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1. EuroGOOS aspirations in the short to medium term

A strategy has been produced for EuroGOOS to cover the 2014 to 2020 period. A summary of the five key aspects of this strategy are presented in section 2. To focus activity over the coming two years (2016-2018) we have decided to outline a list of priorities with the following overarching principles:

- Establish EuroGOOS as the “go to place” for operational Oceanography by being a trusted source of relevant and timely information to marine and maritime stakeholders in all European sea basins.
- Develop a framework for sustained end-to-end European Ocean Observing System (EOOS).
- Expand EuroGOOS membership to ensure that all active participants in European operational oceanography are represented by the organisation.
- Demonstrate European leadership at global level by engaging fully with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Essential Ocean Variable panels, GOOS Regional Alliances Forum and with the Group on Earth Observations in the development of the Group on Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS).
- Provide an attractive Communications platform for the policy community to expand understanding of our community’s activities and its relationship to key policy drivers.

2. Context from 2014-2020 strategy

2.1 Priorities: Promotion, Cooperation, Co-production, Sustained Observations

EuroGOOS is an International Non-Profit Association of national governmental agencies, research organisations, and companies, committed to European-scale operational oceanography within the context of the intergovernmental [Global Ocean Observing System \(GOOS\)](#).

It was founded in 1994 and has today 41 [members](#) from 19 European countries providing operational oceanographic services and carrying out marine research.

EuroGOOS identifies priorities, enhances cooperation and promotes the benefits of operational oceanography to ensure sustained observations are made in Europe’s seas underpinning a suite of fit-for-purpose products and services for marine and maritime end-users.

Among the core activities of EuroGOOS is the development and operation of regional operational systems. Five systems are at present part of EuroGOOS in the following European sea basins: the Arctic (Arctic ROOS), the Baltic (BOOS), the North West Shelf (NOOS), the Iberia-Biscay-Ireland area (IBI-ROOS) and the Mediterranean (MONGOOS). Strong

cooperation within these regions, enabling the involvement of many more regional partners and countries, forms the basis of EuroGOOS work, and is combined with high-level representation at European and global forums.

The present strategy sets the scene for the work of EuroGOOS for 2014-2020 containing the following key elements:

1. **Identify European priorities for operational Oceanography;** main focus will be on defining research priorities and relate to key European initiatives such as Copernicus, EMODnet and marine research infrastructures. As part of this activity EuroGOOS will also work intensively on linking to the research community, industry, users and EU policies.
2. **Promotion of operational oceanography;** key elements here are networking, publications, conferences, EuroGOOS webpage, social media and increased engagement with various organisations such as GOOS Regional Alliances, GEO, ERA-NETs and JPI Oceans.
3. **Foster Cooperation;** EuroGOOS will actively engage itself in close cooperation with key organisations on a global, European and regional scale.
4. **Co-production;** to allow for reduction in costs and higher specialization EuroGOOS will support actions leading to commonly available operational, observation and model-based, products and services among its members. Specifically, EuroGOOS will aim to better coordinate co-production for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
5. **Sustained Ocean Observations;** EuroGOOS will take a leading role to ensure coordination of the European contribution to sustained marine observational system through the promotion of a European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and will in this context work closely together with the EU Copernicus Marine Service, EMODnet, European marine research infrastructures, JPI Oceans, EEA, ESA, EUMETSAT and its national members.

EuroGOOS expects through these activities to be an attractive partner for cooperation in the marine community – public as well as private industry – leading to an increased number of EuroGOOS members.

2.2 Priorities 2016-2018

- i. **Data:** Marine data underpin the operational oceanographic system in Europe today with observations collected for real-time monitoring, assimilation into forecast models and archived long-term for climate and assessment purposes. EuroGOOS will focus on the following elements:

Within the EOOS development and in liaison with EMODnet: map the data availability in European regions, across physical, biological and chemical parameters, to identify priorities, data providers, and users.

Real-time transmission: develop initiatives that increase the real-time delivery of data from various platforms deployed in European seas. Thermosalinograph and CTD data from ships will provide the initial focus for this work with an expansion to other platforms thereafter.

