



EuroGOOS

European Global Ocean
Observing System

EuroGOOS Member Benefits Survey

August-September 2018

Report

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Introduction

EuroGOOS member benefits have been discussed at several recent General Assemblies. Subsequently, a study has been ordered to the office by the Executive Board in summer 2018. The study presented in this report is based on an on-line survey which ran from 2 August to 25 September 2018. The survey included 30 questions designed jointly by the office, the Board and the chairs of EuroGOOS activities. The questions were spanning EuroGOOS operations, strategy, communications and a SWOT analysis.

This report aims at informing the future EuroGOOS strategy post-2020, the EuroGOOS running and new activities, and the office operations. The Executive Summary presents a set of recommendations, expressing the survey analysis by the author of this report. It is suggested that they should be discussed and finalized by the EuroGOOS Board.

Executive Summary

Respondents

71% of EuroGOOS membership participated in the survey, i.e. 30 of the current 42 members. Most of the responding organizations have been EuroGOOS members for more than 10 years; about 40% of those have been members for more than 20 years.

EuroGOOS Activities

Members tend to be involved in the whole range of the EuroGOOS task teams, working groups and ROOS. Several members expressed their wish to join the ongoing activities (see pages 6 and 7).

Members are relatively well informed about the EuroGOOS activities, except for EuroGOOS projects, where the information level is split 50/50 between well informed and not informed.

There's no appetite for any new EuroGOOS working groups or task teams, for the majority. Some potential new topic suggestions are given on page 9.

Throughout the survey the lack of coordination, synergy and information among the EuroGOOS sub-groups is mentioned. Instead of creating new groups, the existing structures should work better.

Members expressed their wish to be more involved in strategy development. This is particularly mentioned regarding the organization of the general assembly. While the members tend to agree with the present duration of the event, they want to see more strategic discussions (in plenary) and brainstorming. Suggestions were made on the aspects the next assembly can address (p. 18).

EuroGOOS conference is well perceived by the members; improvements can be done in the way it cross-links various areas of ocean observing and services and involves a breadth of stakeholders from various spheres and disciplines.

EuroGOOS Benefits and SWOT

Members share the importance of the EuroGOOS network, its representativeness and strategic role. Among the aspects the members feel unsatisfied about are low level of internal coordination and lack of external influence (p. 10). The SWOT survey shows a thorough analysis by members which should feed into the new strategy (pp. 11-12).

There is a dissonance between the perceived positioning of EuroGOOS as an operational oceanography organization and at the same time an aspiration for EuroGOOS to have/take a leading role in broader scope ocean sciences and services, as a unique European voice. Members see EuroGOOS widening its scope, involve the whole spectrum of ocean parameters and engage actively with environmental regional conventions, while also have impact on sustainable blue/green economy. Most members refer to EuroGOOS as an operational oceanography network, but their comments suggest the scope should be well beyond operational oceanography.

The lack of leadership in strategic vision for EuroGOOS was stressed.

EuroGOOS Influence

EuroGOOS activities, existing and past, are mentioned as bringing benefits to members. The EuroGOOS publications are welcome; suggestions are given on page 13. EuroGOOS roles as a focal point for expertise sharing and partnerships-consolidator are mentioned among the benefits.

All stakeholder targets listed in the survey seem to be important for EuroGOOS members, i.e. spanning all levels and various types of activities, from research to industries, to policy (p.11).

EuroGOOS influence on the European Commission's programming should be increased.

In the development and implementation of the UN Ocean Decade, EuroGOOS is mentioned to lead in promotion and implementation of sustained ocean observing across all ocean parameters. This again shows a dissonance between the perceived awareness of EuroGOOS as an operational oceanography network and the aspiration for EuroGOOS to support the Ocean Decade with a broad oceanography approach and actions (see also the item on benefits and SWOT above).

EuroGOOS Office

Throughout the survey members mention the office should lobby the EuroGOOS priorities towards stakeholders, especially the EU. The promotion part of the office role is deemed the most important, followed right behind by support towards the strategy implementation agreed by members and the Board. Technical project work is mentioned as less important.

The office should work at pan-European level predominantly, however should support work at other levels too, to a lesser degree.

83% respondents to this question would like to see EuroGOOS host the office for EOOS. Some members express a lack of clarity on the difference between the EuroGOOS and EOOS objectives.

The office newsletter regularly sent to members is read by the clear majority with a high degree of satisfaction. It was noted by some members that more information can be featured on the EuroGOOS sub-groups and members' activities.

Members are satisfied with the outreach by the office as well as the EuroGOOS website. Social media were recognized as impactful by some members (suggestions made are on page 19).

Recommendations

1. EuroGOOS is perceived both as a broad-spectrum ocean observing network and an operational oceanography organization. Clear scope and role of EuroGOOS is missing.
 - ➔ EuroGOOS members and the Board should urgently start the process of re-defining the exact scope and role of EuroGOOS in the thematic and influence areas linked to ocean observing science, technology, operation, and services.
2. EuroGOOS has a good set of instruments to perform its activities, i.e. working groups, task teams, and ROOS. However, those aren't well integrated and lack strategic influence. The office and Board should address the EuroGOOS activities holistically and set up new management and follow-up frameworks allowing for a genuine integration.

