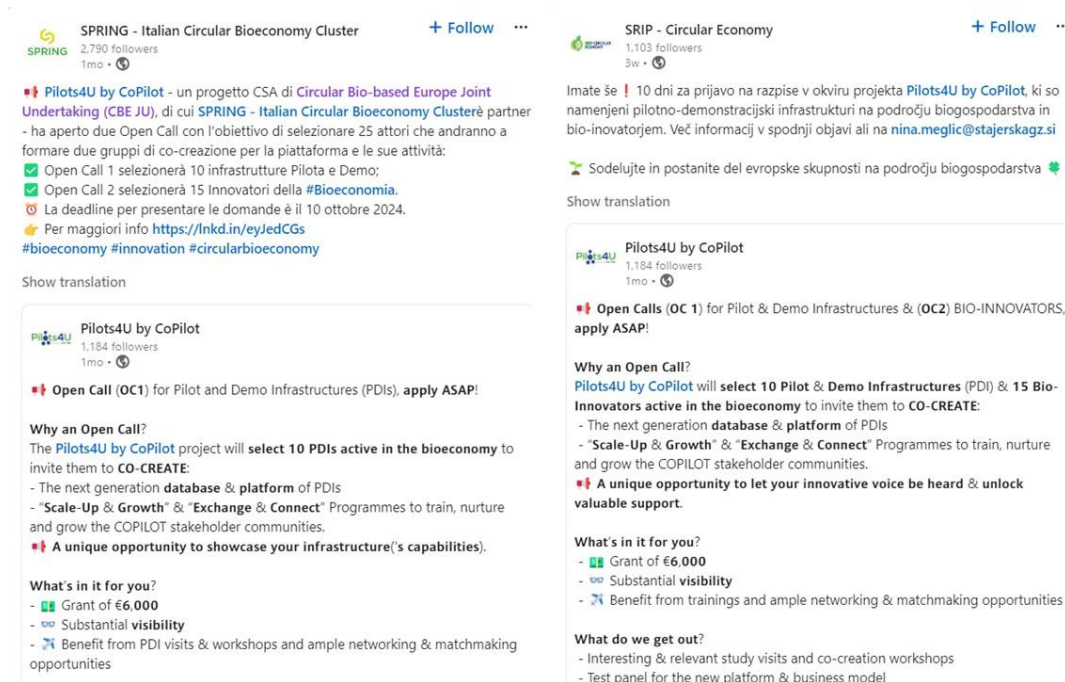


Figure 15 Consortium partner SPRING and SGZ reposted Open Call campaigns in Italian and Slovenian on their LinkedIn pages.

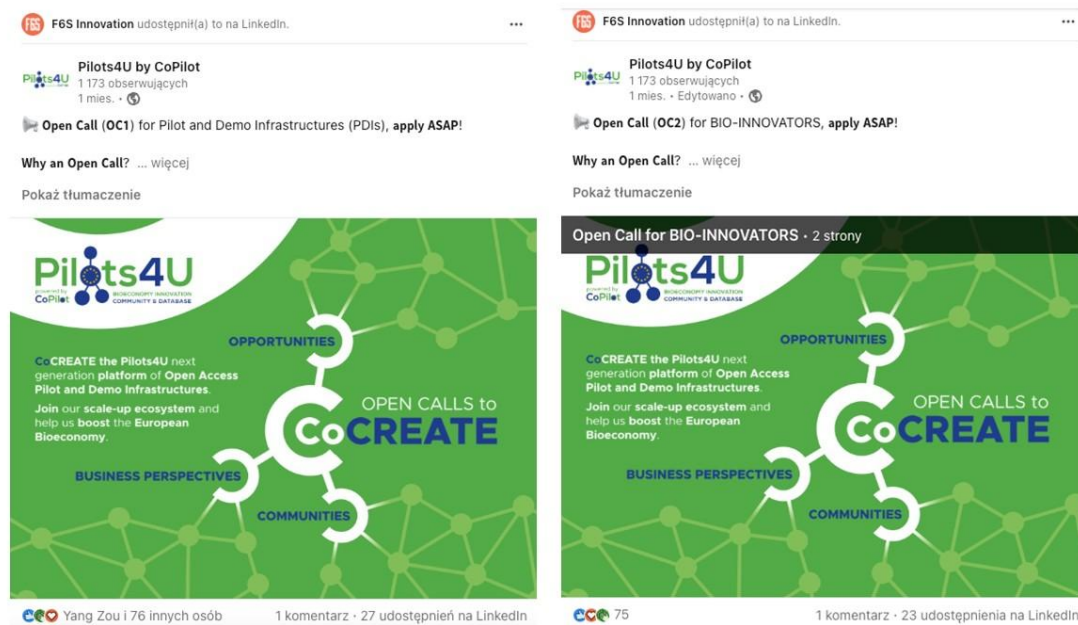


Figure 16 Consortium partner F6S reposted Open Call campaigns on their LinkedIn pages.