Unlocking data sets: Through continuous analysis of CMEMS INSTAC, EMODNet and Seadatanet, highlight inconsistencies in geographic and temporal coverage of key data sets and assess how data currently unavailable can be made available to the wider user community.

Enhancing and increasing Biogeochemical observations: Evolve observing system to have a higher proportion of biogeochemical measurements as part of the overall number of observations

Provide open access to data: using existing portals and examining data policies in the regional sea basins, ensure data are openly shared with the user community with minimal bureaucracy and complications

Establish an interface with users of data (both end and intermediate users), e.g. via tailored stakeholder workshops and the activities of the DATAMEQ WG, EMODnet and COLUMBUS project, among others

- ii. **Sustained observing system:** Building an ocean observing system that can be sustained over decades will enable key societal questions to be addressed including ocean health, supply of ocean goods and services, real time operational services, and climate assessments. About 70% of the current observing system is funded through short-term research funding at national or European level. A framework is required to enable funders, implementers and users to interact ensuring longer term sustainability of the ocean observing system, fully integrated into GOOS and GEOSS strategies for global coverage.

EOOS: Develop a framework for a European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) by working with the European Marine Board, in particular set up and facilitate a steering group for EOOS, draft a roadmap, engage stakeholders for feedback, and develop an EOOS communication and stakeholder engagement strategy, ensuring relevant, up-to-date information and interface for the EOOS implementers, funders, and users.

Membership: Encourage ROOS members to become full members of EuroGOOS by providing a well-reasoned rationale for becoming part of EuroGOOS, offering support to new members in terms of promotion, and seeking out new funding opportunities. Scan the landscape for members contributing to filling the identified data and observing system gaps.

Regional Systems: promote our ROOSes and ensure good succession of steering group members and chairs of each ROOS. Ensure consistency of strategies between EuroGOOS and ROOSes.

Task Teams: set up a coordination mechanism to ensure a full alignment of the Task Team activities with the EuroGOOS strategies for EOOS and ROOSes.

- iii. **Products:** The operational oceanography community develops products for a variety of users including real-time maps of ocean parameters, operational forecast products and services based on the past state of the ocean. Such products are provided for ecosystem assessments, fisheries studies, real-time decision support to marine operations, emergency scenarios, e.g. search and rescue, oil and pollution

spills and for tourism and leisure activities in our seas. EuroGOOS has a role in product development through its 40 members and by building collaborations with CMEMS, EMODnet, ICES, GEO, GOOS and other users.

Fit for purpose: Working with key stakeholders, including industry partners reinvigorate the EuroGOOS Products working group to ensure a broad based membership and the production of fit for purpose products and services for end-users

MSFD tailored products: One of the major drivers for monitoring in European regional seas is the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. EuroGOOS will ensure that tailored products are delivered to support this directive by engaging key implementers of the Directive over the coming 2 years.

User uptake: EuroGOOS will work to enhance the update of data and products from the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service and EMODnet primarily by communicating with both users and producers to encourage the use of such products.

- iv. **Communications Interface:** In the past year EuroGOOS has started to build up a communications profile to promote the work of our community and to engage stakeholders at many levels. EuroGOOS hopes to enhance its communications portfolio by producing targeted material in both printed and on-line format. We also intend to grow our presence using social media tools such as Twitter and through the EuroGOOS website. The EuroGOOS communications strategy underpins all the EuroGOOS strategic activities.

Bridging the science/policy divide: produce policy briefs and other relevant information, as needed, and engage with European policy and decision-makers.

Work with member organizations to inform Member States' decision-makers of the EuroGOOS priorities (e.g. via national workshops or targeted communications).

Promote member products: Using social media and websites, ensure frequent updates.

Assist member activities with communication plans: bring the EuroGOOS communications to bear in assisting members communicate issues related to the ocean observing system, ocean forecasting and operational oceanographic products e.g. ROOS, Working Group and Task Teams.

Wider Operational Oceanographic community: EuroGOOS will demonstrate European leadership at global level by engaging fully with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Essential Ocean Variable panels, GOOS Regional Alliance and the Group on Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS).