- ➔ A EuroGOOS activities brainstorming can be envisaged; followed up by a guidance document for the chairs' and members' approval.
- 3. Members receive a low level of information about EuroGOOS projects. Some projects are perceived duplicating efforts or competing with members.
 - ➔ EuroGOOS projects should be discussed and planned holistically together with the EuroGOOS core activities and EOOS, to allow activities fully benefit each other, and the members.
- 4. EuroGOOS should host the office for EOOS. However, the objectives of both EuroGOOS and EOOS should be further clarified.
 - ➔ Office to continue providing the EOOS office. Engage with the members and Board on finetuning the shared understanding of the EuroGOOS and EOOS objectives (see also recommendation 1).
- 5. EuroGOOS general assembly should discuss strategic items, from science to technology to EU programming, allowing members to jointly participate in strategic decision making.
 - ➔ Co-design the assembly agenda with the Board and members well in advance; and allow enough discussion time during the meeting.
- 6. There is interest among the members to join ongoing WGs and task teams.
 - ➔ The office should discuss this with the activities' chairs and subsequently consider new nominations calls.
- 7. Members want to see more policy influence by the office.
 - ➔ Office should propose a policy-communication strategy which will allow a stronger lobbying role and impactful outreach, co-designed with the members, Board and activities.
- 8. Membership expansion should target countries not yet represented and organizations with major influence in ocean observing. It is noted, EuroGOOS tend to keep members for a long time.
 - ➔ Finetune the EuroGOOS membership expansion strategy to consider the EuroGOOS broadening of scope (see also recommendation 1).

Individual Questions Results and Analysis

Q1. Respondents Details

Only EuroGOOS member organizations (here, EuroGOOS members) were invited to participate as the survey is about member benefits and not EuroGOOS benefits for the broader community. At the time of the survey and this report, EuroGOOS represented 42 members from 18 countries.

30 EuroGOOS members completed the questionnaire, i.e. 71% of the EuroGOOS membership. Respondents were from 16 countries represented on EuroGOOS, i.e. 89% of the countries represented. Some respondents completed the survey partially; numbers are given for each individual question. Respondents' details are given in Annex 1.

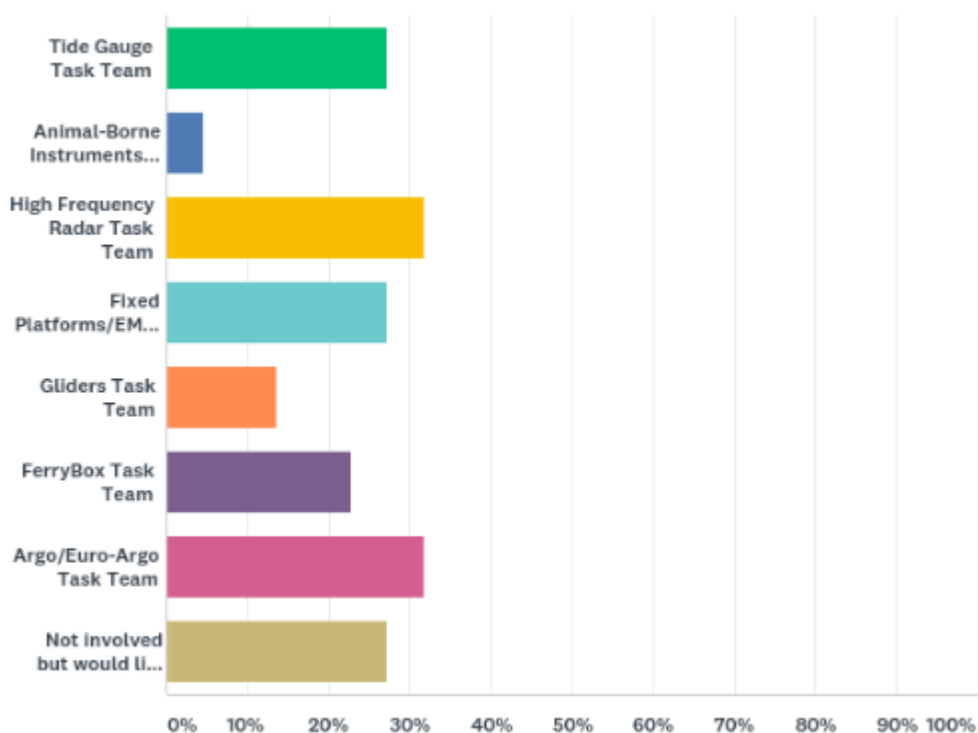
Q2. For how many years has your organization been a member of EuroGOOS?

Answered: 27

Out of 27 respondents to this question, 19 (70%) are from organizations who are EuroGOOS members for more than 10 years, of which 12 (44%) are members more than 20 years.

Q3. What Task Teams are you involved in?

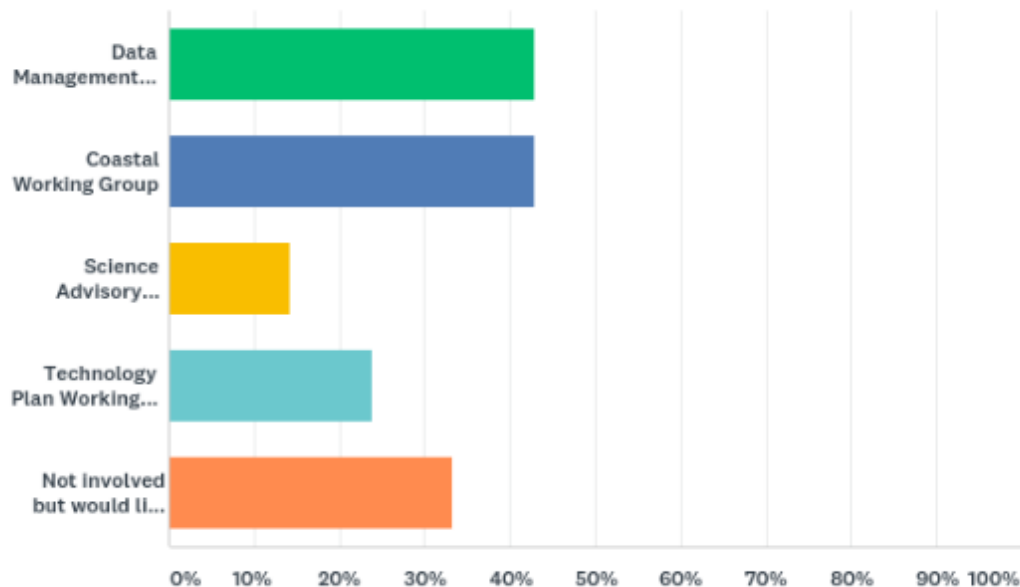
Answered: 22



Not involved but would like to: Interest was expressed in all Task Teams but the ABI. This means that task team chairs and the office can envisage new calls for task team membership to the EuroGOOS members.

