

## **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 2023 - May 2024).

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## 1. EUROGOOS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the [EuroGOOS 2030 Strategy](#) (launched at the EuroGOOS International Conference in May 2021) ongoing. 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 relevant to better engagement of the EuroGOOS Activity (co-) chairs in the elaboration of the Strategy implementation actions (formulating new actions/reformulating old ones according to the emerging topics and relevance in time).

The hard copies of the Strategy are being disseminated through events and meetings. The Strategy is also promoted in the Office members' presentations 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.
  - As part of the CINEA-funded All Ocean Obs contract, the Office developed a prototype template for reporting ocean observing plans. The template is designed to be interoperable with the existing SeaDataNet Cruise Summary Reports. Potential update of the template, as part of the implementation of the EC's initiative 'Ocean observation - sharing responsibility', will help to standardise sharing of information on planned ocean observing campaigns, facilitating coordination.
  - EuroGOOS DataMEQ WG has delivered a EuroGOOS data policy that mandates EuroGOOS members to openly share core ocean data in accordance with the FAIR principles and transparent licensing agreements. This commitment encompasses EOVs required for the Copernicus Marine Service, EuroGOOS ROOS, including coastal services, and EMODnet. This policy is the European implementation of the IOC new data policy adopted in 2023.
  - Recognised as an Ocean Decade Implementing Partner (DIP) in early 2024, EuroGOOS will continue fostering exchange and stimulate communities of practices along the value chain of marine knowledge. As a DIP, EuroGOOS has stepped up to support the engagement of our members with Decade Coordination Offices Data Sharing and Ocean Observing and Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC) Ocean Prediction. Close collaboration with this DCC already started in 2023.
- Objective 2 'Advocate for coordinated and integrated ocean observing and operational oceanography':
  - Work via CINEA-funded Study for reporting obligations for ocean observation, coordinated by EuroGOOS and aligned with the EC initiative 'Ocean Observations – Sharing Responsibility', contributed to this objective. The study, gave an overview of existing ocean observing activities and reporting in Europe, and developed a prototype template for sharing of ocean observing plans. An online platform enables plans to be shared, and opportunities for coordination and collaboration to be identified. A summary of the study is available [here](#).
  - The Office continues active support of the EOOS Framework, particularly to the EOOS Steering Group and Operations Committee. In the EuroSea project a list of recommendations was compiled for networks, frameworks, Member States, and the European Commission ([deliverable D1.8](#)) to secure the sustainability of observations.



- The Horizon Europe project AMRIT, which started in March 2024, is closely aligned with the EOOS Strategy and Roadmap for Implementation. The project aims to strengthen coordination of European marine research infrastructures with development of various technical tools and services. AMRIT's outcomes will be sustained in an EOOS Technical Support Centre, whose design and development is led by EuroGOOS in the project.
- Objective 3 'Strengthen and expand partnerships':
  - The Office has continued efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships and networks of the EuroGOOS community. This includes regular communication with different DGs of the European Commission, collaborations with other European organisations such as JPI Oceans, the EMB, EMODnet and others, particularly in the framework of developing EOOS, and internationally, such as participation in the GOOS Regional Alliances Forum, and joint activities with the GOOS office (e.g. in the EuroSea project).
  - The Office has initiated discussions with the World Ocean Council (WOC), with plans to further explore opportunities for collaboration between EuroGOOS and industry partners among WOC members.
  - Through the work of the DOORS project in which EuroGOOS leads stakeholder engagement work package, the Office is introducing the idea of a Black Sea regional collaboration under EuroGOOS.
- Objective 4 'Promote sustainability across the value chain of operational oceanography and ocean observing':
  - The 10th EuroGOOS International Conference highlighted the whole value chain of operational oceanography and ocean observing, with sustainability a key point of discussion in the context of resourcing, tackling fragmentation, national-level coordination, and other aspects.
  - The [EuroSea Legacy Report](#) delivered by EuroGOOS in November 2023 presents the key highlights and impacts of this comprehensive project addressing the full marine knowledge value chain, from observations to modelling and forecasting and to user-focused services. The Legacy Report builds on the impact monitoring protocol piloted by the EuroGOOS Office (leading WP8) and represents clear visual narratives about the project for the benefit of the Commission and national funders, as well as broader stakeholders.
  - 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 8).
- Objective 5 'Mobilise public on the importance of the ocean and oceanographic services':
  - The EuroGOOS Ocean Literacy Working Group and the UN Ocean Decade project Scientists for Ocean Literacy, coordinated by the Office, aim at strengthening the role of scientists as ocean advocates, including recognized and stronger funding support towards advocacy. Many activities were undertaken in the reporting period, including a session at the 10th EuroGOOS International Conference in October 2023 and a co-organisation of a side-event of the UN Ocean Decade Conference in April 2024.
  - The Office is involved in the European Commission's ocean literacy initiative EU4Ocean coalition (see Chapter 7). We joined several of EU4Ocean activities including public exhibition for the World Ocean Day 2023 - at a Brussels art space TEC CEC, and a showcase at the European Ocean Days in Brussels (8 March 2024).

