



EG10.33
13 November 2010

Minutes

Meeting	EuroGOOS 17th Annual Meeting
Date/time	15 October 2010, 9:00 – 12:00
Venue	Belgian Science Policy Office, Brussels

Attendees

Chair

Peter Ehlers

EuroGOOS Office

Hans Dahlin Director
Siân Petersson Secretary

Representatives of Member Agencies

Guido Dumon, MDK, Belgium
Georges Pichot, MUMM, Belgium
George Zodiatis, Oceanography Center, University of Cyprus
Palle Bo Nielsen, DAMSA, Denmark
Erik Buch, DMI, Denmark
Tapani Stipa, FMI, Finland
Sylvie Pouliquen, Ifremer, France
Pierre Bahurel, Mercator, France
Joël Hoffman, Météo-France
Kai Soetje, BSH, Germany
Emil Stanev, GKSS, Germany
Kostas Nittis, HCMR, Greece
Rosalia Santoleri, CNR, Italy
Nadia Pinardi, INGV, Italy
Alessandro Crise, OGS, Italy
Kees van Ruiten, Deltares, The Netherlands
Harm Oterdoom, RWS, The Netherlands
Henning Wehde, IMR, Norway
Bruce Hackett, met.no, Norway
Johnny Johannessen, Nansen Center, Norway
Jan Piechura, IO-PAS, Poland
Kazimierz Szefer, MIG, Poland
Carlos Ventura Soares, Instituto Hidrográfico, Portugal
Alicia Lavín, IEO, Spain
Bertil Håkansson, SMHI, Sweden
Dave Mills, CEFAS, UK
Mike Bell, Met Office, UK
Jacky Wood, NERC, UK

Apologies

Enrique Alvarez Fanjul (Puertos del Estado, Spain), Nicky Villars (Deltares, The Netherlands), Jitze van der Meulen (KNMI, The Netherlands), Rosa Barciela (Met Office, UK),

1. Registration of Members' representatives

A registration document was circulated for signatures from all member representatives present.

2. Membership

• New member - CEFAS, UK

The Environment Agency for England and Wales has asked for its membership to be transferred to CEFAS. Dave Mills from CEFAS explained that the agency is under DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and has the prime responsibility for implementation of Marine policies. There is a staff of 550 with a strong observational capacity, including a research vessel and sustained observations. There were no objections from the meeting against a transfer of the membership and CEFAS was welcomed.

• Termination of membership for non-payers

Due to non-payment 2 members have now been excluded (Turkey and Russia).

Various contacts in Turkey are still trying to find a way for Turkish membership through a different institute.

Russia has never paid and has to be excluded. Roshydromet is not allowed to pay subscriptions to an organization that is not inter-governmental. They are still involved in regional work.

3. Minutes of 16th Annual Meeting, Sopot, October 2009 EG09.28

The minutes of the 16th Meeting were accepted.

4. Matters arising, actions completed

All actions from the 16th Meeting have been dealt with.

An MoU with the EUGENE project is still outstanding due to a lack of capacity in the Office to participate in the EUGENE meetings.

5. Financial matters and Honorary Treasurer's report (EG10.13)

• Result for 2009 and status for 2010

Erik Buch presented the Treasurer's report including the final result for 2009.

All finances are handled in Swedish kronor through SMHI and audited through the Swedish auditing authority. Currency fluctuations cause problems which, however, can be solved.

The result for 2009 was approved.

• Budget for 2011

As concerns the budget for 2010, EuroGOOS costs will be under budget limit since Patrick Gorringer took 18 months leave.

The draft budget for 2011 was presented. It includes a significant amount from the reserves to cover the administration work for turning EuroGOOS into an EIG (Economic Interest Group) and the EuroGOOS Conference.

The budget for 2011 was accepted.

• Subscriptions for 2012

If need arises the reserve fund can be used for the expenses in 2012. Therefore it was decided to keep the subscriptions for 2012 on the present level without any increase.

6. Formal approval of Working Group proposals, Terms of Reference and future work (following presentations made on 14 October, see EG10.32)

The meeting took note of the ongoing work carried out in some of the Working Groups and accepted in particular the recommendations made by the DATA-MEQ group, changes in terms of reference, and approved the publication. All members are invited to participate more actively in the Working Groups and are asked to nominate representatives. A workshop on scientific issues will be included in a session in the conference next year in Sopot.

Action: Nominate members for Products Working Group, Technology Working Group and Science Working Group.

The meeting took note of reports from the ROOSs with great appreciation of the work done and expressed support of all the activities envisaged by the ROOSs.

What is the competence of the ROOSs and the competence of EuroGOOS? For example some ROOSs have direct activities with EEA and now the EEA has more direct contact with the EuroGOOS Office.

Action: The Board will discuss the coordination function of the Office concerning ROOSs. All ROOS chairs and Working Group chairs will be invited to Board meetings.

EuroGOOS will support MyOcean2 as proposed by Pierre Bahurel.

Action: The Board will decide who could be involved from EuroGOOS in that work package.

The report on the future of EuroGOOS was adopted in principle but improvements and updates are necessary. The Board is authorised to continue the preparatory work for transforming EuroGOOS into an EIG with the aim that the next Annual Meeting may take a final decision. With this regard it may also consult a lawyer.

Action: The Board will ensure the redrafting of the report, the elaboration of the necessary working papers and the preparation work for transforming EuroGOOS into an EIG.