Q4. What Working Groups are you involved in?

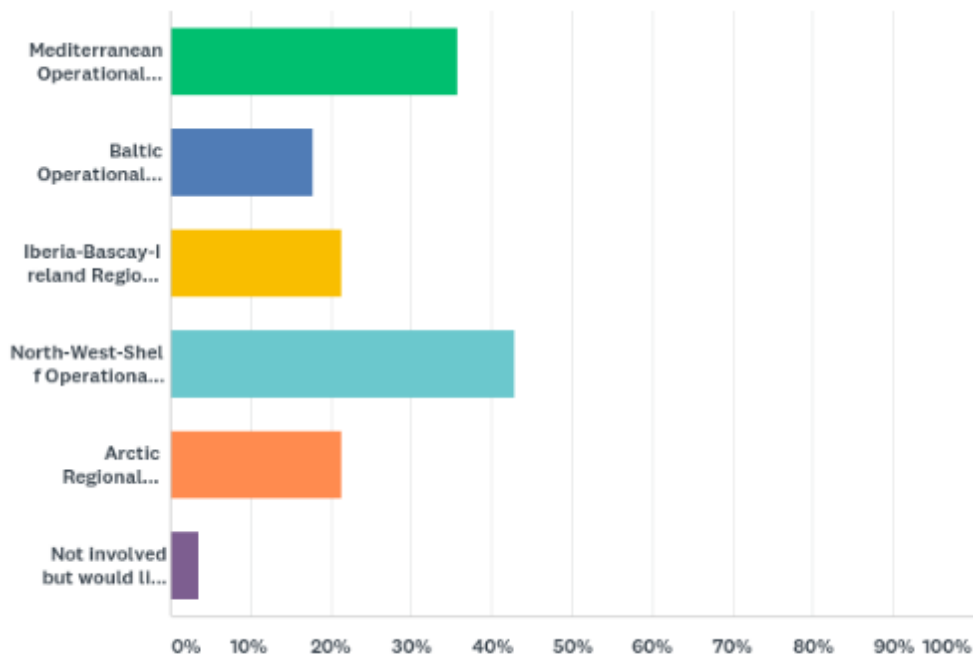
Answered: 21



Not involved but would like to: Various members expressed interest in joining all WGs, with a particular interest in the Costal WG.

Q5. Which Regional Operational Oceanographic System (ROOS) are you involved in?

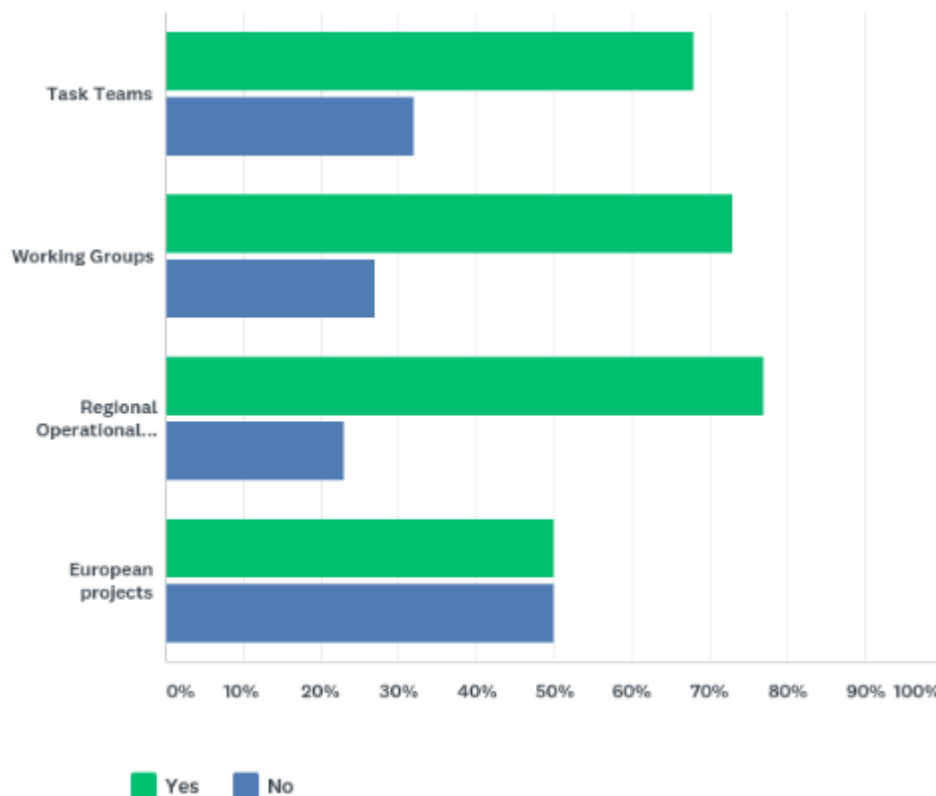
Answered: 28



Not involved but would like to: One member from the North Sea expressed interest in joining MONGOOS.

