

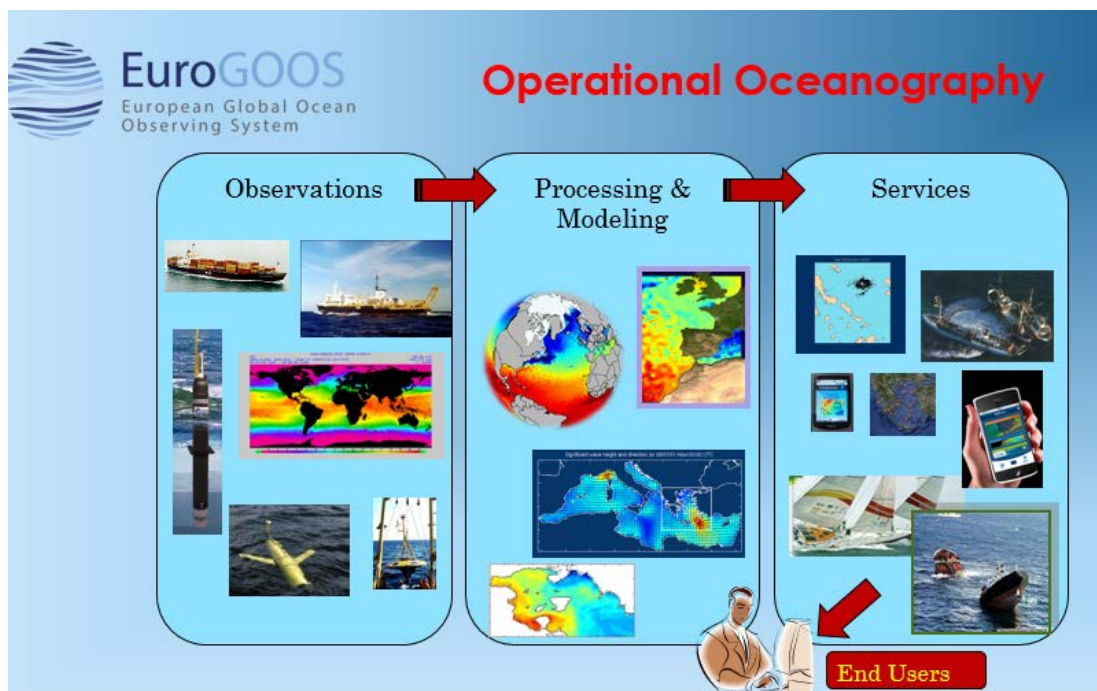


Chair's report

Prepared for the General Assembly Meeting

25-27 May 2016,

EuroGOOS Office, Brussels



This report summarizes the activities of the EuroGOOS Board of Directors and the EuroGOOS Chair over the past year.

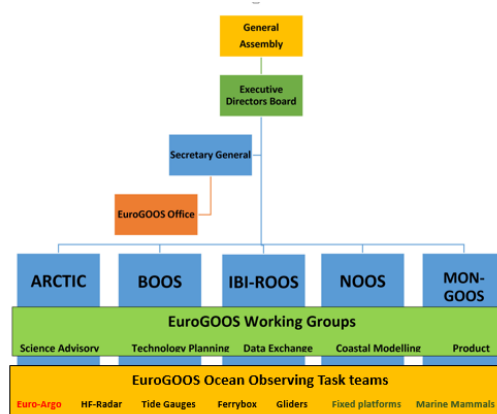
EUROGOOS OFFICE

For the first time since the EuroGOOS office moved to Brussels January 2013, it has over the past year been fully manned – even expanded. This continuity in the staffing is of great value to EuroGOOS and we can now really recognise the value of having the EuroGOOS office centrally placed in Brussels, because the office have managed to establish close contacts and good working relations to key players in the marine world in Europe – EU DG’s, European marine Board, JPI Ocean etc. This has created great visibility to EuroGOOS.

EUROGOOS ORGANISATION

It is always important to monitor closely the structure and functioning of an organisation and in the past the following shall be highlighted:

- The ROOS’s are the backbone of the EuroGOOS structure. They are well-established with their own MoU and with many activities of which the exchange of data is a very important and central activity both within the ROOS’s but also in support of bigger EU programmes such as Copernicus and EMODnet.
- The focus and the level of activity is different within the individual ROOS’s. It could be desirable with greater harmonisation of strategies and development plans.
- The Working Groups is a bit of a concern to us since it seems difficult to motivate active members in most of them, especially the Product WG have cause us worries for a long time and creative solutions is needed; because we need more focus on this third component of operational oceanography.
- In 2015 EuroGOOS General Meeting approved the introduction of Observational Task Teams and ToR for four TT and a MoU with Euro-Argo was signed.
- This change in the EuroGOOS organisation has proven very valuable:
 - The TT has been very active
 - The initiative is well recognised in the community in Europe as well as outside
 - The TT’s form a good basis for the planning of EOOS
 - The Board propose the approval of two additional TT’s – Fixed platform and Marine mammals



In order to increase the dialog and cooperation joint meetings between the chairs of ROOS’s, WG’s , TT’s, the EuroGOOS Board and EuroGOOS office has been initiated and will be performed at least once a year.

