

BEMIP HIGH LEVEL GROUP
OFFSHORE WIND WORKING GROUP
WORK PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2024

The Baltic Sea region plays a crucial role in the development of offshore renewables, with a potential for offshore wind estimated to be at least 93 GW¹. It is also one of the most advanced and experienced areas in terms of regional cooperation, under the BEMIP (Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan) High-level group which was created in 2008. In September 2020, the eight Member States of the BEMIP High level group² and the Commission jointly endorsed the Baltic Sea Offshore Wind Joint Declaration of Intent. In May 2021, a BEMIP Offshore Wind Work Program was introduced as part of the BEMIP Action Plan.

Acknowledging the progress made on each of the four topics identified in the 2021 Work program, in particular the technical work conducted to conclude the BEMIP non-binding agreement on goals for offshore renewable generation in 2050 with intermediate steps in 2040 and 2030 as part of the TEN-E legal requirements, the BEMIP Offshore Wind Working Group aims to further work together to reach the ambition set out in the non-binding agreement. To pursue this objective, the work priorities outlined below are established for the year 2024. In 2024, the Offshore Wind Working Group will also assess whether the 2021 Work Program should be revised and, if necessary, will work on an updated Work Program.

1. Coordinated offshore grids.

The BEMIP Offshore Wind Working Group (WG) will concentrate on the outcomes and lessons learned from the first Offshore Network Development Plan (ONDP) exercise, also in view of the upcoming 2026 update; will explore the possible areas of cooperation and coordination on ensuring interoperability between the electricity grid and sector integration components, such as renewable hydrogen production and transmission; and will continue sharing information on processes for setting offshore targets, auctions and tenders schedules and planning. The WG will also cooperate with the Baltic Offshore Grid Forum (BOGI), when relevant, to facilitate communication and avoid duplication of work.

Possible deliverables:

- Overview table of all existing commitments, targets and tenders/auctions in the BEMIP countries on offshore renewables;
- Mapping of national legislation in the BEMIP countries for radial and hybrid connections;

¹ Study on Baltic offshore wind energy cooperation under BEMIP – available at: [Study on Baltic offshore wind energy cooperation under BEMIP - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

² Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden.

- Integrated offshore development plan for the Baltic Sea Region (January 2024) and work on implementation.

2. Maritime spatial planning focusing on offshore wind development (co-chaired by Poland).

The BEMIP Offshore Wind WG will further cooperate with the HELCOM-VASAB working group on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) to ensure better coordination of MSP and environmental assessment for offshore wind energy, also in view of the upcoming updated MSPs of some Member States. The WG will also further exploit possible synergies with already existing fora working on MSP, such as the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) , to tap into their specific knowledge and prevent duplication of efforts.

Possible deliverables:

- Establishing a cooperation framework with the HELCOM-VASAB working group;
- Coordinating MSPs and regional cooperation on any updates.

3. Cooperation on enabling appropriate financing (co-chaired by Estonia).

The BEMIP Offshore Wind WG will focus on cost benefit and cost sharing for offshore wind and hybrid projects, in particular with a view to contributing to the Commission's upcoming guidance for a specific cost benefit and cost sharing for the deployment of the integrated ONDPs. The WG will also explore already available EU and national financing opportunities, national support scheme designs and alternative financing systems.

Possible deliverables:

- Mapping of available funding for offshore wind, focusing on available national funding (compatibly with State Aid rules) and on the EU regional/structural funds, managed by national and regional managing authorities within the Member States. Updates and presentation of the available Overview of EU funding for offshore renewables³ if relevant/updated;
- Contribution to the Commission's consultation process on the upcoming guidance for a specific cost benefit and cost sharing;
- Regional cooperation and discussions on the cost-sharing for the Baltic Sea after guidance for a specific cost benefit and cost sharing is published in order to feed into the work strand to be led by ENTSO-E on the application of the cost-sharing guidance.

4. Acceleration of specific offshore projects and permitting.

³ [EU funding for offshore renewables \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

The BEMIP Offshore Wind WG will continue to discuss concrete plans for developing potential joint and hybrid offshore projects, share national updates on projects and cooperation on intergovernmental agreements. It will also exchange best practices on permitting for offshore renewable energy projects and explore synergies with NSEC and the NCA Platform in that field. Lastly, it will exchange best practices on public acceptance, especially with regards to onshore grid connection and to the impact of offshore infrastructure on other relevant considerations such as biodiversity, fisheries and military.

Possible deliverables:

- Close follow-up on all joint and hybrid offshore projects;
- A second BEMIP stakeholder event.
- Knowledge and best-practice sharing on national permitting procedures including barriers to an accelerated build-out of renewable energy projects