Q6. Are you well enough informed about the work done by EuroGOOS

Answered: 27

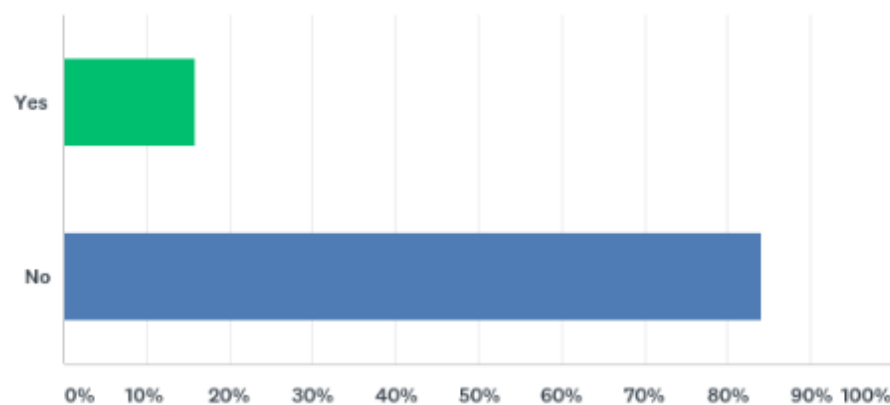


Comments:

- Difficult to understand the synergies between EuroGOOS sub-bodies and the link between their activities and EuroGOOS general objectives;
- Mainly informed about the work by the EuroGOOS Office.

Q7. Do you think a new working group/task team/other activity should be set up under EuroGOOS?

Answered: 25



Comments:

- Several members mentioned that integration among the ongoing activities rather than new ones is needed. Synergies among task teams, WGs and ROOS are needed for a tangible contribution and guidance to EOOS.
- There was a suggestion that WGs & TTs should fulfil specific needs with a limited life time.
- New potential topics for activities are: automated biological sampling, wind farms on sea (energy from wind power).

Q8. What benefits of the EuroGOOS membership do you see for your organization?

Answered: 26

- Operational oceanography promotion, including by EuroGOOS secretariat; central representation of operational oceanography, including at EU/DG level;
- Network (European and international), experience sharing, and access to information;
- Exchange of knowledge, information, data, methods, standards, new technologies;
- EuroGOOS assembly - a forum for active participation to influence the definition of the pan-European priorities;
- Foresight, influence on national strategies;
- Contribution to long-term European strategies;
- Opportunities for partnerships with other EuroGOOS partners and broader community;
- Visibility of members in the community through EuroGOOS;
- Coordination of operational data (ROOS);
- Partnerships and collaboration potential, including with met community;
- Market follow up.

Q9. What do you like most about EuroGOOS?

Answered: 24

Word cloud representing the weight of the responses. A summary list of main points is given below.

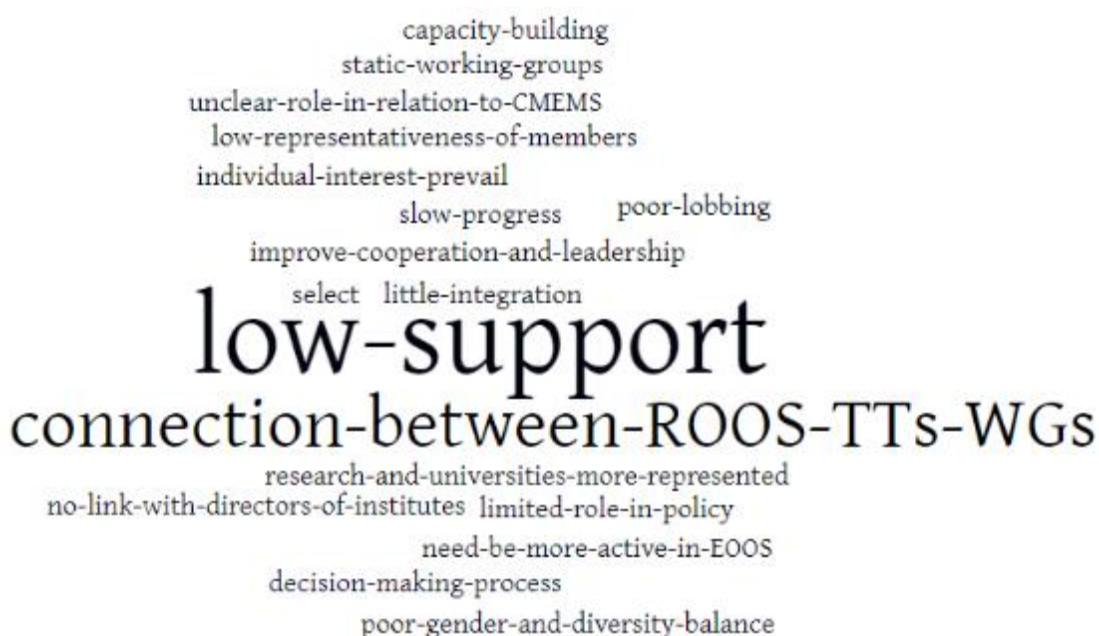


- Forum fostering European collaboration and co-production, sharing common objectives and work – from a diverse range of actors (research, operational, user-driven, academic, public, private, pan-European, national, local, ...);
- Cooperation and promotion at high-level in the European and global forums;
- Meeting people, networking, community of experts, sharing ideas, keeping up-to-date on new developments, including in the market;
- Central organization, newsletter and up-to-date notifications;
- ROOS, Task Teams and Working Groups;
- European Ocean Observing System;
- Links across initiatives and collaboration.

Q10. What do you like least about EuroGOOS?

Answered: 20

Word cloud representing the weight of the responses. A summary list of main points is given below.



