



Steering Committee Online meeting – Minutes 12 September 2023

Disclaimer

Table of Contents

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	3
2. KEYNOTE SPEECH FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION	3
3. WIND ENERGY R&I VISION.....	4
4. UPDATE OF THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH & INNOVATION AGENDA	4
5. OVERVIEW OF Q3-Q4 ACTIVITIES.....	7
6. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS.....	7

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Adrian Timbus (*Chair of the Steering Committee*) welcomed the participants and opened the meeting with presenting the agenda and the objectives:

- to agree on a common wind energy R&I vision;
- to discuss the preliminary list of R&I priorities defined by the Working Groups; and
- to take stock of this first year and get Steering Committee's expectations for the next ones.

He then reviewed the milestones and achievements over the last year. These achievements include the election of a new Steering Committee, the relaunch event of ETIPWind, the SET Plan Conference, the collaboration with the Clean Steel partnership, the Steering Committee and CTOs meeting in Copenhagen and the public workshop organised in Brussels.

Adrian then introduced the timeline to publish the next ETIPWind's milestone: the Strategic R&I Agenda.

He also introduced a new observer of the Steering Committee: Nicolas Quiévy from Engie.

2. KEYNOTE SPEECH FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Enrico Degiorgis (*European Commission*) presented the main developments on the EU regulation including:

- the Renewable Energy Directive III and the 5% target for innovative technologies;
- the Net Zero Industry Act;
- the Critical Raw Materials Act;
- the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy, which will be reviewed as part of the Wind Power Package in October; and
- the SET Plan.

On the revamped SET Plan, Enrico highlighted the extended scope, the consideration of cross-cutting topics (such as circularity), and the new Implementation Working Group on Green hydrogen.

Regarding the EU R&I funding for wind energy, he stressed the fact that Horizon 2020 dedicated on average €15m per year to wind energy. The next Horizon Europe work programme 2025 will address only urgent needs and will be defined early 2024 based on the strategic plan 2025-2027. There will still be some flexibility to consider additional priorities from the new college of Commissioners that will be elected in June 2024.

A discussion was then launched with Enrico. He suggested to ensure ETIPWind approaches the Horizon Europe programme committee to ensure priorities are aligned. Members of the Steering Committee asked several questions on:

- the possibility to contact the Member State representatives. The European Commission suggested to reach the Implementation Working Group (IWG) on wind energy;
- the 5% target on innovative renewable energy technologies in the Renewable Energy Directive III; and
- the IWG Wind and the IWG Green hydrogen, that should work closely together.

3. WIND ENERGY R&I VISION

Adrian Timbus (*Chair of the Steering Committee*) launched a discussion on the ETIPWind's R&I vision. He first presented the "grand challenges of wind energy science" complemented with a proposed vision for the European wind industry. This vision states the R&I activities that need to be sped-up, scaled-up, expanded, enhanced.

The Steering Committee members provided their feedback on this vision. A slido session was launched to enable online participants to share their comments. The main comments are summarised below:

- the visual of the vision is not clear and could be reshaped;
- the disruptive innovations are missing;
- the social aspects should be more visible in the vision as they'll be fundamental;
- the link with technology is missing;
- the inclusion of airborne wind was discussed;
- the vision should be linked to a statement towards 2050;
- a prioritisation is needed on the different R&I topics identified.

It was decided that the Secretariat will refine the ETIPWind's vision after the meeting based on the comments of the Steering Committee.

4. UPDATE OF THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH & INNOVATION AGENDA

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) started with reminding the SC about the structure of the Working Groups (WGs) to update the SRIA.

She presented the timeline for publishing the SRIA highlighting the milestones in the process. She also mentioned the activities performed up to date: the first WGs meetings took place and initial R&I priorities were suggested.

The next steps are therefore to gather the feedback of the SC on the initial list of priorities, to draft the topic descriptions by mid-October, to organise a meeting with the CTOs, and to launch the document by beginning of December.

Capucine then invited the SC members to share their feedback on the priorities identified in each Working Group. A slido session was launched to enable online participants to share their feedback.

WG1 – Wind energy system integration

Gustavo Quiñonez (Acciona) presented the priorities discussed in WG1:

1. Definition and modelling of future needs
2. Advanced capabilities for wind power generated units
3. Interoperability (data structure, communication and standardisation)
4. Solution to avoid curtailment
5. Hybrid projects
6. DC- grid projects

SC members provided the following feedback:

- Interoperability is already tackled in a €50m Horizon Europe project.
- Not sure that the priority 4 is needed.
- Avoiding curtailment perhaps is not the right phrasing. Sometimes it is needed to avoid loads on the turbine. It has to be clear that this is focused on the optimisation for operators.
- Not sure that priority 5 on hybrid projects is a strategic priority.
- The integration of storage is missing.
- It is important to coordinate with ETIP SNET as some priorities would benefit the network more than the wind energy sector.
- Importance to mention cybersecurity.
- Grid forming is missing as a research topic, as well as market development. Unless it is covered by priority 2.

WG2 – Industrialisation, scale up and competitiveness

Bert Verdyck (ZF Wind Power) presented the priorities of WG2:

1. Design for large volume manufacturing / deployment
2. Design for reliable products
3. Mass production /automation
4. Development of components and materials to address bottlenecks
5. Construction and installation methods (incl. Ports infrastructure)

SC members provided the following feedback:

- In this area it is important to stress how the industry can learn from other industries.
- Priority 4 on material development could be merged with a priority in the WG on Sustainability.
- Priority 1 on large manufacturing could be linked with priority 3.