## 2. INTEGRATION AMONG THE EUROGOOS ACTIVITIES

The Office continues its work to facilitate integration of EuroGOOS activities. Particularly in coordination with the Science Advisory WG and Board. Work plans were collected from Task Teams

and Working Groups in early 2024, with work ongoing to identify synergies and potential joint activities.

### 3. 10TH EUROGOOS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

From 3 to 5 October 2023, EuroGOOS held its 10th International Conference, hosted in Galway by the Marine Institute, Ireland. The Conference, titled European Operational Oceanography for the Ocean we want – addressing the UN Ocean Decade Challenges, was an endorsed Ocean Decade event.

The event brought together over 160 participants for an in-person Conference covering all aspects of operational oceanography and its societal relevance. The Conference was opened by the Interim CEO of the Marine Institute Michael Gillooly, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO Vladimir Ryabinin, Director for Maritime Policy & Blue Economy at the European Commission DG MARE Delilah Al Khudairy, and Head of Unit Healthy Seas and Ocean at the European Commission DG Research and Innovation Elisabetta Balzi.

Four high-level plenary sessions were dedicated to the UN Ocean Decade, Digital Twin Ocean, European Ocean Observing System (EOOS), and Future of Operational Oceanography. In addition, the Conference participants discussed over 80 presentations and 20 posters on all areas of operational oceanography.

The event marked the 10th anniversary of the international EuroGOOS Conference and nearly 30 years of the EuroGOOS organisation, which was founded in 1994 as the European implementer of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

The [Conference Statement](#), summarising the conference presentations and discussions, will lead EuroGOOS and its large community in the coming years.



### 4. 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.

The Office is working with the Board to map Members' ongoing activities and contributions to Decade in various DCCs, DCOs, programmes, projects and endorsed activities.

The Office has been involved in the setting up of Decade programmes SciNMeet (Mediterranean Science We Need for the Ocean We Want) and CoastPredict, with continued engagement from the Office during the reporting period, particularly via the Coastal WG, OLWG, MonGOOS, and other activities.



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).

The Office continues to actively contribute to the OceanPrediction DCC (implemented by Mercator Ocean International), particularly via the Coastal WG's lead of the North-East Atlantic Regional Team, and Arctic ROOS' engagement in the Arctic Regional Team.

The 10th EuroGOOS International Conference (October 2023), and the 2024 EOOS Technology Forum (March 2024) were both endorsed as UN Ocean Decade Events.

In February 2024, EuroGOOS was recognised as the Decade Implementing Partner (DIP). The recognition was granted further to an application prepared by the Office and the Board. The mandate of the DIP is for three years renewable following discussions with the Decade Coordination Unit and subsequent endorsement by the IOC Executive Secretary. The EuroGOOS Office will promote synergies in the European operational oceanography contribution to the Decade across the existing and new actions, DCOs and DCCs, and further raise the Decade's recognition and visibility.

The Office and Board members contributed as co-organisers and speakers in various side-events of the Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona (8-12 April 2024), aligned with EuroGOOS' strategy and contributing to the ongoing activities and projects. This included co-organisation and panellists for side-events:

- 'Sustained observations in support of the Blue Economy' (9 April)
- 'Diving from Local to Global Ocean Literacy' (9 April 2024), and
- 'Towards the integrated Ocean Science we need for the Arctic Ocean we want' (11 April).

