

SETIPWind



Implementation Working Group Meeting Minutes 24 October 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Ivan Pineda (*WindEurope, IWG Secretariat*) opened the meeting and presented the agenda.

He particularly stressed the objectives of the first Implementation Working Group on Offshore Wind (IWG OW) meeting: to gather the members of the IWG OW who expressed their interest to continue their engagement in the group and to start discussing their expectations on the IWG OW's work programme.

As an introduction he reminded the role of the IWGs within the SET-Plan:

- To monitor and report the progress on the SET-Plan targets;
- To coordinate R&I activities at the national level;
- To publish Implementation Plans.

Ivan also mentioned that the SETWind project, which previously supported the IWG OW, will be replaced by the SETIPWind project. WindEurope is the only beneficiary of this project and will therefore act as the Secretariat of the IWG OW until 2025.

When it comes to the IWG OW, the main objectives of the SETIPWind project are:

- To increase participation and contribution of the IWG;
- To improve coordination of R&I activities for wind energy at national level;
- To work towards increasing R&I funding for wind energy;
- To update the Implementation Plan.

2. TOUR DE TABLE ON THE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE IWG

Before the meeting, several bilateral interviews were conducted with the members of the IWG OW to better understand their experience with the group and their expectations for the future. Ivan Pineda (*WindEurope, IWG Secretariat*) presented a condensed summary of the key points addressed by the IWG members (*Figure 1*).

FIGURE 1

Initial expectations from the IWG members

Initial expectations from the IWG members

- Clearer **role** and **mandate** in the SET Plan.
- **Increase participation**, improved regional balance (North -South, West-East, EU-associated countries).
- **Direct mandate** from Governments to align policies – Direct contact with ministries/authorities in charge of funding/programmes.
- **Deeper coordination** in R&I funding -> Possible alignment.
- **Optimise the R&I funding**/budget across EU and MS.
- **Concrete impact** on the implementation of the EU research agenda (e.g. national funding aligned with EU R&I priorities)
- **Improve communication** of the IWG work.
- **Improve data collection, sharing and learning**. Collect a list of projects/initiatives on R&I for wind.
- More focus on **MS R&I programmes** and larger EU calls for projects (e.g. CET Partnerships).

He then presented the initial expectations from the European Commission about the role of the IWG OW (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2

Initial expectations from the IWG members

Initial expectations of the EC for the IWG

- Stimulate increased **international coordination** between national authorities. **Increase participation**. More **proactive**.
- Better **learning** and **exchange** on how MS fund R&I for wind.
- Find possibilities on how to **increase budgets** for R&I.
- Make the **R&I more meaningful/impactful**. What is the experience so far?
- Exchange on how **NECPs** are done.
- **IWG on wind** (on- and offshore) with an overarching priority of **deployment acceleration/security of supply** (vs. reduced LCOE). How well R&I policies are set to that priority?
- Publish a **new implementation plan**.
- Find new **synergies** with other collaborative networks, i.e. the IEAWind TCP. Should the IWG be the European body?
- Improved **alignment** SET Plan - Green Deal - NECPs
- Proactive input to **Horizon EU Cluster 5 WPs**.

Matthijs Soede (*European Commission, DG RTD, Policy Officer Clean Energy Transition*) intervened to emphasise the role of the IWGs within the SET-Plan to accelerate the development of renewables. He mentioned that the IWG should pay more attention to onshore wind. But also to the acceptability of wind energy and collaboration with citizens. He finally highlighted the need of more collaboration with other IWGs (e.g. the IWG on High Voltage Direct Current technologies).

Key points mentioned by the IWG members during the Tour de Table:

- Cooperation with the other IWGs is very important.
- Including the onshore wind aspects in the scope of the IWG is a good idea but it means that the scope of the group will be even broader, and we need to think carefully what this means for the future Implementation Plan. If onshore aspects are included, we should also include repowering aspects.
- In Spain, the national Ministries are not connected to the relevant platforms (ETIPWind, IWG OW, EERA JP Wind). We should try to identify the relevant contacts at the Ministry level and engage them in the platforms.
- In the past, there was no clear mandate for the IWG. An idea could be to start from the Member State driven networks that already exist (e.g. North Sea Cooperation Agreement) to identify what are the needs at the national level. We should also try to liaise with these initiatives at the WindEurope's annual event in Copenhagen in April 2023.
- Horizon Europe's Associated countries are very important and should be invited to participate in this group.
- In Spain, implementing the R&I priorities in the national R&I programmes is difficult. Funding agencies in Spain take the ideas based on the research centres' advice. But the Spanish research programmes do not dedicate a specific budget to wind. It is a competitive system where few research projects on wind energy are funded.
- A more direct connection between the IWG and the European Commission should be established.

- It is important to clarify what are the goals of the IWG: increasing R&D funding for offshore wind? Building more wind farms in Europe? Ensuring there is more wind energy in Europe?
- The group should also consider the creation of a European Centre of Excellence.

3. SET-PLAN REVAMP

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*WindEurope, IWG Secretariat*) then presented the status of the SET-Plan revamping process. She invited IWG OW members to participate to the 16th SET-Plan annual conference in Prague. She also asked the participants to answer to the call for evidence launched by the European Commission to gather feedback on how to improve the SET-Plan.

4. PRELIMINARY WORK PROGRAMME

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*WindEurope, IWG Secretariat*) presented the objectives of the IWG and explained how the Secretariat will support the group to achieve these objectives.

Key comments from the IWG OW members:

- We need to have a clearer view of where we are, what we want to achieve and how to achieve it. After the SET-Plan Conference we need to develop some Terms of Reference to define a good set of objectives for the group.
- There is a need to increase communication about the group and its activities.
- In the future, we need to enhance synergies with the other SET-Plan bodies to avoid duplication of work.
- A good idea could be to invite, in the next IWG meeting, a representative from another sector where collaboration at the national level works well.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND ACTIONS

The following actions were agreed:

- The scope of the Implementation Working Group on Offshore Wind will be enlarged to include the onshore wind aspects. The name of the group will be changed to: Implementation Working Group for Wind Energy.
- A dedicated website and social media channels will be created for the IWG.
- The IWG Terms of Reference will be developed including a set of clear objectives.
- IWG members will provide some relevant contacts from their national Ministries to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will invite national Ministries' representatives to join the group.
- The Secretariat will contact additional Member States to invite them to join the group.
- The Secretariat will schedule a physical meeting in January 2023 to officially kick-start the activities of the group.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	Organisation	Country represented
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