Developing a southern interregional value chain to consolidate European leadership in floating wind and accelerate innovation time-to-market

i3float

Program:
Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) – Strand 1 (I3-2024-Inv1)

Duration:
September 2025 – September 2028

Main Objective: I3FLOAT aims to strengthen Europe's leadership in floating offshore wind by developing a southern interregional value chain and accelerating the market readiness of advanced technologies. through coordinated innovation investments, SME support and regional collaboration, the project enhances industrial capacity, cohesion and competitiveness across diverse European regions.

Countries/Regions Involved: Basque Country, Canary Islands, Andalusia (Spain); Occitanie, Provence-Alpes-Côte D'azur (France); Flanders (Belgium); Campania (Italy); West Pomerania (Poland); Varna (Bulgaria).

Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the I3FLOAT newsletter. This marks the beginning of a collective effort to reinforce Europe's leadership in floating offshore wind by strengthening interregional value chains and accelerating the market readiness of innovative technologies.

Floating wind energy represents one of Europe's most strategic opportunities to harness deep-water wind resources. Yet, its successful deployment depends on coordinated innovation, industrial capacity and strong collaboration across regions at different levels of development. I3FLOAT was created precisely to address this challenge, uniting 24 partners across 8 European regions in a joint mission to scale floating wind solutions, empower SMEs and strengthen industrial cohesion.

Over the next 36 months, I3FLOAT will channel targeted innovation investments, develop strategic roadmap tools, support up to 50 SMEs through cascade funding, and expand the floating wind ecosystem through regional hubs and connecting nodes. With this first newsletter, we invite you to follow our progress as we build a more competitive, sustainable and integrated European floating wind industry.

The I3FLOAT Consortium

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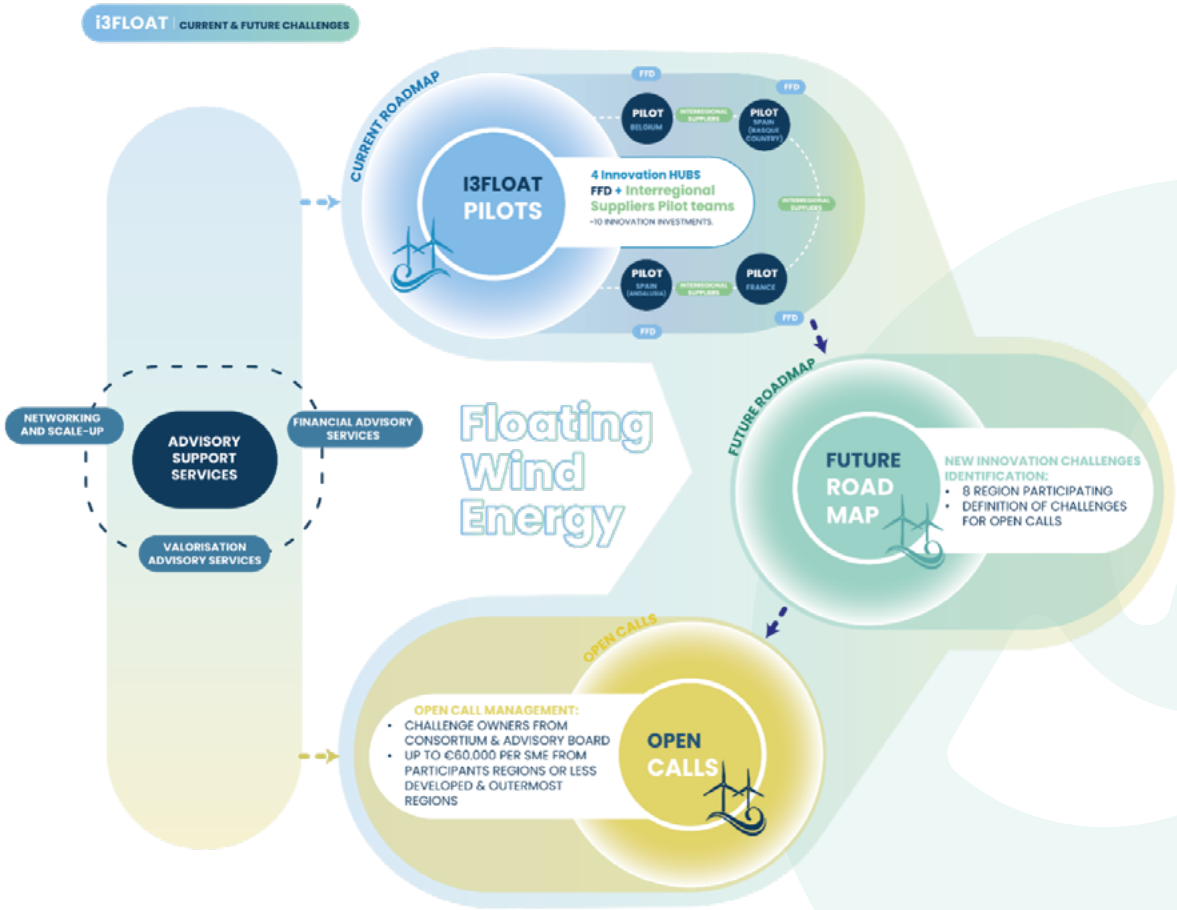
Project Presentation