## 5. EOOS

The EOOS Steering Group has met twice since the last EuroGOOS GA - in October 2023 and April 2024. 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, as well as strategic guidance to other EOOS governance bodies. An additional online meeting was held between the EOOS SG and DG MARE in February 2024, hosted by the Office, to discuss developments around the European Commission initiative 'Ocean observation – sharing responsibility'.

The 7th EOOS Operations Committee (OC) meeting was organised onsite at JPI Oceans premises on 28 November in conjunction with the EOOS Resource Forum meeting, Office presented the 2023 achievements in the EOOS Implementation Plan and the implementation tasks planned for 2024 following the EOOS [Roadmap](#) for Implementation. The collaborative meeting brought together members from the EOOS Advisory Committee, Operations Committee and Resource Forum, fostering a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing. The meeting facilitated an exchange of information on the latest progress, national efforts, and innovative technologies, setting the stage for continued advancement in the field. The collaborative spirit of the meeting is expected to catalyse further joint activities and encourage collaboration between EOOS governance bodies. The 8th EOOS OC meeting will take place online 16 May 2024. The EOOS Steering Group, led by EuroGOOS, met on 18 April 2024 to discuss the next steps towards the implementation of the EOOS. The closer collaboration with the European Commission, Regional Sea Conventions, and Member States was highlighted, and the next steps were planned, as well as the need to revise the EOOS governance structure in the next two years.

The Office, along with the Technology Plan Working Group, led organisation of the [2024 EOOS Technology Forum](#), held in London at Oceanology International in March 2024.

## 6. CORE EUROGOOS ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 MEMBERS

Currently, EuroGOOS brings together 46 organisations from 19 countries. Two new organisations joined EuroGOOS at the last EuroGOOS General Assembly - Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute and CNRS, France. Two new member applications will be presented for the EuroGOOS General Assembly's approval at the Annual General Assembly Meeting on 23 May 2024 (see Documents F6.1 and F6.2), from the CoLAB +ATLANTIC, Portugal and from Irish Meteorological Service (Met Éireann).

### 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 O6.1.

#### **Science Advisory, SAWG** (Chair: Lucie Cocquempot, Ifremer, France)

The Science Advisory Working Group has convened (online) twice since the 2023 GA, along with a meeting between the EuroGOOS Board, SAWG Chair and the Office. Discussions have focused on the role of the SAWG and the best way to develop its activity. Previously planned white papers have been put on hold, with the SAWG instead focusing on identifying opportunities for collaborative activities between other EuroGOOS WGs and TTs, and potential areas of added value it could provide with scientific advice to EuroGOOS' activities.

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

DataMEQ delivered the new EuroGOOS data policy and officially launched it at the 10th EuroGOOS International Conference in Galway (image on the side featuring DataMEQ Chair Thierry Carval, Ifremer). The policy is being further disseminated including through the Ocean Best Practices System, where it was released as an open document under the CC-BY licence, and the upcoming IMDIS Conference (27-29 May 2024).



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

The Technology Plan Working Group, along with the Office, led the organisation of the 2024 EOOS Technology Forum, held in March at Oceanology International in London. The Technology Forum, titled 'Catching the momentum in ocean observing technology: optimising value and data provision', focused on the development and use of accessible technologies for ocean observing (including low-cost other solutions), and featured speakers representing manufacturers, developers, users and others working with ocean observing technology. A report on the event will be available soon.

#### **Coastal WG** (Co-Chairs: Ghada El Serafy(Deltares, Netherlands); Arthur Capet (RBINS, Belgium))

The Coastal WG has held two meetings during the reporting period, online in July 2023 and a hybrid meeting held at RBINS in Brussels in December 2023. Activities have focused on defining an updated work plan for the group and developing activities relating to using AI/ML in operational oceanography. A meeting focused on AI/ML was held in April 2024, with activities to be developed in collaboration with the BOOS AI/ML working group and DataMEQ.

**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)

OLWG held a session at the 10<sup>th</sup> EuroGOOS Conference (see image) and led the organisation of the Conference networking reception at the Galway Aquarium, where public engagement and ocean literacy were promoted as important activities of scientific institutions. The session featured OLOWG co-chairs and Alan Berry, Marine Institute, who inspired the scientific audience, while OLOWG member Noirin Burke and her team at the Galway Aquarium organised music, storytelling, and games (including a scavenger hunt) at the aquarium. The OLOWG also contributed to several other events during the reporting period, including during the UN Ocean Decade Conference.



