Mandate for Implementation Working Group on Ocean Energy and Hydropower

Adopted by the Steering Group on

8 May 2026

The IWG on **Ocean Energy and Hydropower** is established by the SET Plan Steering Group (SG) to support the implementation of the SET Plan in the ocean energy and hydropower technology areas. It works under the supervision of the SG to whom it reports regularly. To carry out its tasks, the IWG will benefit from the expertise, support and tools provided by the Commission (e.g., Secretariats (CSAs), the SET Plan information system - SETIS, the Clean Energy Technology Observatory project, the Competitiveness Progress Report, workshops, events etc.).

The IWG oversees the development of a 'Common Implementation and Investment Plan' (CIIP). The CIIP consists of a collection of deliverables: 1) A Thematic Vision (TV), 2) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and 3) Implementation and Investment Commitments (IIC). Where existing, old Implementation Plans and SRIAs may act as a source of inspiration and content for this exercise.

The IWG on **Ocean Energy and Hydropower** is established as a consolidated working group comprising two specialised sub-groups: **Ocean Energy**, covering wave, tidal stream, tidal range, ocean thermal energy conversion, and salinity gradient technologies; and **Hydropower Generation and Storage**, covering all hydropower technologies and energy derived from falling or fast running water, including pumped hydropower storage, and specifically to its role in providing flexibility, long-duration energy storage and essential ancillary services.

While the IWG will prepare a consolidated suite of SET Plan Deliverables, each sub-group shall operate with functional autonomy and will be responsible for developing a suite of deliverables specific to its technology area. These distinct outputs shall have independent legitimacy.

To maximise impact, the sub-groups are encouraged to hold joint plenary meetings to identify and address cross-cutting synergies, common issues and themes.

In this context, the IWG shall:

1. Develop a **Thematic Vision for the technology areas** of ocean energy and hydropower, establishing ambitious and achievable short-term (up to 2030), medium-term (up to 2040), and long-term (up to 2050) goals on the development, manufacturing and market uptake of this technology in Europe.

The IWG will develop this Vision in close collaboration with industry and research stakeholders, mainly organized in the relevant ETIPs (industry) and EERA JPs (research), and with other relevant stakeholders such as regulatory bodies and general society by 15 May 2026. It shall be based on solid evidence and foresight, and outline short-, medium- and long-term goals. The goals may include corresponding targets where relevant, such as but not limited to: technological performance, maturity and progress to commercialisation; manufacturing capacity in Europe; intellectual property metrics; and emissions reductions.

The resulting Thematic Vision will be submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

2. Oversee the stakeholder community's development of a European **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** which aims to achieve the vision.

The IWG will entrust the development or update of a SRIA to industry and research stakeholders, represented by the relevant ETIPs (industry) and EERA JPs (research), and where relevant other stakeholder groups, by 15 October 2026[1]*. The SRIA shall identify the specific R&I priorities and activities, corresponding KPIs and the level of funding needed in Europe to achieve the Thematic Vision's goals. Where appropriate, the SRIA should also include recommendations on enabling framework conditions for manufacturing and market uptake (e.g., regulatory, fiscal, standardization) that should accompany and help realize the Thematic Vision's goals. This process may benefit from the input of the CETPartnership, Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the European Energy Research Alliance, etc.*

The resulting SRIA shall be well-aligned with the Thematic Vision and submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

3. Identify and collect **Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs)** based on national and EU priorities.

The IWG will organise and steer discussion among all relevant actors (EC, MS, industry, research organizations, academia) on how to best implement the endorsed SRIA and ensure implementation and investment commitments by 31 March 2027. It will aim to build the broadest possible consensus on a common implementation approach (e.g., priorities, timing, resources) and will facilitate agreement on the allocation of efforts between public and private actors and identify their respective investment R&I commitments.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the **Common Implementation and** Investment **Plans (CIIP).**

The CIIP shall include a description of indicators for monitoring progress and identifying bottlenecks. This exercise will be based on the guidance devised by the Commission to ensure a level of comparability across the working groups. The IWG will then annually assess the progress made in the implementation of the CIIP by the different actors via the harmonised annual SETIS exercise. The Steering Group and the European Commission can identify potential gaps, lagging areas, and new/emerging issues in order to suggest a revision of the CIIP.

[1] In some rare cases, IWGs might not have corresponding ETIPs. In these specific situations, the IWG can involve other stakeholder organisations involved in the SET Plan (i.e., partnerships, industrial association, dedicated technical sub-group of the IWG) to act as an ETIP, until a formal ETIP is set up and endorsed by the Steering Group or another structure is formally tasked to act as such by the Steering Group.