WG3 - Operations & Maintenance and Digitalisation

Stephan Barth (ForWind) presented the priorities in WG3:

1. New installation methods and decommissioning tools
2. Digital tools for lifecycle optimisation, park level control and operating domain
3. Autonomous Operations & Maintenance
4. Business cases for hybrid projects
5. Enable digital systems
6. Replacement and transport of large components

SC members provided the following feedback:

- Merging is possible between some of the topics.
- Not sure that priority 4 is needed.
- Priority should not be a single priority or should it be embedded in other priorities.
- Important to mention structural health monitoring and sensing
- It is important to consider that offshore wind has specific characteristics for O&M. It should be better embedded.
- Clarification is needed about the scope of digitalisation of the environment or the turbine.
- There were questions the use of chatgpt and other AI tools.

WG4 - Sustainability and Circularity

Edvin Lindgren (Hitachi Energy) presented the priorities for WG4:

1. Development and demonstration of new materials and components, and manufacturing methods
2. Recycling and re-using existing materials
3. Biodiversity solutions
4. Lifetime extension via re-using, refurbishing

SC members provided the following feedback:

- Unclear whether lifetime extension should be under O&M (WG3) or sustainability (WG4).
- Innovations on the value chain is missing. For now, it is not set up to use recycled material.
- Important to add R&I to mitigate the impact of installations in the environment.
- Ecological/biodiversity is tackled on a project by project, but cumulative impacts across borders is missing.
- Biodiversity and noise for offshore wind should be added (also touched in WG2).
- Priority on recyclability and re-use should be focused on specific components (e.g. gearboxes have no issues).
- Innovation should be understood more widely. For example, lifetime extension could improve social acceptability even if it's not economically profitable.

WG5 – Skills and co-existence

Helena Solman (Wageningen University) presented the priorities for WG5:

1. Ensure a world class education and expand it
2. Skilling, re-skilling and upskilling activities
3. Increasing public engagement of citizen with wind energy
4. Development of tools and platforms to map stakeholder concerns
5. Inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary relations with coexistence

SC members provided the following feedback:

- Priority 2 need more description on the R&I activities that could help solving the issue.
- Priority 4 overlaps with priority 3.
- Not clear if priority 5 should be a stand-alone item or embedded across all priorities.
- We need to include wide communication campaigns that demonstrate the value of wind to society in priority 3.
- The 'economic honesty' is missing. Financial participation could be one form of engagement.
- The update of the education curricula should be faster. Identify gaps and revert back to industry and academia is very important.
- WG5 to discuss with each WG what are the skills that need to be developed.
- R&I that helps people to enter into the work force faster should be included (e.g. augmented reality).
- Need support to debunk myths from wind in a scientific, factual aspects.
- Need to add more interdisciplinary concepts on citizen/social engagement.

It was agreed that the Secretariat will take this input into account to refine the priorities and the topic descriptions with the help of the WG members.

5. OVERVIEW OF Q3-Q4 ACTIVITIES

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) presented the overview of Q3-Q4 activities.

She highlighted the fact that ETIPWind will continue to align priorities with the EERA. The publication of the SRIA is scheduled on 24 November. And SC participation is expected for the launch event beginning of December.

The dissemination of the SRIA to the national authorities will be an important activity that will be conducted next year.

The Secretariat also conducted an analysis of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) on R&I aspects. SC members are expected to provide input to this analysis which will be summarised in a factsheet. The Secretariat will also collaborate with other ETIPs to disseminate the NECPs recommendations.

ETIPWind will also collaborate with the IWG Wind. A joint meeting will be organised to gather their feedback on the R&I priorities included in the SRIA.

The SC members provided feedback on this overview:

- We should invite the IWG Wind to endorse the SRIA.
- Several SC members already have connections with their national governments and are ready to support the outreach.
- The Clean Energy Transition Partnership should be targeted as they are in control of the financing.
- Private funding (e.g. company's innovation challenges) should also be mapped.
- Funding agencies sometimes are in the lead for national research programmes. They should be targeted for the outreach.
- Need to address general public to press for funding.
- We need a plan to measure the impact of the SRIA in EU and national funding.

6. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Adrian Timbus (*Chair of the Steering Committee*) summarised the next steps:

- the Steering Committee members will still have possibilities to provide feedback on the SRIA content (WG meetings, CTOs meeting, reviews via email);
- the expected publication of the SRIA is on 24 November;
- the SRIA launch event will be on the 1st week of December;
- the Secretariat will need support from SC members to disseminate the SRIA priorities.

He thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	Organisation
Adrian Timbus	Hitachi Energy
Andree Altmikus	ENERCON
Antonio Augarte	CENER
Arno van Wingerde	Fraunhofer
Benjamin Mauries	SAIPEM
Bert Verdyck	ZF
Capucine Vannoorenberghe	ETIPWind Secretariat
Cesar Yanes	Iberdrola
Edvin Lindgren	Hitachi Energy
Enrico Degiorgis	European Commission
Evdokia Tapoglou	Joint Research Centre
Fabio Fugazzotto	ENEL
Frank Bao	RWE
Gustavo Quiñonez	Acciona
Hanne Wigum	Equinor
Helena Solman	Wageningen University
Ignacio Marti	DTU
Ivan Pineda	ETIPWind Secretariat
Jacob Edmonds	Orsted
Jake Badger	DTU
John Korsgaard	LM Wind Power
John Olav Tande	SINTEF
Julia Zilles	EFZN
Lars Landberg	DNV
Mariya Trifonova	Centre for Study of Democracy
Mike Anderson	RES
Nicolas Quievy	Engie
Paul McKeever	ORE Catapult
Peter Eecen	TNO
Rolf Bayerbach	ENERCON
Stephan Barth	ForWind
Thomas Neumann	UL
Tuhfe Goçmen	DTU
Wouter Dirks	Van Oord
Wouter Haans	Shell