

# EuroGOOS Executive Board Meeting

27-28 January 2016

EuroGOOS/BELSPO offices, Brussels

Report – draft

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## 1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

Erik Buch welcomed the Executive Board members. He introduced a new secretariat member: Vicente Fernandez joined the team in Brussels as Science Officer in November 2015.

Erik Buch presented the agenda and asked for comments. No comments were received and the meeting agenda was approved.

## 2. Approval of the last meeting report and actions update

The Executive Board approved the October 2015 meeting report. The meeting was held jointly with chairs of EuroGOOS activities.

Discussion and updates on the meeting actions included:

- Action on MSFD: Glenn Nolan informed the meeting that the MSFD regional assessments are coordinated between EuroGOOS, ROOSes, OSPAR and HELCOM. Delivery of this consolidated advice is foreseen by April 2016, the main focus will be on products. Urmas Lips added that HELCOM and CMEMS will present their inputs for the April assessment (deadline: late March).
- Actions on EuroGOOS TPWG: the current WG's focus is on delivery of the WG report 'Technologies Underpinning Operational Oceanography'; afterwards the chair will propose revisions to the ToR making the WG's emphasis more cross-cutting. Furthermore, the membership will be reviewed. The updates will be presented at the EuroGOOS General Assembly in May.
- Action on membership strategy and benefits brochure: the Office updated the meeting that the brochure is presented at ROOS meetings.
- Action on GOOS Steering Group (SG) meeting: the Executive Board members, Rosalia Santoleri and Pierre-Yves Le Traon as well as EuroGOOS Secretary General Glenn Nolan are members of the GOOS SG. They will prepare a joint presentation at the upcoming SG meeting in early June. Among other topics, the presentation will promote the crucial role of the GOOS Regional Alliances in achieving the GOOS strategic objectives.
- Actions on EOOS: the Executive Board received the Office EOOS proposal document and accepted it without comments. The document summarises the EOOS objectives and governance proposal, and outlines the focus of the EOOS actions. The summary report of the EOOS brainstorming workshop, organized jointly by EuroGOOS and European Marine Board (EMB) in May 2015, is also included. The Executive Board received this document further to the EOOS presentation from the Office, right after their October 2015 meeting. Subsequently, the document was made available to the EuroGOOS members. Glenn Nolan updated the meeting on the development of the EMB working group (WG) on the biological component of EOOS. The EMB took some delay in the development of the WG and the membership list was still pending. EuroGOOS will make suggestions to the membership list when it becomes available.

## 3. Report from the Office

### **EuroGOOS Conference 2014**

Glenn Nolan updated the meeting on the status of the proceedings of the last EuroGOOS conference in 2014. The proceedings will be published digitally and printed on demand. A subset of the conference papers will be released in the peer-reviewed Ocean Sciences Journal of the EGU, in a special EuroGOOS issue. In total, it is foreseen to release 13 papers. However, this involves a cost,

about 1,000€ per manuscript. Another concern is that the papers may appear in different time, which would reduce the impact of this EuroGOOS special issue.

The Executive Board agreed to the Office proposal to publish the full proceedings without a peer-review. The publication is foreseen in late spring.

## Membership

Glenn Nolan updated the meeting on the progress of the membership expansion. The meeting discussed the geographical boundaries for EuroGOOS membership – open to the European continent. Concerns were expressed over the political climate hindering scientific cooperation with Russia and Crimea. It was noted that Russia includes a large number of sea basins, not just the Black Sea.

ENEA, Italy, left EuroGOOS at the end of 2015 for internal reasons; a possibility remains for them to re-join in the future. Cyprus Oceanography Centre experienced financial problems but were able to pay the 2015 subscription.

In terms of the overall membership strategy, Pierre-Yves Le Traon suggested that efforts are primarily directed towards the organizations already benefiting from EuroGOOS but not being a member and therefore not paying a subscription.