4.4.2 Social media campaign to promote PPBEB events

In addition to the Open Calls, a social media campaign was conducted to promote the PPBEB event organized by COPILOT related to Connect & Exchange program (Task 4.2 and 4.4, 2 – 4/12/2024). This event will provide a platform for BIs to present their projects and network with stakeholders including PDIs, investors and industry experts and enablers. Posts on LinkedIn featured key information from these events, including announcements of speaker and investors & participant numbers, as well as agenda details (Figure 17). The campaign aimed to encourage more BIs to participate and leverage the opportunities provided by COPILOT’s ecosystem. The use of engaging visuals (a digital postcard) helped

generate a broader reach for these events. A total of 15 posts and reposts were launched on consortium members’ LinkedIn to promote these events.



Figure 17 Examples of posts to promote PPBE event on COPILOT LinkedIn page

4.4.3 Social media campaign to promote conferences



Figure 18 LinkedIn post to promote the presence of Pilots4U stakeholder relations manager on TBCE 2024

The COPILOT project also conducted a social media campaign to promote key conferences where COPILOT was represented. One such promotional post on LinkedIn (Figure 18) highlighted the project’s involvement in biomass valorisation activities in various countries, especially the underrepresented Eastern Europe. This post was aimed at showcasing COPILOT's role in contributing to discussions on circular bioeconomy and the importance of international collaboration. This campaign successfully enhanced the visibility of COPILOT's activities, positioned the project as a leader in bioeconomy innovation, and encouraged greater participation in future events.

4.5 Webinars to promote the COPILOT Open Calls

To promote the COPILOT Open Calls and provide stakeholders with detailed information about the project and the application procedures, two webinars were organized by F6S and BBEPP in September 2024 (Figure 19). The Open Calls aimed to invite BIs and PDIs to co-create the next-generation Pilots4U platform/database. The webinars served as an opportunity to introduce the COPILOT project, explain its objectives, and guide potential applicants through the process of submitting their proposals.

