

SETIPWind



SET-Plan Implementation Working Group on Wind Energy Terms of Reference – March 2023

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ABBREVIATIONS

CSA	Coordination and Support Action
EERA	European Energy Research Alliance
EERA JP Wind	EERA's Joint Programme on Wind Energy
ETIP	European Technology and Innovation Platform
EU	European Union
IWG	Implementation Working Group
IWG HVDC	Implementation Working Group on High Voltage Direct Current
IWG OW	Implementation Working Group on Offshore Wind
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
RD&I	Research, Development and Innovation
R&I	Research and Innovation
SET-Plan	European Strategic Energy and Technology Plan
SETIS	SET-Plan Information System
TWG OW	Temporary Working Group Offshore Wind

DISCLAIMER

This document describes the Terms of Reference of the SET-Plan Implementation Working Group initially dedicated to Offshore Wind Energy technologies. In the perspective of the revision of the SET-Plan, which will be announced by the European Commission early 2023, these Terms of Reference reflect the proposal to extend the scope of the group to cover onshore wind technologies as well. Therefore, the present document refers to the Implementation Working Group on Wind energy.

1. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

1.1. The SET Plan

The European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) aims to accelerate the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies by lowering technical, economical, and socio-political barriers. It also seeks to enhance coordination in national research and innovation (R&I) programmes and increase funding opportunities for research, development, and innovation (RD&I) projects.

The implementation of the SET Plan is led by the SET Plan Steering Group and supported by the following entities: the European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs), the Implementation Working Groups (IWGs), the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), the SET-Plan Information System (SETIS).

They ensure a balanced and appropriate involvement of the industry, research, academia, and Member States in the diverse SET Plan entities.

In September 2015, the European Commission published a communication defining the new SET-Plan strategy for the coming years. The integrated approach resulting from the communication highlights the areas where the SET Plan needs to focus to bring new, efficient, and cost-competitive low-carbon technologies to the market faster and in a cost-efficient way.

In March 2023, the European Commission will publish a new communication to disclose a revised SET Plan, aiming at making it clearer, more strategic, more cohesive, and more oriented towards the achievement of the EU climate and energy targets.

1.2. The Implementation Working Group on Wind Energy (IWG Wind)

In 2019 an Implementation Working Group on Offshore Wind (IWG OW) was established to gather SET Plan countries' representatives in charge of national R&I agendas for offshore wind. This IWG OW was supported by the [SETWind project](#) in charge of facilitating the implementation of the R&I priorities through the cross-border coordination of nationally funded projects.

At the end of the SETWind project it was proposed to merge the Secretariat of ETIPWind (the European Technology and Innovation Platform for Wind energy) and the IWG OW to enhance synergies and collaboration between the two entities. A new Horizon Europe's Coordination and Support Action (CSA) has been launched and is operated by WindEurope under the name "SETIPWind" (Grant Agreement n°101075499).

During summer 2022, WindEurope conducted bilateral interviews with the Member State representatives previously involved in the IWG OW to better understand their expectations for the future of the group. At this occasion, several interviewees mentioned the importance of including onshore wind aspects in the IWG's scope to better tackle the challenge of accelerating wind energy deployment at the national level.

Therefore, and in the framework of the SET-Plan revamping process, it was decided to propose the establishment of an Implementation Working Group on Wind Energy (IWG Wind), covering both onshore and offshore wind technologies.

1.3. Accelerating the development and deployment of wind energy in Europe

To achieve the EU climate and energy targets, the EU wants wind energy to meet 50% of its electricity needs by 2050. This means a significant acceleration of wind power deployment. The REPowerEU plan,

proposed by the European Commission in response to the invasion of Ukraine, already foresees the need of 510 GW of wind by 2030– up from 190 GW today. That is a tremendous challenge which will require many efforts in accelerating the development and deployment of wind energy in Europe.

Some measures, such as simplification of permitting procedures or acceleration of RES- (Renewable Energy Sources) based electrification will play an important role to deploy wind energy massively in Europe. But targeted Research and Innovation (R&I) investments for wind energy at the EU and at the national level will make a significant contribution to foster technology developments that will help achieving EU's ambitions.

To deliver on the EU climate and energy targets and to underpin the large-scale deployment of wind energy, the IWG Wind will identify the relevant R&I actions that need to be implemented in EU Member States and Associated countries. Although all R&I aspects of wind energy will be considered, a particular focus will be given to:

- Technological developments helping to achieve an efficient, sustainable, and resilient supply-chain for wind energy.
- Non-technological and cross-cutting issues such as permitting, skills, access to raw materials and empowerment of citizens.

2.SET PLAN STRATEGIC TARGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In November 2020, the IWG OW published new SET-Plan targets for offshore wind in Europe¹:

- achieve 8.7 GW annual installed capacity by 2030;
- achieve 21.4 GW annual installed grid capacity by 2030;
- reach an average levelised cost of energy (LCOE) of between 35 and 45 €/MWh by 2030 for bottom-fixed offshore wind; and
- reach an average LCOE of between 62 and 106 €/MWh by 2030 for floating offshore wind.

