

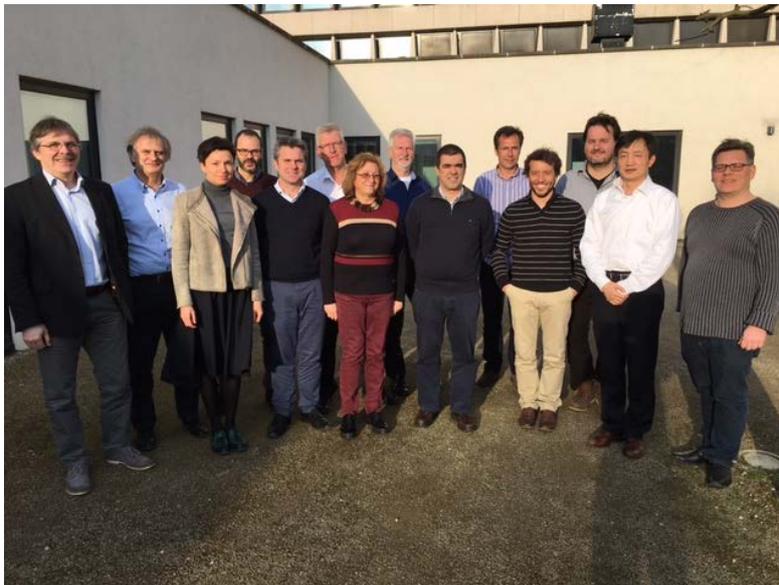


EuroGOOS
European Global Ocean
Observing System

16 May 2017

Chair's report

**Prepared for the General Assembly Meeting
31 May – 2 June 2017,
EuroGOOS Office, Brussels**

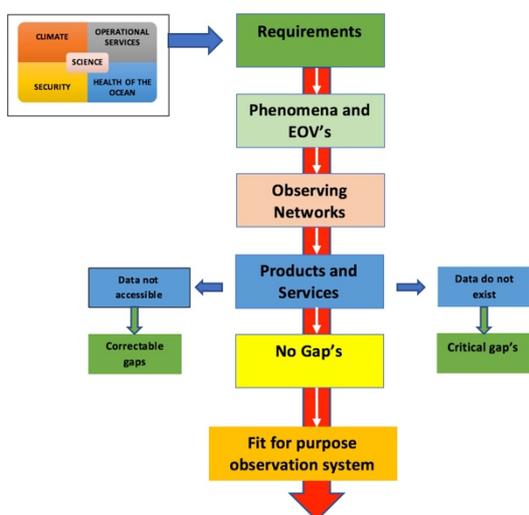


This report summarizes the activities of the EuroGOOS Board of Directors and the EuroGOOS Chair over the past year.

OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND OCEAN DATA

The need for ocean information's, products and service to support blue growth, climate monitoring and forecasting, MSFD and general marine decision making has been increasing over the past years. This has put ocean observations and ocean data high on the international agenda exemplified by:

- G7 Science minister's declaration from May 2016 and the follow up on this
- H2020 Projects focussing on design of observation systems for the Atlantic, Arctic, Mediterranean and the coastal regions - AtlantOS, INTAROS, ODYSSEA and Jerico Next
- Copernicus – CMEMS, In-situ cross-cutting coordination



- Marine data integration activities such as EMODnet and SeaDataCloud

EuroGOOS members are heavily engaged in the implementation of the above-mentioned activities as well as other projects. The EuroGOOS office is partner in most of the projects mentioned, often in a minor coordinating, but nevertheless important role on the strategic level. Via its project engagement EuroGOOS establish important strategic alliances to funding agencies, European/international partner organisations.

The EuroGOOS Chair and secretary general are active partners of the “Atlantic Ocean Observing

Blueprint” drafting team, a group set up by the AtlantOS project with the task to develop an advanced, international elaborated plan for the formation of an integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System that goes beyond the state-of-the-art and leaves a legacy of sustainability. This Blueprint work will closely coordinated with the initiatives related G7 minister's implementation planning group for ocean observations; the draft blueprint is therefore now foreseen by spring 2018.