- Opaque decision-making process; individual interests sometimes prevail common ones;
- Slow progress in cooperation framework and leadership;
- Not enough support from the members to be effective; poor practical results in lobbying for all members;
- Low promotion towards the directors of the institutes;
- Poor gender and diversity balance;
- Low support of ROOS by secretariat;
- Lack of connection and collaboration between the ROOS, TTs and WGs;
- Static nature of the working groups;
- More active part in taking over EOOS as a flagship programme;
- Contribution to capacity building and policy is limited;
- Unclear role in relation to CMEMS;
- Research organisations and universities should be more represented.

Q11. Can you write three points under each of the SWOT questions?

Answered: 20

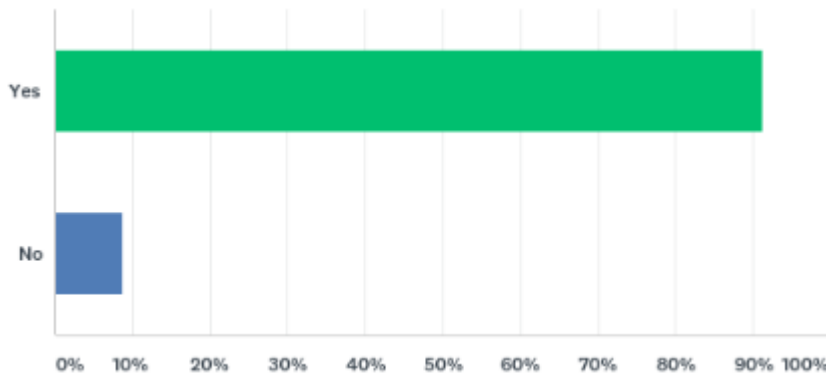
Summary or all SWOT responses

<p>STRENGTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unique and unified voice of a quite fragmented community; focal point for operational oceanography; recognized in Europe, meeting point for institutes and services - Actions based on co-production and cooperation, common strategy - Networking, expertise, accumulated knowledge, exchange, community - European coordination, European initiatives base for projects - Presence, visibility, advocacy, and lobbying in Brussels; interactions with EC - Legal organization able to carry out projects - Big thematic spectrum, wide participation of organizations, geographical representation, members, ROOS - Data, analysis. 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of integration of the different EuroGOOS sub-bodies; impact is generally through influence rather than direct integration; slow progress - Lack of understanding of EuroGOOS role externally (EMODnet, CMEMS, EOOS, GEO, IOC, GOOS, JCOMM, JPI Oceans, etc); low ability to convince stakeholders of its benefits; mixed ambitions - Unclear common idea of EOOS - Not enough visibility, no direct actions; not proactive enough; low influence on policymakers - Too many projects doing the same thing - Bad links to other communities, e.g. climate - Lack of gender & diversity balance - Bad balance of annual fee at country level - Reliance on project funding; internal competition for funding
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ocean has increased focus in many countries, which EuroGOOS should take benefit of, ocean observing technologies develop steadily which also gives opportunities for EuroGOOS - EOOS coordination; opportunity to lead European observing - Widening of the scope to include biological and chemical ocean monitoring or climate sciences; - Better co-operation with weather services; sharing operative met-ocean observation network - Promoting EuroGOOS activity and OO to HELCOM, OSPAR, EEA, IMO, EMSA, etc - European harmonization, collaboration and exchange; make a difference - Impact on topics to be funded - Leading organization in EU; legal entity network of best experts; build on huge capacity of membership and end user contact - Growing importance of blue/green economy and EuroGOOS as a significant contributor to that; more impact within the commercial area 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced influence in the complex marine science landscape because of an unclear position; managing evolving demands; lack of leadership within a lot of initiatives; loss of identity, loss of objectives - Duplication of work with other similar organizations/platforms; groups coming from industry or research/university consortia who want to do the same as EuroGOOS - Low coordination of activities/priorities; - EOOS implemented outside EuroGOOS umbrella - Discrepancy between EuroGOOS policies and national ones; the size of the network; high degree of autonomy by its members to define standard practices in observation networks and forecasting systems - Actual project implementation makes it difficult to stay objective and represent broad interests of its members; incoordination due to individual strategies (looking for funding) more than joint efforts looking for answering challenges together - Members less involved in WGs, TTs and projects losing their feeling of ownership; lack of interest in participating in management/board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Losing support of the 'smaller' EuroGOOS members that seldom benefit directly or indirectly from EuroGOOS activities - Weakening of links between EuroGOOS and ROOS
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Q12. Will you recommend an organization which isn't a member to join EuroGOOS?

Answered: 23



Comments:

- To extend the number of countries;
- All the organisations working in field of operational oceanography shall be members to maintain good expertise exchange, same standards (as much as possible);
- Importance to be active at least in some activity (WG, ROOS or TT).

Q13. What EuroGOOS activity or output has been especially valuable for your organization or network (working group, task team, project, product, event, etc.)

Answered: 25

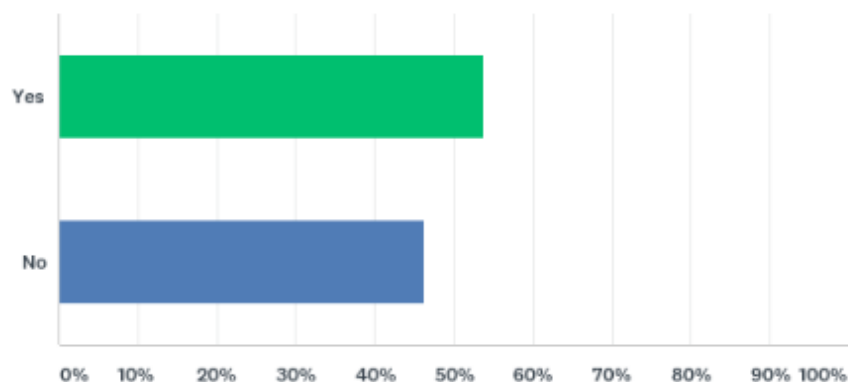
Word cloud representing the weight of the responses, below – a summary list.