I3FLOAT is a European initiative designed to mobilise interregional innovation investments and accelerate the deployment of advanced floating offshore wind technologies. Funded under the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Programme – Strand 1 and co-financed by the European Union through EISMEA, the project supports the development of a southern interregional value chain connecting More Developed Regions (MDR), In-Transition Regions, Less Developed Regions (LDR) and Outermost Regions.

Objectives

I3FLOAT focuses on five specific objectives:

- Capitalise innovation in floating wind technology by mobilising innovation investments in southern European regions.
- Establish interregional collaboration ecosystems between More Developed Regions and Less Developed Regions.
- Strengthen industrial value chains in Less Developed Regions and Outermost Regions.
- Support SMEs as key actors to guarantee the industrial leadership in the floating wind sector.
- Foster public-private partnerships to expand floating offshore wind in Europe.



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Methodology & Approach

The project integrates multiple lines of action:

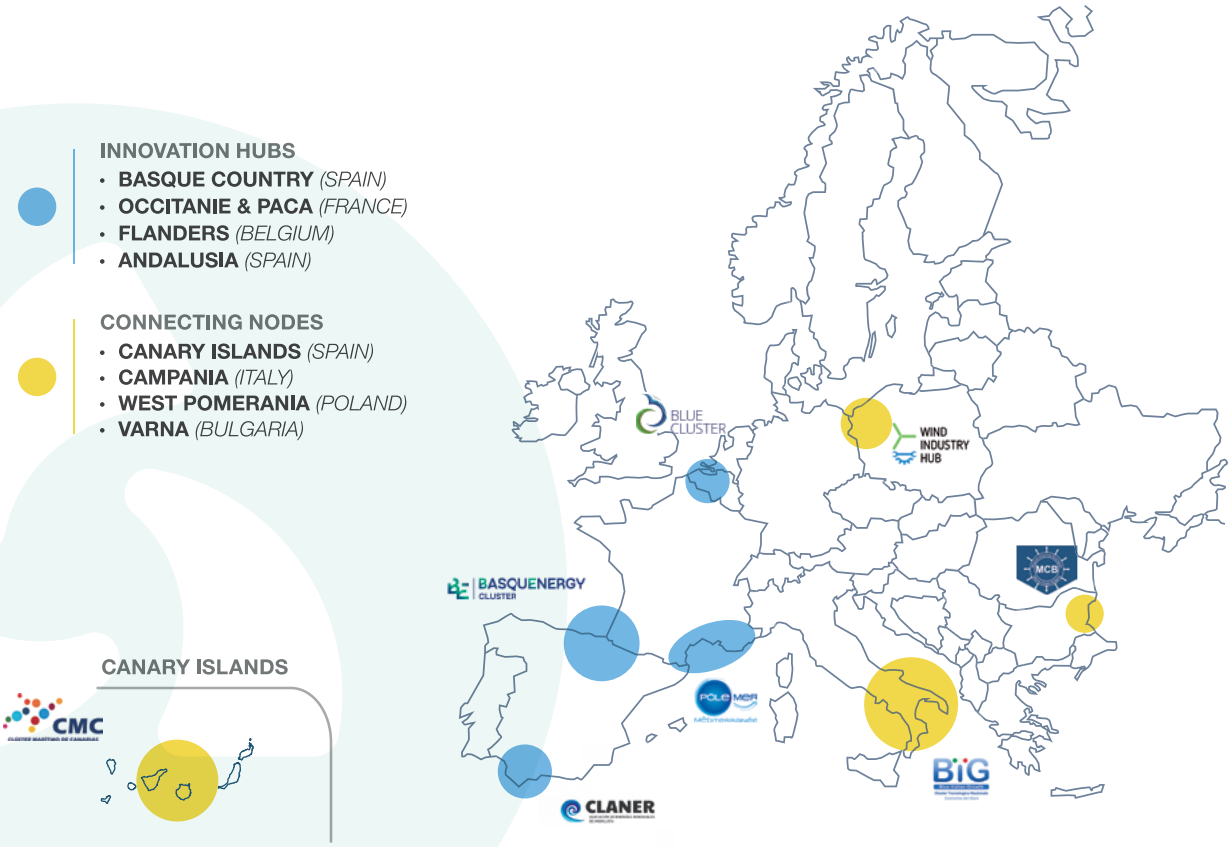
- Ten innovation investments are implemented on four floating platforms operated by Saitec Offshore Technologies, Enerocean, Eolink, and Multi.Engineering.
- Cascade funding: two competitive Open Calls will support up to 50 SME-led projects targeting key challenges across the floating wind value chain.
- Advisory services include internationalisation support, financial advisory, scale-up services and innovation valorisation activities.
- Strategic tools such a participative Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap and a value chain mapping tool to guide industrial development and regional cooperation.

Innovation Hubs & Connecting Nodes

I3FLOAT is structured around:

- Innovation Hubs, where the innovation investments are deployed: Basque Country, Andalusia, Occitanie & PACA, and Flanders.
- Connecting Nodes, focused on replication and SME engagement: Campania, Canary Islands, Varna and West Pomerania.

Together, they expand the reach of floating wind innovation across diverse European regions.



