

Open session

Agenda Item O2: Annual Report

Document O2.1: Office report

This report summarises the activities of the EuroGOOS Office in the reporting period (May 2022 - May 2023).

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1. EUROGOOS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the [EuroGOOS 2030 Strategy](#) (launched at the EuroGOOS International Conference in May 2021) is going ahead. The Office follows the Strategy [implementation plan](#), which is a living document outlining actions and deadlines for each of the five objectives of the strategy. It is being discussed with the Board of Directors how to better engage the EuroGOOS activity (co-) chairs in the elaboration of the Strategy implementation actions.

The hard copies of the Strategy are being disseminated through events and meetings and will be made available at the EuroGOOS stand at the European Maritime Day in Brest (24-25 May 2023). The Strategy is also promoted in the presentations the Office members are giving at meetings and events.

Five objectives of the Strategy and progress in the implementation are as follows:

- Objective 1 ‘Stimulate Communities of Practice’: EuroGOOS coordinates many communities of practice through its task teams, working groups and the regional systems (ROOS). Specific highlights on the execution of this objective are as follows.
 - Best practices have been promoted through the EuroSea project (standard operating procedures for gliders and data management in EuroSea WP3; lessons learnt on science-policy interfaces in WP8; enhancement of the biological observations in WP1).
 - The Office has been involved in the establishment of several UN Ocean Decade programmes and of the Decade Coordination Centre on Ocean Prediction (led by Mercator Ocean International) launched in January 2023. Furthermore, we are coordinating the Decade project Scientists for Ocean Literacy (executed through the EuroGOOS Ocean Literacy Working Group) strengthening the community of practice for ocean literacy in science. EuroGOOS DataMEQ WG has delivered community recommendations on the European FAIR data implementation and is preparing a new EuroGOOS data policy.
 - The EuroGOOS Argo task team updated their terms of reference for a better alignment with the 2030 Strategy.
- Objective 2 ‘Advocate for coordinated and integrated ocean observing and operational oceanography’:
 - This objective has been promoted through the EuroSea project, where Office is involved in three WPs (WP1 – ocean observing governance, WP3 – observing networks, and WP8 – communication – engagement, dissemination, exploitation, legacy). Many events and activities have been organised (see Document O3.1).
 - Work is ongoing for the CINEA tender on the EC initiative ‘Ocean Observations – Sharing Responsibility’. The initiative is expected to be a major step forward in sustaining member state support towards observations and the European Union coordination. Office is tasked to develop a prototype to report ocean observing activities and share this information with all via online interactive tool.
 - Office maintains active support to the EOOS Framework. [New EOOS strategy and roadmap for implementation](#) were prepared in the reporting period in liaison with the EOOS governing bodies. Successful [EOOS strategy launch webinar](#) took place in March 2023 (see Chapter 4).
- Objective 3 ‘Strengthen and expand partnerships’:
 - EU projects provide EuroGOOS a major opportunity to strengthen and expand partnerships. In projects EuroSea, DOORS, EEA COINS, JERICO S3 and DS, Blue-Cloud



2026 and others (see Document O3.1), the Office is promoting the EuroGOOS priorities working closely with both EuroGOOS member and non-member organisations. The DOORS project has opened new avenues for collaboration with the Black Sea countries, currently not represented in the EuroGOOS membership. Discussions have started on the establishment of a EuroGOOS ROOS for the Black Sea. Furthermore, the DOORS coordinator GeoEcoMar (Romania) have been approached with an explanation of the benefits of EuroGOOS membership and membership subscription details. Two new member applications were received in this reporting period (CMMI and CNRS – see Documents F3.6 and F3.7).

- Facilitation of the EOOS governance bodies is another important enabler for reinforcing EuroGOOS partnerships (see Chapter 4).
- Partnerships in new EuroGOOS strategic areas are promoted, for example, through the EuroGOOS BLOWG which helps enhance partnerships in biological observations, and new EU project proposals (see Chapter 6).
- Objective 4 ‘Promote sustainability across the value chain of operational oceanography and ocean observing’:
 - Visibility of the operational oceanography value chain and the importance of sustainability are promoted via communication efforts (EuroSea webinars and events, EOOS, European Maritime Day Conferences – workshops in 2022 and 2023 and exhibition stand in 2023), among others.
 - EuroGOOS website revamp is ongoing (to be launched at the Conference in October). The website will feature an improved structure, clearer narratives about the EuroGOOS role in the value chain and the importance and need for operational oceanography.
 - Regular interactions are taking place with stakeholders and the European Commission, either via bilateral or broader meetings. In addition, the Office is promoting the value chain and sustainability in its advisory roles in various initiatives (see Chapter 7).
- Objective 5 ‘Mobilise public on the importance of the ocean and oceanographic services’:
 - The EuroGOOS Ocean Literacy Working Group provides the main vehicle to engage general public on the importance of ocean observing. This includes the activities of the UN Ocean Decade project Scientists for Ocean Literacy, coordinated by the Office, which aims at strengthening the role of scientists as ocean advocates, including recognized and stronger funding support towards advocacy.
 - DOORS WP8 Stakeholder Engagement and Legacy, led by the Office, contains a dedicated task on youth engagement and ocean literacy. A DOORS Ocean Literacy Network was launched in January 2023, co-chaired by EuroGOOS, and first activities are already taking place.
 - The Office is involved in the European Commission’s ocean literacy initiative EU4Ocean coalition (see Chapter 6).

