



**EuroGOOS**  
European Global Ocean  
Observing System

**EuroGOOS General Assembly**

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EuroGOOS/BELSPO, ground floor

**Agenda Item 6: Annual Reports**

**Document 6.3: Chair's report**

This report summarizes the activities of the EuroGOOS Executive Board of Directors and the EuroGOOS Chair over the reporting period since the 2017 General Assembly.

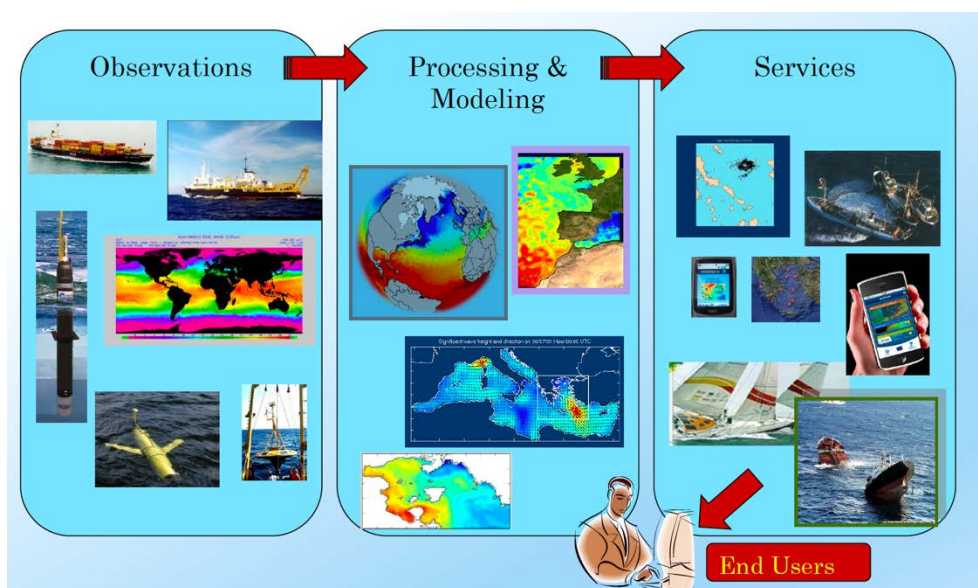
## EUROGOOS - EOOS

### ***What is the difference between EuroGOOS and EOOS?***

This question is raised continuously now that EuroGOOS and European Marine Board are jointly promoting the establishment of European Ocean Observing System (EOOS). Unfortunately, there is no clear and straightforward answer to this question and therefore EuroGOOS with its strong engagement in promotion of EOOS is currently facing a bit of an identity crisis.

Since its formation in 1994, EuroGOOS has been recognised as the European component of GOOS and still is within the IOC/GOOS system as well as in the EuroGOOS members' minds, but in recent communication some also suggest that EOOS is the European component of GOOS. Part of the explanation for this confusion shall be sought in the changed strategic focus of GOOS:

- When GOOS was formed the strategic focus was on ocean observations and operational oceanography. EuroGOOS has been one of the leading regions within GOOS to implement this strategy with a strong engagement in the full value chain of operational oceanography.



EuroGOOS has been very successful in the implementation of the strategy of operational oceanography over the past 20+ years:

- New observation networks – EuroARGO, gliders, HF-Radars, Ferryboxes, EMSO, animal borne instruments, etc – are delivering ocean observations in (near)real-time;
- Free exchange of data has increased dramatically;
- The forecasting capability has developed tremendously, and a European capacity are now coordinated via CMEMS under the Copernicus program, supplemented by a variety of national forecasting system operated by EuroGOOS members;
- The observations and model forecasts are generating a variety of products and services tailored to meet user requirements.

The EuroGOOS strategy is still centred around operational oceanography including all components of the value chain.

- In 2012, GOOS changed its strategy from operational oceanography to focus more broadly on ocean observations in service of operational services, climate and ecosystem health. Since the definition of EOOS is: *“to be a coordinating framework designed to align and integrate Europe’s ocean observing capacity, promote a systematic and collaborative approach to collecting information on the state and variability of our seas, and underpin sustainable management of the marine environment and resources”*, EOOS is therefore well in line with the GOOS strategy – even better than EuroGOOS.