The planning of future observing systems opens for a closer interaction with the private sector – a component of the EuroGOOS strategy – EuroGOOS could play a strong facilitating role in this respect.

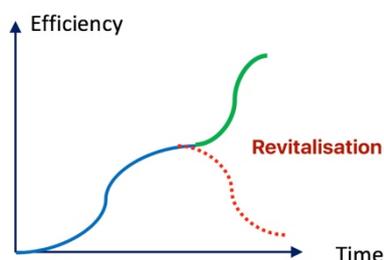
From the project work it has become clear that the ocean community has a well-established understanding of the physical phenomena as well as Essential Ocean Variables to observe while the understanding is less well-established when it comes to biogeochemical and especially biological phenomena. We are also far from a well-defined set of requirements including spatial and time resolution, which makes a detailed gap analysis impossible. EuroGOOS has introduced to divide gaps into four potential gaps in the Ocean Observing system:

1. Gaps in the observing network
2. Gaps in data availability (free and open exchange)
3. Sustainability gaps
4. Gaps in technology

All four important components in the EuroGOOS organisation, strategy and work.

The lessons learned via this project participation serves as valuable input to the planning and implementation of a European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) a strategically important activity that EuroGOOS leads in close cooperation with the European Marine Board.

EUROGOOS ORGANISATION AND STRATEGY

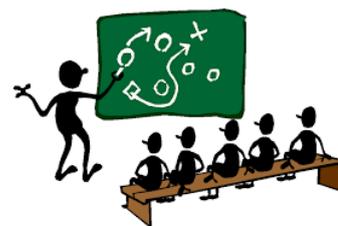


According to general organisation theory an organisation has a certain lifecycle and will eventually die, if not revitalised via new strategies and adjusted organisation. It is therefore the most important task of the board to monitor and secure that EuroGOOS has the right organisation and strategies to address the challenges and requirements, put on the organisation externally as well as internally.

The board therefore has, together with the Secretary General, spent quite some time on formulating strategies, implementation plan and organisational adjustments.

At the General Assembly 2016 a set of priorities for the 2016-17 period was agreed upon and they formed the basis for the following priorities:

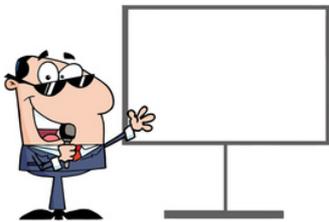
- **Data Priority Area**
 - Stronger ROOSes are needed including an improved mechanism directing users to where to find data
 - Task teams data should be fully integrated into EMODnet and CMEMS
 - DATAMEQ should continue helping integration and common standards
 - EMODnet data ingestion will support some of the above activities
 - Gap analysis
 - Synergy with global initiatives
- **Sustained Observations Priority Area – EOOS**
 - Requirements in ROOSes to be aligned
 - EuroGOOS Technology Plan WG can advise the process on new technologies
 - Task Teams are doing SWOTs of their individual systems and will make recommendations for the future
 - Links and synergies across the EuroGOOS projects and tenders
 - Office role in promotion and ensuring policy relevance, as well as support in making an economic case
- **Products Priority Area (including showcasing products)**
 - Focus on fitness for purpose
 - Clear information on how to easily access required products
 - Cooperation with private sector
 - An idea was shared to develop a joint activity across all ROOSes on one specific topic
 - User uptake (Mercator Ocean contract for CMEMS) but also feedback from the EuroGOOS community
- **Communications Priority Area**
 - Communicate the progress and successes
 - Fact sheets for each activity
 - Visual identity aligned across all ROOS websites
 - Policy briefs



- Internal promotion to EuroGOOS members and subsidiaries
- **Cross-cutting Priority Area**
 - International cooperation (GOOS, GRA, JCOMM, GEO)
 - Strengthen cooperation across all ROOSes, working groups and task teams
 - Attract new members working jointly with current members, chairs and Executive Board
 - Secure an optimal organisation of EuroGOOS
 - Secure an optimal functioning of the office (manning, planning, finances, etc)
 - Office support to the Board in strategic planning.