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Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap

The development of a Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap is one of the first strategic activities of the I3FLOAT project and a key milestone within its initial implementation phase.

The Roadmap is conceived as a strategic framework to identify priority challenges, bottlenecks and opportunities across the floating offshore wind value chain in Europe. Its purpose is to support a coherent and market-oriented deployment of innovation investments and SME support activities.

The Roadmap is developed during the first year of the project through a structured and participatory process coordinated by BASQUENERGY Cluster. It integrates inputs from project partners, regional innovation actors and relevant stakeholders from the floating offshore wind ecosystem, ensuring alignment with interregional needs and Smart Specialisation Strategies.

The outcomes of the Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap will serve as a reference to:

- Orient the definition of innovation priorities within I3FLOAT;
- Support the identification of challenges to be addressed through cascade funding Open Calls;
- Strengthen interregional cooperation and value chain development;
- Facilitate the market uptake and scale-up of floating wind technologies.

Roadmap Development Process: regional workshops across Europe

Between December 2025 and February 2026, the first round of regional workshops was successfully organised by the I3FLOAT cluster partners across Europe, engaging stakeholders from all participating ecosystems. In total, these workshops gathered more than 300 experts from across the floating offshore wind ecosystem, reflecting the strong interest and engagement of industry, research organisations and regional stakeholders in shaping the future innovation priorities of the sector.

The workshops took place in the Basque Country, Italy (Campania), France (Occitanie & PACA), Andalusia, West Pomerania, Flanders and Varna, bringing together industry representatives, technology developers, research organisations, port authorities and public stakeholders, with a final workshop in the Canary Islands scheduled to take place shortly.