These strategic targets will be reviewed by the IWG Wind and redefined for the offshore and onshore wind sector. Each target will include the current state-of-play (baseline) and approaches for quantifying the progress of activities. The revised targets will then be submitted to the SET Plan Steering Group for a final validation no later than end of 2023.

To achieve the defined targets, the IWG Wind will update its Implementation Plan - or equivalent document - describing the technological and non-technological R&I activities that need to be implemented by the SET Plan countries².

The nature and structure of the Implementation Plan will be based on the revised SET Plan that will be announced early 2023 by the European Commission. As recommended by the SET Plan Secretariat, the Implementation Plan should contain³:

- A limited number (a maximum of 10) of technology-related priority activities.

¹ Second SET-Plan Implementation Plan for Offshore Wind available via [this link](#).

² Common principles guiding Temporary Working Groups to prepare Implementation Plans, SET Plan Secretariat, 22 July 2016

³ *Ibid*

- Activities addressing non-technological barriers/enablers.

Joint R&I activities between SET Plan countries (with and without EU funds) are expected to be an important dimension of the Implementation Plan⁴. At the same time, the Implementation plan is linked to the respective National Energy & Climate Plans as laid out in this paragraph:

The Implementation Plan will be drafted in consultation with other relevant SET Plan bodies (e.g. ETIPWind, Implementation Working Group on High Voltage Direct Current technologies) so they can provide their input on the challenges to be commonly addressed. To develop the Implementation Plan, a clear timeline will be set up in line with the key milestones of the revamped SET-Plan.

Implementation Plans and National Energy & Climate Plans

The R&I activities listed in the Implementation Plan should be reflected in the R&I measures and actions defined by EU Member States and associated countries in their respective National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs). The IWG Wind will provide recommendations to the experts in charge of revising the NECPs at the national level. If the NECPs lack provisions on R&I aspects for wind energy, the IWG Wind will provide further information to clarify the actions that **should** be implemented.

3. IWG WIND GOALS AND WORK PROGRAMME

The IWG Wind shall be the driver for accelerating wind energy development and deployment in Europe through R&I cooperation between EU Member States, industry, and research.

The goals of the IWG Wind are therefore to:

1. **Strengthening cooperation between the EU SET-Plan countries** to accelerate the development and deployment of wind energy and **maximising synergies**, funding included, **in their transnational, national and regional R&I programmes for wind energy** (supported or not by the EU).
2. **Defining a common Implementation Plan** – or equivalent document – **listing the technological and non-technological R&I activities** that need to be implemented at the national level to place Europe at the forefront of next generation wind technologies.
3. **Guiding the revision of the National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs)** so they reflect R&I priorities defined by the EU, the wind industry, research, academia, and the national governments.
4. **Ensuring and supporting the implementation of R&I activities and wind energy projects** at the national level.

To achieve those goals, the IWG Wind will define its work programme with the support of the Secretariat.

Collaboration with other Implementation Working Groups of the SET Plan will be an instrumental part of the IWG Wind work programme. Regular meetings and activities will be organised with the relevant IWGs to identify common challenges, define possible joint R&I initiatives, and ensure that national priorities are aligned across the different energy sectors.

⁴ *Ibid.*

4. IWG WIND MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION

4.1 Composition

The IWG Wind is currently⁵ composed by:

- Belgium
- Germany
- Italy
- Ireland
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Turkey

Additional SET Plan countries will be invited to join the IWG Wind.

Because of its goals and nature, the IWG shall be composed of:

- 1. SET Plan country representatives:** Country representatives shall be government representatives, or nominated by their governments, and as such cannot represent a stakeholder. SET Plan country representatives shall be committed in principle to use their energy R&I national programmes and policies to implement the R&I activities that will be identified⁶.
For example, SET Plan countries can be represented by a member from their national Ministry dealing with energy or R&I programmes but they can also give a mandate to another relevant authority such as national funding agencies, research centres or civil society organisations.
- 2. Stakeholders and Observers:** To facilitate collaboration and information exchange, other stakeholders can take part in the IWG Wind meetings including:
 - European Commission representatives;
 - Industry and research stakeholders from the wind energy R&I community;
 - Representatives from the other SET-Plan bodies (e.g. ETIPWind, IWG HVDC, IWG Ocean Energy).
 - Invited guests (for individual meetings to contribute to specific subjects)

4.2 SET Plan country representatives

Each SET-Plan country has the right to appoint **one representative and one alternate** to the IWG Wind.

SET Plan country representatives must have a **written mandate from their national government to participate in the IWG Wind**.

The role of the SET Plan country representatives is⁷:

⁵ As of February 2023.