Due to the “identity crisis” and the shift in focus of GOOS we must in EuroGOOS seriously reconsider our strategy and a couple of scenarios are open for consideration and discussion:

1. Continue focussing on operational oceanography alone incl. the full value chain – status quo.
2. Align with the GOOS strategy with primarily focussing on all types ocean observations – operational, climate and ecosystem health. Linked to this strategy is a decision on “EuroGOOS becoming EOOS” or “EOOS becoming EuroGOOS”.
3. A mix of the two with focus on the full suite of observations but also including activities on forecasts and product and service generation.

A shift of strategy towards increased focus on ocean observations and EOOS implementation will require considerations on the continued cooperation with European Marine Board.

## DATA POLICY

At the General Assembly 2017, we initiated a discussion on the need for a EuroGOOS data policy, and the meeting asked the Board to address this issue further.

Analysis of old documents on data policy displayed the fact that EuroGOOS actually has a data policy approved by the members in 2000. This data policy however needs a careful revision to be used in the future.

The Board discussions on the data policy issue led to a decision on asking the office to conduct a EuroGOOS member and ROOS survey or analysis to map current data exchange problems with the purpose to inform the Board’s future discussion on what EuroGOOS can do to help.

At the Copernicus In Situ Workshop on 25 April 2018, a hot topic was how to secure a free exchange of data to secure the quality of the products delivered by the Services. The representative from DG-GROW as well as others underlined the importance of having data agreements in place.

I therefore believe that we in the near future will be faced with a demand to have a data policy so we might as well be proactive and update the existing policy – thereby we may even act as an inspiration for other GOOS Regional Alliances.

## PROJECT PARTICIPATION

EuroGOOS is an active partner in a number of projects – EC H2020 projects as well as European Commission tenders – most of them focussing on ocean observations. EuroGOOS thereby have built:

- A broad network within the marine environmental observation community (operational, climate, biogeochemistry, biology) but also with meteorology and atmospheric composition operators;
- Competences within:
  - Requirements
  - Gap analysis
  - Data exchange and data portals
  - Sustainability of observing systems
  - Cost of observing system
  - Research Infrastructures.

All very relevant for the work in supporting and servicing the EuroGOOS members both under the present strategy or a possible future strategy devoted more to observations.

## EUROGOOS CONFERENCE

In early October 2017, the Eighth EuroGOOS International Conference titled “Operational Oceanography Serving Sustainable Marine Development” successfully took place in Bergen co-hosted by the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the Nansen Environmental Remote Sensing Centre (NERSC).

The conference discussed major developments in operational oceanography in recent years. Cooperation among ocean observing and data aggregation initiatives have progressed strongly since the previous conference in 2014. Furthermore, several marine research infrastructure networks have transitioned to full legal entities towards a robust and timely data delivery for a wide range of users. Biogeochemistry observations have also progressed considerably, as did the awareness of the critical importance of those measurements. The conference highlighted:

- Progress in linking and aligning European ocean observing stakeholders and initiatives towards building an integrated and sustained European Ocean Observing System (AtlantOS, INTAROS, ODYSSEA, JERICO, EMSO-ERIC and others);
- Integrating and aggregating European marine data to enhance its societal and economic potential (Copernicus Marine Service, EMODnet, SeaDataNet, and others);
- Community priorities regarding the evolution of the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service;
- The role of marine research infrastructures in the operational oceanographic system;
- New initiatives under way for polar seas (observation and predictive capabilities);
- Key new technologies for coastal operational oceanography;
- The role of acoustic technologies in the ocean observing system;
- The ongoing efforts to integrate ocean observing and data initiatives at a global level, meeting societal, policy and economic needs.

Presentations at the conference demonstrated a community that continues to utilise ocean observations to produce high-quality assessments of past, current and future ocean state. These assessments and forecasts form the basis for products and services to maritime industries. The

underlying data also provide the basis for regional sea and climate assessments. Europe remains well positioned to take a global lead in the field of operational oceanography.

At the conference the third Kostas Medal was given to Robert King of the UK Met Office (see picture).

I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to IMR and NERSC for their great efforts in securing that the conference became a success.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION- GOOS

Being a member of the GOOS family EuroGOOS has a strong obligation to represent the European interests in this global forum. EuroGOOS are active in both GOOS Steering Group and in the GOOS regional Alliance (GRA).