7. Elections (EG10.14)

The meeting hoped that Peter Ehlers would continue as chair until EuroGOOS has a new constitution and Peter Ehlers informed the meeting that he is willing to stand for re-election in 2011. The Board recommends the Annual meeting not to look for a new chair but to accept that Peter Ehlers will be re-elected in 2011. At this time it is very valuable to have a Chair with a legal background.

Three new Board members have been nominated:

- Pierre-Yves Le Traon (nominated by Ifremer and Mercator-Océan)
- Johnny Johannessen (nominated by Nansen Center and IMR)
- Mike Bell (nominated by the Met Office and DMI)

These three new Board members were elected by acclamation and The Chair expects that they will do their best to attend all Board meetings.

Following the regulations, Sylvie Pouliquen and Kostas Nittis leave the Board having served two full terms. They were sincerely thanked for their active contributions and work done for EuroGOOS which will still continue outside the Board.

8. Next EuroGOOS Conference

Flyers were distributed for the planned conference in Sopot on 4-6 October. The venue has had to be changed to the 4 star Haffner Hotel, where there are 3 rooms that can be combined to 1 plenary room with space for up to 300 people. However the lunch room can only accommodate 210 people. It might be a bit cramped at times but they are friendly and efficient. The Polish Ministry of Science approved the use of their logo with the conference and sponsoring from the Ministry of Foreign affairs is also hoped for, since this can be a Polish presidency event.

The poster session will be held up in the institute which is 200 m away from the hotel.

Members asked for more flyers to be printed and sent to each member institute.

Action: IO-PAS to print 1000 flyers and send to Office for distribution.

Action: All members are asked to publicise the next EuroGOOS Conference.

9. Any Other Business

• ESEAS

The Director proposed to move the activities of the ESEAS central bureau to the EuroGOOS Office, to be managed as a EuroGOOS working group. The data exchange and operational activities are done by other means but the coordination should be done at the EuroGOOS Office as has previously been discussed by the Board.

Most of ESEAS work has been taken over by PMSL or IODE. The remaining task is to see if there is still a future for ESEAS. Several members feel that ESEAS is unnecessary, but water level is essential to OO and it is better for EuroGOOS to have good working relationship. A decision was postponed to the next Annual Meeting

Action: Board to discuss the ESEAS issue in more detail and to present a proposal to the 2011 Annual Meeting.

- **EurOCEAN 2010 Conference**

The members were informed about the outcome of the EurOceans 2010 held in Ostend on October 12 and 13. The conference ended with the Ostend Declaration which was distributed to the members. EurOCEAN conferences (previously MAST Days) have been held every 3 years since 1994 as a showcase of EC projects in marine science. It is a good link between marine science and science policy. The declarations try to influence the EU framework policies to improve the position of marine science. Previous declarations have been successful.

Action: Members to pass on the message of the Ostend Declaration to relevant ministers in each country.

- **ESAC**

The Director has been asked to be a member of the ESA senior expert group for Earth Observations, which he has accepted.

Action: Members were asked to recommend names within their institute to provide advice and ideas to help the Director to best represent EuroGOOS interests in ESAC.

- **Future of Operational Oceanography**

Kai Soetje informed the meeting that a big oceanography workshop will be organised in Hamburg around the start of November 2011.

- **Website documents**

One member asked for more historic documents to be made available on the website, and also requested that the final version of the EuroGOOS standing orders be made available.

Action: Office to review the document archive on the website.

10. Date and venue of next Annual Meeting

Upon invitation of Nadia Pinardi on behalf of GNOO the EuroGOOS Annual Meeting will be held in Rome in December 2011. Probably the meeting will take place on 5-7 December as 8 December is a national holiday. The exact dates and location will be set in consultation with the EuroGOOS Office.

The members expressed their gratitude to MUMM for hosting the meeting in Brussels.

Action: Office to finalise dates and location for next Annual Meeting in Rome

Annexes:

Budget 2011 (shown in the financial report EG10.13)

Report from presentations of ROOSs, Working Groups and Expert Group (EG10.32)

Report: Future of EuroGOOS (EG10.18)



Action list

Meeting	EuroGOOS Annual Meeting
Date/time	15 October 2009 9:00 – 12:00
Venue	Belgian Science Policy Office, Brussels

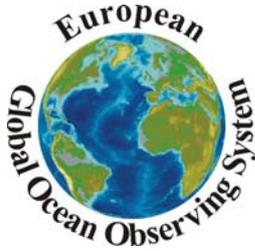
	Action	Responsible
1	Circulate minutes from Annual Meeting	EuroGOOS Office
2	Nominate members for Products Working Group, Technology Working Group and Science Working Group.	All members
3	Discuss the coordination function of the Office concerning ROOSs and invite ROOS chairs and Working Group chairs to Board meetings	Board
4	Decide who could be involved from EuroGOOS in the relevant work package for MyOcean2.	Board
5	The Board will ensure the redrafting of the report, the elaboration of the necessary working papers and the preparation work for transforming EuroGOOS into an EIG.	Board
6	Print 1000 flyers and send to Office for distribution, and actively publicise the next EuroGOOS Conference.	IO-PAS, All members
7	Board to discuss the ESEAS issue in more detail and to present a proposal to the 2011 Annual Meeting.	Board
8	Pass on the message of the Ostend Declaration to relevant ministers	All members
9	Members to recommend names within their institute to provide advice and ideas to help the Director to best represent EuroGOOS interests in ESAC.	All members
10	Review the document archive on the website.	Office
11	Office to finalise dates and location for next Annual Meeting in Rome	Office, Nadia Pinaridi