2. INTEGRATION AMONG THE EUROGOOS ACTIVITIES

In 2019, the EuroGOOS Integration Workshop series started to aid the internal cooperation across the ROOS, task teams, and working groups and promote joint synergies with other European activities. The last meeting took place on 3-4 May 2022 (reported on in the previous Office report to the GA 2022). Actions from this meeting are being followed up with the activity (co-)chairs.

Office was tasked to start with the webinars on the key outcomes of EU projects and relevant initiatives EuroGOOS is involved in. Until now, three webinars have been organised. Office worked with the DataMEQ to prepare and submit for the GA the EuroGOOS data policy. Office supported the OLWG meetings with EuroGOOS TTs and WGs to better learn about each other’s activities and see how

connections and synergies can be developed. The societal contributions of various EuroGOOS groups were defined. A joint meeting between Coastal and Science Advisory WG was held to define responsibilities and look for synergies across the two WGs. Many actions are still to be completed.

3. UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2021-2030

The Office has been tasked by the Executive Board of Directors and General Assembly to lead the EuroGOOS contributions to the UN Ocean Decade. After a couple of years of preparation, the Decade was launched in 2021 and the implementation is currently running at full steam. The Office has been involved in the setting up of Decade programmes **SciNMeet** (Mediterranean Science We Need for the Ocean We Want) and **CoastPredict**. Both programmes were launched during the reporting period. Several EuroGOOS activities are involved in these programmes, including Coastal WG, OLWG and MONGOOS, among others. One Decade project is directly coordinated by the Office – **Scientists for Ocean Literacy** (implemented as part of the UNESCO-led programme Ocean Literacy With All). In late 2022, the Office helped coordinate the preparation of the new **Decade Collaborative Centre on Ocean Prediction** (implemented by Mercator Ocean International), which was launched in January 2023. The EuroGOOS Coastal WG is involved in the North-East Atlantic regional Task Team.

Since the Decade's preparatory stage, the Office organised or co-organised several Decade events. The most recent ones are the [EOOS Technology Forum Foresight Workshop](#) (co-funded by EuroSea) and the European Maritime Day 2022 Workshop on Blue Cities (co-led by EuroGOOS and UNESCO). The [EuroGOOS 10th International Conference](#) taking place on 3-5 October 2023 has been also endorsed as a Decade event and is being promoted on the Decade website.

At the recent meeting of the Executive Board of Directors and the Office (30 March 2023), a decision was taken to apply for the recognition of EuroGOOS as a Decade implementing Partner. This action is foreseen for implementation by October 2023.

4. EOOS

New [EOOS Strategy 2023-2027 and Roadmap for Implementation](#) were launched with a high-profile online event in March 2023. The Strategy was developed through consultation and feedback from all EOOS Governance Bodies, the EuroSea project and DG MARE, with the draft coordination and publication design led by the EuroGOOS Office. The online launch event for the new EOOS Strategy included opening remarks from DG RTD and DG MARE, a presentation by the EuroGOOS Secretary General, and thematic case studies on the needs for EOOS in different contexts given by high profile experts, including from EuroGOOS Member organisations. The event was attended by over 200 participants. A recording can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/9cSIHDwyf_o.

The EOOS Steering Group has met three times since the last EuroGOOS GA - in October 2022, November 2022, and April 2023. EuroGOOS Office (Inga Lips) is chairing the EOOS SG. These meetings focused predominantly on the development of the new EOOS Strategy 2023-2027 and accompanying Roadmap for Implementation. Discussions during the April 2023 meeting focused on the development of concrete actions under the Roadmap for implementation that form the EOOS Implementation Plan and reviewing the operation and composition of all EOOS Governing Bodies to be most effective.

