

# **EuroGOOS Gliders Task Team**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **June - 2020**

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

Gliders, buoyancy-driven observing platforms, are present in various areas of the European seas, to carry out a large variety of measurements of physical and biogeochemical variables. The EuroGOOS glider Task Team aims at integrating and leveraging the efforts of the European glider community. As all EuroGOOS Task Teams, this activity is an important building block towards an integrated end-to-end European Ocean Observing System, [EOOS](#).

EuroGOOS glider Task Team is a highly functioning user group community that advances and optimizes European underwater glider activities to support EuroGOOS strategy and EU initiative on Ocean Observations and technological development. It will act as an expert group to provide high level information to stakeholders and promote the importance of ocean observations under the framework of EOOS.

The EuroGOOS glider task team is composed of members of European glider groups, from every region (ROOS). The group aims at bolstering scientific collaboration and information resources to address the following priorities:

- international cooperation
- sustained observation, **operational oceanography** and scientific research
- technology development and relationship with industries
- data management
- support to EU policies and research Infrastructure

Through their unique sampling capabilities, gliders enhance the EuroGOOS panel of observing systems and contribute to the design of the EOOS. Sustained glider observations link the open ocean to the shore with physical, chemical, and biological observations. They contribute to fulfil the establishment of an operational service for ecosystem-based management and boost the improvement of modelling and forecasting of the ocean.

## 2. Aim and Objectives

These below are the main Objectives of the Glider Task Team:

1. Act on behalf of the European part of the global glider community (EGO network and OceanGliders GOOS program).
2. Further develop the European glider network, coordinate and assist in the standardization and sharing of best practices for glider operations and applications and harmonization of data and metadata.

3. Ensure data (real time and delayed mode) availability for the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS), SeaDataNet, EMODnet data portals and other data aggregators and appropriate users via the Global Data Assembly Centre (GDAC) for Glider data. Strengthen the glider data availability through the EuroGOOS Regions (ROOS).
4. Set up a framework for:
  - promoting glider applications and operational oceanography services through liaison between providers and users, advocacy, and provision of expert advice.
  - sharing success stories and difficulties
  - maintaining and sharing reference material on glider-related technologies (sensors, protocols, readiness levels and specifications, data management standards and quality control)
  - providing and exchanging source tools (data analysis, applications...)
  - promoting scientific synergies for key questions
  - filling gaps and looking for complementary with other technologies, especially with automated surface vehicles
  - Promotion of joint proposals
5. Contribute to the development of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS), in the coastal area and in the open ocean.
6. To enhance the number of chemical and biological measurements in European seas
7. To provide recommendations on data structure, format and dissemination (interoperability of datasets) and Quality Control procedures.
8. Link with EuroGOOS ROOSs, Working Groups (DATAMEQ, Technology and Coastal Working Groups) and relevant ongoing programs and projects (e.g. CMEMS INSTAC, EMODnet, Seadatanet, EuroArgo, EMSO and related national and European Marine Research Infrastructures projects, etc.) to avoid duplication of efforts.

### 3. Composition and Operation

The Task Team is composed of a Chair and can have one or two Co-chairs, and members. The mandate, role and responsibilities of potential co-chairs are the same as for the Chair. Chair is supported by a dedicated officer at the EuroGOOS office.

#### 3.1. Chair's nomination process, mandate, responsibilities

The Chair and Co-chair are approved by the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board. The chair's mandate is for three years, renewable once, upon re-appointment by the members for a two-year term. After this period, new Chair and Co-chairs are elected by the members and have to be approved by the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board.

The Chair and Co-chair proposed to the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board are Carlos Barrera (PLOCAN, Spain) and Pierre Testor (CNRS, France).

Chair and Co-chair are responsible for:

- Oversight of the group.
- Alignment of the task teamwork with its terms of reference 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 meetings and in writing);
- the organization of regular meeting with EuroGOOS GTT members (e.g. once a year);
- Regularly liaise with the EuroGOOS office to follow up on the working group's alignment with the other EuroGOOS activities (at least monthly);
- Represent the working group at external meetings.