The Eighth Session of the GOOS Regional Alliances Forum was held at the National University of Singapore, on 5-7 September 2017. Tim Moltmann (IMOS) chaired the Forum which was attended by representatives of ten of the thirteen GRAs. There also were representatives of the GOOS Steering Committee, GOOS Project Office, GOOS Panels for Physics, Biogeochemistry, and Biology and Ecosystems, JCOMM Observations Coordination Group (OCG), Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA\_ON), Global High Frequency Radar Network, Global Ocean Glider Network; as well as invited experts from GEO Blue Planet, South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and Indonesian Government (IAMCG and BMKG).

The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss the highlights, progress and challenges over the last two years. The Forum was informed about the proposal for an International Decade for Ocean Science and about the status of GOOS and its ten-year strategy. The GOOS Strategy will help address the underlying drivers, challenges and urgency resulting from multiple and competing needs (e.g. climate change, trade, food security, blue economy). GRAs will be asked to review the draft strategy and provide comments. There is engagement between GOOS/IOC and the G7 regarding a proposal for capacity development in coastal observation systems.

The participants also explored the potential for new partnerships between GRAs and other programs relevant to GOOS, with an emphasis on capacity development in:

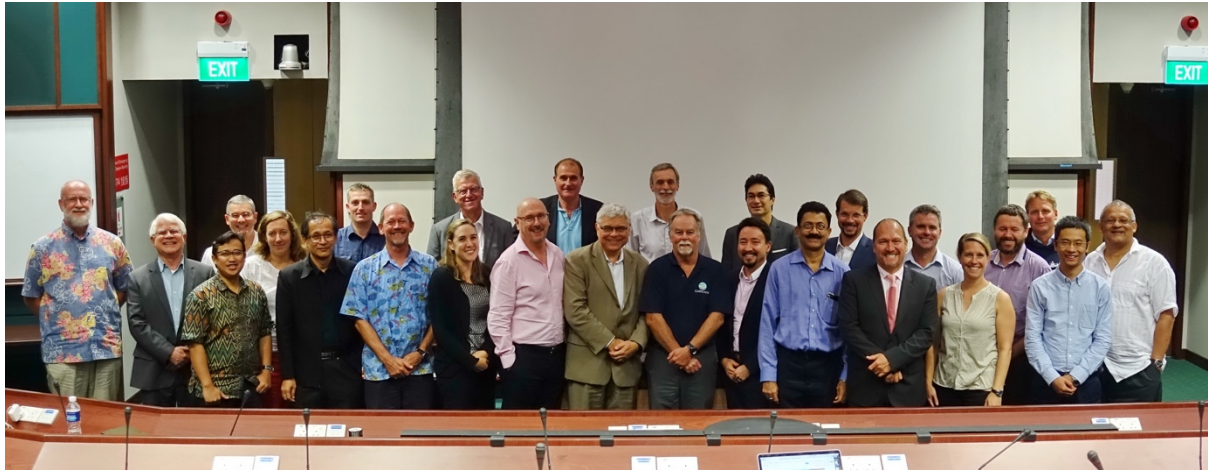
- 1) Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON);
- 2) Regional ocean observing initiatives;
- 3) Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs);
- 4) Modelling and Forecasting.

The Global Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) has demonstrated how local projects contribute to the success of regional /global scale initiatives, and also how projects can be successfully extended for example from reef monitoring to Ocean Acidification (OA) monitoring and research. IOC has a special mandate on Sustainable Development Goal target 14.3 concerning minimizing the effects of OA.

New work by JCOMM OCG on Best Practices could encourage technical knowledge transfer, setting requirements and standards, as well as the support of EOVs and access to calibration facilities. The Forum noted the LMEs' importance to help manage transboundary issues in marine ecosystems, and the opportunities created by IOC's involvement in identifying their best practices.

Moreover, it was agreed to explore stronger involvement of national programs (such as those emerging in Canada and South Africa) in the GOOS regional observing enterprise, as well as stronger interlinkages between GRAs.

The participants approved that Tim Moltmann, IMOS, would pass the Chair of the GRA Regional Council to Glenn Nolan, EuroGOOS, at the end of 2017, with Dr Satheesh Shenoi, IO GOOS, taking up the role of Vice Chair.



## MY LAST REPORT

This being my last chair's report to EuroGOOS I will use this opportunity to say:

- It has been fun, a privilege and a great honour to serve as EuroGOOS chair for nearly 5 years;
- Take well care of EuroGOOS - it is an important organisation with the potential to be even more important;
- A great and warm thank to all that I have had the pleasure to work with within EuroGOOS since 1995.

BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE!!!