⁶ Common principles guiding Temporary Working Groups to prepare Implementation Plans, SET Plan Secretariat, 22 July 2016

⁷ *Ibid.*

- To provide information on the ongoing R&I activities in their country, in relation to how they could help achieve the targets and sharing the main results of these activities with the IWG⁸.
- To identify at least one national flagship activity contributing to achieving the targets, demonstrating the activity of the country in the wind energy sector.
- To share their experience, if any, in monitoring the targets.
- To highlight concrete non-technological barriers/enablers experienced in their country.
- To identify potential new joint R&I activities with other countries involved in the IWG or complementing existing ones.

In addition, the IWG Wind country representatives must:

- define a work programme for the IWG Wind that will enable the achievement of the IWG goals;
- elaborate an Implementation Plan including a list of R&I actions that shall be implemented at the national level to achieve the targets defined;
- collaborate with the stakeholders and observers in the definition of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas and other documents that support the European Commission in the prioritisation of technology development areas.

Any SET-Plan country representative may join or leave the IWG at any time by informing the Secretariat and the Chair(s) in writing. The written notice for leaving the group should be filed at least 4 weeks before the representative leaves the group.

When a SET-Plan country representative leaves the IWG Wind, a new representative shall be appointed by the relevant national government of this SET-Plan country.

4.3 Stakeholders and Observers

The role of stakeholder organisations in the IWG Wind will be **to ensure the proper involvement of industry, research, and academia in the execution of the Implementation Plan.**

The invited stakeholders and observers have the right to appoint one representative and one alternate to attend the IWG meetings, but they cannot vote or take any decision for the IWG Wind.

Appointed representatives shall request to join the IWG by sending an email to the Secretariat, Any application to join the IWG Wind is decided at the next IWG wind meeting and accepted when a majority of the IWG Wind members agrees on it. In case of non-acceptance, the IWG Chair will inform in writing the stakeholder concerned within 20 working days from the date of non-acceptance and provide a justification to their decision.

5. MANAGEMENT OF THE IWG WIND

5.1 Leadership and structure

The IWG Wind is led by a **Chair and a Co-Chair.**

The Chair and Co-Chairs must:

- ensure that the IWG Wind members find consensus in their deliberations.

⁸ For example: ongoing research projects, technology challenges, solutions developed, funding available and gaps that cooperation with other Member States and the EU could plug.

- drive the decision-making within the group and ensure the recommendations stand scrutiny from the European Commission and other stakeholders.
- represent the IWG Wind in public events as well as in meetings with the European Commission and other Member States.
- report to the SET Plan Steering Group on the activities and achievements of the IWG.

The Chair and Co-chair will be elected by the IWG Wind members with a simple majority vote.

The Chair and Co-chair must be **representatives of a SET-Plan country** involved in the IWG Wind.

The Chair and Co-chair are elected for a period of **one year and a half**.

The SET Plan Secretariat will be notified each time Chair or Co-Chair are appointed as well as of any significant decisions made by the group. In addition, the IWG Wind will provide regular updates to the SET Plan Steering Group regarding wind energy at national level and IWG Wind activities.

The members of the IWG can propose, at any time, to create working groups to facilitate their activities (e.g., by grouping members around specific topics).

5.2 The Secretariat:

To facilitate the functioning of the IWG Wind, a Secretariat has been established. WindEurope receives funding from the Horizon Europe's Programme under the project SETIPWind (Grant Agreement n°101075499) to manage the Secretariat of the IWG Wind.

The Secretariat supports the IWG Wind for:

- the election process of a Chair and Co-Chair and the organisation of at least 3 IWG meetings per year (including one joint meeting with the ETIPWind Steering Committee);
- the facilitation of the collaboration with other SET-Plan IWGs;
- the communication links and networking opportunities with other Member State-driven networks such as the regional cooperation mechanisms of the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) and the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP).
- the writing and finalisation of the Implementation Plan;
- the preparation of IWG Wind meetings (e.g. preparing templates for the reports for the SET Plan Steering Group, drafting the meeting minutes, preparing a draft work programme and helping with estimates of resources and costs).
- the communication and dissemination activities of the IWG Wind.
- To ensure easy access to relevant document of the IWG Wind.

5.3 Organisation of meetings:

Online meetings will be favoured since no travel costs will be reimbursed.

If considered necessary, it is up to the Chair and Co-Chair to propose physical meetings to the other members of the IWG Wind.

The Secretariat will prepare the minutes of the IWG Wind meetings. These minutes will be circulated to the IWG members by e-mail no later than three weeks after each meeting and reviewed and validated at the next IWG meeting, in urgent cases by the Chair and will be made public on the [IWG Wind website](#).

5.4 Revision of the Terms of Reference:

An amendment to those Terms of Reference can be proposed at any time by a member of the IWG Wind. The proposed amendment will be discussed and approved/rejected with a simple majority vote during the next IWG meeting.

Any proposal of amendment must be sent to the Secretariat at least 2 weeks before the IWG meeting.