

## Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature - Mediterranean Sea (Med OCEaN)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***What is Med OCEaN?***

Med OCEaN is a Coalition that brings together **non-governmental organisations (NGOs), wind industry actors and transmission system operators (TSOs)** from the Mediterranean region and adjacent Atlantic waters. The aim of the coalition is to promote the sustainable development of offshore wind energy while minimizing its impact on biodiversity and prioritizing the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. Currently, Med OCEaN includes Members from Spain, Italy, France, and Portugal. Additional countries from the region may be incorporated in the future. The Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) is a founding Member and serves as convener and moderator of the group. RGI's offshore Team acts as Med OCEaN Secretariat.

#### ***What is the purpose of the Coalition?***

- Med OCEaN serves as an **open forum of discussion and exchange**, where **best practices** and experiences are collected and assessed, **research gaps** are identified, and **joint positions and recommendations** are made.
- Med OCEaN Members are committed to engage actively and constructively in an **honest dialogue**, aiming to seek **common ground and consensus** while respecting and valuing diverging opinions.
- Participation in the Coalition does **not imply the endorsement or specific positions or projects** of other organisations involved. Member's work is considered independent from the Coalition's collective actions, and endorsement must be explicitly communicated on a case-by-case basis.
- Med OCEaN operates at the **regional level**. National and project-level experiences contribute to the discussions but are not the primary focus of our work.

#### ***Why are Atlantic waters included in Med OCEaN?***

Given the geographical proximity, shared challenges, and parallel discussions in the neighbouring basin, Med OCEaN will also extend its focus to the **Atlantic waters of the Iberian Peninsula**, involving **Portuguese organisations** in the Coalition. Ad hoc discussions focused on the Atlantic basin will be organised when needed.

#### ***What topics are discussed in Med OCEaN?***

The Coalition primarily focuses on how to **improve the planning and deployment of offshore wind and grid infrastructure** hand in hand with the **protection and restoration** of marine ecosystems.

Specific topics covered in Med OCEaN include, but are not limited to: **Maritime Spatial Planning, regional cooperation, environmental impacts of floating technology**, and compatibility of offshore wind energy and grid infrastructure with nature, and other human activities at sea.

#### ***What activities are/will be organised in the context of the collaboration?***

Discussions on key topics materialise in **joint messages and recommendations**, which serve as **advocacy tools** and will be further utilised for workshops, webinars, and communication materials.

## How is Med OCEaN financed?

The Members of the Coalition come together on a **voluntary basis**. All Members contribute with their time and in-house resources and sponsor events and studies on a case-by-case basis.

With the support of EU funds and private foundations, RGI offers financial assistance to selected NGOs, enabling actively participation in Med OCEaN discussions and activities. For more on RGI's funding structure, please visit the [funding page](#) on RGI's website.

## What is the connection between OCEaN and Med OCEaN?

The two Coalitions share **similar objectives and governance structures**, with RGI acting as convener and moderator of both groups. OCEaN operates in the North Sea and Baltic Sea while Med OCEaN operates in the Mediterranean and adjacent Atlantic waters. Synergies between the activities and topics covered in both Coalitions are pursued, however they operate independently. Each Coalition makes their **own decisions on activities** and joint positions are determined through the vote of the respective group of Members.