Financial Overview

Rate SEK/Euro	9,37	10,59	9,8	9,2
	Result 2008	Result 2009	Budget 2010	Budget 2011
Expenditure				
Salaries	205 318	156 661	205 000	210 000
Administrative services	31 309	38 745	24 500	30 000
External facilities	2 158	1 702	3 000	2 000
Publications	1 407	4 357	3 000	9 000
Travel and subsistence	89 153	69 028	85 000	75 000
EuroGOOS Conference	287	9 662	0	15 000
External IT service	5 000	12 750	21 700	6 200
Other costs	3 395	6 409	5 000	50 000
To reserves	0	38 826	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	338 028	338 142	347 200	397 200
Income				
Paid/Expected				
Subscriptions	239 638	295 616	295 674	311 293
Exchange rate fluctuations	2 598	6 504	0	0
SMHI (sell-buy)	31 051	19 045	12 000	7 000
Diverse other projects	52 857	16 977	30 000	4 000
From reserves	11 883	0	9 526	74 907
TOTAL INCOME	338 027	338 142	347 200	397 200
Balance	0	0	0	0

Reserves				
In SEK	1 011 000	1 422 000	1 176 000	486 856
Interest in SEK		39 000	10 000	10 000
In GBP (intrest included)		26 700	27 500	27 800
Sum converted into €		167 386	151 270	84 586



EG10.32
13 November 2010

Reports and Presentations

Meeting	EuroGOOS 17 th Annual Meeting
Date/time	14 October 2010
Venue	Belgian Science Policy Office, Brussels

1. Welcome

Dominique Fonteyn, the Director General for Research programmes and responsible for GMES in Belgium, welcomed EuroGOOS and our highly relevant discussions to the Belgian Science Policy Offices in Brussels.

2. Reports

All reports and presentations can be downloaded from the EuroGOOS website www.eurogoos.org > Documents > Annual Meeting 2010

- **Chairman's report (EG10.31)**

The Chair emphasised that more work needs to be done so that EuroGOOS becomes the voice of operational oceanography in Europe.

- **Director's report (document to follow)**

The Director gave a summary of all the work and contacts that he has carried out this year, which covers all 9 of the EuroGOOS priorities.

EuroGOOS needs a link to the climate change community. EuroGOOS has a dialog with WMO but this is not enough.

- **Arctic ROOS report (Johnny Johannessen on behalf of Stein Sandven, EG10.23)**

The work of Arctic ROOS is very important for climate change. In situ real-time data is very important and this is where effort needs to be focused.

Members pointed out that there are several strong national programmes in the Arctic.

Help is needed at EuroGOOS level. EuroGOOS should contact private companies to ask them to provide observations. Additional endeavours of governments are needed to strengthen the Arctic ROOS.

- **BOOS report (Bertil Håkansson, EG10.20)**

All countries around the Baltic are now active in BOOS work.

A future in situ TAC ought to have increased participation at ROOS level.

A more general discussion came up whether the ROOSs are sufficiently taken into account when discussing maritime policy. A closer co-ordination of the ROOSs could be helpful.

- **IBI-ROOS report (Sylvie Pouliquen, EG10.22)**

Stronger collaboration with working groups would be beneficial to all.

A link with OSPAR has been identified but not much progress has been made. Stronger links with such conventions would be beneficial to all ROOSs.

- **MOON report (Nadia Pinardi, EG10.24)**

A specific agreement with EUMETNET has been made. The members felt that this should better be done by EuroGOOS.

The private sector is invited to participate in downstream services.

The African part of the Mediterranean has to be included in the work via MedGOOS.

- **NOOS report (Kees van Ruiten, EG10.21)**

There has been a discussion about joint training of the tidal hydrologists that make the sea level warnings so that this can be done jointly. Hopefully there will be increased coordination of alarm systems and methods in the future. NOOS wishes to have closer relations with MyOcean2.

- **DATA-MEQ report (Sylvie Pouliquen, EG10.25)**

DATA-MEQ will focus on working with Quality Control, not Quality Assurance (which could be done better together with TPWG).

The meeting will be asked to approve a document on Real Time Quality Control. A couple of comments have been received from EuroGOOS members which will be considered by the DATA-MEQ group and the document will be updated.

The document including the recommendations was endorsed by the EuroGOOS members. It will then be publicised through SeaDataNet and published as a EuroGOOS document.

- **Product WG report (Erik Buch)**

No new chair could be found so Erik Buch will once again try to get the WG running. He asked the meeting to appoint members of this group from each ROOS. The work is important for EuroGOOS. The Director suggested trying to organise a joint meeting with the ICES product group.

- **Science WG report (Johnny Johannessen)**

The meeting decided that one parallel session of the EuroGOOS Conference next October should be devoted to a SAWG workshop on Oceanography and Climate Change at the regional scale (including a discussion). The chairs asked for each ROOS chair to find two members for this group. The chairs will write to all EuroGOOS members including some information about the plans for the SAWG. The WG should target FP8.

- **Technology WG report (Glenn Nolan)**

The WG would welcome a co-chair. There was a suggestion to expand on the DATA-MEQ document with a section on the technology of measuring equipment.