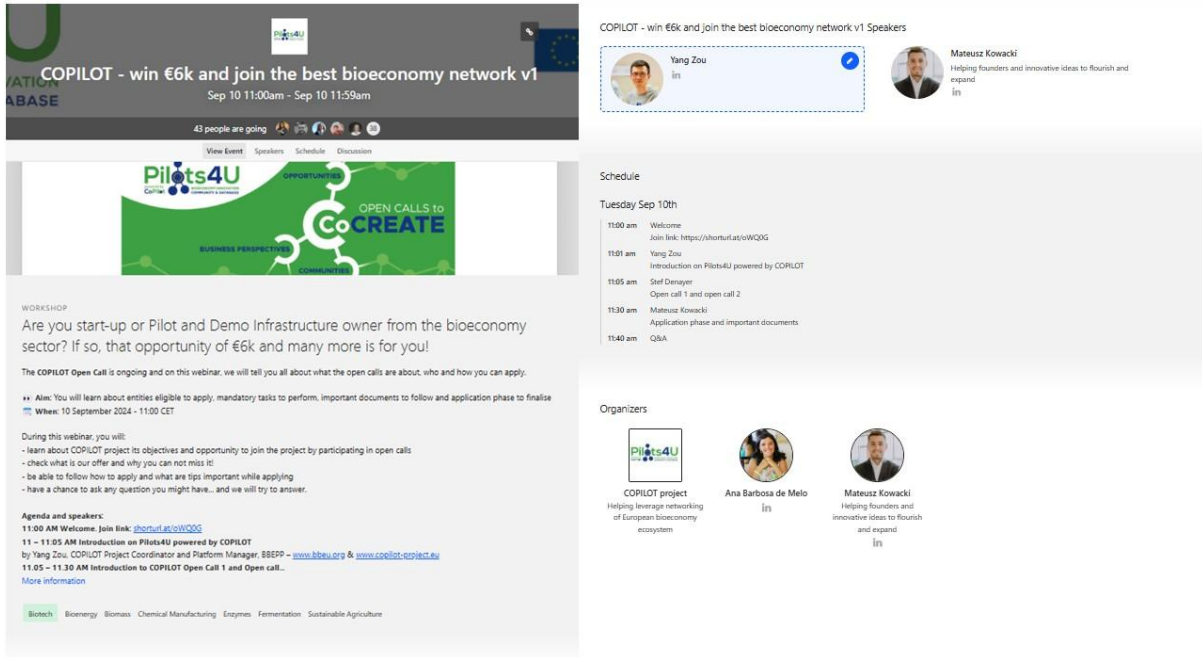


Figure 19 F6S announced the first webinar for Open Calls on their event page

The first webinar was held on 10th September 2024 and attracted 29 participants, while the second webinar took place on 24th September 2024, with 21 participants joining. During these sessions, COPILOT project coordinator, Pilots4U stakeholder relations manager, and consortium partner F6S provided an overview of the project, the benefits of participation, and answered questions from attendees (Figure 20). These two webinars played an important role in engaging stakeholders and ensuring that all interested parties were well-informed about the application process and the opportunities provided by COPILOT.

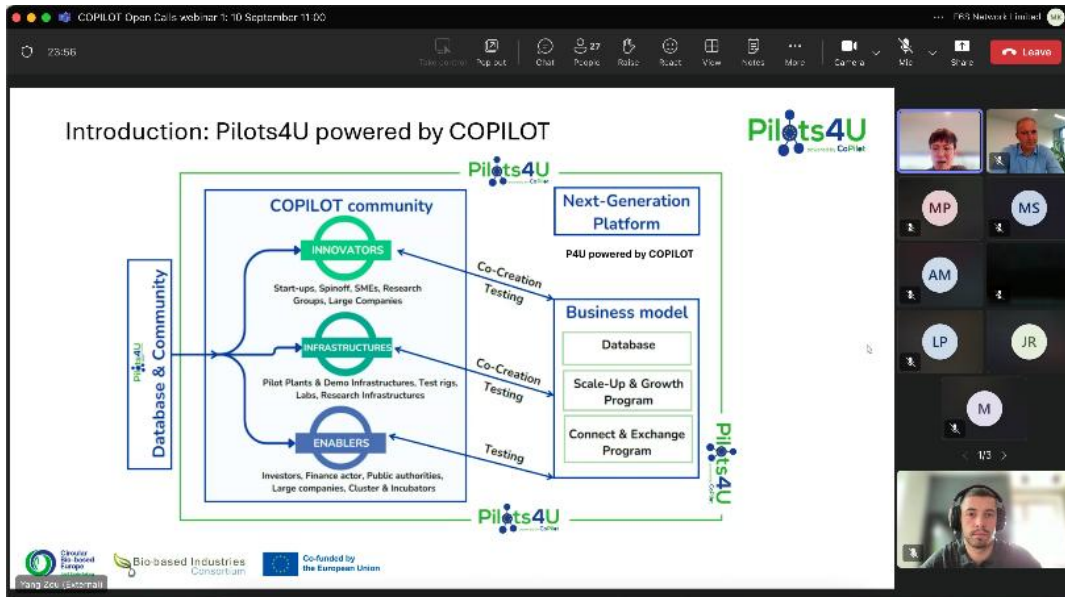


Figure 20 COPILOT project coordinator, Pilots4U stakeholder relations manager and F6S introduced COPILOT project to the webinar attendees

4.6 Monitoring and evaluating the C&D KPIs

To ensure that the C&D efforts of the COPILOT project are effective, key performance indicators (KPIs) have been established to monitor and evaluate the success of these activities. These KPIs provide measurable goals to track the progress of outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts throughout the project lifecycle. The KPIs for COPILOT include:

- 10 links from ESFRI/RI infrastructures included in the COPILOT platform.
- 140 PDIs populated at the end of the COPILOT project.
- 500 innovators reached by the end of the project, including 15% of BIs from underrepresented countries and regions.
- 40 applications of PDIs for Open Call 1.
- 100 applications of BIs for Open Call 2.
- 120 applications of BIs for Open Call 3.
- 50 different PDIs participating in two of COPILOT's PPBEB events.
- 200 BIs participating in two PPBEB events and one BIOKET event.
- 200 visitors to PDIs from at least 20 different countries, involving at least 12 different PDIs.

5 Conclusions and next step

The C&D activities carried out during this reporting period have successfully established a solid foundation for the COPILOT project's outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts. Through the use of diverse communication channels, including press releases, emailing, social media campaigns, webinars, and active participation in conferences, COPILOT effectively reached a wide audience within the bioeconomy sector. The C&D tools and activities implemented have contributed to raising awareness of the project's objectives and encouraging stakeholder participation in key initiatives such as the Open Calls and PPBEB events.