These sessions represent a critical step in the development of the Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap. Through structured working groups and technical discussions, participants contributed to shaping and validating the innovation areas and subareas that underpin the Roadmap structure.

Floating substructures, mooring systems and dynamic cables
Electrical infrastructure and grid connection
Wind turbine, tower or alternative supporting structures and FOW-specific control
Wind farm layout design and site planning
Industrialization
Logistics and offshore installation
Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning

The insights collected are now being consolidated to define common interregional innovation lines. These lines will directly inform the design of the upcoming challenges of the I3FLOAT Open Calls and guide strategic investments under the project.

If you want to stay tuned and participate in next stages of the roadmap definition, please complete the information in this link.

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Innovation Investments & Technological Developments

Over the 36-month duration of the project, ten innovation investments are implemented on four TRL6+ floating platforms operated by Saitec Offshore Technologies, Enerocean, Eolink and Multi.Engineering. These technological developments address key challenges across different segments of the floating wind value chain and evolve progressively throughout the project lifetime.

The I3FLOAT innovation investments are structured around four pilot platforms operated by the project's Floating Foundation Developers (FFDs): Saitec Offshore Technologies, Eolink, Multi.Engineering and Enerocean. These pilots act as real innovation testbeds where advanced floating offshore wind technologies are developed, tested and validated under operational conditions.

Each pilot brings together the FFD and a group of specialised suppliers from different European regions, fostering strong interregional collaboration across the floating wind value chain. Through these partnerships, engineering companies, research organisations and technology providers jointly develop and demonstrate new solutions addressing key industrial challenges.

The four pilots involve the following collaborations:

- Eolink (Occitanie & PACA, France) with Ghenova, Geodis and Tetrace.
- Saitec Offshore Technologies (Basque Country, Spain) with IngZero, France Energies Marines and Aventa.
- Multi.Engineering (Flanders, Belgium) with 24Sea, Haedes and Oceanide.
- Enerocean (Andalusia, Spain) with Core Marine, and EonSea.

O&PACA (France)

- Optimization of logistics processes
- Automated manufacturing process

Basque Country (Spain)

- Behavioural and health state forecasting model
- Fibre-reinforced concrete
- Inter-array cable system

Flanders (Belgium)

- Industrialization of supply chain
- Mooring system for complex seabed
- Parametric design approach

Andalusia (Spain)

- Component level full lifecycle health monitoring
- Comprehensive multilevel underwater structures monitoring

These pilots are critical testbeds to **accelerate innovation uptake across Europe**