- **MyOcean2 (Pierre Bahurel)**

The meeting was positive to more EuroGOOS involvement in MyOcean2, as was proposed by Pierre. Concern was expressed that some of the ROOSs might be underrepresented. The EuroGOOS Board will continue to discuss the details.

3. The future of EuroGOOS

- **EGFEG report (Erik Buch, EG10.18)**

The report has been distributed in advance and contains the recommendation, to turn EuroGOOS into an EIG (Economic Interest Group) as it seemed to fit EuroGOOS best. EuroGOOS can learn from EUMETNET as they have just gone through that process. The mission of EuroGOOS is however much broader than EUMETNET; nevertheless their new agreement is very similar to EuroGOOS.

In the thorough discussion the following issues were raised:

- EuroGOOS is not an operational agency. EuroGOOS is comprised of its members and regional partners.
- The purpose of EuroGOOS is the regional and European integration of operational oceanography.
- The top-down and bottom-up processes in Europe have to be balanced, where EuroGOOS represents the bottom-up.
- Further major mission aims for EuroGOOS were suggested: exchange of know-how, data policy and harmonisation. Following the example of EUMETNET, EuroGOOS should aim to reduce unnecessary duplication of work between European oceanographic institutions.
- An EIG is a fairly simple way of organising a legal entity, so that the EuroGOOS Office would not have to rely on another legal entity, as is the current situation. Members are not happy about the label "Economic", but an EIG is actually a non-profit organisation.

Several points were raised about alternative forms for a future EuroGOOS.

- The form of a European Research Institute (ERIC) should have been considered even if EuroGOOS is not research-focused as an ERIC is no less appropriate than an EIG.

- Could EuroGOOS be established as part of the IOC structure (which is intergovernmental)? An intergovernmental agency would cause significant difficulties in some countries (for example Italy) as well as excluding members who are not governmental.
- EuroGOOS could not become a part of EUMETNET, because a lot of EuroGOOS members are not meteorological institutes.

EuroGOOS therefore has the choice between an EIG or an ERIC. The Met Office has compared these two alternatives for EuroArgo, and the differences are not so big, but maybe an EIG is slightly more recommendable.

In some countries, such as the Netherlands, all such constructions have to go through parliament. However, to facilitate the process members can point out that the aim is not to form a new institution and emphasise that the same subscription level will be kept.

The construction of an EIG demands a lot of work and there is some concern about the workload. The members need to understand the implications concerning for example taxes and administrative routines. It is however a very flexible instrument.

EuroGOOS is not pioneering anymore and has a tendency towards a lack of energy. Will setting up an EIG help this? EUMETNET sets up specific projects, which has helped to get the work done. It might also help to encourage engagement from a higher level of member institutes. An EIG gives EuroGOOS the possibility to change, but doesn't force a change. A change would give EuroGOOS the opportunity to be more effective.

Members need time to look at the future structure in more detail. Some wanted lawyers to check the implications.

It is important to consider the relations between EuroGOOS and the ROOSs, and between EuroGOOS and a future European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting (ECOMF).

• **Decisions**

- The meeting agreed in principle to accept the recommendations of the EGFEG. The final decision about transforming EuroGOOS into an EIG has to be taken at the next Annual meeting.
- The meeting authorised the Board to continue the preparatory work for a transformation and to contact a lawyer for paid help with the legal aspect of forming an EIG.
- The EGFEG report needs to be revised. Comments can be sent to Erik Buch during the next 4 weeks. A new report will be circulated in March 2011. There is nobody representing the ROOSs in the EGFEG and one more enthusiastic member could be welcomed.
- It is very important to clarify the legal reasons justifying transition to an EIG. A separate legal document should be prepared during the next 6 months and distributed by June 2011.
- The Belgian authorities are prepared to offer facilities for a EuroGOOS office in Brussels and the Board was authorised to investigate further.

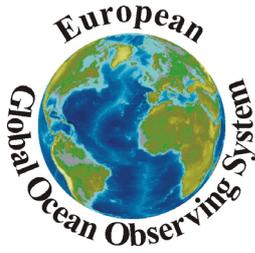
Most important is to get clarity on formulating the objectives (this point has been raised by Steve Noyes). The Chairman advised defining more generic objectives than in the present EuroGOOS Agreement.

• **Preparations**

4 documents need to be prepared

- 2-page motivation (to help gain support within agencies)
- The EuroGOOS objectives
- Work plan for the next 3 years
- Budget plan for the next 3 years, showing there are no financial implications

This forms a significant workload. It can be hard to reach the deadlines. Eventually a new Agreement will also be needed which will need to be made available at least 2 months in advance of the next Annual Meeting.



EG10.18

September 2010

Report from the Expert Group on the Future of EuroGOOS

Summary

This report reflects the work performed by the Expert Group on the Future of EuroGOOS established at the EuroGOOS Annual Meeting 2009. The reports include:

- A review of the past role and achievements of EuroGOOS
- Outline of the future need of Operational Oceanography in Europe
- Outline of the future role of EuroGOOS:
 - Link to the future European Centre for Operational Marine Forecasting which the GMES Marine Core Service project MyOcean will develop into.
 - Coordination of observations
 - Specialized regional/local forecasting activities
 - Promotion of operational oceanography
 - Participation and coordination of development projects and programmes
 - Acting as a user group for GMES Marine Core Service

A strong organisation is required if EuroGOOS is to fulfil these tasks in a reliable and trustworthy manner. The Expert Panel therefore recommends that the EuroGOOS members approve the recommendation to make EuroGOOS a legal entity by registering EuroGOOS as an Economic Interest Group.