Operations Committee held a meeting in March 2023 to discuss priorities and next steps.

The Office also attended the meetings of the EOOS Advisory Committee and Resource Forum, held on 8 November 2022 and 7 December 2022, respectively. EOOS new Strategy and Implementation Plan were the central topics of those meetings. Resource Forum members were also invited to share statements about national funding activities and priorities.

5. CORE EUROGOOS ACTIVITIES

5.1 MEMBERS

Currently, EuroGOOS brings together 44 organisations from 18 countries. Two new member applications will be presented for the EuroGOOS General Assembly's approval at the Annual General Assembly Meeting on 31 May 2023 (see Documents F3.6 and F3.7), from the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute and from CNRS, France. A membership expansion strategy is foreseen by the end of 2023.

5.2 WORKING GROUPS

This section presents the Office updates on the working group activities. Updates from the working groups Chairs are available in the GA meeting document O8.1.

Science Advisory, SAWG (Co-Chairs: Jun She, DMI, Denmark; Lucie Cocquempot, Ifremer, France)

The Science Advisory Working Group has convened (online) twice since the last GA, along with several additional meetings between the Office and Co-Chairs. The SAWG plans to develop an extensive white paper on a seamless earth system approach for operational oceanography. The white paper will be structured in alignment with the GOOS Strategy 2030, with chapters on observations, data management, analysis and modelling, and applications. Expert writing groups have been identified for each chapter, consisting of volunteers from within the SAWG and EuroGOOS members more broadly. Each writing team is due to begin drafting, led by designated lead authors.

The SAWG has developed and submitted two abstracts to the EuroGOOS Conference.

Data Management, Exchange and Quality, DataMEQ (Chair: Thierry Carval, Ifremer, France)

DataMEQ presented progress on the development of the new EuroGOOS data policy at the International Ocean Data Conference organised by IODE-IOC-UNESCO in Paris (20-21 March 2023). This is the second such conference which precedes the IODE annual meeting. At the first conference in Sopot (14-16 February 2022), DataMEQ was also on the programme (with the results of the FAIR data survey and an overview of the EuroGOOS data achievements since the WG establishment).



Representatives of DataMEQ attending the Paris conference met at the IOC-UNESCO to advance the policy document (see image). The EuroGOOS data policy proposal is based on the new IOC data policy adopted by the IODE in March. It will be presented at the EuroGOOS GA in May 2023.

Technology Plan, TPWG (Co-Chairs: Rajesh Nair, OGS, Italy, and Laurent Delauney, Ifremer, France)

TPWG contributed to the final report of the EOOS Technology Forum Foresight Workshop, held virtually in March 2022, that was finalised in 2022 and available in this [link](#).

Coastal WG (Co-Chairs: Ghada El Serafy, Deltares, Netherlands; Anna Rubio, AZTI, Spain)

Office has organised two on-line meetings in this reporting period (June 2022 and March 2023) and a hybrid meeting as a side event of the final FORCOAST project in October 2022. Coastal WG Chair and some of the members were involved in the kick-off event of the new Decade Collaborative Centre on Ocean Prediction, implemented by Mercator Ocean International, held in January 2023.

Ocean Literacy Working Group, OL WG (Co-Chairs: Angela Pomaro, CNR, Italy, and Yolanda Koulouri, HCMR, Greece, Dina Eparkhina – ex officio co-chair as coordinator of UN Ocean Decade project Scientists for Ocean Literacy)

Further to the EuroGOOS integration workshop in May 2022, the Office supported the OLWG meetings with other EuroGOOS TTs and WGs to better learn about each other's activities, see how connections and synergies can be developed, and define the societal contributions of various EuroGOOS groups.

Office with the OLWG is facilitating the EuroGOOS Ocean Decade project Scientists for Ocean Literacy (officially launched at the European Maritime Day 2022 at a joint workshop with UNESCO), and contributes to the SciNMeet Decade programme, launched in July 2022. Close synergies have been established with the European Commission's initiative EU4Ocean, as well as with the DOORS Black Sea project tasks on youth engagement and ocean literacy.

OLWG submitted several abstracts to the 10th EuroGOOS Conference and will co-organise the conference reception at the Galway Aquarium. Preparations have started to launch a new survey on ocean literacy activities in the EuroGOOS community, as well as to prepare a training for scientists to engage with society.

