



EuroGOOS
European Global Ocean
Observing System

**EuroGOOS Annual General
Assembly Meeting**
19-21 May 2025
Helsinki, Finland

Agenda Item 2: Open Session on EuroGOOS Activities

Document 2.3: Report on Members Survey on GA Co-Design

2025 General Assembly Agenda: Members Survey Report

Over a period of one week (8-16 January 2025), EuroGOOS Member Organisation Delegates (representing 48 organisations from 19 countries) were asked to contribute on five key points concerning the development of the agenda of the 2025 General Assembly (20-22 May 2025). 13 organisations responded. These responses are coming from 10 countries (one response from each of the following countries: UK, Estonia, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Slovenia, Poland, Germany, France, plus three from Italy). This report presents the summary of responses (A) and an overview of the GA priorities as derived from the members' inputs (B).

A. Summary or responses

1. Coordination and reporting
 - The need for better **coordination with ROOS** and a focus on defining clear, prioritized **objectives**.
 - Strengthen coordination and communication within **WGs** to better involve **ROOS** and **TT** representatives.
 - Ensure clarity on how each governance element contributes to the **system** while considering others' inputs
 - Discussion on a structured **reporting on national coordination** in ocean observations, including:
 - Existing coordination **structures or organizations** and **national-level initiatives** to improve coordination
 - Inventories of **national contributions to the EuroGOOS system**
 - Contributions to **European Research Infrastructures (RIs)** and national support for **EOOS**
 - Develop case studies, white papers, or **reviews of national observational efforts** to share best practices.
2. System integration
 - Exploration of how EU marine data services and research infrastructures link to the EU **Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTO)**, focusing on facilitating data flow.
 - Challenges in **integrating** a wider range of observation types into **data** management and operational **modelling** systems. Updates on integrated operational systems, with a focus on advancements in data assimilation procedures.
 - Emphasis on reducing fragmentation across **Research Infrastructures (RIs)**.
 - Increasing use of **machine learning (ML)** and automated **quality control (QC)** for datasets.
 - Potential for common EuroGOOS partner **project proposals** and enhancements to **data platforms**.
3. Member benefits contributions
 - Discussion on **member contributions to the system** beyond financial fees, such as active participation in **WGs, TTs, and ROOS**.
 - **Review of WG and TT** work plans, priorities, and their integration.
 - Review of **benefits** received by members and expectations for future engagement.
 - Suggestion to collect member **feedback** prior to the General Assembly to inform discussions.

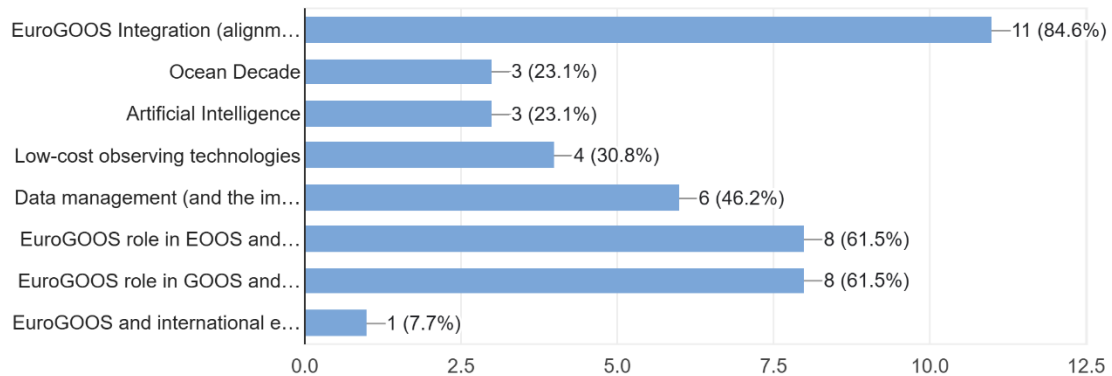
4. Capacity sharing
 - Importance of involving **early-career scientists** in EuroGOOS activities.
 - Consideration of EuroGOOS's **future role** in the European landscape of hard and e-**infrastructures**.
5. Alignment with European and global initiatives
 - EuroGOOS's contribution to **EOOS**, including sustainability of the observing system and its position within the new **GOOS** structure and governance.
 - Strengthened collaboration with global frameworks and organisations such as the **UN Ocean Decade and WMO**.
 - Interactions between **Research Infrastructures** and EuroGOOS, as well as marine **data services**.
 - Discussions on European **Ocean Observation Initiative** and the European **Ocean Pact**.
6. Sustainability of observing systems – system and environmental
 - Discussions on the **sustainability** of marine monitoring and observing systems into the future, with an emphasis on expectations and actionable steps.
 - Discussion on **sustainability of TTs and WGs**.
 - Questions around EuroGOOS's role in decarbonization, including the need for a **decarbonization plan** for its own activities.
 - Discussion on whether a world with **limited fossil fuel and resource access** presents opportunities or risks.
7. Future planning
 - Consideration of a EuroGOOS international **conference 2026**.
8. Emerging topics
 - Exploration of emerging technologies, including embedded **AI and environmental DNA (eDNA)** applications. Proposal to focus on mCDR, biogeochemistry or BioEOV to support the Biological WG.
 - Importance of **fisheries** and their connection to ocean observing.
 - **Safety** of submarine infrastructures and understanding their potential **environmental impacts**.
 - Development and use of **low-tech, low-cost sensors** for sustainable ocean observations.
 - **Leveraging offshore wind development** to facilitate marine monitoring.
9. Recommendations for guest speakers
 - Marina Tonani for EDITO and Blue Cloud task force
 - Alberto Arribas Herranz (National Oceanography Centre, Head of Digital Ocean), Helen Snaith (Head of Data and Services at British Oceanographic Data Centre)
 - AMRIT representative, a representative from the ENRIITC project for interaction of RI with industry advice (now completed but still could be informative: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/871112/results>)
 - Experts outside of marine domain, for example from industry, or experts who can share how they implement similar concepts in their domain, e.g. systems like in EuroGOOS and EOOS.
 - mCDR/biogeochemistry (e.g. IOCCP SSG members), BioEOV (e.g. Herve Claustre, LOV, France, Antje Boetius, AWI, Germany, Borut Mavrič/Patricija Mozetič/Andreja Ramšak, NIB, Slovenia, Alex Rogers, NOC, UK, Frank Muller Karger, USF, USA).
 - Regional authorities: Suggestions to invite representatives from Swedish, Finnish, or Estonian authorities. A regional-focused session could provide a platform for ROOS to showcase their priorities and challenges.
 - International organizations: Delegates from FAO or GFCM to address fisheries and global initiatives.
10. Collaboration Between ROOS and WGs/TTs: Meetings and networking
 - Increase the frequency of **targeted meetings** between WGs, TTs, and individual ROOS.