**Action 1:** Collect the Executive Board views of the membership expansion and identify a priority subgroup (Office based on the Executive Board comments, June 2016).

## GEO updates

The GEO 10-year work plan is coming to an end. To prepare a new plan, a GEO Programme Board was established. Erik Buch is member, on behalf of IOC/GOOS, representing oceans. Erik Buch is also observer to the GEO Executive Committee

Bernd Brugge mentioned that data policy is being discussed in GEO. He stressed the importance of avoiding a clash with the CMEMS standards.

Erik Buch offered to circulate the Office internal reports on GEO and relevant other meetings to the Exec. Board. It was decided to add a restricted webpage for the Exec. Board only, in addition to the pages open to members.

**Action 2:** Create a special access to the restricted pages for the Executive Board's documents (Dina Eparkhina, 29 February 2016).

## JCOMM updates

Erik Buch is a co-chair of a new JCOMM task team on linking meteo and ocean data for the WMO WIS system (TT MOWIS).

The meeting expressed that the ocean component is not visible in JCOMM, whereas JCOMM was considered the implementation of GOOS. Erik Buch pointed out that the main implementers of GOOS are the GOOS Regional Alliances. The lack of ocean/IOC-GOOS visibility on JCOMM and the predominance of WMO is related to the funding and staffing (IOC suffered from budget cuts due to the US withdrawal as UNESCO members with the recognition of the Palestinian state).

The meeting stated that WMO is an important stakeholder, especially as the WMO decisions are binding, while the IOC can only make recommendations.

## Communication

Dina Eparkhina presented the communications updates. The EuroGOOS communication is being developed as a strategic imperative for growth, strengthening the EuroGOOS visibility and recognition as a leading pan-European ocean observing network. To this end, a number of targeted communication and dissemination tools are used:

- Presentations at meetings and networking - importance to transmit a clear and harmonized message across all activities;
- Promotional materials - new flyer was released in December;
- Online presence should include a rapid delivery of updates - website was enhanced with science-policy news alerts; Twitter following is growing fast;
- Showcase of activities at events and conferences via exhibition stands - two stands were organized since the last Exec. Board meeting, at the Atlantic Stakeholder Conference in October and during the COP 21 Ocean Days in December.

Dina Eparkhina attended the COP21 Ocean Days in Paris. A special flyer was published on this occasion. The flyer was presented personally to Commissioner Vella and Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC, and disseminated at the Global Ocean Forum stand, as well as a number of other stands. A report from the events was circulated to the EuroGOOS members via a special newsletter and published on the news page.

EuroGOOS opens participation in its conference stands to ROOSes, task teams and the EuroGOOS EU projects. The booth at the Atlantic Stakeholder conference (October 2015, Brest), in addition to EuroGOOS, included six other initiatives and projects (IBI-ROOS, AtlantOS, EMOdnet, Euro-Argo, Fix03, and JERICO-Next). Such an approach stresses the collaboration among related initiatives and promotes a common voice for the ocean observing community at science-policy events. The same approach will be adopted at the European Maritime Day exhibition.

Erik Buch and the Executive Board welcomed those efforts.

## 4. Finances

Glenn Nolan presented the draft report of the 2015 year closure and the 2016 budget projections. The following comments were made:

- It is important to make sure that the EU project income (in reality, the projects' actual expenditure as the EU grants are delivered upon the reports on use of funds) is accurately reported.
- Project overheads are on top of the projected amount. When reports are submitted to EC the overheads should be included.
- Project budgets should be considered on a multi-annual basis.
- Currently, the office uses 25% flat rate for the indirect costs (employment payroll company, accountant, equipment, etc). It should be reviewed whether this amount is realistic.
- Total available funds for running of the EuroGOOS office should be analysed against the staffing (currently, 4.3 full time equivalents, FTE). A yearly simulation of the staff effort in man months should be presented. It was noted, however, that overlap exists between staff

time on projects and staff time on core business, as all the EU projects are relevant to the EuroGOOS core activities.

