



**EuroGOOS**  
European Global Ocean  
Observing System

**EuroGOOS General Assembly**

23-25 May 2018, Brussels

EuroGOOS/BELSPO, ground floor

**Agenda Item 6: Annual Reports**

**Document 6.1: Office report**

This report summarizes the activities of the EuroGOOS Office in the reporting period (May 2017-May 2018).

## EUROGOOS STAFF MEMBERS

EuroGOOS now has access to ca. 5 full time equivalent staff to conduct the work of the organisation. Three staff are employed directly on Belgian contracts by EuroGOOS AISBL (Dina Eparkhina, Vicente Fernandez and Orla Colligan (Part Time)). Two are employed via management contracts (Glenn Nolan and Erik Buch (mainly on projects and tenders)) and one staff member is seconded from SMHI, Sweden (Patrick Gorringe). The roles and contract terms of staff are presented below:

<b>Staff member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contract term</b>
Glenn Nolan	Secretary General	May 2015-April 2020
Patrick Gorringe	Senior Operations Officer	Permanent (seconded from SMHI)
Dina Eparkhina	Policy and Communications Officer	Sept. 2015-August 2020
Vicente Fernandez	Science Officer	November 2015-April 2019
Erik Buch	Senior Consultant on EU projects (P/T)	May 2020 (updates quarterly)
Orla Colligan	Administrator (P/T)	Sept. 2017 to Oct. 2020

## ACCOMODATION

EuroGOOS has been kindly hosted at the current offices on Avenue Louise, Brussels, by BELSPO since 2013. BELSPO will move to another building (near Brussels North station) in early 2019. The new building will have open plan, paperless offices with limited privacy and meeting room capacity. EuroGOOS AISBL is currently included in the move plan for BELSPO. In parallel EuroGOOS has requested that we be hosted by one of our members, RBINS, which will soon consolidate staff on newly refurbished floors at the Museum in Brussels. We are currently awaiting the outcome from this request.

## ROOS, TASK TEAMS AND WORKING GROUPS

Our ROOS, Working Groups and Task Teams continue to work with assistance from the Office. The Office continues to attend all relevant meetings of these groups including the ROOS annual meetings. The Task Teams continue their work to streamline and integrate activities regarding specific observing platforms and had the opportunity (Ferrybox, Tide Gauge and HF Radar) to have a joint showcase at DG MARE in February 2018. All chairs are invited to participate in dedicated meetings between the Executive Board and Chairs approximately three times each year to discuss cross-cutting and strategic matters. In order to enhance the work of the groups, the Office has now assigned a contact to work each ROOS, WG and Task Team.

## LINKS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

**European institutions:** EuroGOOS maintains close contact with several DGs of the European Commission that have a role in ocean observing and oceanographic research. These include DG MARE (EMODnet, Maritime Day), DG Research (observation projects, research infrastructures, GEO, Black Sea research agenda, Atlantic seabed mapping) and DG GROW (Copernicus). EuroGOOS plans to

engage other DGs in 2018 including the External Action Service (EEAS). Dialogue with DG ENV, MARE and GROW is ongoing regarding the EOOS work (see below).

**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC):** EuroGOOS continues a range of activities in the IOC context. Our primary involvement is through GOOS where we have recently assumed the Chair of the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRA) Forum (2018-2020) and are supported as vice-chair by colleagues in Indian Ocean GOOS. The EuroGOOS Secretary General was elected through IOC Group 1 to the GOOS steering committee in 2015 and is now in the second term. This has involved activity on strengthening the GRAs through enhanced communication and capacity building and in helping GOOS develop a strategy for the coming years. EuroGOOS also participated in the recent IODE Capacity Development experts meeting (March 2018).

EuroGOOS continues to work closely with Mercator Ocean (entrusted entity for the **Copernicus Marine Service**) to examine both the upstream sustainability and fitness for purpose of ocean observations and the uptake of Copernicus products to support downstream services. Furthermore, the EuroGOOS contract with the **European Environment Agency** allows strengthening links and proposing actions towards a better in situ data coordination with other Copernicus services, e.g. **Climate Service** and **Atmosphere Monitoring Service**.

Through EOOS activities EuroGOOS continues to cooperate with the **European Marine Board** and engage major stakeholders as we try to build EOOS as a framework that includes not only operational services but also marine ecosystem health and climate services. Recent contacts have included those with **International Hydrographic Organization**, the fisheries community (**ICES**) and implementers of the MSFD (**European Commission DG ENV**) among others.

EuroGOOS also continues its various **advisory roles** including EuroArgo ERIC Scientific Advisory Board, CMEMS Scientific Advisory Committee, EMODnet Physics Steering Committee and GEO High Level Working Group among others, as well as enhancing links through communications networks including IOC, POGO, GEO, and EEA.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

EuroGOOS earned income from three sources in 2017; member fees, EC projects and contracts (tenders). Member fees were €336,778 in 2017, while earned contract income was €231,495 and earned project income amounted to €139,962 (total = €708,235). Expenditure in 2017 totalled €635,935 with the surplus transferred to reserves.

