EuroGOOS
European Global Ocean Observing System

Argo Task Team

Terms of Reference

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1. Background, Rationale, and Link with EuroGOOS strategic priorities

The international Argo Programme is an important component of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), providing freely available data on the physical and biogeochemical state of the ocean sampled by a global array of autonomous profiling floats. The Argo Programme was launched over twenty years ago with observations of physical state variables (temperature, T, and salinity, S, vs. depth) acquired by a global array of about 3000 floats profiling from the surface of the ocean, down to 2000 m deep. Thanks to recent advancements in platform and sensor technologies, the Argo Program defined its new expanded mission: "OneArgo: a global, full-depth, and multidisciplinary array of 4000 floats" (Owens et al., 2022; https://doi.org/10.4031/MTSJ.56.3.8). The OneArgo mission includes (1) the core-Argo mission with floats measuring T, S, and depth down to 2000 m, (2) the Deep-Argo mission with floats measuring T, S and depth down to 4000 m or 6000 m, (3) the BioGeoChemical-Argo (BGC-Argo) mission with floats measuring T, S and depth, along with biogeochemical variables (such as, oxygen, pH, light, phytoplankton biomass, nutrients, etc.) down to 2000 m. The ambition is to populate the global ocean with a spatially complete array of 4000 floats at an average 3-degree spacing, of which 1200 will be Deep-Argo and 1000 will be BGC-Argo, to be fully operational within 5-10 years. Presently, there are in operation about 4000 floats that produce more than 100,000 profiles per year.

The Euro-Argo ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) allows active coordination and strengthening of the European contribution to the international Argo programme. Its main goal is to provide, deploy and operate an array that is the European contribution to the global ocean array. The European array is around 25% of the global total number of floats. Furthermore, this ERIC has also the intent to provide enhanced coverage in the European regional seas, to implement the new phase of Argo (with extensions towards biogeochemistry, greater depths and high latitudes), to provide quality controlled data and access to the data sets and data products to the research (climate and oceanography) and operational oceanography (e.g. Copernicus Marine Service) communities.

The EuroGOOS Argo Task Team is expected to be the main forum for non-Euro-Argo ERIC institutions/countries in issues related to planning, deployment, quality control and sustainability of Argo floats in tight collaboration with the Euro-Argo ERIC bodies and members. As all EuroGOOS Task Teams, this activity is an important building block towards an integrated end-to-end European Ocean Observing System (EOOS).

2. Aim and Objectives

The main objective of the Task Team is to facilitate interactions between non-Euro-Argo ERIC institutes/countries and the Euro-Argo ERIC governance structure, especially the Management Board (MB).

The Task Team aims to:

- Meet regularly with the Euro-Argo ERIC MB, at least once a year, arranged to be during the MB annual meetings;

- Support and facilitate the process of Euro-Argo ERIC membership of present non-Euro-Argo ERIC countries;
- Organize workshops/training about Argo issues (e.g., DMQC-Delayed Mode Quality Control) in collaboration with the Euro-Argo ERIC;
- Collaborate in the organization of events with the Euro-Argo ERIC (e.g., Science Meeting and Users Meeting);
- Prepare, in collaboration with the Euro-Argo ERIC, the participation to the Argo Steering Team (AST) and Argo Data Management Team (ADMT) meetings;
- Collaborate with the Euro-Argo ERIC on float deployment coordination and foster the co-operation with Research Vessel (and other vessels of opportunity) operators in terms of supporting the deployment of Argo floats;
- Develop the collaboration with users and stakeholder communities in non-ERIC EU member countries, and facilitate the recruitment of new members;
- Link with EuroGOOS Regional Operational Observing Systems (ROOSs), Working Groups, Task Teams and relevant ongoing observational programmes/projects;
- Report annually to the EuroGOOS General Assembly.

3. Composition and Operation

The Task Team is composed of two co-Chairs and members. The Task Team is open to everyone that wants to participate actively, including from the Euro-Argo ERIC member countries. At least, one representative of the Euro-Argo ERIC Management Board (e.g., the Chair and/or Co-Chair) and of the Euro-Argo ERIC Office. The co-Chairs are supported by a dedicated officer at the EuroGOOS Office.

3.1 Co-Chair's nomination process, mandate, responsibilities

The co-Chair must be a representative of a EuroGOOS member organization[1]. The co-Chairs are nominated by the EuroGOOS General Assembly or the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board, or a broader EuroGOOS community. The co-Chairs are approved by the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board. The co-Chairs' mandate is for three years, renewable once, upon re-election for another two-year term.