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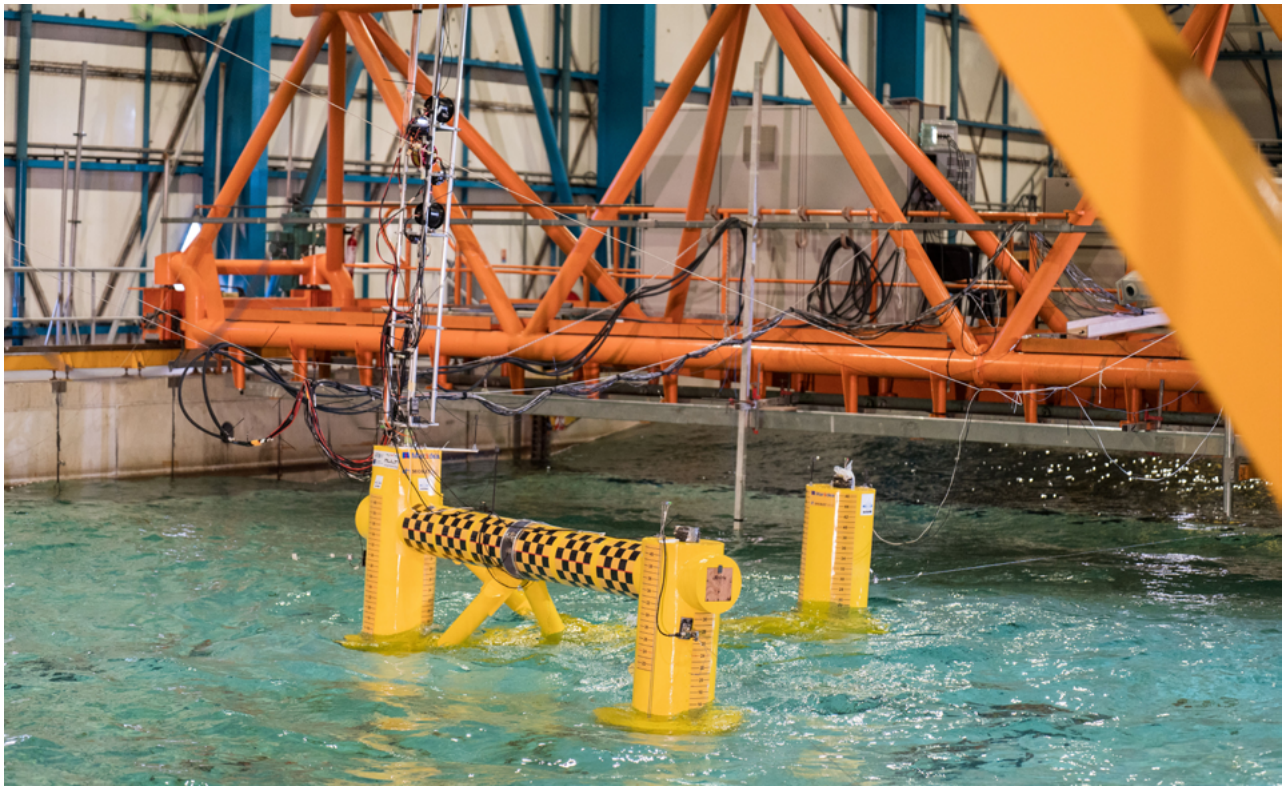


Use case

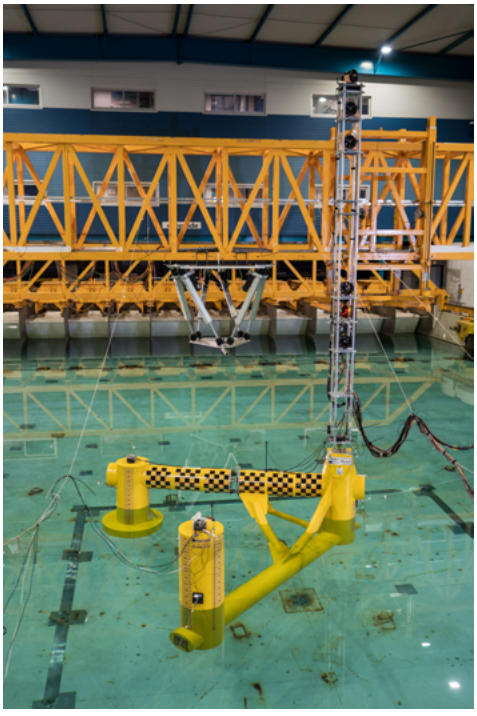
Basin Testing of the Moray Base Floating Foundation (MULTI.Engineering)

As part of the I3FLOAT Innovation Investments, MULTI.Engineering is advancing the development of its Moray Base, a semi-submersible floating foundation designed for floating offshore wind turbines.

Recently, basin model tests were carried out at OCEANIDE to evaluate the global behaviour of the structure under representative offshore conditions. Wind, wave and current loads were applied to the scaled model, including extreme scenarios, to assess its hydrodynamic performance and structural response.

During the testing campaign, internal loads within the structure were measured to support detailed structural assessments and validate both hydrodynamic and structural numerical models. These tests provide critical data to improve design accuracy, reduce uncertainty and strengthen confidence in near-to-market floating foundation solutions.

The Moray Base pilot demonstrates how I3FLOAT supports the industrialisation and validation of advanced floating wind technologies, contributing to enhanced reliability, structural optimisation and accelerated market deployment across Europe.



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European funding landscape for floating offshore wind

European programmes continue to open new funding opportunities to support research, innovation and industrial development in the floating offshore wind sector.