The establishment of a dedicated LinkedIn page, combined with active support from COPILOT partners in sharing and reposting content, significantly expanded the project's online visibility and reach. The social media campaigns, webinars, and promotion of events played an important role in building relationships with key stakeholders, including BIs, PDIs, and potential investors. These activities ensure that the COPILOT platform is widely recognized and valued.

Moving forward, the next steps include intensifying stakeholder engagement through more targeted and personalized outreach. COPILOT will focus on enhancing its C&D strategy by further refining communication tools, such as adding video clips for social media. Future plans also include organizing more webinars, in-person workshops, PDI open day visits and training sessions to support collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. The COPILOT consortium members will continue to promote the next-generation Pilots4U database and work towards ensuring its adoption and integration across the bioeconomy sector.

Annex 1: Press release



COPILOT invites Bioeconomy Innovators and Pilot and Demo Infrastructures to CO-CREATE the next DATABASE & PLATFORM of European Open Access Pilot and Demo Infrastructures for the Bioeconomy.

GHENT, 27 AUGUST 2024.

COPILOT - a [Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking](#) CSA project coordinated by the Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant – **has opened two Open Calls** with the aim to select the members for two co-creation groups for the platform and its activities: **Open Call 1 will select 10 Pilot and Demo Infrastructure, Open Call 2 will select 15 Bioeconomy Innovators.**

The 25 selected organisations will receive 6k€ each for their efforts in co-creating this future-proof platform, as well as its programmes and business model. In return they need to perform mandatory actions such as attending co-creation workshops, testing the beta-version of the new platform and its business model, shaping, organising and/or attending activities related to the “Scale-up & Growth” and “Exchange & Connect” Programmes the project is offering with the aim to train, nurture and grow the COPILOT stakeholder communities, boosting as such, the growth of the European bioeconomy.

All information on the application procedure can be found on the [“Pilots4U powered by COPILOT” website](#). **Deadline for application is October 10th, 2024 at 5 pm CET.** Applicants will be informed about their selection by November 2024, but already need to add, upon application, a “Placeholder” in their agenda’s for the co-creation workshops scheduled on December 4th, 2024 in Ghent (Belgium) until they receive final confirmation of their selection. These first co-creation workshops are organised back-to-back to the [Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024](#) event organised in Brussels (Belgium) on December 2nd and 3rd, 2024.

COPILOT will build further on the legacy of the Pilots4U project that developed a globally renown [Pilots4U database of Open Access Pilot and Demo Infrastructures for the European Bioeconomy](#). Through co-creation, COPILOT will update and expand the database while implementing new software to make it future-proof and allow features in support of a smart business plan to make the platform self-sustainable beyond the project duration. Furthermore the project will grow, train and nurture the stakeholder communities linked to this database by means of a “Scale-up & Growth” and a “Exchange & Connect” Programme.

Notes to editors:

COPILOT is made possible thanks to funding from the [Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking \(CBE JU\)](#), it is coordinated by Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (BBEPP), an open-access pilot facility for development and scale-up of biobased processes. BBEPP also coordinated the Pilots4U project (2017-2019), a BBI-JU project that created a database and network of European Open Access Multipurpose Pilot and Demonstration Infrastructures which can be searched and consulted at: <https://biopilots4u.eu/>. COPILOT will further build on the legacy of the Pilots4U project with the aim to further stimulate the growth of the European bioeconomy.

The consortium partners are:

- [Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant](#), Ghent, Belgium
- [VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd](#), Espoo, Finland
- [FOOD+I Cluster](#), Ebro Valley, Spain
- [Bioeconomy for Change](#), Barenton Bugny, France
- [Cluster SPRING](#), Milano, Italy
- [F6S Network Ireland](#), Dublin, Ireland
- [BIOEAST HUB CR](#), Prague, Czechia
- [Irish Bioeconomy Foundation](#), Thurles, Ireland
- [Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska/Styria](#), Maribor, Slovenia
- [Knowledge Hub Zealand](#), Kalundborg, Denmark

The project kicked off in June 2024 and ends in November 2026, the total project budget is €1,499,576.5. More information can be found on the following webpage: www.copilot-project.eu.

More information, questions and/or interviews

The following people can be contacted for interviews and further information about the project.

- **Stef Denayer**, Pilots4U Stakeholder Relations Manager: Stef.Denayer@bbeu.org; +32 475 82 03 00
- **Yang Zou**, COPILOT Project Coordinator and Platform Manager: Yang.Zou@bbeu.org; +32 489 95 12 68
- **Katrien Molders**, Communication Manager Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant: Katrien.Molders@bbeu.org; +32 486 95 11 09.

The project is supported by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and its members.