Launch of a new survey on ocean literacy activities in the EuroGOOS community is foreseen in May 2024. Furthermore, several activities are planned within the EU4Ocean project.

**Biological observations WG** (Co-Chairs: Vera Fonseca, CEFAS, UK, and Mauro Celessi, OGS, Italy) Nicolas Pade, has decided to step down from the position of Co-Chair in January 2024. The annual meeting convened on 25-26 March 2024 in Villefranche, France, with the Office supporting the organisation and meeting. This meeting was crucial for assessing progress and advancing the work forward, especially considering the group's recent inactivity. Notably, the group elected Mauro Celessi (OGS, Italy) as the new Co-Chair, ensuring continuity in leadership. The group also established monthly online meetings, scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, to maintain momentum, follow up on progress, and foster collaboration. As a significant progress, the group opted to merge two pending reports on protocols and imaging with the aim of delivering the first draft by the end of June 2024.

### 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; Claire Fraboul SHOM, France)

The Tide Gauges TT met in November 2023, and Co-Chairs met with the Office in February 2024, with discussion focused on development of a new work plan for the TT.

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

Following the online meeting held on 18 January 2024, the group remains active in carrying forward their activities. During the last meeting, they discussed organising specific technical workshops in the upcoming months.

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

Glider TT is co-organising the International Glider Conference, working with the EGO and GROOM-II community. Furthermore, the task team successfully submitted a session at the conference to discuss the vision of a European glider cooperation. The European glider community has been developing over the years through various EU-funded and voluntary activities. The EuroGOOS Glider TT was established in 2015 with the aim to sustain and transfer the results of the EU initiatives, both past and future. In the recent years, two EU projects boosted the co-development of actions in the European glider community – GROOM II, which developed a robust base for a future research infrastructure under the EU ESFRI roadmap (ERIC), and EuroSea, which develop several standard operating procedures (contributed to the global Ocean Best Practices System) and investigated the connection of the glider networks with other underwater vehicles. It is planned to discuss the vision for European glider



community up to 2030 and prepare a roadmap to realise this vision. This will include the discussions on the state of play and achievements in the community, new scientific and technological challenges and opportunities, and help define the complementarity among the glider initiatives, in Europe and beyond.

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

The EuroGOOS Argo TT continues its work in support of institutions that are not (yet) members of the Euro-Argo ERIC. Since the 2023 GA, the TT has explored opportunities for joint DMQC training, updated its webpage to highlight deployed European Argo floats, and contributed to the EuroGOOS International Conference.

**Fixed Platform TT** (Chair: Marcello Magaldi, CNR, Italy)

A meeting of the Fixed Platform TT was scheduled at the end of 2023, but was postponed. In March 2024, Giuseppe Magnifico (CNR) and Paolo Favali (EMSO ERIC) stepped down as co-chairs of the TT due to changes in their positions. Marcello Magaldi (CNR) took over as Chair of the TT. An online meeting of the TT is in planning during May 2024.

**FerryBox TT** (Chair: Andrew King, NIVA, Norway, and Anna Willstrand Wranne, Voice of the Ocean, Sweden)

At their online meeting on 12 March 2024, the group elected Anna Willstrand Wranne (Voice of the Ocean, Sweden) as the new Co-Chair. The primary focus remains on contributing to EOOB development, positions of FerryBoxes and common data reporting to EMOBnet. They are in the process of organising the 12th FerryBox Workshop scheduled for October 1-2, 2024. The event will take place in Helsinki and be a key gathering of this year.

#### 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 O8.1). In the reporting period, the EuroGOOS Office has attended all ROOS annual meetings.

The Office has been active in support to the Arctic ROOS, including to promote the development of a pan-Arctic ocean observing alliance (e.g. an Arctic GRA), contributing to close coordination with the Arctic Regional Team of the OceanPrediction DCC, and co-organising the online [workshop](#) 'Ocean and sea ice forecasting in the Arctic' in January.