Selected EU funding opportunities relevant to floating offshore wind innovation

HORIZON EUROPE								
Cluster	**Topic Code**	**Title**	**Total Budget (€M)**	**EU Contribution per Project (€M)**	**Opening**	**Deadline**	**Detailed Brief Summary**	**Link**
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D3-03	Innovative technologies and solutions to improve wind energy systems (SET Plan)	93.0	~93.0 (1 project)	05 May 2026	15 Sept 2026	Flagship large-scale action supporting breakthrough wind system innovation aligned with the SET Plan. Highly relevant to floating wind industrialisation, cost reduction, turbine-platform integration, advanced control systems, serial manufacturing, and validation at scale. Ideal for consortia integrating developers, OEMs, ports, and grid operators.	
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-06	Resource assessment for deep sedimentary reservoirs	18.0	~4.5	04 Aug 2026	01 Dec 2026	Focus on offshore geological characterisation. Knowledge transferable to seabed anchoring systems, foundation stability and marine site assessment for floating wind farms.	
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-09	Wave and tidal energy technologies	134.0	~6–8	Expected in 2027	Expected in 2027	Marine renewable innovation. Engineering synergies in floating structures, mooring systems, marine operations and hybrid offshore platforms (wind + wave).	
CL4	HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-03	Factory processes for de- and re-manufacturing	36.0	5–6.5	22 Sept 2026	02 Feb 2027	Circular manufacturing and remanufacturing systems. Supports lifecycle extension of floating platforms and turbine components.	
CL6	HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-01	Marine ecosystems & underwater noise	10.0	~10.0	17 Apr 2026	17 Sept 2026	Addresses marine ecosystem disturbance. Floating wind developers must integrate environmental monitoring and mitigation solutions.	
CL6	HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-07	Health of ecosystems & wild species	14.0	~7.0	20 Apr 2027	22 Sept 2027	Biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring. Supports sustainable floating wind deployment and improved permitting frameworks.	
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-23	Data sharing for AI foundation models in energy	30.0	~10.0	04 Aug 2026	01 Dec 2026	Development of AI energy models. Applicable to floating wind forecasting, optimisation and energy market integration.	

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Advisory board

To ensure strong strategic guidance and alignment with market, regional and cohesion objectives, I3FLOAT is supported by three complementary Advisory Boards, each addressing a specific dimension of the project.

S3 Regional Advisory Board	The S3 Advisory Board is composed of representatives from regional authorities and Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) governance bodies of the participating regions. This Board ensures that I3FLOAT activities remain aligned with regional innovation priorities, cohesion objectives and place-based development strategies. The S3 Advisory Board supports interregional coordination, facilitates policy alignment across regions at different levels of development and contributes to maximising the territorial impact of project investments.
I3 Advisory Board	An I3 Advisory Board has been set up to bring together key stakeholders from the floating offshore wind sector and provide consolidated advice to the I3FLOAT consortium. Its role is to offer market-oriented guidance on the project's priorities and to support decision-making at key stages. Advisory Board members will contribute to the definition of the challenges for the Open Calls, help assess progress during the development of the Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap, and provide insights that strengthen the exploitation and scale-up strategies of the solutions developed within I3FLOAT. The Advisory Board includes 8 companies that are leading floating wind development in Europe. In the I3FLOAT Open Calls, they will propose specific innovation challenges and collaborate in their resolution with awarded SMEs. They will also support the consortium throughout the project, validating ongoing work and ensuring alignment with market needs.

Members of the I3 Advisory Board

EDF power solutions · elicio · FLOTATION ENERGY · Iberdrola · DJN JAN DE NUL · Navantia SEANERGIES · OW OCEAN WINDS · Qair

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LDR Support Advisory Board

In line with the objectives of the I3 Programme, a dedicated LDR Support Advisory Board provides specific guidance to reinforce the participation and capacity-building of Less Developed Regions (LDRs) and outermost regions within the project. The project counts on the active involvement of Less Developed Regions in Portugal, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, as well as outermost regions such as Madeira and Martinique, ensuring a broad and inclusive territorial dimension.