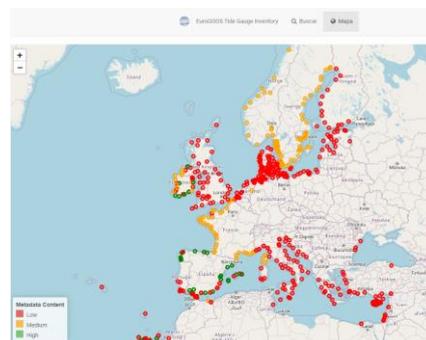
5.3 TASK TEAMS

This section presents the Office updates on the task team activities. Updates from the Chairs are available in the GA meeting document O7.1.

Tide Gauges TT (Co-Chairs: Angela Hibbert, NOC, UK; Elizabeth Bradshaw, BODC, UK, and Claire Fraboul, SHOM, France)

The Office supported the organisation of the annual TT meeting in February 2023. The Office was also supporting the organisation of the second EuroSea Tide Gauge Network Workshop, a hybrid event hosted by Puertos del Estado (Spain) that brought together the global tide gauge community to share experiences, exchange information on recent activities, and discuss ways to overcome the challenges across different geographical regions, while ensuring an effective coordination and communication with the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS). The workshop was held in May 2023.

EuroGOOS Office is helping to promote, as part of the H2020 EuroSea project, an online live, managed [tide gauge metadata catalogue](#) for all permanent tide gauges along European and adjacent coastlines in now in version 1.0 of its development. This Tide Gauge Metadata Inventory is designed to address inconsistencies and omissions in metadata across European tide gauge data portals, enabling tide gauge operators to populate a single centralised tide gauge inventory with comprehensive metadata, which can then be accessed by data portals and data aggregators to standardise their own metadata records.



High Frequency Radar TT (Chair: Julien Mader, AZTI, Spain)

The Office is continuously updating the interactive map showing the most up to date inventory of HF Radar stations in Europe, including information on the near-real-time activity and the connection to the HFR data network. This map is available in the HFR TT [web page](#).

Gliders TT (Co-Chairs: Pierre Testor, Université Pierre and Marie Curie, France, Carlos Barrera, PLOCAN, Spain, Victor Turpin, OceanOPS)

Glider TT co-organised a European glider data workshop (in June and July 2022 – see image), as a joint activity between the EuroGOOS Glider TT and GROOM-II and EuroSea. The event addressed the glider data management strategy for Europe and reviewed standard operating procedures.

In November 2022, the EuroGOOS Office took part in a GROOM-II webinar aiming to analyse different ways to sustain operations as a legal entity.

The Office keeps promoting the annual Glider Summer School organised by PLOCAN, Spain.



Argo TT (Co-Chairs: Miguel Santos (IPMA, Portugal) and Griet Neukermans (University of Ghent, Belgium))

The EuroGOOS Argo TT has been renewed, with a kick-off meeting held on 7 February 2023. The Argo TT connects the Euro-Argo ERIC with the EuroGOOS framework to mutually coordinate actions related to operational oceanography. The main objective of the TT is to facilitate interactions between non-Euro-Argo ERIC institutes/countries and the Euro-Argo ERIC governance structure, especially the Management Board, and to support prospective ERIC members as they prepare to join Euro-Argo ERIC.

The Argo TT was coordinating with the Office to submit abstracts to the EuroGOOS conference with the intention to secure a dedicated session. Additionally, possibilities for a side event on OneArgo at the conference are being explored.

Fixed Platform TT (co-Chairs: Giuseppe Magnifico, CNR, Italy; Paolo Favali, EMSO ERIC and Alan Berry, MI, Ireland – stepped down)

The Fixed Platform TT held one online meeting in January 2023 and EuroGOOS Office was supporting the organisation of the successful first onsite TT meeting in Rome (CNR headquarters) in April 2023.

The Office has also prepared the design of an infographic showing the main activities and scope of the TT which has been presented at the onsite meeting in Rome.



5.4 Regional Operational Oceanographic Systems, ROOS

Five ROOS operate within EuroGOOS: in the Baltic ([BOOS](#)), Arctic ([Arctic ROOS](#)), Iberia-Biscay-Ireland region ([IBI-ROOS](#)), Mediterranean Sea ([MONGOOS](#)), and North-West-Shelf ([NOOS](#)). The ROOS (co-) chairs will report on highlights, successes, and challenges during the reporting period at the Annual General Assembly Meeting (written reports are presented in Document O6.1).

In the reporting period, the EuroGOOS Office has attended all ROOS annual meetings. Particular support has been given to the Arctic ROOS in promoting a GOOS Regional Alliance for the Arctic (including a SWOT analysis, discussions at the Arctic Science Summit Week 2023, and development of an Arctic GRA TT, co-chaired by Jari Haapala, FMI, Finland, and Craig Lee, University of Washington, United States). Also, EuroGOOS (Arctic ROOS) has become a member of the EU Polar Cluster.