During this period, the activities of the different ROOS have been disseminated through newsletters, the EuroGOOS website and social networks (Twitter and LinkedIn). In addition to this, support has been provided in graphic design, with the creation of slides for the events, as well as support in the layout of the agendas and leaflet for the Arctic ROOS and Arctic GRA, as well as the layout that will be made for the BOOS strategy.

Collaborations with the Black Sea countries are being enhanced through the DOORS project where EuroGOOS is leading stakeholder engagement. The Office is actively involved in the DOORS activities and has been promoting a vision of the Black Sea oceanographic cooperation under EuroGOOS.

#### 7. EU PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS

During the reporting period, the Office has been involved in the following EU-funded projects: EuroSea (Horizon 2020, 2019-2023), JERICO DS (Horizon 2020, 2020-2024) 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 contracts SC2 and SC3), and EU4Ocean (EC tender).

Four new projects started at the beginning of 2024, in which the Office is a partner: AMRIT, ObsSea4Clim, BioEcoOcean and FOCCUS. Details of the running projects are presented in Document O2.2., some highlights are brought forward below.

### **Finalised and ongoing EU projects:**

#### **EuroSea**

To help the sustainability of European ocean observations, a list of recommendations was compiled for networks, frameworks, Member States, and the European Commission ([deliverable D1.8](#)). A white paper is currently under review. EuroGOOS also contributed to the gap analysis of the European ocean observing and forecasting system ([deliverable D1.9](#)), where a scoring approach that can evaluate the European ocean observing and forecasting system readiness level in monitoring ocean phenomena, on a regular basis and in a systematic way was proposed. A scientific paper has been submitted to the *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

Several EuroGOOS Task Teams have contributed and benefited from their participation in WP3, e.g. Glider TT, Fixed Platforms TT, Tide Gauges TT, HFR TT (see more information on document O2.2). The final assessment of all observing networks was made ([deliverable D3.18](#)) to inform on the status (weakness and strengths) of the EuroGOOS observing networks in reference to the international (GOOS) context.

Leading work package on communication in EuroSea, the EuroGOOS Office contributed strongly to the success of the project. This work included overseeing all aspects of communication and exploitation as well as knowledge transfer and legacy. In the reporting period, under the EuroGOOS Office leadership, the EuroSea impact monitoring report was delivered including impact web pages and a comprehensive registry of impacts. The Office also delivered the EuroSea [Legacy Report](#) which was circulated widely to policymakers and directors of the institutions - partners in EuroSea.

#### **JericoS3**

Office was leading a deliverable focused on the JERICO interactions with non-European Ocean Observing Systems to demonstrate the synergies, needs and achievements for continued collaboration around common issues of technological and societal concern. Office is finalising the report on JERICO's common action plans with other European Research Infrastructure initiatives and EOOS for the future.

#### **DOORS**

EuroGOOS is leading stakeholder engagement in this project, developing knowledge and information base for the blue economy. In the reporting period, the Office has been developing the RI interactions with the focus on the Black Sea, the DOORS Ocean Literacy Network, overseen the implementation of the DOORS Multi-Actor Forums, and contributed to several project meetings. EuroGOOS is also co-organising with the DOORS coordinator the First DOORS Stakeholder Conference 'Black Sea Futures: Science, Prosperity, and People' (23-24 April 2024, Bucharest). Two members of the office will also speak at this event promoting the EuroGOOS contribution to the ocean observing partnerships and public engagement in science.

#### **Blue-Cloud 2026**

Office contributed to the first Deliverable on Communication, Dissemination, Outreach and Education Plan. The organisational momentum for WG6 within Task 6.2 remains robust, with the office exhibiting commitment and active participation. Office is leading the upcoming second webinar series on FAIR Data, scheduled on 23 April 2024. Titled "[Making Marine Data FAIR: FAIR Assessment of Marine Data & Information](#)". Webinar promises to provide crucial aspects of fairness within the marine domain. Thierry Carval, the Chair of EuroGOOS Data MEQ, will be presenting on the new EuroGOOS Data Policy, elevating our visibility in a wider community.