- General Assembly
- EuroGOOS scientific conferences
- Cooperation within ROOS
- EuroGOOS role in ECOOP, MyOcean; project PAPA
- Link between JCOMMOPS and EMODnet
- Data sharing for operational oceanography and verification
- Recommendations for real-time quality control procedures
- Support of operating NOOS and BOOS web pages
- WGs, TTs and events
- International projects
- None. Our interest and hope are more in the future potential, not really transformed in a practical return today.

Q14. EuroGOOS issues a wide range of publications: science policy briefs, technical studies, outreach and promotional materials. Would you like to see more EuroGOOS publications?

Answered: 26

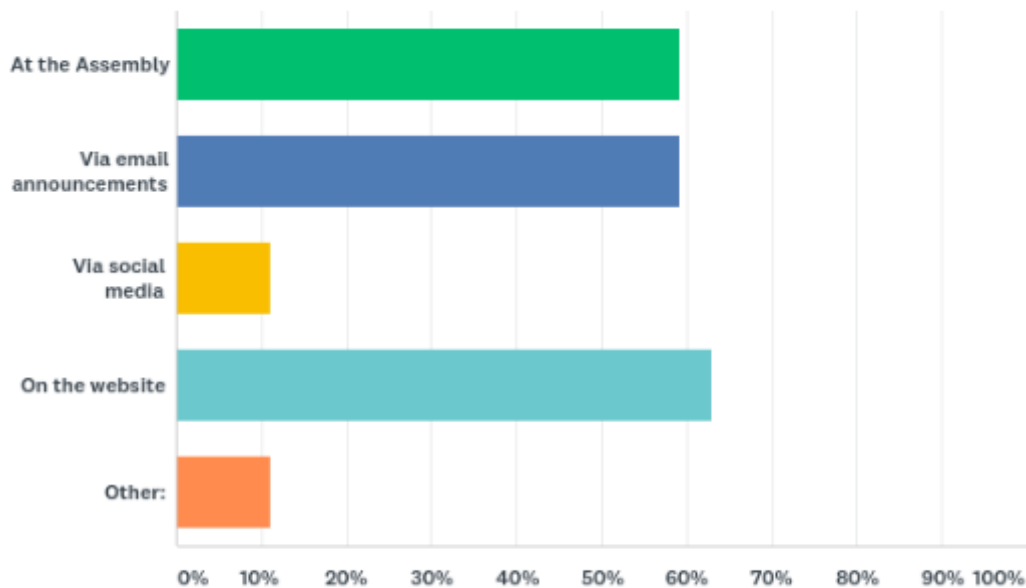


Many members expressed their satisfaction with EuroGOOS publications. Suggestions included:

- Publications to be used to promote standard practices; manuals and guides
- Technological studies
- Focused and influential publications with a clear audience and purpose
- More science policy briefs
- EuroGOOS should be more clearly representing the op oc community in defining needs so we don't have to all keep doing the same surveys / requirements gathering.

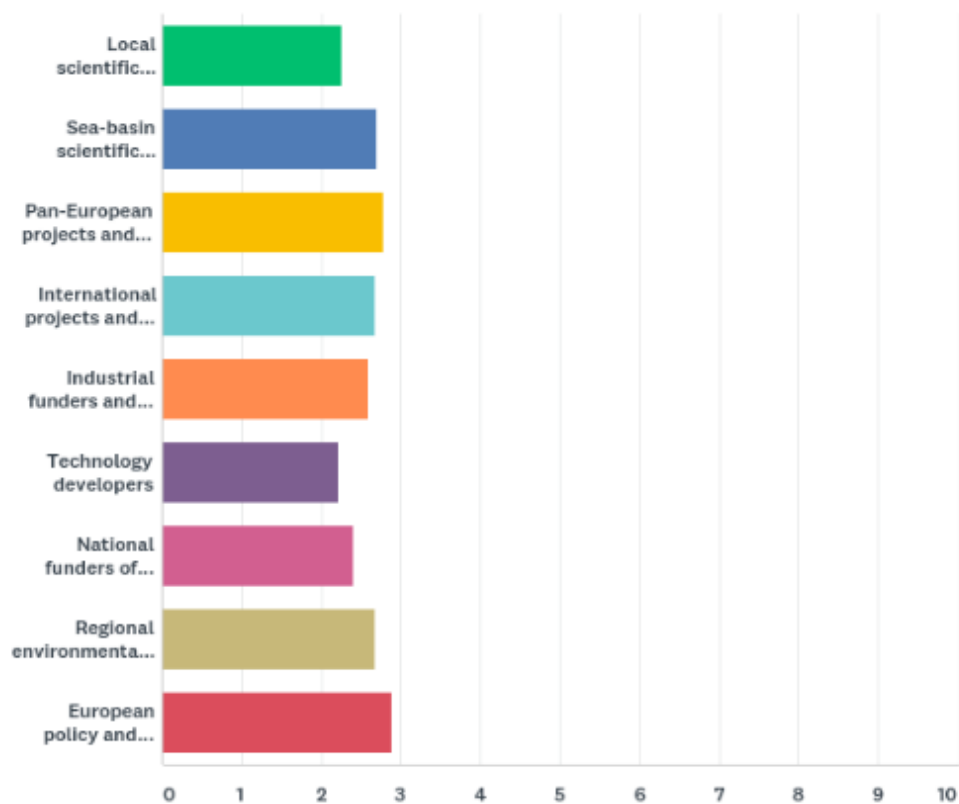
Q15. How do you discover EuroGOOS publications?