Co-Chairs are responsible for:

- Oversight of the Task Team;
- Alignment of the work with the Terms of Reference (ToR) and with the EuroGOOS Strategy;
- Developing the Task Team yearly implementation plan in line with the above;
- Reporting to the EuroGOOS General Assembly and EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board (including both at physical/virtual meetings and in writing);
- Regularly reviewing the membership of the Task Team (e.g., once a year);
- Regularly liaising with the EuroGOOS Office to follow up on the Task Team's alignment with the other EuroGOOS activities (at least monthly);
- Represent the Task Team at external meetings as agreed by Task Team and in liaison with the EuroGOOS Office.

[1] https://eurogoos.eu/about-eurogoos/list-of-eurogoos-member-agencies-and-contact-persons/

3.2 Members nomination and selection process, mandates, responsibilities

Members are selected based on a call for nominations to the EuroGOOS members. If there is not enough expertise within the EuroGOOS member organizations, Task Team members can be selected through an external call for expression of interest.

Members are selected from the pool of nominations by the co-Chairs and the EuroGOOS Office, keeping in mind the spread and representativeness in expertise, geographical representation, and the gender balance on the group.

Members do not have an established mandate unless the activity is terminated. However, membership is reviewed by the co-Chairs and the EuroGOOS Office on a regular basis and can be terminated if the member does not fulfil the below responsibilities.

Members' responsibilities are to:

- Participate in the Task Team activities;
- Deliver outputs as required, orally or in writing, in a timely manner;
- Represent the activity at external meetings, upon agreement with the co-Chairs and the EuroGOOS Office;
- Attend Task Team meetings;
- Follow-up on the developments related to the Task Team's activity, to ensure the Task Team's work is timely and topical.

4. Mode of Operation

The Terms of Reference for the Task Team are developed by the EuroGOOS Office in liaison with the Co-Chairs, and submitted to the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board for approval.

Once approved, the Task Team co-Chairs and the EuroGOOS Office launch a call for member nominations (see item 3.2).

When the membership of the Task Team is established, the Task Team is regarded as operational. In most cases, a physical or remotely kick-off meeting will be organized to agree the Terms of Reference with all the members and develop the first annual implementation plan. The EuroGOOS Office oversees the communication related to the Task Team activities.

The Task Team operates based on its Terms of Reference and annual implementation plans. Its activities are reviewed at the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board meetings (four times a year) and the EuroGOOS General Assembly (annually).

5. Deliverables

The Task Team may have a role as a forum, providing a platform for exchange of expertise and generation of advice in the area of the Task Team's purpose. It can also be of a more operational nature, organizing regular meetings, establishing interfaces with communities outside of those of the Task Team, delivering publications and reports. A list of envisaged deliverables is prepared at the Task Team kick-off meeting and is updated as the activity develops (and included as an Annex to the Terms of Reference).

6. Target Audience and Expected Impact

At the kick-off meeting, the members and the Chair agree on the target audience for the Task Team's outputs and the main communication messages. The EuroGOOS Office helps to align the plans with the other EuroGOOS strategic activities. The Task Team also establishes an expected/desired impact of its activities on the target audience.

7. Indicative Timetable (Gantt chart)

The below template is indicative. It will be prepared based on the above guidelines and the implementation plan.

	09/2022	10/2022	11/2022	12/2022	01/2023	02/2023	03/2023	04/2023
Terms of Reference								
Selection of co-Chairs								
Approval by Exec. Board								
Call for member nominations								
Kick-off meeting								
Activity 1*								
Activity 2*								
Activity 3*								
Activity 4*								
…								
…								

*** To be identified during the kick-off meeting**

ANNEX I
Chairs and Members

Nominate Co-Chairs:

- A. Miguel Piecho-Santos, Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal
- Griet Neukermans, Ghent University, Belgium

Mandate start date:

- 01-09-2022

Current members (November 2022):

- Alan Berry, Marine Institute (MI), Ireland
- Andreas Sterl, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), Netherlands
- Birgit Klein, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH), Germany
- Emanuele Organelli, National Research Council (CNR), Institute of Marine Sciences (ISMAR), Italy
- Gerasimos Korres, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Greece
- Giulio Notarstefano, National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS), Italy
- Guillaume Maze, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer), France
- Kjell Arne Mork, Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Norway
- Laura Tuomi, Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI), Finland
- Luísa Lamas, Hydrographic Institute (IH), Portugal
- Marios Josephides, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus
- Pedro Velez Belchi, Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), Spain
- Sylvie Pouliquen, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer), France
- Violeta Slabakova, Institute of Oceanology “Fridtjof Nansen” (IO-BAS), Bulgaria
- Thierry Carval, French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer), France
- Tülay Çokacar, Institute of Marine Science Management, Istanbul University, Turkey
- Waldemar Walczowski, Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences (IO-PAN), Poland
- Yann-Hervé de Roeck, Euro-Argo ERIC, France

EuroGOOS Facilitation:

- Joseph Nolan, Science Officer