### **EU projects started in 2024:**

#### **FOCCUS**

Forecasting and observing the open-to-coastal ocean for Copernicus users, started formally in January 2024 with the kick-off meeting on 6-8 March 2024 (Call: HORIZON-CL4-2023-SPACE-01-34). It's a three-

year project, coordinated by Hereon, aiming 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 levels. EuroGOOS, Office together with the Coastal WG, is leading the task on the inventory of existing operational coastal models operated for MS, which will be developed to assess their level of maturity, applications, dependence with *in situ* observations and forcing fields, and needs with respect to Copernicus Marine. The inventory will leverage and build on past, on-going and planned initiatives and will inform the co-design of R&I and applications within FOCCUS as well as its long-term exploitation through an uptake within the Copernicus Marine Service. This is also a EuroGOOS/Coastal WG contribution to the Ocean Prediction Decade Collaborative Center work.

#### **ObsSea4Clim**

Ocean observations and indicators for climate and assessments. The project formally started in February 2024, with the kick-off meeting held on 13-14 March 2024. The project is coordinated by DMI, Denmark and addresses Option A (Physical EOVs) of the call 'Closing the research gaps on Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) in support of global assessments' (HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01 call). EuroGOOS will establish a European EOV network to facilitate coordination and collaboration between the projects funded through options A (physical EOVs), B (biogeochemical EOVs, pending funding) and C (biological EOVs) 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.

#### **BioEcoOcean**

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).

#### **AMRIT**

Advance Marine Research Infrastructures Together is a HORIZON-INFRA-2023-DEV-01-04 project coordinated by ARMINES. The project, which formally started in March 2024, 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. The Office's role in the project is focused on gathering user needs and feedback on developed tools and services via the ROOS, supporting uptake by operators through trainings (including to EuroGOOS Task Teams), and organisational development of the EOOS Technical Support Centre.

#### **Contracts and tenders:**

##### **All Ocean Obs**

The All Ocean Obs contract (Study for reporting obligations for ocean observation) was completed in December 2023. Full details are provided in the project's final report here: [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/publications/study-reporting-obligations-ocean-observation\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/publications/study-reporting-obligations-ocean-observation_en). The Office's role in the project was designing a template for reporting ocean observing plans, developing recommendations for the scaling up of project outcomes with EU Member States, contributing to stakeholder consultation work, communications and overall project management.

### **EEA COINS 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 was performed with the help of experts from Ifremer. 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 with support from SMHI. The project was finalised in June 2023.

### **EEA COINS 3<sup>rd</sup> SC**

The Office engaged all EuroGOOS ROOSs to contribute to the inventory of historical *in situ* datasets information for CMEMS reanalysis. For this, a questionnaire of historical (1950-2010) metadata information suited for assimilation and product validation of the time-prolonged CMEMS reanalysis products was prepared and distributed to the ROOS members. All ROOS gain financially by contributing to this task. All the obtained information is compiled into a report.

### **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 is being developed by the Office with the contribution of the OLWG. These include: training for scientists to engage in ocean literacy, promotion of youth engagement, and contribution to the EU4Ocean events.

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

#### **AMRIT C2**

Advance Marine Research Infrastructures Together - Command and Control. Coordinator: ENSTA-B. Partners: 25 Partners, including 7 EuroGOOS members (CNR, CNRS, Ifremer, NOC, PLOCAN, SOCIB, UK Met Office) and NOAA as an Associated Partner. Total budget: 10 M€ / EuroGOOS budget: 252 725,00 €. EuroGOOS Office contribution is 17 PM in 4 years (Initial assignments: Inga, Joseph, Alicia). EuroGOOS is engaged in work packages on Management, Dissemination and User Engagement (Communication Strategy and Outreach; User Communities Engagement; Liaison with European and national initiatives), EOOS-C2 Requirements Co-design (User group identification and users requirements; Forecasting the future trajectory of EOOS), and Uptake by different categories of operators and Standard Operating Procedures (EOOS-C2 Academic Training; EOOS-C2 Engineering Training; EOOS-C2 Societal Training).

## **8. 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 4). Close links are maintained with the GOOS Office, EU4OceanObs 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 with several invited meetings and in the context of the 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, but also in co-organising the EuroOCEAN conference in October 2023);
- JPI Oceans (regular meetings through the EOOS governance and implementation);

- EEA (contact especially in relation to *in situ* data under Copernicus COINS project);
- Mercator Ocean International (Copernicus Marine Service Office, EU4OceanObs project, G7 FSOI Coordination Centre, DCC Ocean Prediction, GEO Blue Planet European Office);
- The EMODnet Secretariat (through EOOS governance and several projects);
- ICES (within DataMEQ WG and EOOS governance, but also in the CINEA tender All Ocean Obs).

