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Director's Report 2012

During 2012 the EuroGOOS Office has continued the increasing close co-operation with the Chair, and consequently the Chairman's report also covers a large part of the work of the Office. I will try avoiding duplication in my report.

Besides the EuroGOOS transition, the Office priorities during 2012 have been to secure a sustainable access to physical data from near real time stations, their time series and other unpublished data sets. Traditional office activities have continued in parallel with these priorities.

As I reported in the 2011 Director's Report the relationship between EuroGOOS and the ROOSs was unclear. Efforts have been made during the year to clarify this and to strengthen both the ROOSs and EuroGOOS. Besides attending ROOS activities the Office invited the ROOS chairs to discuss the relationship and the respective roles at a meeting in September. It was agreed that:

ROOSs are

- *the operational arm of EuroGOOS*
- *regional networks, built on formal agreements, open for non-EuroGOOS members*
- *self-governing at regional level*
- *acting as part of EuroGOOS at European and Global level.*

Recommendations from the meeting are being discussed in the different ROOSs, and are also implemented in the Draft Rules of EuroGOOS AISBL.

The contributions by the ROOSs have been important in several EU projects and EuroGOOS is trying to transfer project funding directly to ROOSs to support the work.

The ROOSs play the most important role in the production and availability of *in situ* data and regional forecasts. The Office has promoted this role of the ROOSs in its contacts with EEA/GISC, DG MARE/EMODnet and DG Enterprise/GMES.

For more than ten years the Office has been involved in the promotion, design and development of GMES Marine (Core) Services. Early this year DG Enterprise held a GMES Marine Workshop where I gave one of the introductory talks on the MCS Implementation Plan. This year the GMES Bureau has intensified their efforts within the marine part of GMES. MyOcean2 is continuing to build and demonstrate the feasibility of the plans, while the Bureau is working on how to provide the best possible funding of the Initial Operational Phase. The financial requests have been presented, but there is not yet any agreement between the Member States. The MyOcean partners that run operational centres are stepwise establishing a consortium, ECOMF, which can offer to run the GMES Marine Services in the initial phase. I have represented EuroGOOS in that work, and emphasised the need for finding roles for all EuroGOOS members in the future system. The so-called Nicosia Declaration (document EG12.21) is a means to involve a wider participation and responsibility.

DGMARE/EMODnet is a programme in support of EU Knowledge 2020 and Marine spatial Planning. The Commission is supported by an expert group, MODEG, which I chaired during the first years and where I have continued to be a member. Even if EMODnet aims at producing knowledge and information at a higher aggregated level the main activities focus on making data accessible. The work is in line with EuroGOOS priorities, and the EuroGOOS Office and several members are active in EMODnet Preparatory Projects. As part of the EMODnet Physics Project (EMODnet PP) the Office has continued to host regional meetings to promote access to national and institutional data, and also the establishment of regional hubs. The work has been very successful and the EuroGOOS Office has taken part in a new bid for a continuation project. That bid includes a strong role for the ROOSs.

An earlier Annual Meeting stated that the EuroGOOS Office should participate in EU projects by bringing expertise into the projects. Besides EMODnet PP the Office has in 2012 participated in meetings for JERICO, MyOcean1 and 2, SeaDataNet, SEAS-ERA, and MARCOM+. At the request of EUMETSAT the Office has participated in the preparation of the GMES-PURE project (Partnership for User Requirement Evaluation), which has now been granted for three years by the Commission. The project will define the GMES needs for marine satellite observations. The Office has also participated in a response to a DG MARE call for tender on Growth and innovation in ocean economy - Gaps and priorities in sea basin observation and data for the Greater North Sea area.

As a GOOS Regional Alliance, EuroGOOS has been represented at the IOC Executive Council and the Fourth Session of JCOMM. The joint committee for meteorology and oceanography has been fully dominated by meteorologists. The Office has for several years tried to promote a better participation by European oceanographers. The fourth session was a big improvement and several positions in working groups are now occupied by EuroGOOS colleagues. Nadia Pinardi was elected co-chair of JCOMM representing oceanography. Patrick Gorringer is member of the JCOMM/IODE Expert Team on Data Management Practices (ETDMP).

EuroGOOS has for many years had a good co-operation with ICES. This co-operation became more formalised during the year as a legacy of the MARCOM+ project. EuroGOOS hosted the ICES WG on Operational Oceanography for Fisheries and Environment in Brussels. EuroGOOS was also represented at the ICES Annual Science Conference, where the long session on producing information for the Maritime Strategy Framework Directive was of particular interest.

As a member of the ESA Earth Science Advisory Committee I participate in two meetings per year.

A contract has been successfully negotiated with the Belgian Science Policy Office. The new EuroGOOS Office will have two rooms including basic equipment, with access to all joint facilities in the BELSPO Building. BELSPO is providing this free of charge. EuroGOOS has been able to make use of the meeting rooms for half a year, and during the last month has temporarily used one of the office rooms. From January the EuroGOOS Office will be located there with the address Avenue de Louise 231, Brussels.

The basic proposal is that members will second the Office personnel. How seconding members will be reimbursed in the most cost-efficient way has been a cause of some concern. The Office has been using Belgian legal advisors to find a good solution for all parties. SMHI will be contracted for accounting and personnel management during the transition time until EuroGOOS AISBL is fully established and operating.

Patrick Gorringer, Siân Petersson and I have worked in the EuroGOOS Office at SMHI during 2012. Due to the planned move of the Office to Brussels, Siân has already partly started to work with new tasks at SMHI, and will transfer to SMHI next year, with the agreement that some of her time will be available to EuroGOOS during the transition period. Patrick follows the Office to Brussels, and I will retire at the end of 2012.

Hans Dahlin, EuroGOOS Director 2001-2012