This Board supports the identification of barriers and opportunities for SME participation in LDRs, contributes to tailoring advisory services and cascade funding mechanisms, and helps ensure that project outcomes effectively foster industrial development and innovation uptake in these regions.

Together, the three Advisory Boards provide complementary expertise and guidance, reinforcing the strategic, regional and cohesion dimensions of I3FLOAT and supporting informed decision-making throughout the project implementation.

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Project partners

The I3FLOAT consortium brings together 24 beneficiaries from across Europe, spanning technology developers, engineering firms, innovation clusters, research organisations and specialised service providers. The partnership reflects a quadruple-helix model, integrating industry, research, government and civil society actors to reinforce interregional collaboration.

INNOVATION HUB CLUSTERS

BASQUENERGY CLUSTER

PÔLE MER MÉDITERRANÉE

BLUE CLUSTER

CMC CLÚSTER MARÍTIMO DE CANARIAS

CONNECTING NODES CLUSTERS

BIG Blue Italian Growth Cluster Tecnologico Nazionale Economia del Mare

CLANER ASOCIACIÓN DE ENERGÍAS RENOVABLES DE ANDALUCÍA

MCB

WIND INDUSTRY HUB

FLOATING FOUNDATION DEVELOPERS

EOLINK

saitec engineering

MULTI engineering

eneROCEAN

SUPPLIERS

core marine

EONSEA

GEODIS

TETRACE GROUP

GHENOVA

ingero

FRANCE ENERGIES MARINES

24SEA MONITORING OFFSHORE STRUCTURES

océanide

HAEDES ENGINEERING SOUL FROM SOURCE TO SEA

Aventa

SUPPORTED BY zabala INNOVATION

The consortium represents an integrated European ecosystem capable of driving innovation, scale-up and industrial cohesion in floating offshore wind.

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Project news

I3FLOAT Officially Launched in Brussels

8–9 October 2025
Brussels
Belgium

The I3FLOAT consortium officially launched the project during its kick-off meeting in Brussels, marking the beginning of a 36-month interregional initiative funded under the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Programme – Strand 1 and managed by EISMEA.

The consortium confirmed its operational structure based on four Innovation Hubs (Basque Country, Andalusia, Occitanie/PACA and Flanders) and four Connecting Nodes (Canary Islands, Campania, West Pomerania and Varna), ensuring balanced territorial deployment and replication capacity. Strategic priorities defined during the meeting included the development of the Floating Wind Innovation Roadmap, the preparation of cascade funding Open Calls and the activation of Advisory Support Services.

I3FLOAT Presented at Clusters Meet Regions-Pamplona

12 November 2025
Pamplona
Spain

I3FLOAT was publicly introduced at the Clusters Meet Regions event organised by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP).

During the session, the project was presented by BASQUENERGY Cluster as a flagship initiative supporting interregional innovation investments in floating offshore wind. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of clusters as ecosystem integrators and on the participation of SMEs — especially from Less Developed Regions — in strengthening Europe's industrial value chain.

I3FLOAT at EnerGaïa 2025 Promoting Floating Wind in Occitanie

11 December 2025
Montpellier
France

Pôle Mer Méditerranée presented I3FLOAT during the EnerGaïa Forum in Montpellier, within a session dedicated to regional actions supporting floating offshore wind development in Occitanie.

Participation in EnerGaïa contributed to expanding outreach among industry stakeholders and consolidating the project's visibility within southern European ecosystems.

Strengthening Collaboration with I3 Initiatives in Wave Energy

13 January 2026
Bilbao
Spain

I3FLOAT participated in a Sectoral Forum on Wave Energy organised by BASQUENERGY Cluster at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre (BEC), bringing together key stakeholders from the wave energy sector.

The session addressed strategic developments in wave energy at both European and regional levels. Notably, the event featured an intervention from the I3 NACHIP initiative, another project funded under the I3 Programme, highlighting synergies and opportunities for collaboration between both initiatives.

The forum provided a valuable platform to exchange knowledge, explore cross-sector opportunities and reinforce cooperation between projects contributing to the development of wave energy value chains in Europe.

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