1. Introduction

The EuroGOOS Annual Meeting 2009 in Sopot, Poland decided to establish an expert group with the task of assessing the future tasks and organizational structure of EuroGOOS in order to meet the demands of its members, European Union initiatives and the global GOOS.

At its meeting in January 2010 the EuroGOOS Board approved the Terms of Reference for the Expert Group and its composition.

Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on the Future of EuroGOOS (EGFEG):

The Expert Group shall:

1. initially base its work on the EuroGOOS documents EG09.20 (Chairman's report), EG09.25 (Director's report), EG09.26 and EG09.27 (Workshop reports)
2. assess the potential tasks of a central European institution for establishing operational oceanographic services which meet the demands of European Union initiatives such as GMES and EMODNET and define the interfaces to national services
3. investigate possible organisational structures to give EuroGOOS a legal status and a formal ability to represent the members, taking into consideration for example the ECMWF and EUMETNET
4. consider the alternative of establishing operational structure(s) in parallel with EuroGOOS
5. investigate the alternative of national membership
6. seek support from the EuroGOOS members for the chosen solution(s)
7. prepare draft agreement(s), if necessary with external expert support
8. report progress at each EuroGOOS Board meeting, and if needed propose amendments to these terms of reference
9. present a "road map" before July 2010
10. aim at a final solution to be implemented by autumn 2011.

The group is recommended to find support in the development of the EIG EUMETNET.

Members of the EGFEG:

Erik Buch, Chair
Glenn Nolan
Georges Pichot
Alessandro Crise
Pierre Bahurel
Kostas Nittis
Enrique A. Fanjul
Harm Oterdoom
Trevor Guymer
Mike Bell
Peter Ehlers, ex officio
Hans Dahlin, ex officio

Activities of the EGFEF

The EGFEF has since its establishment worked primarily by correspondence and conducted 2 meetings:

- 17 February 2010 in Copenhagen
- 18 May 2010 in Gijon

The report was approved by the EuroGOOS Board at its meeting on 6-7 September 2010 in Hamburg.

2. Outcome of EGFEF work in 2010

EGFEF has in its discussions focused on the following subjects:

- The future role of EuroGOOS
- Organizational structure

Taking into account the past work of EuroGOOS and the wider GOOS and JCOMM community.

This will be reported in detail in the following sections.

2.1 Review of past role and achievements of EuroGOOS

EuroGOOS has since its formation in 1994 been very successful in introducing the concept of operational oceanography in Europe, and has played an important role in initiating coordination of operational activities in the European regional seas and the establishment of the ROOSs.

The key to the success of this work has been the strategy that the real operational work (observations, forecasting, and dissemination of products) is best done nationally by the EuroGOOS members. EuroGOOS has facilitated this work and its development by:

- Establishing a network of key players in operational oceanography (EuroGOOS members). This network has formed the basis for partnership in many EU-funded projects as well as the GMES Marine Core Services project MyOcean and its predecessors MERSEA Strand 1 and MERSEA IP.
- Providing a forum for establishing regional cooperation in the various ROOSs
- Facilitating the integration of non-EU countries within ROOSs activities
- Providing a forum for discussion of science, technology development, data exchange (formats, quality etc) and products in relation to operational oceanography
- Helping to make the case for the Jason satellite altimetry missions in association with EUMETSAT
- Promoting operational oceanography in Europe
- Acting as a consultant to various EU DGs on operational oceanography. This seems to be an increasing activity, which is valuable for the EuroGOOS members
- Representing Europe and EuroGOOS members in various global organizations and programmes such as GOOS, JCOMM etc. The organisational structure of GOOS may today be relatively weak and JCOMM is traditionally dominated by meteorology¹, but it is important for the EuroGOOS members that European capabilities and strategies are promoted globally due to their engagement in capacity building activities, GEOSS etc.

¹ JCOMM, an implementing body, focuses on meteorological and climatological scales and variables, which means that operational oceanography scales and ecosystem variables are more a question for GOOS/Coastal GOOS. JCOMM regards GOOS Regional Alliances, GRAs, as responsible for implementation in coastal areas. EuroGOOS is active in coordinating GRAs and chairs the GOOS Regional Council.

Although EuroGOOS has already made a tremendous and successful contribution on these matters the work is far from being finalized and EuroGOOS still has an important role to play in undertaking the above mentioned tasks on behalf of its members.

2.2 The future needs of Operational Oceanography in Europe

The context for EuroGOOS and operational oceanography will continue to be a global one. The oceans are not constrained by national boundaries and the waters within the European domain at any one time will have been undergone modification at sites thousands of kilometres away. Moreover, European seas both respond and contribute to regional variations in climate on seasonal, decadal and longer time scales.

It is therefore important that the developments in building observing and modelling systems and associated services in Europe take account of and inform about what is happening on the international scene. At present, this is done primarily through I-GOOS and JCOMM. However, various problems in achieving full implementation of the global ocean observing system have been highlighted in a report by James Baker, and IOC and WMO member states have agreed that a review of JCOMM will be carried out in the next few months. Responses to these studies are likely to lead to significant changes in future plans for implementation and governance. It is vital that, having led the way in developing a regional approach, Europe continues to play a leading role on the international scene.

