

The NiD4OCEAN report

Welcome to our first newsletter!

Since launching in October, the NiD4OCEAN project has been steadily gaining momentum. As we approach the one-year mark, we're excited to share a glimpse into what has been accomplished so far, the progress we have made, and what is coming next.

The NiD4OCEAN project at a glance

Nature-inclusive designs (NiDs) for reconciling offshore renewables with ocean protection



NiD4OCEAN, short for "Nature-inclusive designs (NiDs) for reconciling offshore renewables with ocean protection," is funded under Horizon Europe's Restore our Ocean and Waters mission. The project is dedicated to advancing the emerging field of NiDs for offshore renewables, providing effective, context-dependent solutions for industry, managers, and policymakers alike. Our goal is to support the global and EU targets for carbon neutrality, biodiversity restoration, and a sustainable blue economy.



The NiD4OCEAN consortium encompasses 13 partners from 8 countries involving scientists, industry, SMEs, NGOs, and a standardisation body.

The project focuses on three distinct European ecoregions (North Sea, Baltic Sea, and north-western Mediterranean), each with different technologies (bottom fixed or floating offshore wind), environmental characteristics, and sectorial conflicts.

The project's main goals

NiD4OCEAN's ambition is to support the transition towards a sustainable blue economy, by providing science-based tailored solutions to industry, managers, and policymakers. To achieve this, the project is guided by the following goals:

- 1** Build a strong knowledge base for the emerging field of nature-inclusive designs by mapping current solutions and creating new ones for offshore renewable energy across European seas.
- 2** Evaluate the benefits and risks of these designs by developing tools to measure their impact on the environment, economy, and communities at various stages and scales.
- 3** Provide guidelines for choosing, implementing, and monitoring these designs with input from industry and policymakers, and tailor them to specific regions, ecosystems, and technologies.
- 4** Increase awareness about the importance of balancing biodiversity and decarbonization through engagement and strategies aimed at all users of the sea.

The NiD4OCEAN project at a glance

A short video introducing the project to a wider audience — don't forget to subscribe to our channel to follow our journey!



What's happening in NiD4OCEAN

Since the project's launch, a range of activities has been set in motion. Here, we have gathered some key highlights from our journey so far, along with a preview of what's coming up next.

UN Ocean Decade

NiD4OCEAN has been officially endorsed by the IOC Executive Secretary as part of the **UN Ocean Decade**, under the Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions (GEOS) initiative.

We are proud to be part of the Ocean Decade community, contributing to global efforts to advance ocean science for a sustainable future.

Learn more by [visiting our website](#)



2nd Consortium Meeting

On 20 May 2025, our project partners and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members came together online for the **2nd NiD4OCEAN Consortium Meeting**. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to review progress, discuss updates, work packages and tasks, and discuss key priorities as we move into the next phases of the project.



NiD4OCEAN at WindEurope 2025: Innovation Challenge Pre-Announcement

Our team had a great time at WindEurope 2025 connecting with partners, catching up on the latest in offshore wind, and diving into the challenges and ongoing projects related to biodiversity and nature-inclusive design.

WindEurope 2025, held from 8th to 10th April in Denmark, is a key event bringing together stakeholders from across the wind energy sector. This annual event serves as a platform for companies, researchers, and policymakers to collaborate, share insights, and showcase innovations in the wind energy industry.



From left to right: Antonios Emmanouil (Deltares), Juan Pardo (NIVA), Marta Moyano (NIVA)

During the side event "Beyond Turbines: Powering the Future and Boosting Marine Nature", organised by OCEAN – Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature, Renewables Grid Initiative and WindEurope, we had the privilege of pre-announcing the NiD4OCEAN Open Innovation Challenge – Nature-Inclusive Concepts for Floating Offshore Wind Infrastructure!



Apart from feedback from a multidisciplinary panel of **NiD4OCEAN experts** for all submitted proposals, the winning concepts can advance up to TRL 4 and showcase their ideas at a side event at **WindEurope2026** in Madrid.

For more information, please check the [link](#)

Progress Update across WPs

Our work across the work packages (WPs) is well underway. For example, efforts in WP2 on mapping NiDs and developing impact assessment metrics and frameworks are progressing well. Key tasks include compiling existing knowledge on NiDs, selecting relevant biodiversity and ecosystem indicators, developing a socio-economic assessment framework, and characterising socio-political dimensions.

Current activities include creating a comprehensive inventory of existing NiDs for both fixed and floating turbines, detailing their objectives, developers, and associated knowledge, as well as conducting stakeholder meetings and expert interviews. Several additional activities are also in progress - for a better overview of the work packages and tasks, please check [here](#).

Josep Lloret, researcher at CSIC, presented our project at the Casal del Pescador de Roses

Deliverables and milestones achieved

Upcoming events

- Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts, 8-12 September 2025, France
- ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC), 15-18 September 2025, Lithuania
- Noordzeedagen 2025, 2025, 18-19 September 2025, the Netherlands

Find more about the project on our website!

www.nid4ocean.eu

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