Answered: 27



Q16. EuroGOOS is targeting a wide range of stakeholders at different levels. Can you rate the importance of the communication targets listed below?

Answered: 27

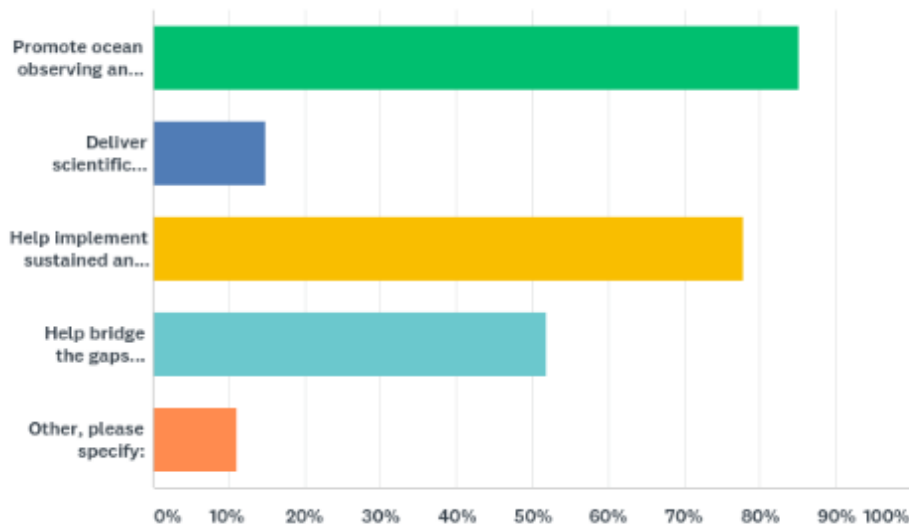


- Stakeholder interaction should be a major activity by EuroGOOS

- EuroGOOS should involve ROOS in cooperation with sea-basin scientific communities and regional environmental conventions
- EuroGOOS should improve its influence on EU/DG.

Q17. As part of GOOS, EuroGOOS has a role to play in supporting and developing the UN Ocean Decade 2021-2030. In what areas, do you think, EuroGOOS should be the most proactive?

Answered: 27



- Promote operational oceanography and long-term observing programs
- Help bridge the gaps between OI centres and Regional Conventions.

Q18. What should be the most important activities of the EuroGOOS Office? Please rate the suggestions.

Answered: 27

The order of top priorities is listed below. Under the list a full ranking table is provided.

1. **96.3% relevant:** Promote the importance of ocean observing, data and services for policy, research, and industry
2. **81% relevant:** Prepare background and help implementing the strategy, agreed at the Assembly and Board meetings
3. **59% relevant:** Coordinate the implementation of EuroGOOS working groups and task teams
4. **30% relevant:** Assist in coordination of national and local initiatives in ocean observing, data and services AND equally ranked – Perform technical work in projects for the benefits of all the members (gap analysis, sustainability studies, etc).

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Prepare background and help implementing the strategy, agreed at the Assembly and Board meetings	81.48% 22	14.81% 4	3.70% 1
Coordinate the implementation of EuroGOOS working groups and task teams	59.26% 16	37.04% 10	3.70% 1
Perform technical work in projects for the benefits of all the members (gap analysis, sustainability studies, etc.)	29.63% 8	44.44% 12	25.93% 7
Promote the importance of ocean observing, data and services for policy, research, and industry	96.30% 26	3.70% 1	0.00% 0
Assist in coordination of national and local initiatives in ocean observing, data and services	29.63% 8	44.44% 12	25.93% 7

Comments: A member notes also support to the ROOS.

Q19. At what level would you like to see the Office represent EuroGOOS strategic priorities?

Answered: 27

The order of top priorities is listed below. Under the list a full ranking table is provided.

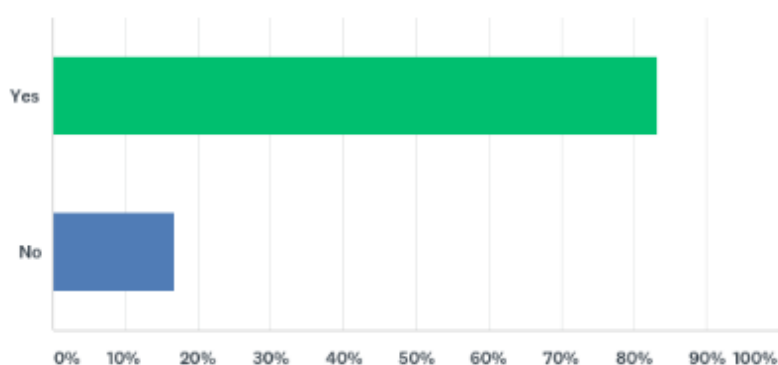
1. **100% relevant:** Pan-European
2. **44% relevant:** Sea-Basin
3. **37% relevant:** Global
4. **15% relevant:** Local

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Local	14.81% 4	29.63% 8	55.56% 15
Sea basin	44.44% 12	48.15% 13	7.41% 2
Pan-European	100.00% 27	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Global	37.04% 10	55.56% 15	7.41% 2

Comments: A member notes - ROOS do the sea basin level, Global tends to have national representation, local is for EuroGOOS members to do.

Q20. Would you like to see EuroGOOS office support also the office for EOOS?

Answered: 24



Most members think that EuroGOOS office should host also the office for EOOS.

Additional comments include a need to evaluate whether two offices are needed and a fear to create a new structure. Some members show a lack of clarity on the difference between the EuroGOOS and EOOS objectives.