A key point, though, is that the requirement for operational oceanography is not driven by researchers but by a wide spectrum of users, including those responsible for developing and implementing marine policy. This must be reflected in the identification of priorities and governance arrangements.

It is also important to recognize that the requirements for operational oceanography in Europe continue to expand as national and EU frameworks for marine stewardship are implemented. Greater emphasis is being placed, for example, on regular assessments of the marine environment and on establishing cost-effective multi-hazard warning systems. There is a danger that these and other emerging needs will be treated separately. However, scientifically, technologically and financially it makes sense to bring them into a single, coherent system as far as is possible. An overseeing body with a proven marine science base such as EuroGOOS will continue to be required to achieve this.

2.3 The role of EuroGOOS

General considerations

The members of EGFEG unanimously agree that EuroGOOS has an important role to play in the marine community of Europe in the future and EGFEG has identified a number of specific tasks/roles for which EuroGOOS is uniquely placed to take responsibility. It is however important that the activities of EuroGOOS are closely coordinated with other initiatives, especially the GMES Marine Core Service, in order to avoid overlaps and conflicts. It is equally important that EuroGOOS takes care to act and develop in a manner that provides added value to its members (to make EuroGOOS an attractive organization to support).

Before giving detailed descriptions of these tasks it is important to stress that in the opinion of EGFEG, EuroGOOS should not be an organization responsible for day-to-day operational oceanographic services, but should act as a coordinating and service organization to the benefit of its members' responsibilities and operational services. EGFEG favours the idea that day-to-day core operational oceanographic services at a European level should preferably be provided by another European organization, based on the MyOcean project developments – a European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting (ECOMF). The arguments for the split into two organisations are:

- The membership and roles of the two organisations are very different and therefore require different organisational structures and management systems:

- EuroGOOS should include all the relevant agencies and institutes in Europe working in the field of operational oceanography, since their representation is one of its first drivers; whereas ECOMF will be first driven by its operational mission and as a centre may consist of only a few institutions which is a subset of the EuroGOOS members.
- EuroGOOS should represent the views of its members and seek to provide reliable advice to EU bodies (DGs, EEA, EMSA etc), intergovernmental bodies, politicians and decisions makers on the requirements for operational services ; whereas ECOMF will have a clear mandate to produce operational oceanographic services 365 days per year
- The use of the ECOMF European service by EuroGOOS members will be encouraged; a situation where the European core information is elaborated by ECOMF, and the added-value information and services elaborated by EuroGOOS members for the benefit of national and end-users.

It is however essential that a close cooperation is established between EuroGOOS and ECOMF, since they together constitute a recognised European expertise and excellence in operational oceanography at a practical, scientific, management and political level. It is therefore suggested to establish strong links between the two organisations through representation in each others board. EuroGOOS being represented in the ECOMF board can assist ECOMF in defining priorities and requirements on an ongoing basis and especially guide its developments in line with downstream service provision.