Dedicated communications support is given to all ROOS. ROOS websites have been successfully revamped with the efforts of the Office and logos updated for a better consistency among the regions.

Collaborations with the Black Sea countries are being enhanced through the DOORS project where EuroGOOS is leading stakeholder engagement. The EuroGOOS Office has started the promotion of a EuroGOOS Black Sea ROOS.

6. EU PROJECTS

During the reporting period, the Office has been involved in the following EU-funded projects: FORCOAST (Horizon 2020, 2019-2022), EuroSea (Horizon 2020, 2019-2023), JERICO DS (Horizon 2020, 2020-2023) and JERICO S3 (Horizon 2020, 2020-2024), DOORS (Horizon 2020, 2021-2025), Blue-Cloud 2026 (Horizon Europe, 2022-2026), All Ocean Obs (CINEA tender, 2022-2023), EEA COINS (EEA contract), and EU4Ocean (European Commission tender). Details of the running projects are presented in Document O3.1., some highlights brought forward below.

FORCOAST

The final FORCOAST conference was held on 5 October 2022 as a hybrid event. It was hosted by the EuroGOOS Office at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels. Over 20 people represented the different target sectors of the project, spanning wild fisheries, bivalve aquaculture and oysterground restoration. The conference opened with a statement from a representative from the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on the need of the fishery and aquaculture communities for the provision of tailor-made services to the sectors. FORCOAST developed services demonstrate how science-industry collaboration can be achieved for mutual growth and benefits. The interactive structure of the final conference enabled lively discussion on all aspects of the FORCOAST project and gave additional insights into the finalisation and envisioning ways towards the future.

EuroSea

EuroGOOS (co-)organised several events, as (co-) leader of work packages on the ocean observing governance, and on communications. In November 2022, the 3rd EuroSea Anniversary Webinar took place discussing with the project's stakeholders the progress towards innovation, improved governance, and sustained operations of the European ocean observing and forecasting system. Recording is available on the [website](#). In March 2023, the EOOS Strategy 2023-2027 and Roadmap of Implementation were launched in a high-level webinar. EuroGOOS Office also delivered lessons learnt on science-policy interface with a set of recommendations. The report was positively reviewed and accepted in the recent Commission review of the project (February 2023, hosted by EuroGOOS in Brussels). EuroGOOS is also engaged in the organisation of the EuroSea day at the Ocean Race grand finale events in Genova in June 2023 and of the final EuroSea high-level Symposium (final conference) in Paris on 21 September 2023.

EuroGOOS is supporting the organisation of the EuroSea/OceanPredict [Workshop on Ocean Prediction and Observing System Design](#). We have been also supporting the development of best practices and data format harmonisation as a joint effort between EuroSea and EuroGOOS Task Teams: (i) Workshop in June 2022 co-organised with the EuroGOOS Glider Task Team, the H2020 GROOM II project and virtual Glider TT meetings in 2023; (ii) supporting the Tide Gauge TT contribution to the D3.3. ([New Tide Gauge Data Flow Strategy](#)), the development of a metadata inventory for European tide gauges (EUTGN; [Tide gauge metadata inventory](#)), development of a web portal for global sea level data which have been derived from Global Navigation Satellite System-Interferometric Reflectometry (GNSS-IR): <https://psmsl.org/data/gnssir/index.php>, the organisation of the second (hybrid) EuroSea Tide Gauge Network Workshop in May 2023. EuroGOOS Office together with DataMEQ WG and EuroGOOS Task Teams supported the development of the EuroSea WP3 deliverable on the Observing Networks Final Assessment to inform on the status of the EuroGOOS observing networks in reference to the international (GOOS) context.

JericoS3

Contribution to the final version of the Jerico User Committee Terms of Reference and development

of the Jerico User and Stakeholder Strategy and JERICO Business Plan (in coordination with JERICO DS WP4).

DOORS

EuroGOOS is leading stakeholder engagement in this project, developing knowledge and information base for blue economy. In June 2022, EuroGOOS submitted a new deliverable on the stakeholder mapping and requirements, which was positively reviewed and accepted in the recent Commission review of the project (March 2023, hosted by EuroGOOS in Brussels). EuroGOOS also co-organized a session on the benefits of marine research infrastructure cooperation for the Black Sea science and blue economy and promoted the EuroGOOS strategy, activities, and the regional systems (ROOS), at the international Marblue Conference in November 2022. In January 2023, EuroGOOS launched, co-chaired with the DOORS work package leader for communications, a DOORS Black Sea Ocean Literacy Network, which will build on the achievements of the EuroGOOS OLWG approach to strengthen the scientific advocacy to society.