Q21. How can we improve our annual General Assembly (GA) meeting?

Answered: 22

Should GAs be shorter? If so – which elements would you like to see reduced?

- Majority: No.
- One member proposed shorter - with more concise presentations.

Should GAs include more brainstorming? If so – any particular topics?

Majority: Yes. Reasons:

- Important for strategy
- Helps have good exchange, reach consensus on strategic topics and foster cooperation
- Should be well prepared, can be as side-events/workshops

Should GAs include more panel discussions? If so – any particular topics?

9 no; 7 yes. Importance of enhanced interactions/exchange stressed; discussions should include:

- Relevance to policy; Strategic discussions on the future of big joint initiatives (CMEMS, EMODnet...) to establish a common voice expressed to DGs
- Observation methods
- New initiatives, next steps and activities
- More debate about prioritising the office activities. Asking the question what the office should be doing and how do we get funding for that.

Should GAs include split-outs (e.g. by focal area: observations, data, services, funding, etc)?

Majority: No.

- Points made this could work to discuss specific topics, e.g. working groups or task teams having meetings back-to-back.

Q22. What would you like to learn about at our next Assembly meeting?

Answered: 19

- Future Strategy
- Information on recent developments at EU/DG level, Horizon Europe and EuroGOOS input
- Role of EuroGOOS in EOOS
- Ocean Decade, its regional workshops and related activities
- New potential projects and activities
- Presentations from each ROOS with a successful example
- Strategy in relation to CMEMS
- How the members activity has been supported by the office

- Finite element model applications to coastal ocean.

Q23. Have you attended EuroGOOS events in the past (in addition to the General Assembly)?

Answered: 27

Majority: Yes. Those who specified which events, mentioned the below - see word cloud.



Q24. What types of events do you think EuroGOOS should organize if at all (in addition to the General Assembly)?

Answered: 20

- EuroGOOS Conference
- Policy events
- Stakeholder events on research questions
- Thematic workshops
- Expert meetings to initiate projects and new activities
- EOOS events
- Dissemination and joint events with other similar initiatives
- Events together with task teams, working groups and ROOS
- Events fostering synergy among members.

Q25. How can we improve the EuroGOOS tri-annual conference?

Answered: 17

- More high-level European and non-European keynote speakers including not from the OO community
- Addressing the Ocean Decade
- Develop a stronger link between new technology, observation and research
- Reach the users
- Link with EU key players and more science-based approach.

Q26. Do you read our newsletter?

Answered: 26

77%: Yes. 8% No. 15% Rarely.

Q27. What type of content would you like to see in our newsletter?

Answered: 22

82% like it as it is.

18% would like to see more of:

- Updates on EuroGOOS groups
- Information from the members on their activities
- More focus on strategy and observing systems.

Q28. What social media do you consider important for EuroGOOS?

Answered: 22

Majority of members mention Twitter; other social media (except Instagram) are also mentioned.

Comments:

- Forums like within Google Mail
- YouTube videos with technical or scientific topics on ocean observation
- EuroGOOS could promote products and ideas of operational oceanography - on a layman’s level, in form of short stories/news/videos (e.g. on Facebook).

Q29. What is your general opinion about the EuroGOOS website?

Answered: 24

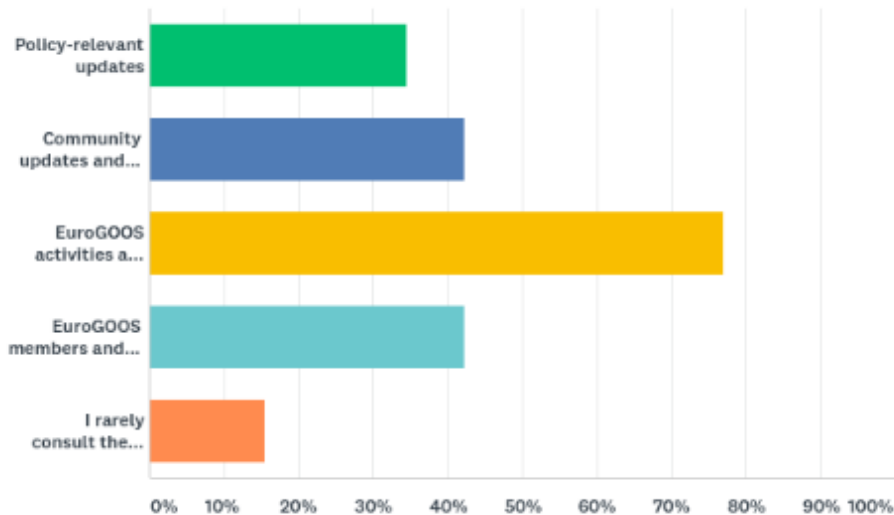
83% like it as it is. 17% would like to see changes.

Comments:

- The website is a little bit old style [NOTE, website update from 26-28 Sept. took care of this]
- More information on what the activities of working groups, task teams, ROOS.

Q30. For what information do you use EuroGOOS website?

Answered: 26



Access to documents mentioned in two comments.

Annex 1. Respondents

List of respondents to the EuroGOOS Member Benefits Survey 2018 (29 plus one unnamed)

Sebastien Legrand	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Belgium
Karolyn Hondeghem	Flemish Government Coastal Division	Belgium
Dijana Klaric	DHMZ	Croatia
Hrvoje Mihanovic	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries	Croatia
Steffen Olsen	Danish Meteorological Institute	Denmark
Niels Holt	FCOO	Denmark
Urmas Lips	MSI TUT	Estonia
Jari Haapala	FMI	Finland
Patrick Farcy	Ifremer	France
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