**Circular
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Annex 2: Mailing Templates to invite PDIs & Innovators to apply for COPILOT Open Call 1 and 2

Open Call 1 - PDIs

Dear XXX XXX,

We are excited to announce the launch of the “Pilots4U powered by COPILOT” **Open Call (OC1) for Pilot Plants and Demo Infrastructures (PDIs)** and would herewith like to invite you to apply.

What’s the purpose of this Open Call?

The COPILOT project will **select 10 PDIs** active in the bioeconomy **to invite them to co-create:**

- The next generation **database & platform of open access pilot and demo infrastructures for the bioeconomy** and its business model (Pilots4U: <https://biopilots4u.eu/>)
- “**Scale-Up & Growth**” and “**Exchange & Connect**” Programmes aimed to train, nurture and grow the COPILOT stakeholder communities.

A unique opportunity to showcase your infrastructure's capabilities, unlock valuable support and help us boost the growth of the European bioeconomy.

What’s in it for you?

Selected participants will:

- Receive **a grant of €6,000** each to cover for efforts and expenses
- Substantially gain **visibility**
- Benefit from **PDI visits & workshops** and ample **networking & matchmaking opportunities** with leading stakeholders across Europe.

What’s in it for us?

In return the selected PDIs need to perform mandatory actions such as:

- Organizing a study visit and co-creation workshop
- Testing the beta-version of the new platform and its business model
- Shaping and/or attending activities related to the “Scale-up & Growth” and “Exchange & Connect” Programmes.

Information and application:

- All information and details on the project, the Open Calls and the application documentation can be found on the [Pilots4U powered by COPILOT website](#).
- Apply here: <https://www.f6s.com/copilot-open-call>
- **Deadline for application is 10 October 2024, 17:00 CET.**

Link with the Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024 event.

Several of the “mandatory” actions to be performed by the co-creators are “grouped” together with the [Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024](#) event, that will be held at Brussels Airport on 3 December 2024. All selected PDIs will get the opportunity to pitch at this event and are expected to attend the co-creation session on 4 December. Please, block these dates in your agenda upon Open Call application.

Very much looking forward to receiving your application!

Good luck!

Kind Regards

YOUR NAME

The COPILOT project is a [Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking](#) Coordination and Support Action that will update, expand and make the Pilots4U database of Open Access Pilot and Demo Infrastructures for the European Bioeconomy future-proof and self-sustainable through co-creation. Furthermore the project will grow, train and nurture the stakeholder communities linked to this database by means of the “Scale-Up & Growth” and the “Exchange & Connect” Programmes.

Open Call 2 – BioInnovators

Dear XXX XXX

Dear BioInnovator,

We are excited to announce the launch of the “Pilots4U powered by COPILOT” **Open Call (OC2) for BioInnovators** and would herewith like to invite you to apply.

What’s the purpose of this Open Call?

The COPILOT project will **select 15 BioInnovators** (start-ups, spin-offs, SMEs) active in the bioeconomy to **invite them to co-create**:

- The next generation **database & platform of open access pilot and demo infrastructures for the bioeconomy** and its business model (Pilots4U: <https://biopilots4u.eu/>)
- “Scale-Up & Growth” and “Exchange & Connect” Programmes aimed to train, nurture and grow the COPILOT stakeholder communities.

A unique opportunity to let your innovative voice be heard, unlock valuable support and help us boost the growth of the European bioeconomy.

What’s in it for you?

Selected participants will:

- Receive **a grant of €6,000** each to cover for efforts and expenses
- Substantially gain **visibility**
- Benefit from **trainings** and ample **networking & matchmaking opportunities** with leading stakeholders across Europe.

What’s in it for us?

In return the selected BioInnovators need to perform mandatory actions such as:

- Attending co-creation workshops
- Testing the beta-version of the new platform and its business model
- Shaping and/or attending activities related to the “Scale-up & Growth” and “Exchange & Connect” Programmes.

Information and application:

- All information and details on the project, the Open Calls and the application documentation can be found on the [Pilots4U powered by COPILOT website](https://www.f6s.com/copilot-open-call).
- Apply here: <https://www.f6s.com/copilot-open-call>
- **Deadline for application is 10 October 2024, 17:00 CET.**

Link with the Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024 event.

Several of the “mandatory” actions to be performed by the co-creators are “grouped” together with the [Pitch Perfect and Boost the European Bioeconomy 2024](#) event, that will be held at Brussels Airport on 3 December 2024. All selected PDIs will get the opportunity to pitch at this event and are expected to attend the co-creation session on 4 December. Please, block these dates in your agenda upon Open Call application.

Very much looking forward to receiving your application!

Good luck!

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