Blue-Cloud 2026

Office contributed to the first Deliverable on Communication, Dissemination, Outreach and Education Plan.

All Ocean Obs

The first drafts of the ocean observation activities reporting template, instruction manual and prototype online map viewer have been developed. Stakeholder consultation activities, including planning for a stakeholder consultation workshop are underway.

EEA COINS 2nd SC: During this second service contract, a quantitative assessment on the differences on the in situ platforms available in both Copernicus marine in situ TAC and EMODnet database is being performed, and some data is being identified to be ingested in Copernicus INSTAC. Also, an automatic harvesting of CTD observations method has been developed and applied to the Baltic to deliver research vessel data in NRT to Copernicus Marine.

EU4Ocean

The EU4Ocean coalition is the flagship European Union initiative to improve citizen's awareness of the importance of the ocean and promote co-design of solutions. The new wave of the initiative started in December 2022 with the beginning of a new tender project. EuroGOOS, JPI Oceans and others are among several scientific networks and associations who are subcontractors in the tender. A series of activities will be developed by the office with the contribution of the OLWG, in the coming three years.

During the reporting period, the EuroGOOS Office participated in the **preparation of** the following proposals:

- **AMRIT** (Advance Marine Research Infrastructures Together) Call: HORIZON-INFRA-2023-DEV-01-04, Coordinator: ARMINES. Proposed project will improve coordination between marine ERICS, ESFRI landmarks and other infrastructures, working towards better harmonisation of operations including planning, deployments, monitoring, and data management. Several tools and services for Marine Research Infrastructure (MRI) operators will be developed and an 'EOOS Technical Support Centre' established, with a helpdesk for operators using tools and services. AMRIT aims to implement the 'European OceanOPS' idea and support the EOOS Roadmap for Implementation 2023-2027. The Office's role in the proposed project is focused on gathering user needs and feedback on developed tools and services via the ROOS, supporting uptake by operators through trainings, and organisational development of the EOOS Technical Support Centre. Several EuroGOOS Members are also partners in the proposal. The total budget for AMRIT is € 5,014.707, with € 203,718 funding for EuroGOOS. The call is for a lump sum project, meaning a reduced administrative burden for the Office.
- Closing the research gaps on Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) in support of global assessments (Call: HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01). The Office is a partner in the proposals for all three

options within the same call, with tasks primarily focused on clustering of initiatives between the three proposed projects and coordinated communication of policy-relevant recommendations from each to maximise impact and results. HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01 Option A (Physical) The proposed **ObsSea4Clim** project is coordinated by DMI, Denmark. Total, budget: € 5,580,000 EuroGOOS budget: € 168,125. EuroGOOS' will establish a European EOV network to facilitate coordination and collaboration between the projects funded through options A, B and C in the call. This network may be integrated within EuroGOOS' existing structure of working groups to help sustain the legacy of the projects after they end. EuroGOOS will also organise a policy-relevant event to communicate recommendations for the development of EOVs. HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01 Option B (Biogeochemical) – The **BG-OCEAN** project proposal, coordinated by GEOMAR, Germany, was submitted with the EuroGOOS Office leading task on stakeholder engagement and work package on communication, exploitation and legacy. The project is an innovation action which will review the GOOS EOV specifications for the biogeochemical variables, define new variables, analyse needs and requirements for the EOV provision, and enhance modeling and service provision. The project will focus on four key phenomena: ocean acidification, ocean deoxygenation, biological carbon pump, and greenhouse gas fluxes and demonstrate the importance of long-term observations. Strong connections with other options in the same call will be made, coordinated by EuroGOOS and the project coordinator. In the WP led by EuroGOOS, a BG-OCEAN portal will be developed (led by Ifremer) to show the BGC status to stakeholders in near real time. EuroGOOS will also lead a policy paper with recommendations on the enhancement of the international and European BGC EOV delivery and overall synergies across all EOVs, and facilitate the project's Foresight Committee, including foresight workshops and events. If granted, the project is foreseen to start in January 2024 for a duration of 42 months. Several EuroGOOS members are involved. BG-OCEAN will be a key contribution to the EuroGOOS strategic expansion into the BGC EOVs as outlined in the 2030 Strategy. The total budget for BG-OCEAN is €6,181,088.55 with €284,375 funding for EuroGOOS. HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01 Option C (Biological) – The **BioEcoOcean** project is coordinated by Uppsala University, Sweden and proposes a foundational change in how we approach biological and ecosystem (BioEco) ocean observation to enhance scientific understanding, improve management, and ensure sustainable use and development of the ocean. Key objectives include developing an inclusive co-created Blueprint, advancing EOV implementation, assessing current practices and technological options, delivering excellent research, co-creating operational workflows, and prioritising capacity building. Two EuroGOOS members are involved. In the WP led by EuroGOOS, coordination and collaboration between the projects funded through options A, B and C in the call is facilitated among other tasks (e.g., stakeholder consultations, impact assessment). The total budget for BioEcoOcean is €5,666,000 with €261,875 funding for EuroGOOS.