- In terms of staffing, emphasis of the EuroGOOS office staff should be put on strategic activities. For technical tasks within the projects, secondment from member organizations can be considered.

**Action 3:** Include overheads in the budget projections in the GA report (Glenn Nolan, 27 May).

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**Action 4:** Estimate the indirect costs (Glenn Nolan, 27 May).

**Action 5:** Present a yearly simulation of staff effort in man months (Glenn Nolan, 27 May).

Other recommendations were made for the financial reporting to the GA:

- Explain the differences with the 2016 budget previously presented;
- Expenditure on projects can be presented as total for projects, but keep at hand the detailed figures on each project;
- Include reserve status;
- Clearly demonstrate the real cost of running the office.

## 5. Updates on activities

### ROOS updates

EuroGOOS Office liaised with all ROOS chairs with a request to deliver updates for the Executive Board meeting. The following information was received:

- Erik Buch presented the updates from the Arctic ROOS activities. Among the main developments are the launch of a new data portal and discussions with Iceland over potential EuroGOOS membership.
- Patrick Gorringer presented the MONGOOS updates. Among the main developments are strengthening links with GOOS Africa and trying to bring in the North-African data (firstly, from Morocco).
- Urmas Lips presented the BOOS updates. BOOS are developing a new strategy which will be launched at the BOOS annual meeting in Sopot on 17-19 May. A new website will also be released.
- Glenn Nolan presented the IBI-ROOS updates. IBI-ROOS will respond to an INTERREG call with a MyCoast proposal.
- NOOS updates include: a new strategy to be delivered by summer. The next annual meeting will take place on 18-20 October. NOOS is also preparing a new website.

### Working Groups

Working Group chairs were consulted in the preparation for the meeting. The following updates were received:

- Patrick Gorringer presented the DATAMEQ WG progress. The last meeting took place in Ostend in October 2015 during the EMODnet Jamboree, jointly with the EMODnet physics portal meeting. Emphasis of the current DATAMEQ activities is in filling the gap between (near)real-time and archived data: both SeaDataNet follow on and EMODnet phase 3 projects will have this as tasks. DATAMEQ continues to promote the use of SeaDataNet standards and unique

platform codes. EuroGOOS actively continues unlocking data, for example via regional meetings.

- Glenn Nolan informed the meeting that SAWG white paper on oceanographic priorities for Blue Growth was submitted in the Ocean Sciences Journal (along several other papers from EuroGOOS conference 2014).
- Erik Buch informed the meeting that PWG chair David Mills stepped down. The working group and its objectives are being revised. During the recent discussions with ICES WGOOFY there was a mutual interest to develop joint activities. This work may be also linked with the development of the CMEMS user uptake strategy.
- The Exec. Board recommended to finalize the MSFD white paper it can be envisaged to outsource it to a member, e.g. ISPRA. Furthermore, the Board accepted the Office proposal to organize a special session on MSFD products at the GA in May.

**Action 6:** Organize a special session on MSFD products at the EuroGOOS GA, 25-27 May 2016 (Office, 27 May).

### Task Teams

Patrick Gorringer updated the meeting on the Task Teams' activities.

- Tide Gauge Task Team completed its survey. The results will be presented at the EuroGOOS General Assembly meeting in May.
- Gliders Task Team is discussing inclusion of wave gliders.
- FerryBox Task Team is preparing a white paper on the needs and successes of the ferrybox platforms. The Task Team is strongly involved in the JERICO Next project.
- High Frequency Radar Task Team chair is not from a EuroGOOS member organization, so a co-chair from a member organization has been proposed. The Task Team also is represented on JERICO Next.
- The Animal-Borne Instruments, ABI, Task Team was discussed. The proposal for this task team was accepted by the Executive Board at their meeting in October 2015. The terms of reference and composition of the task team will be submitted for approval at the General Assembly annual meeting. Pierre-Yves Le Traon mentioned a need for an emphasis on new technologies in the task team (e.g. oxygen sensors), as well as the international initiatives in the area.
- Another new Task Team on Fixed Platforms is developing the members list, in consultation with other communities, notably, JERICO.
- The Euro-Argo updates were presented by Pierre-Yves Le Traon. The organization is now conducting a horizon-scanning exercise to develop a new strategic plan. It was suggested that all EuroGOOS Task Teams engage in such exercises for their communities, positioning themselves in a broader context.