Based on these priorities the Office and the chairs of ROOSes, WG's and Task teams has worked on and implementations plan.

EUROGOOS COMMUNICATION



It is important to notice that the communication profile of EuroGOOS has increased over the past year, including:

- Publications – reports, fact sheets, leaflets, brochures etc.
- Web news and twitter
- Stands at several international events
- Presentations at conferences, meetings and workshops

EuroGOOS additionally has a communication role in many of the projects it is engaged in, which is a valuable possibility for increasing our visibility.

I feel that this increased promotion activity together with our active role in several strategically important projects have had a positive impact on the EuroGOOS profile and visibility. It is however also my experience from various conferences that we still have a huge task in promoting EuroGOOS and make our activities visible.

It is however important to remember that the communication activity focus on both external and internal communication. The board has asked the office to secure more focus on internal communication. The members have a natural right to be informed on the activities of the organisation they are members of; and well-informed members can additionally act as good ambassadors for EuroGOOS in support of increasing the EuroGOOS visibility.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

It is natural for EuroGOOS to follow the developments on global scale in relation to ocean observations, data exchange, forecasting, marine products and services. In the last year the activity level has been rather high, perhaps also too high so this year we try to adjust and prioritize the most relevant organisation and sub-groups.

GOOS

GOOS is naturally the most important international organisation to link up to and over the last 1.2 years the working relations with the GOOS office at IOC, Paris has been strengthened substantially.

EuroGOOS top management is represented in the GOOS Steering Group by Rosalia Santoleri and Glenn Nolan.

EuroGOOS have a natural interest in close relations to the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRA's). GRA representatives have regular telecom's and the next GRA meeting will take place in September 2017. The EuroGOOS chair acts as vice chair for the GRA cooperation.

EuroGOOS has been active in promoting the establishment of an Arctic GOOS - up to now unsuccessful due to Russian reluctance. A new development is however that Canada are in the process of establishing Canadian GOOS like the US model (IOOS) called C-IOOS. EuroGOOS has therefore launched the idea to establish a MoU between EuroGOOS, IOOS and C-IOOS as a way to towards an Arctic GOOS.

EuroGOOS Secretary General has visited IMOS in 2016 and the chair visited IOOS in 2017.

JCOMM

EuroGOOS representatives have been active in the JCOMM Task team for Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic services within WIS (TT-MOWIS), who have produced a report on how to integrate marine data into the WIS system. The report will be presented for approval at the WMO, IOC and JCOMM sessions in 2017.

The EuroGOOS chair is member of the JCOMM management Board as a representative for GRA's

GEO

In 2016 EuroGOOS chair represented GOOS in the GEO Programme Board and GEO Executive Board, this was regarded as to be in the periphery of was EuroGOOS should invest their resource's in. So, in 2017 the engagement is reduced to representation in the Programme Board via Rosalia Santoleri representing GOOS. EuroGOOS secretary General follow the GEO programme "Blue Planet" (the only real ocean GEO programme) as member of the steering group and he is additionally a member of EU's High Level Working Group for GEO, where the European priorities are discussed and agreed.

EUROGOOS CONFERENCE

One of the big events in EuroGOOS the coming year is the EuroGOOS conference in Bergen in October 2017. These conferences have always been a good occasion to monitor the progress within operational oceanography, exchange of ideas between our members, establish contact and cooperation between our members. So it is the hope of the EuroGOOS Board that the 2017 Conference will be well attended and will a great success.

EUROGOOS STAFF

The EuroGOOS office has recently recruited an administrative officer and now has a permanent staff of 5 professionals, which generally is in balance with the economy related to EuroGOOS core activities and project. The office has however in relation to specific task in relation to its project the need for draw on additional expertise. The board has therefore approved the office to invite the members to express to their willingness to second personnel/experts for shorter period – a few members replied positively to this. An alternative could be that EuroGOOS office organise and finance specific workshops with selected member representatives.