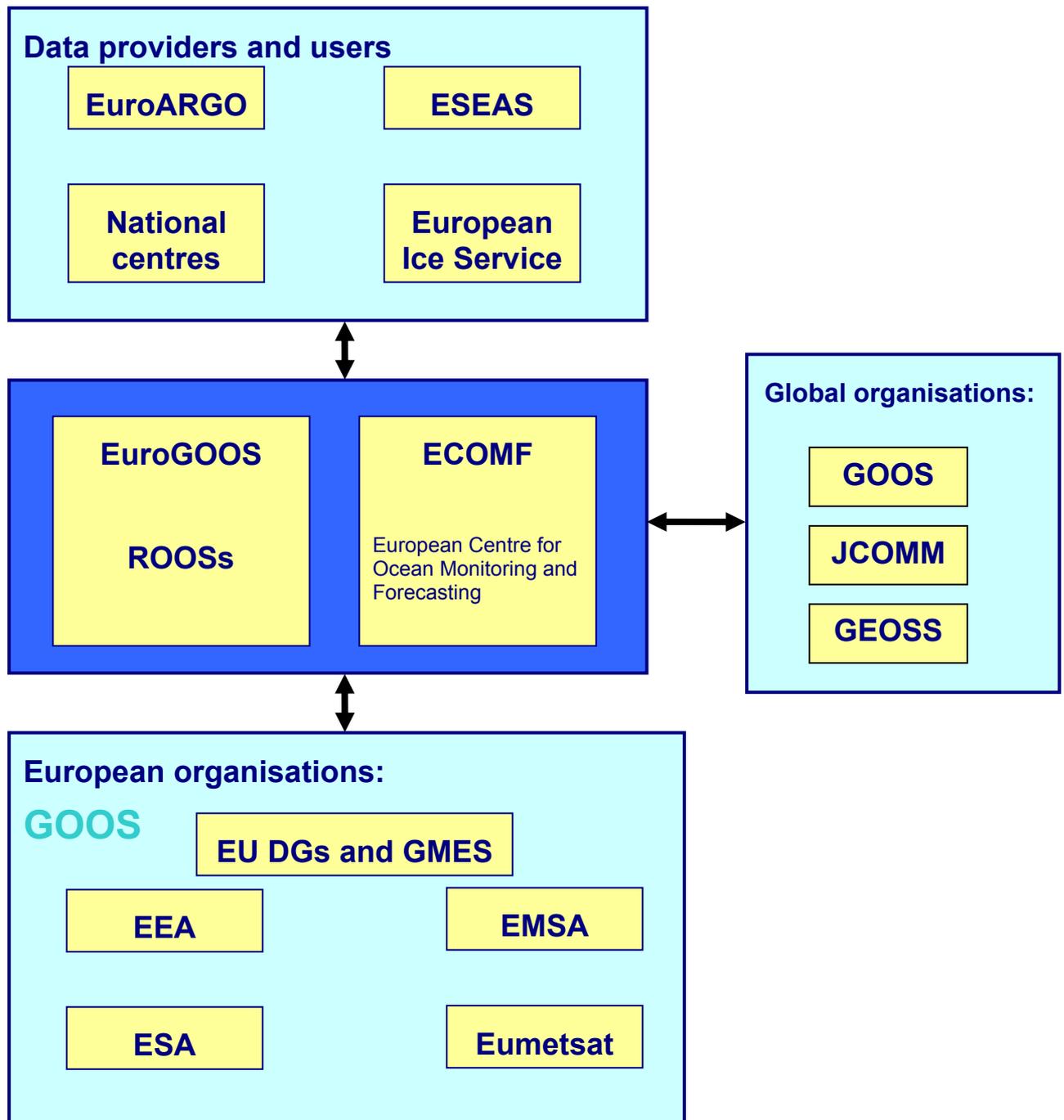


Fig. 1. Diagram showing the links from EuroGOOS and ECOMF to the surrounding world:

- Existing organisations responsible for various observation systems
- European organisations
- Global organisations

Coordination of observations

Many of the members of EuroGOOS and the ROOSs have substantial marine monitoring activities. Over the last decade, EuroGOOS and the ROOSs have played pivotal roles in facilitating agreements to extend and improve the real-time dissemination of monitoring data. EuroGOOS and the ROOSs are

uniquely placed to continue this work. Thus this should remain one of the key roles for EuroGOOS in the future.

The role of EuroGOOS shall be the following:

- EuroGOOS is expected to take over the coordination of the deployment and implementation of marine observational systems, the harmonization of the marine infrastructures, to secure the timely delivery of qualified observation for the marine environment, providing also a bridge with the space community.
- Observations are carried out nationally, but not all national real-time data are available for open access. EuroGOOS has made progress in this field and is the best-placed organization to clarify and resolve this problem
- EuroGOOS shall give advice to the responsible national services which observations are needed from a European perspective.
- EuroGOOS is the obvious organisation to coordinate the requirements for the downstream services
- There already exist a number of efforts for European coordination of observation of single parameters e.g. ESEAS (water level), EuroARGO (Argo floats). In an operational context this is an impractical setup and EuroGOOS has a big task to create an organizational coordination setup to the benefit of operational oceanography – such an agreement has already been reached with ESEAS.
- Facilitate regional co-production – could be regional open ocean platforms (present national systems normally are situated in near shore national coastal waters)
- Advocate development of new observations platforms suited for operational oceanography, but to make the investments more attractive it will be beneficial if the observation systems also can serve other purposes – multisensor, long-term climate time series, standards etc.
- Initiate and facilitate observations and exchange of other parameters than the physical in particular bio-geo-chemical parameters
- Work on securing systems generated under research project is made sustainable like the SEPRISE system.
- EMODNET is a European system to make marine/maritime data and knowledge available for a wide range of purposes as e.g. decision-making and R&D. EuroGOOS has a role to foster and possibly manage a sustained availability and exchange of data within its area of competence.
- Work with EEA on defining observation needs for the Marine Core Service
- Advocacy for space-related observations continuing and expanding a role EuroGOOS played in the past. This is needed because there remain problems in achieving continuity when many of the potential missions continue to be funded as one-off research activities. It must be ensured that the European dimension of operational oceanography is represented in the various fora that exist to coordinate earth observation missions.

Forecasting

The development of the GMES Marine Core Service through the MyOcean project and formalised in the European Centre for Operational Marine Forecasting /ECOMF) secures a European capacity on provision of the basic operational oceanographic core forecasting products globally and especially for the regional seas of Europe. These will serve as a good basis for production of specialised downstream services which naturally is the responsibility of national organisations i.e. the EuroGOOS members. Typical examples of such services could be:

- Coastal downscaling

- Oilspill drift
- Waves
- Research and development
- Coordination of downstream steam requirements for core services

EuroGOOS has an important role in this context:

- Coordination of downstream requirements for core services
- Facilitate coordination and development relevant downstream products
- Securing equal quality and standards for operational forecasting products in all regions/ROOSs

Promotion

Everybody engaged in operational oceanography – providers and direct users - are convinced about the value of the products and services provided, so convinced that we often forget that other important stakeholder (politicians and other governmental decision makers, science community, potential direct users etc) do not have the same knowledge and understanding of the benefit of operational oceanography. Therefore EuroGOOS, assembling all expertise, and having an authoritative voice, has an important role to:

- Inform about what operational oceanography is and its values to the society
- Make consensus in the marine society on what “operational” means
- Disseminate the achievements obtained through the many projects focusing on operational oceanography funded by EU over the past 10 years (also forward looking)
- Promote national and regional activities and products
- Promote European operational oceanography in European organizations EEA, EMSA, ESA, HELCOM, OSPARCOM, BARCELONA, ESF etc.
- Promote European operational oceanography in global fora (IOC/I-GOOS, JCOMM, GEOSS)
- Organize EuroGOOS conferences and participate with presentations in a variety of other conferences in Europe and abroad
- Publish key documents, strategies and EuroGOOS reports

Projects and programmes

Since its beginning EuroGOOS has been actively involved in many of the EU-funded projects with an operational oceanographic focus, a few projects with a direct involvement but the major part in a role as advisor. This strong EuroGOOS involvement has had a very positive effect on the project implementation, but especially in relation to promotion of operational oceanography in Europe and to keep operational oceanography on the political agenda in EU and nationally.