- **FOCCUS** (Forecasting and observing the open-to-coastal ocean for Copernicus users) Call: HORIZON-CL4-2023-SPACE-01-34 Copernicus for Marine Environment monitoring proposal. Coordinator: Hereon, Germany. This three-year project proposal aims to design and demonstrate the feasibility of a platform for the integration of Copernicus Marine Service products with European coastal monitoring and forecasting systems developed at the national and local level. EuroGOOS office is involved in two WPs: WP1 (Project Management and coordination) in a task on coordination with other programmes and projects (including Ocean Prediction DCC, etc.); and WP6A (Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation planning; co-design and stakeholder engagement) leading a task on performing an Inventory of Member States operational coastal forecasting systems. The total budget for EuroGOOS Office is €111 093,75. The call is for a lump sum project, meaning a reduced administrative burden for the Office.

7. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Office is representing EuroGOOS in international initiatives and at events. Collaborations are ongoing with several UN Ocean Decade programmes (CoastPredict, OLWA, SciNMeet, OARS) and with the Decade Collaborative Centre on Ocean Prediction (see details on the engagement with the Ocean Decade in Chapter 3). Close links are maintained with the GOOS Office, EU4OceanObs, GEO, GOOS Regional Alliances and others.

During the reporting period, the Office has maintained interactions with the following organisations (non-exhaustive list):

- European Commission (frequent interactions with DG MARE for the CINEA tender All Ocean Obs; interactions with DG MARE, RTD, ENV within the EOOS governance bodies; interactions with DG MARE related to the Ocean Observing Initiative);
- IOC GOOS Office and co-chair (EuroSea project, EOOS, Arctic GRA);
- European Marine Board (in particular within the EOOS governance and implementation);
- JPI Oceans (regular meetings through the EOOS governance and implementation);
- EEA (contact especially in relation to in situ data under Copernicus COINS);
- Mercator Ocean International (Copernicus Marine Service Office, EU4OceanObs project, G7 FSOI Coordination Centre, DCC Ocean Prediction, GEO Blue Planet European Office);
- The EMODnet Secretariat;
- ICES (within DataMEQ WG and EOOS governance, but also in the CINEA tender AllOceanObs).

The Office is active on international panels strategically important to the EuroGOOS mission and representing its community (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: EuroGOOS Office representation at global and European panels

Organisation/Initiative/Project	Scale	EuroGOOS staff member	Role
GOOS Regional Alliances Council	Int'l	Inga Lips	Member
IOC Electoral Group 1	Int'l	Inga Lips	Observer
GEO High-level EC Working Group	Int'l	Inga Lips	Observer
UN Ocean Decade Programme CoastPredict Advisory Committee	Int'l	Inga Lips	Member
UN Ocean Decade Programme SciNMeet Ocean Literacy and Capacity Building Task Teams	Int'l	Dina Eparkhina	Member
GEO Blue Planet Ocean Communicators United	Int'l	Dina Eparkhina	Member
Ocean Observers Working Group	Int'l	Dina Eparkhina	Member
UN Ocean Decade Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability" (OARS) programme WG on outreach & engagement	Int'l	Dina Eparkhina	Member
WMO Expert Team on Metocean Requirements (ET-MOR)	Int'l	Vicente Fernandez	Member
GOOS Task Team to Advance the Development of an Arctic GRA	Int'l	Joseph Nolan	Member
European Ocean Observing System (EOOS)	EU	Inga Lips	Chair
Board of EU Env. Res. Infrastructures (BEERi)	EU	Inga Lips	Member
Euro-Argo Scientific and Technical Advisory Group	EU	Inga Lips	Member
Copernicus Marine Service Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee	EU	Inga Lips	Observer
EU project Eurofleets+ External Advisory Board	EU	Inga Lips	Member