EUROGOOS STRATEGY 2014-2020

Based on the EuroGOOS Strategy 2014-2020 and its Implementation Plan, both approved in 2014, a detailed Workplan for 2015 was prepared with several goals for both the Office as well as for the ROOS’s, WG’s and TT’s. The board carefully monitored the implementation of the plan and the initiative proved to be successful, because it helped to focus the activities and a large percentage of the goals was actually achieved. I hope such plan will be routine in the years to come.

The EuroGOOS Office has during past year supplemented the Strategy with a **“Communication Strategy”**, which already has led to a substantial increase communication and publication activity - web, twitter, flyers, policy briefs and reports etc. – an extremely important activity in our communication society and especially in a city like Brussels.

DATA EXCHANGE

Fostering open and free exchange of data is of high strategic priority to EuroGOOS, which primarily is reflected in our engagement in EMODnet and CMEMS, but also in the tasks we have in the EU funded projects that we are part of – existing as well as upcoming.

Although EuroGOOS has promoted this issue for several years there are still large amounts of data stored around in Europe that are not available for general use, so data exchange will be on the agenda for a long time still.

EuroGOOS is also active in international cooperative bodies on data exchange:

- IODE
- JCOMM Task Team for Integrated Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Services within WIS (TT-MOWIS)

Additionally EuroGOOS are in contract negotiations to support activities under Copernicus:

- Together with EUMETNET EuroGOOS won a tender launched by EEA to support their cross-cutting in-situ data coordination
- MERCATOR Ocean to support CMEMS activities.

EOOS

A high priority area for EuroGOOS over the past year has been to push the concept of an European Ocean Observing System (EOOS). In cooperation with European Marine Board the EuroGOOS Office has taken the lead in the planning and description of the EOOS and it is very satisfactory to notice that:

- A Steering Group is now established and have had its first meeting.
- A roadmap is under preparation
- The concept of EOOS has attracted political attention, we hope this can help to increase awareness on the need for more ocean observations.

GOOS

EuroGOOS has over the past year been more active in GOOS activities than ever with purpose to contribute to the implementation of GOOS, strengthen our global relation and learn from regions. EuroGOOS secretary General was in 2015 appointed members of the GOOS Steering Committee where also two board members Rosalia Santoleri and Pierre-Yves LeTraon are members.

GOOS REGIONAL ALLIANCES (GRA)

EuroGOOS participated in the GRA Forum at Crete in 2015 and contributed substantially to the outcome of the meeting:

- Raised awareness on strengthening the GOOS organisation by making the GRA's a central part
- Presented visualisation of the model inventory performed in 2014



- Presented a possible solution on GRA real-time data portal based on EMODnet Physics portal – IOOS and IMOS data included (see figure)
- EuroGOOS and MONGOOS shall cooperate on strengthening links to the northern countries in GOOS Africa.

ARCTIC GOOS

EuroGOOS has in cooperation with the IOC GOOS office promoted the idea of establishing an Arctic GOOS. The idea has been presented at several meetings and via direct contacts to IOC representatives in US, Canada and Russia.

BLACK SEA GOOS

EuroGOOS has taken initiative to strengthen the links to and cooperation with the Black Sea GOOS community. EuroGOOS office organised a first meeting with Black Sea representatives in spring 2016.

GEO



GEO ended its first 10-years program in 2015 and thereby started the implementation of the 2016-2015 strategic plan. This also meant the establishment of a new organisational structure for GEO, where the establishment of the Programme Board is a new initiative. The programme Board, composed of persons nominated by GEO Members and Participating Organizations, supports the development and implementation of GEO activities. In particular, the Board oversees the establishment of the multi-year GEO Work Programmes as it ensures alignment of the scope and substance of activities proposed with GEO priorities and committed resources. It also examines proposed Implementation Plans for GEO Initiatives and Flagships.

A programme Board for the transitional year 2016 was appointed by the GEO plenary in Mexico late 2015, and the EuroGOOS chair was appointed member as representative for GOOS. At the first Programme Board meeting three participating organisations – CEOS, GOOS and WMO – was granted observer status to the Executive Committee.

My impression from after participating in the first Programme Board and Executive Committee meetings is that the oceans is rather invisible in GEO context – very few marine programme is in the work programme. In my mind GOOS should be the obvious marine component of GEO. I have established contacts to IOC, POGO and COSPAR (all participating organisations in GEO with an ocean mandate) to coordinate activities and to promote stronger ocean visibility in GEO

PROJECTS

It is very satisfactory that EuroGOOS has managed to be partner in a relatively large number of externally funded projects because:

- The projects we engage in supports our strategic objectives and we can thereby do a better job in implementing our strategy in support of our members

- It raises our visibility, it strengthens our links to key organisations and research infrastructures in Europe
- Improves our possibility to influence the future developments and decisions.
- EuroGOOS is regarded as an attractive partner.