### Data coordination

Patrick Gorringer informed the meeting of the successes in building closer links and synergies among ROOSes, SeaDataNet, CMEMS, and EMODnet. For example, EMODnet physics and CMEMS held a joint meeting which resulted in adding CMEMS products to the EMODnet physics portal.

## 6. GOOS

Glenn Nolan informed the meeting that EuroGOOS was initiating a Black Sea meeting to review the status of the Black Sea observing system and discuss strategies and plans to further its development, including the issue of sustained funding. The meeting is planned in Bucharest hosted by GeoEcoMar.

## 7. EOOS

Glenn Nolan presented the EOOS progress. During the discussion, a need to consult member states was stressed. It was also noted that EOOS will provide a strategic framework for the existing systems.

On the second day of the meeting, the composition of the EOOS steering group was further discussed. Glenn Nolan and Erik Buch presented a proposal to organize the governance structure in the following groups:

- A core steering group composed of a small number of experts in both ocean observing and science-policy landscape (co-chaired by Glenn Nolan for EuroGOOS and Niall McDonough for EMB);
- An advisory group representing a larger group of experts as well as pan-European and international initiatives; and
- An implementation group bringing together platform experts, regional systems and member state representatives.
- Different European Commission directorates-general supporting ocean observing-related initiatives may form the observers group on which European Commission GEO representative should also sit.

It was agreed to transmit this proposal to the core EOOS steering group for consideration.

### Post-meeting note:

The core steering group was convened in March in liaison with EMB and met for the first time on 18 April in the EuroGOOS premises. The Steering Group decided to develop a draft EOOS roadmap for an open stakeholder consultation and hold on the development of the governance structure until after the consultation.

Dina Eparkhina presented the EOOS communication plan and logo. The logo proposal was broadly supported. The Executive Board requested to check the copyright for some design elements of the logo before it is released.

**Action 7:** Develop the EOOS steering group terms of reference and draft membership list (EuroGOOS Office, 31 March 2016).

**Action 8:** Check the copyright for the EOOS logo design elements (Dina Eparkhina, 29 February, 2016).

## 8. EuroGOOS vision

In the changing policy landscape and in view of a growing number of EuroGOOS activities and EU projects and tenders, EuroGOOS Office is developing a document outlining the main strategic focus areas, helping optimize the staff efforts and set achievable and concrete strategic goals for the coming two-three years. The Executive Board welcomed this process. Rosalia Santoleri pointed out that it is important to prioritize also with the ROOSes, especially in developing future activities. Erik

Buch seconded this point and added that all EuroGOOS activities should be asked to feed back on the EuroGOOS priorities and tune their work accordingly. Bernd Brugge added that the prioritizing exercise will not only help keep the EuroGOOS strategy alive but also aid evaluation of success of EuroGOOS activities.

## 9. Running projects

Executive Board asked the Office to include a rationale for the participation in each project in the presentation to the General Assembly. This should particularly focus on the benefits for members and be demonstrated against the EuroGOOS strategic objectives.

The Office developed EU project overview sheets which include both general information on each project (duration, budget, coordination, EuroGOOS role), and a section on recent developments which is updated regularly. These documents were first presented to the EuroGOOS Board and Chairs meeting in October. It was decided to present them as part of the General Assembly meeting documents. Furthermore, it was decided to include the project relevance to EuroGOOS strategy on the sheets.

**Action 9:** Update the EU project sheets with project relevance to EuroGOOS strategy and disseminate the sheets to EuroGOOS members as part of the GA documents (Office, 25 May 2016).