EU Project OBAMA-NEXT Practitioners Advisory Board	EU	Inga Lips	Member
EU project GES4SEAS Practitioners Board	EU	Dina Eparkhina	Member
EU4Ocean European Commission Ocean Literacy Platform	EU	Dina Eparkhina	Member
EuroSea Gender and Diversity Board	EU	Dina Eparkhina	Member
EU project AANCHOR All-Atlantic Belem Statement project's Data WG	EU	Vicente Fernandez	Member
EU Polar Cluster	EU	Joseph Nolan	Member
EU Polar Cluster Communications Group	EU	Alicia Blanco	Member
European Blue Forum	EU	Alicia Blanco	Member

8. COMMUNICATION

EuroGOOS website

Since the previous EuroGOOS Annual General Assembly Meeting, a total of 17,000 users have visited the EuroGOOS [website](#). In the previous General Assembly Meeting, a revamp of the EuroGOOS website was approved and the office is working with a specialised company. EuroGOOS communication strategy 2030 is being developed which will include stronger membership engagement, community building, and visibility of the EuroGOOS brand.

EuroGOOS social media

The most active social network with the largest number of EuroGOOS followers is [Twitter](#) with 6,818 followers (as of 25 April 2023, with an increase of almost 400 followers since last year), on [LinkedIn](#) EuroGOOS has 771 followers (increased by 215 since May 2022). Due to low community interaction on Facebook, a decision was taken to temporarily deactivate the EuroGOOS page.

EuroGOOS newsletter

The audience of the [newsletter](#) has 258 contacts. The results of the campaigns sent since the last assembly are shown below:

Performance

Compare to: [Previous 348 days](#) ▾

Emails sent	Open rate	Click rate	Opened	Edit
3,253	35%	85%	1,111	
↑ Up 39% (2.3K)	↑ Up 7.1% (33%)	↑ Up 201% (28%)	↑ Up 47% (758)	

The newsletter is published monthly at the beginning of each month. The information that is published is mainly collected from members' and stakeholders' websites, social networks, subscriptions to other newsletters, and participation in the various activities and events attended by office staff. In addition, to facilitate the input of the activities, a form has been created in [Airtable](#) for the EuroGOOS members to submit their suggestions for the newsletter before the 20th of each month; this information can also be submitted via email.

9. OFFICE TEAM

The EuroGOOS Office staff are employed either directly on Belgian contracts by EuroGOOS AISBL or via service contract. The roles and contract terms of staff are presented below:

Full-time staff:

1. Inga Lips, Secretary General, April 2020-April 2025 (service contract)
2. Dina Eparkhina, Senior Policy and Communications Officer, since June 2015 (since September 2020 on permanent contract)
3. Vicente Fernandez, Science Officer, since November 2015 (since May 2019 on permanent contract)
4. Joseph Nolan, Science Officer, full-time July 2022 – June 2027
5. Deniz Karaca, Science Officer, full-time August 2022 – July 2027
6. Alicia Blanco, Communications Officer, January 2022 – December 2024

Part-time staff:

7. Orla Colligan, Administrator, since September 2017 (since end August 2020 on permanent contract)

In June 2023, Vicente Fernandez will terminate his contract with EuroGOOS. In October 2023, Virginie Van Dongen Vogels will join the team as Science Officer.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS BOARD

A joint meeting of the Office and the Executive Board of Directors was held in Brussels on 30 March 2023 (image on the right). The meeting discussed the EuroGOOS 2023 work plan, strategy to engage members more closely and enhance the feeling of pride and ownership of the EuroGOOS successes, the advancement of Working Groups and Task Teams, the EuroGOOS communication strategy, and improvements to internal communications between the Office, the Board, and Members.



The EuroGOOS Executive Board of Directors is composed of Chair and six members, their mandates are presented in the table below.

NAME	COUNTRY	GENDER (F/M)	ELECTED AS BOARD MEMBER – 1 ST MANDATE	RE-ELECTED AS BOARD MEMBER – 2 ND AND LAST MANDATE	ELECTED AS CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR – 1 ST MANDATE	ELECTED AS CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR – 2 ND MANDATE
Henning Wehde Chair	Norway	M	2016-2019		2018-2021 Vice-Chair	2021-2024 Chair
Holger Brix Vice-Chair	Germany	M	2019-2022		2021-2024 Vice-Chair	
Enrique Álvarez Fanjul	International	M	2018-2021	2021-2024		
Ghada El Serafy	Netherlands	F	2020-2023			
Corine Lochet	France	F	2021-2024			

Giovanni Coppini	Italy	M	2021-2024			
Carlos Fernandez	Portugal	M	2022-2025			