- v. **Cross-cutting activities:** Several EuroGOOS activities are transversal in nature in that they involve more than one of the five key areas identified in the 2014-2020 strategy i.e. Priorities , Promotion, Cooperation, Co-production and sustained observations

EC Projects and tenders: EuroGOOS is involved in various projects e.g. AtlantOS, JERICO-NEXT, ENVRI+, COLUMBUS and contracts including Pro-Atlantic, Baltic Checkpoint, CMEMS INSTAC, EMODNet Physics. Most touch on several aspects of the EuroGOOS strategy. Delivering high-quality outputs from these projects in a timely manner is critical to EuroGOOS over the coming years.

Task teams: EuroGOOS task teams cover a wide range of observing platform technologies including tide gauges, radars, freeybox, gliders, Argo floats (through Euro-Argo ERIC), animal-borne tags and fixed platforms. It is critical that EuroGOOS retains the expertise to plan and prioritise the various platforms that make up the observing system. Similarly, EuroGOOS must ensure that the terms of reference are relevant and evolve as priorities change.

Working Groups: The Science Advisory, Technology planning, Data Management, Coastal modelling and Products working groups are a vital part of the EuroGOOS structure considering technical questions of relevance to our community. Again, it is critical that the appropriate expertise is retained through these working groups with adaptive terms of reference.

Advisory role: Input is regularly sought from EuroGOOS in a variety of capacities towards other initiatives. This is a role that EuroGOOS will consider carefully before taking any additional advisory roles on board. It is however seen as a strategic activity and should be continued in the coming years. EuroGOOS currently sits on the advisory groups listed below.

Communication: EuroGOOS communication is developed as a strategic imperative, underpinning all the activities, along the EuroGOOS strategic areas, via promotion, enhancing cooperation and co-production, and aiding delivery of strategic priorities for an integrated and sustained European Ocean Observing System, set in a global context.

Table 1: EuroGOOS chair and office representation at European and global panels

N°	Organization/Initiative/Project	Scale	EuroGOOS staff member	Role
1.	GEO Programme Board	Int'l	Erik Buch	Member
2.	GEO Executive Board	Int'l	Erik Buch	Observer
3.	GEO High-level EC working group	Int'l	Glenn Nolan → Erik Buch	Observer
4.	GOOS Steering Committee	Int'l	Glenn Nolan	Member
5.	GOOS Regional Alliances Forum	Int'l	Erik Buch	Co-Chair
6.	IODE Expert Team on Data Management Practices	Int'l	Patrick Gorringe	Member
7.	JCOMM TT-MOWIS (task team for integrated marine meteorological and oceanographic services within WIS)	Int'l	Erik Buch	Co-Chair
8.	JCOMM TT-MOWIS	Int'l	Patrick Gorringe	Member

9.	JCOMM Management Committee (MAN)	Int'l	Erik Buch/Glenn Nolan	Member
10.	Euro-Argo Scientific and Technical Advisory Group	Int'l	Glenn Nolan	Member
11.	POGO Ocean Communicators United	Int'l	Dina Eparkhina	Member
12.	EMODnet Steering Committee	EU	Patrick Gorringer	Member
13.	Copernicus Marine Service STAC	EU	Glenn Nolan	Member
14.	US-Canada-EU Atlantic Sea-bed Mapping working group	EU	Glenn Nolan	Member
15.	JERICO-Next Steering Committee	EU	Patrick Gorringer	Member
16.	FixO3 Advisory Board	EU	Patrick Gorringer	Member
17.	ENVRI Plus BEERI (Board of EU Env. Res. Infrastructures)	EU	Glenn Nolan	Member
18.	ICES WGOOFE (Working Group on Operational Oceanographic Products for Fisheries and Environment)	EU	Patrick Gorringer	Member

Finally, EuroGOOS should ensure the timely production of outputs of high quality in all projects and commitments that the organisation is involved in. This will assist in continuing to build a strong reputation for EuroGOOS among the wider stakeholders in operational oceanography in Europe.