### **3.2. Members nomination and selection process, mandates, responsibilities**

Members are selected based on a call for nominations to the EuroGOOS members, ROOSs and an external call or expression of interest among experts at European level.

Members are selected by the Chair and the EuroGOOS office, keeping in mind the spread and representativeness in expertise, geographical representation and the gender balance of the group. Members from the EuroGOOS regions (ROOSs) are strongly encouraged to participate to the Task Team ensuring the synergies between the Glider task team and the ROOSs.

Membership is reconsidered by the Chair 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:

- Be a committed advocate for EuroGOOS Glider TT goals and objectives;
- Understand strategic implications and outcomes of the EuroGOOS Glider TT;
- Provide guidance for EuroGOOS goals and objectives;
- Participate to the working group activities;
- Monitor and review GTT activities, orally or in writing, in a timely manner;
- Represent the activity at external meetings, upon agreement with the chair and the EuroGOOS office;
- Attend working group meetings;
- Follow-up on the developments related to the working group's activities, to ensure the working group's work is timely and topical.

## 4. Mode of Operation

The terms of reference for the working group are developed by the EuroGOOS office in liaison with the Chair(s) and submitted first to the EuroGOOS Directors Board and then to the EuroGOOS General Assembly for approval. Once approved at the EuroGOOS General Assembly, the working group chair and the EuroGOOS office launch a call for member nominations (see item 3.2) and the working group is formally established according to these Terms of Reference.

A kick-off meeting will be organized with all the members to develop the first annual implementation plan. EuroGOOS office oversees the communication related to the working group activities. To this end, the working group implementation plan should be cognizant of the EuroGOOS communication strategy.

The group operates based on its terms of reference and annual implementation plans. The Task Team will report to the EuroGOOS Executive Board and to the EuroGOOS General Assembly. Its activities are reviewed at the EuroGOOS Executive Directors Board meetings (three times a year) and the EuroGOOS General Assembly (annually).

## 5. Target Audience and Expected Impact

At the kick-off meeting, the members and the chair(s) brainstorm on the target audience for the working group's outputs and the main communication messages. This brainstorming is prepared with support of the EuroGOOS office, to align the plans with the other EuroGOOS strategic activities. The group also establishes an expected/desired impact of its activities on the target audience.

## 6. Work plan and Indicative Timetable

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

The activities fall in 3 different groups:

- Promotion and outreach of the glider group and glider activities among operational oceanography agencies across Europe
- Development of best practices, harmonization of data and making connection to the major data aggregators
- Providing a framework to glider users

	M/Yr
Establish Terms of Reference	May 2020
Selection of Chair and co-Chair	2020
Approval by Exec. Board	2020
Approval by General Assembly	2020

Calls for member nominations	2020
Kick-off meeting	2020/2021
<b>Establish a communication strategy of glider activities</b>	
Influence the operational oceanography agencies making them aware of the glider activities	Continuous
Link with <b>GROOM II</b> project and promote its results and activities	2020-2022
Link with <b>EuroSEA</b> project and activities (WP1 and WP3 mainly) and promote its results	2020-2022
Update the Task Team webpage including links to relevant Glider projects and initiatives (GROOM, EGO, Oceangliders, etc.)	2020
<b>Development of best practices and harmonization of data</b>	
Organize the european contribution to the international initiatives on Glider best practices	Continuous
Ensure the data flow towards CMEMS and EMODnet via GDACs	Continuous
<b>Providing a framework to glider users</b>	
Seek funding for joint/coordination activities	Continuous
Promote software and technology sharing (probably together with Ocean Technology Working Group/EGO website?)	2020
<b>Develop capacity building for gliders users and access</b>	
Launch a series of Webinars at EU level (but not exclusive) co-organized by EuroGOOS/CNRS promoting different topics related to (not exclusive list): data management, science applications, operational services, etc.	2020-2022
Guide stakeholders on community tools development (web-based tools, software, hardware)	2020-2022