It is valuable to the EuroGOOS members that EuroGOOS takes an active role in as many projects as possible since this contributes to securing that the many projects are moving in the right direction in relation to EuroGOOS strategies and securing that project developments are utilized after the end of the project. It is especially in projects with a strong component of demonstration of services, policy, administrative information collection etc. that the EuroGOOS Office can play an active role. Additionally EuroGOOS has a strong role to push/coordinate/oversee/guide the development of downstream services at pan-European level, since EuroGOOS has the capacity and network to act as the bridge between the core service and the ultimate end-user.

However due to the present organizational structure of EuroGOOS (not being a legal entity) the EuroGOOS engagement in the many projects has from an overall point of view been relatively weak, and it is highly desirable that EuroGOOS in the future can have a more central and active role in the

planning, coordination and implementation of projects and programs as a coordinating and service organization to the benefit of its members. However as EuroGOOS is not a legal entity who can sign contracts on equal terms as other partners in the projects - the EuroGOOS Office host has to act as the legal entity on behalf of EuroGOOS. This solution weakens the position of EuroGOOS and in the long run is not reasonable and acceptable as it hinders EuroGOOS to cooperate with other bodies an equal terms.

Acting as User Group for MCS

The EU GMES organization as well as the management of the European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting (ECOMF) – the GMES Marine Core Services - need a group of national experts to be formed which can provide definitive guidance on the priorities and requirements of national and other downstream services for marine core services. This group needs to evolve within 2-3 years into one which has sufficient status to be recognized by the European Commission. In the longer term it needs to be capable of playing a key responsibility for the governance of the marine core service. EuroGOOS include the national agencies and institutes best placed to provide this guidance. EuroGOOS would hereby greatly assist the consolidation of the marine core services.

3. Organizational structure and governance

The present EuroGOOS organization is based on the “**EuroGOOS Agreement**” approved at the EuroGOOS annual meeting in Madrid December 1999. This agreement only allows for a very weak organization, in principle EuroGOOS only is only a club of members (national institutions having an operational obligation) and EuroGOOS is not a legal entity.

At the EuroGOOS annual meeting 2009 contributions from the EuroGOOS top management (chair and director) as well as the following discussion among the members emphasized the need to strengthen the organizational structure of EuroGOOS to enable it to act as equal partner to cooperating organizations and towards EU (EU has expressed a wish to have legal body within operational oceanography to cooperate with) and to carry out its tasks as described above in a trustworthy and reliable manner.

Making the EuroGOOS organization stronger requires making EuroGOOS a legal entity. There are various ways to do this:

- Intergovernmental organization
- An intergovernmental organization is in many ways an attractive solution for an organization like EuroGOOS. The problem however is the creation of an intergovernmental organization requires a long preparation phase. It will also require national membership.
- Economic Interest Group (EIG)
- It is a possible solution to EuroGOOS and should be fairly easy and quick to implement. EUMETNET has just gone through the process and EuroGOOS can draw on the experiences of EUMETNET
- European Research Infrastructure (ERI)
- Is in principle a possible solution to EuroGOOS, and should be fairly easy and quick to implement. EGFEG however feels it will be a wrong signal to send to register an organization that shall coordinate operational oceanographic cooperation as a research infra structure
- National registrations such as Private Limited Company (UK), Société Civil (France) or Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH) (Germany).
- Is a possible solution and generally easy to implement. It can however be questioned if EuroGOOS will gain the required power and creditability if it is organized as a private company in one of these countries, and it might also be foreseen that some partners may have problems in join/ be shareholder in such a company.

EGFEG recommends that a new organization for EuroGOOS shall be based on the present membership of institutions i.e. no transfer to national membership. However, a solution has to be found in case members from one State express different views on important issues; in such a case a mechanism is required that these members speak with one single “national voice”

It is also desirable that, where appropriate, the membership include member states representatives as key users, e.g. those charged with management of waters under national jurisdiction.

Based on the above-mentioned possible solutions EGFEG suggests registering EuroGOOS as an Economic Interest Group (EIG). The following table investigates the positive and negative aspects of such a step compared to the keeping the present structure:

Evaluation:

Subject	Present organization		Economic Interest Group	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
European recognition		Weak	Possibility stronger	
Political influence		weak	Possibility stronger	
Project and program engagement		Indirect through host institute	Strong – possible to be partner in project, make contracts etc	
Operation of EuroGOOS Office (administration, personnel etc)		Dependent on host organization	Will be able to act independently - Cash flow, invoice handling, hiring personnel.	Will mean more administrative duties
Tax	No tax			Will most likely have to pay tax (EUMETNET negotiates right now)