



Offshore Renewables and Nature-Inclusive Designs – Opportunities, Challenges and Controversies

Workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 29 October 2026, at 9.30-16.00 CET

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels

The workshop invites researchers, managers, industry representatives and other stakeholders to join the discussion on **concepts, examples and frameworks for combining offshore renewables and nature-inclusive designs**. The aim is to collect and synthesise experiences from experts and practitioners on the opportunities, challenges and controversies surrounding the use of nature-inclusive designs (NIDs) in the context of offshore renewables.

The workshop is free of charge and will take place on 29 October 2026 at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels. The morning program with presentations can also be followed online.

Please use this [registration form](#) for both in-person and online participation. As the number of seats is limited, expressions of interest in attending in person should be submitted by 15 October 2026. Places will be confirmed as soon as possible or no later than 18 October 2026. Registration for online participation is open until 25 October 2026.

Program

09.30–10.00 Arrival and coffee, Welcoming words

10.00–10.50 Presentations on ongoing research projects and development frameworks (also online)

- **Steven Degraer** (RBINS, Belgium) Introductory reflections on Opportunities, challenges and controversies in NIDs
- **Lena Bergström** (SLU, Sweden) Understanding and dealing with synergies and trade-offs in offshore renewables
- **Marta Moyano** (NIVA, Norway) Assessing the ecological contribution of NIDs and their position in the mitigation hierarchy
- Q&A

11.00–13.00 Reflections from case studies (also online)

- **Ninon Mavraki** (WMR, The Netherlands) The Dutch NID policy in relation offshore wind
- **Riet Durinck** (Elia, Belgium) The Elia energy island and nature-inclusive designs
- **Jan Vanaverbeke** (RBINS, Belgium) Adaptations to scour protection complexity
- **Lea Kornu** (WMR, The Netherlands) Benthic communities inside turbines with water replenishment holes
- **Annie Murphy** (Inspire, UK) Promoting beneficial colonization of offshore wind infrastructure using nature-inspired coatings
- **Peter Ljungberg** (SLU, Sweden) Cod hotels as a conservation tool in the Baltic Sea
- Q&A

13.00–14.00 Lunch - *a light lunch is offered to all registered in-person participants*

14.00–16.00. Structured discussions (in-person only). Synthesis of opportunities, challenges and controversies surrounding nature-inclusive designs in offshore renewable energy.

MSP4MORE (MSP tools for integrating multiple sustainability objectives in offshore renewable energy) is an EU joint project under the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership. Please visit <https://msp4more.eu/>



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