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

**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 Interim Steering Committee, 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
GOOS-SAON Task team to advance the development of pan-Arctic ocean observing alliance (Arctic GRA task team)	Int'l	Joseph Nolan	Member
OceanPrediction DCC Arctic Regional Team Steering Committee	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
EU4Ocean European Commission Ocean Literacy Platform	EU	Dina Eparkhina, Alicia Blanco (Dissemination)	Member
EU Polar Cluster	EU	Joseph Nolan	Member
EU Polar Cluster Communications Group	EU	Alicia Blanco	Member
ENVRI Community Communications	EU	Alicia Blanco	Member
European Blue Forum	EU	Alicia Blanco	Member
EU Project OBAMA-NEXT Practitioners Advisory Board	EU	Inga Lips	Member
EU Project EuroGO-SHIP Advisory Board	EU	Inga Lps	Member



MARCO-BOLO Community of Practice	EU	Inga Lips	Member
EU project GES4SEAS Practitioners Board	EU	Dina Eparkhina	Member
FINMARI Scientific Advisory Board	FI	Inga Lips	Member

## 9. COMMUNICATION

### **EuroGOOS social media**

The social network with the largest number of followers continues to be Twitter with 7,069 followers (an increase of 200 followers since last year), the one that has experienced the biggest change after a constant campaign of publications, has been LinkedIn, with 1,223 followers, almost duplicating the number of the previous year, so the rhythm of publications will be maintained, and we hope to have a greater collaboration to disseminate the activities of the members and the EuroGOOS community.

### **EuroGOOS newsletter and UN Ocean Decade activities**

The audience of the newsletter has 264 contacts, remaining fairly stable, and is the most time-consuming, especially for news compilation. In 2023 there was a break in publication during the summer season. 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. The structure of the content is as shown below, and any modifications or requests are welcome:

- Highlights
- News from members
- News from stakeholders
- Events

As an implementing partner of the UN Ocean Decade, EuroGOOS has launched a special newsletter compiling activities and events related to the UN Ocean Decade to increase visibility, the frequency of its publication will depend on the number of activities, as well as the deadlines to participate.

### **EuroGOOS website**

The renovation of the EuroGOOS website is undergoing a delay, so it has been set as a priority until its completion and launch, the aim being to improve the user experience, reduce the time and clicks to access information, and facilitate the understanding of the information it contains. During the presentation of the communication section, progress will be presented for comments and improvements.

## 10. OFFICE TEAM

The EuroGOOS Office staff are employed either directly on Belgian contracts by EuroGOOS AISBL or via service contract. All Office staff are currently employed on a full time basis. 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. Joseph Nolan, Science Officer, July 2022 – June 2027
4. Virginie van Dongen-Vogels, October 2023 – March 2024
5. Deniz Karaca, Science Officer, August 2022 – July 2027
6. Alicia Blanco, Communications Officer, January 2022 – December 2024

7. Kathleen Heymans, Office and Financial Administrator, January 2024 – January 2028

in June 2023, Vicente Fernandez (Science Officer) terminated his contract with EuroGOOS. In August 2023, Orla Colligan (Administrator) terminated her contract with EuroGOOS. In March 2024, Virginie van Dongen-Vogels (Science Officer) terminated her contract with EuroGOOS.

## 11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS BOARD

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

NAME	COUNTRY	GENDER (F/M)	ELECTED AS BOARD MEMBER – 1 <sup>ST</sup> MANDATE	RE-ELECTED AS BOARD MEMBER – 2 <sup>ND</sup> AND LAST MANDATE	ELECTED AS CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR – 1 <sup>ST</sup> MANDATE	ELECTED AS CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR – 2 <sup>ND</sup> 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	2023-2026		
Corine Lochet	France	F	2021-2024	Resigned in December 2023		
Giovanni Coppini	Italy	M	2021-2024			
Carlos Fernandez	Portugal	M	2022-2025	Resigned in May 2024		