

## **ECOMF Strategic Partnership Outline of action plan**

### **1. What is the ECOMF Strategic Partnership?**

The ECOMF (European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting) Strategic Partnership is an alliance between the future European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting, implemented to deliver the Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting component of the GMES Marine Service and the national institutions that deliver to the public operational oceanography services.

This alliance, implemented in collaboration with EuroGOOS and its members, has the objective to jointly develop and promote the operational oceanography services and information in Europe, in order to better comply with the requirements of their generic and key users, to improve their quality and performances and to prepare their evolution according to the state-of-the-art of ocean monitoring and forecasting.

### **2. Who are the partners of the ECOMF Strategic Partnership?**

They are:

- The national institutions proven to provide operational oceanography services, at least over their national maritime domain during the last decade, following the relevant developments implemented in the frame of past and recent programmes funded by the EU and/or national authorities, and which deliver their services to national and/or regional key users;
- The members of the future ECOMF, which are pooling their resources for the provision of the GMES Marine Service.

### **3. How the ECOMF Strategic Partners are involved in the ECOMF preparatory activities?**

ECOMF is currently in its design phase, especially regarding its scope, its membership, its decision-making process and its financial model. This design phase should continue until the signatory of the ECOMF Agreement by the ECOMF members, planned for end 2013.

For this purpose, a group of 14 entities has agreed – through a Memorandum of Understanding – to be involved in the ECOMF preparatory activities.

The ECOMF Strategic Partnership provides the appropriate framework for organising and structuring the exchanges between the entities preparing ECOMF and the relevant national institutions providing operational oceanography services. For formalising these exchanges, an ECOMF Mission Group involving both representatives of the 14 entities preparing ECOMF and of the national centres providing operational oceanography services and signatories of the ECOMF Strategic Partnership could be set-up.

This ECOMF Mission Group should meet twice a year during the ECOMF design and preliminary implementation phase, i.e. until 2015.

#### **4. What are the main issues to be addressed through the ECOMF Strategic Partnership during the ECOMF design and implementation phase?**

These issues include:

- ***The respective scopes of ECOMF and the strategic partner services***
  - The scopes of the national ECOMF strategic partner services must be complied with those of ECOMF
  - The duplication of information and service between the European and national levels should be avoided
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners should benefit from economies of scale induced by the European service
- ***The involvement of national ECOMF strategic partners in the expertise and dissemination of ECOMF information at national level***
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners should be involved in the assessment of ECOMF products and report on this issue
  - The national users should benefit from the expertise of their national ECOMF strategic partner, either on ECOMF information or on the national ECOMF strategic partner service information
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners should be involved in the ECOMF user support activities
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners should contribute to a better dissemination of ECOMF data
- ***The provision of observation data to ECOMF by its strategic partners***
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners should be involved in the provision of observation data – mainly collected by in-situ observation infrastructure – to ECOMF
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners could in particular coordinate the link between the national observation infrastructure operators and ECOMF
- ***The R&D activities for the evolution of ECOMF and national strategic partner services***
  - The ECOMF and its national strategic partner services should be jointly improved and their evolution should be addressed in close cooperation
  - A joint R&D action plan for the medium-long term should be established and periodically updated
  - EU and national funding should be sought for these R&D activities
- ***The training and outreach activities***
  - Training and outreach activities are of major importance for user uptake
  - The national ECOMF strategic partners should be involved in the definition of training activities and should organise their training

approach at national or and regional level, the latter jointly with other ECOMF strategic partners

- Outreach material – for training and other purposes – based on ECOMF and national ECOMF strategic partner service information should be prepared and disseminated at national level by the ECOMF strategic partners

## **5. Action plan definition and implementation**

After agreement on the ECOMF Strategic Partnership process and on the main issues to be addressed, the action plan should be defined and implemented.