George Petihakis raised a question of the staff effort management. While the number of projects is growing the available staff effort remains the same and it is important to have a good effort management scheme to insure that both the core and project tasks are delivered within the staff capacity. The Office was tasked to evaluate the staff capacity against the project work plans and the core business working areas.

**Action 10:** Deliver an overview of staff effort required for the EU projects and core EuroGOOS business (Glenn Nolan, 25 May 2016).

## 10. New project proposals

The Office asked for approval of their participation in two new projects:

- A contract with Mercator for delivery of advice on user uptake and communication strategy for Copernicus Marine Service; and
- A tender from EEA to help coordinate the ocean in-situ observations component of Copernicus.

The Board recognized that both projects are of a strategic relevance to the EuroGOOS objectives and approved the EuroGOOS participation.

## 11. Kostas Nittis Medal award 2016

The Kostas Nittis Medal to Young Researcher was established in 2015 and launched at the European Maritime Day 2015 in Athens in the presence of Commissioner Karmenu Vella. The winner of the 2015 award, Paolo Lorente of Puertos del Estado, submitted a very positive impact report on the usefulness of the award grant to support his participation in international conferences. The 2016 call for nominations will be open in February.



## 12. European Maritime Day 2016

Dina Eparkhina presented the DG MARE's plans for the EMD 2016. The meeting noted that the event represented a good opportunity to showcase the EuroGOOS activities and facilitation role at both regional, pan-European and global scales. Erik Buch suggested to focus the EuroGOOS involvement in EMD 2016 on the exhibition, rather than apply for a workshop. Workshop applications are commonly merged by DG MARE which results in a significant decrease of the workshop's potential to achieve its objectives.

## 13. EuroGOOS General Assembly

The dates were confirmed as 25 to 27 May. As agreed on the first day, a special session will be organized to discuss oceanographic products for various needs, among others, MSFD assessments and storm surge monitoring.

## 14. Executive Board elections

The first three-year mandates of both Urmas Lips and Bernd Brugge were coming to an end in May. Both Executive Board members stepped forward to run for a second mandate at the Assembly. Erik Buch's mandate as EuroGOOS chair was also coming to an end. According to the EuroGOOS Rules, Erik Buch can run for a second two-year mandate (while for the Executive Board mandates are both times three years). Erik Buch informed the Board of his willingness to continue serving EuroGOOS as chair; the Board welcomed this.

**Action 11:** Send out the call for Executive Board elections (Office, 29 February 2016).

## 15. EuroGOOS conference 2017

Stein Sandven, the conference host, will present his updates on the conference organization at the General Assembly. It was suggested to have the conference in September or October 2017. It was noted that dates of other events should be taken into account, e.g. the JCOMM meeting in Indonesia.

The meeting discussed a potential of making spaces available for EuroGOOS projects and partners' side meetings the same week.

**Action 12:** Relay to Stein Sandven that the priority period for the conference is September-October 2017; and request information of the possibility for hosting side meetings (Glenn Nolan, 29 February 2016).

## 16. Any Other Business (AOB)

WMO approached EuroGOOS to support Ocean Challenge. The Executive Board supported this.

## 17. Wrap-up

Erik Buch ran through the actions agreed at the meeting. The next meeting date was set for 24 and 25 May, prior to the General Assembly.

**Action 13:** Organize the Executive Board meeting on 24-25 May 2016 (Office, 24 May 2016).

## 18. Annexes

### **Annex 1: List of actions agreed at the Executive Board Meeting, 27-28 January 2016, Brussels**

**Action 1:** Collect the Executive Board views of the membership expansion and identify a priority subgroup (Office based on the Executive Board comments, June 2016).

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## Annex 2: List of meeting participants

### EuroGOOS Executive Board members

Name	Organization	Email
Erik Buch	EuroGOOS Chair	erik.buch@eurogoos.eu
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