In late 2017 EuroGOOS was audited by the European Commission (using KPMG accountants) on two European projects: AtlantOS and COLUMBUS. We have recently received the draft findings which will result in some modest adjustments to the claims made and four recommendations that EuroGOOS should implement in terms of clauses in contracts, calculation of productive hours and use of third party personnel.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Office continually seeks opportunities to grow the membership of EuroGOOS by identifying key institutes and organisations in European operational oceanography. The EuroGOOS team tries to use existing meetings as an opportunity to visit both existing and potential future members of EuroGOOS. AZTI Tecnalia, Spain, has applied for membership of EuroGOOS in 2018 and this will be considered by members at the forthcoming General Assembly. Recent discussions have involved organisations in the Black Sea operational oceanography including from Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, who we hope will apply for membership in the coming years. The members are encouraged to suggest other organisations that could be considered for membership of EuroGOOS.

## EOOS STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Office has invested considerable time and effort in moving the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) framework forward since the last General Assembly. Working closely with the European Marine Board (EMB) we have continued the work of the steering group. Much of the EOOS activity in 2018 focuses on two large stakeholder events; the EOOS Forum successfully held on March 8<sup>th</sup> (with EuroGOOS as lead organizer working closely with EMB) and an EOOS conference in preparation on November 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> (with EMODnet as lead organizer and EuroGOOS and EMB as advisors). An ad-hoc advisory committee has been established for the two events 2018.

Feedback from the EOOS Forum has been accounted for in the recently developed draft EOOS strategy and implementation plan released for public consultation on the EOOS website: [www.eoos-ocean.eu](http://www.eoos-ocean.eu) (developed and maintained by EuroGOOS). The stakeholder consultation will close on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018. Thereafter the collective feedback will be analysed by the EOOS steering group and incorporated into the strategy and implementation plan foreseen for publication and promotion at the EOOS Conference.

## COASTAL WORKING GROUP

At the 2017 General Assembly EuroGOOS members agreed to establish a new Coastal Working Group the kick-off meeting of which will take place on 9 May. 15 members have been nominated from EuroGOOS members and the five ROOS, and there is still an opportunity to nominate additional members in the coming months. At the kick-off the WG will discuss the terms of reference, agree a chair and set out a work plan.

## PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION

EuroGOOS issued several publications in the reporting period and supported outreach as well as communication strategies for several projects. The EuroGOOS Conference took place in October 2017 and is reflected in the Chair's report (see GA meeting document 6.3). EuroGOOS has started an active role in promoting ocean literacy with the publication of an ocean literacy book 'The Ocean Is My Home'. The book reflects the main European considerations linked to the ocean use, management and the anthropogenic impacts on its environment. While presenting the information in clear terms with young audience in mind, the book also targets policymakers and was successfully presented and launched at the global Our Ocean conference in October 2017 and further disseminated at the UNESCO IOC Ocean Literacy for All conference in December.

EuroGOOS continues to lead the EOOS communications (materials, publications, website) along with the work supporting the EOOS steering group as vice-Chairs together with the EMB (see above). In addition, EuroGOOS develops communication strategies in several projects, among others the EEA's in situ coordination for Copernicus and the AtlantOS legacy activities (blue print and its European component).

Table 1 below presents the EuroGOOS publications and websites prepared and published by the office during the reporting period.

All EuroGOOS publications are available at <http://eurogoos.eu/publications/>.

Major EuroGOOS project deliverables are available at <http://eurogoos.eu/project-deliverables/>.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Launch or other comment</b>
<b>Publications – core activity</b>		
<b>EuroGOOS general brochure</b> , 8 pp	October 2017	EuroGOOS Conference, October 2017
<b>'The Ocean Is My Home'</b> , ocean literacy book, 16 pp	October 2017	Our Ocean Conference and EuroGOOS Conf., Oct. 2017
<b>FerryBox white paper</b> , 46 pp	December 2017	EC DG MARE lunch conference, February 2018, and FB Task Team meetings
<b>8<sup>th</sup> EuroGOOS Conference Proceedings</b> , 518 pp	March 2017	E-dissemination to members
<b>Publications – projects</b>		
<b>Copernicus Marine Service and seaborne observations infrastructure</b> , infographic 1 p – Mercator Ocean project	September 2017	Copernicus Marine Week, September 2017
<b>Maritime Sensor Technologies for the European Market, Good practice guide</b> , 34 pp – COLUMBUS project	April 2017	ENVRI community booth at EGU 2018
<b>New website</b>		
<b>Atlantic Ocean Observing BluePrint</b>	October 2017	<a href="http://atlanticblueprint.net/">http://atlanticblueprint.net/</a>

Table 1: EuroGOOS publications and websites since the GA 2017

## THANKS TO OUR CHAIR

Since 2013, Erik Buch has been the Chair of the EuroGOOS Executive Board. Erik also acted as Secretary General during some of this period and has been involved in EuroGOOS since 1995. While most of the current office team arrived in relatively recent times we have all had the privilege of working with Erik to varying degrees. Erik has given us fantastic guidance and advice in this time and we have managed to enjoy many social evenings with him in Brussels and beyond. We thank him sincerely for his contribution to EuroGOOS over the past two decades and will continue to benefit from his expertise as Senior Project Consultant to the Office.