- Organize **networking events or workshops**, potentially as side events to existing events, subject to funding availability.
- **Open WG and TT meetings** to guest attendees from other WGs, TTs, or ROOS.
- Arrange **dedicated sessions at ROOS annual meetings** to focus on WG/TT activities, with cross-regional participation.

11. Follow up from the last General Assembly (May 2024, Lisbon)

Would you like to delve deeper on topics discussed at the 2024 GA? If so, which ones?

13 responses



List of options in full, prioritised according to the responses received:

1. EuroGOOS Integration (alignment and joint priority-setting between WGs, Task Teams, ROOSs) – 84,6%
2. EuroGOOS role in EOOS and EOOS developments – 61,5%
3. EuroGOOS role in GOOS and other inter-governmental initiatives – 61,5%
4. Data management (and the implementation of the 2023 EuroGOOS Data Policy) – 46,2%
5. Low-cost observing technologies – 30,8%
6. Ocean Decade – 23,1%
7. Artificial Intelligence – 23,1%
8. Other: EuroGOOS and international bodies to take as examples – 7,7%

B. Summary of top priorities for the 2025 General Assembly

1. **Improved coordination and reporting**
 - Strengthening coordination with ROOS, WGs, and TTs to define clear priorities and ensure effective communication.
 - Structured national-level reporting on coordination in ocean observations, inventories of contributions to EuroGOOS, and support for EOOS.
 - Sharing best practices through case studies and reviews of national observational efforts.
2. **Integration of systems and data**
 - Addressing the fragmentation of EU marine data services and Research Infrastructures (RIs).
 - Exploring EuroGOOS's role in supporting hard and e-infrastructure within the European landscape.
 - Enhancing interoperability and advancing data assimilation, machine learning, and automated quality control.

- Supporting collaborative project proposals and improving data platforms for integration.
- 3. **Member engagement and benefits**
 - Focusing on members' contributions beyond financial fees, such as participation in WGs, TTs, and ROOS.
 - Reviewing WG/TT work plans and alignment with member expectations, supported by pre-GA feedback collection.
 - Discussin on EuroGOOS integration actions.
- 4. **Early career involvement**
 - Increasing the involvement of early-career scientists in EuroGOOS activities.
- 5. **Alignment with global and European initiatives**
 - Strengthening EuroGOOS's role in EOOS and global frameworks like the UN Ocean Decade and WMO.
 - Discussions on the European Ocean Observation Initiative, the European Ocean Pact, and marine data services.
- 6. **Emerging topics and technologies**
 - Highlighting embedded AI, eDNA, biogeochemistry, and low-cost sensors for ocean observations.
 - Leveraging offshore wind developments for marine monitoring and focusing on fisheries-related challenges.
 - Examining EuroGOOS's role in decarbonization and the implications of limited fossil fuel access.
- 7. **Future planning**
 - Planning for a EuroGOOS international conference in 2026.

Annex: Survey Questions

EuroGOOS General Assembly – Have your say

Dear EuroGOOS member,

We are preparing for the upcoming EuroGOOS General Assembly on 20-22 May 2025 and would like to gather your input on priority topics to be discussed. Your feedback is essential to shaping the agenda and ensuring the Assembly reflects the collective interests of our community.

The survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete. Please submit your response by 16 January.

We look forward to receiving your input and thank you for your valuable contributions to EuroGOOS.

1. Reflecting on current priorities

- What key topics do you think should be prioritized for discussion at the General Assembly?

2. Emerging challenges and opportunities

- Are there any emerging challenges or opportunities in operational oceanography, data management, or ocean observing systems that you believe require focused attention?
- Do you have concrete suggestions for the external experts to be invited to present and discuss those emerging challenges and opportunities?

3. Collaboration and integration

- What specific actions or initiatives should EuroGOOS take to enhance collaboration between regional systems (ROOS) and thematic Working Groups or Task Teams?

4. Follow up from the last General Assembly (May 2024, Lisbon)

- Would you like to delve deeper on topics discussed at the 2024 GA? If so, which ones?

- ☐ EuroGOOS Integration (alignment and joint priority-setting between WGs, Task Teams, ROOS)
- ☐ Ocean Decade
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence
- ☐ Low-cost observing technologies
- ☐ Data management (and the implementation of the 2023 EuroGOOS Data Policy)
- ☐ EuroGOOS role in EOOS and EOOS developments
- ☐ EuroGOOS role in GOOS and other inter-governmental initiatives
- ☐ Other

5. Additional comments

Please share any additional thoughts or ideas that could help shape the General Assembly agenda or improve EuroGOOS activities.