

Agenda Item 9: Strengthening current member involvement

Meeting Document 9.3: Kostas Nittis award terms of reference

The EuroGOOS Kostas Nittis grant and medal were first awarded in May 2015. The following scientists have won the medal to date:

- In 2015, Pablo Lorente Jimenez, Puertos del Estado, Spain
- In 2016, Angelique Melet, Mercator Ocean, France
- In 2017, Robert King, Met Office, UK
- In 2018, Florent Gasparin, Mercator Ocean*, France

*In 2018, Mercator Ocean became Mercator Ocean International.

At the last evaluations of the medal nominees, the evaluation committee (composed of the EuroGOOS Executive Board) noted that the medal would be more attractive and useful for younger-career scientists. The award description only notes that: (i) candidate must be younger than 35; and (ii) candidate will have made a significant contribution to operational oceanography (technology, research, software, product/service) which is described and documented. Therefore, the selection is mainly made based on CVs and lists of publications of the candidates. This naturally brings the committee to select the strongest CVs and lists of publications. However, this means that those scientists selected are already well advanced in their career and in most cases have permanent and attractive positions in their institutes.

Following a discussion held with the committee during the 2018 award evaluations, the office proposes to update the terms of reference enabling younger-career scientists benefit from the award, and therefore retrieve more benefit from it than well advanced scientists would. This might come with raising the age limit to younger candidates. Furthermore, it is proposed that the award is themed more specifically (e.g. themes important for policy agendas, like innovations, science communication, MSP, etc.) – this can be changed each year. Finally, the winners can become EuroGOOS ambassadors for that year, having to promote the EuroGOOS work and contribute to it.

Linked to this proposal is the IO-PAN's suggestion to hold the 2019 award ceremony at the Sopot Youth Conference on 7 June, aimed at University and PhD students.

The award description as it has existed until now is enclosed.

The Board is asked to discuss this document and recommend updates to the ToR, as well as approve the deadlines for the 2019 call and award ceremony plans.

The Kostas Nittis Medal

Purpose of the award

In 2015, EuroGOOS established the Kostas Nittis Medal in the memory of EuroGOOS Secretary General and strategic leader Dr. Kostas Nittis (1964-2014). The Kostas Nittis Medal is accompanied by a grant and awarded to a young marine professional within the operational oceanography and broader ocean observing community.

The Kostas Nittis Medal and the grant amounting to € 3,000 aim to support the participation of young researchers and marine professionals in relevant conferences and events. The awardee is thus given a chance to present their research or technology at relevant events, building a professional network, gaining real life experience and reaching out to potential partners and/or employers.

Call and nomination process

The call is open to marine researchers or professionals according to the following criteria:

- Candidate must be younger than 35 years old on the day of the nominations deadline*;
- Candidate will have made a significant contribution to operational oceanography (technology, research, software, product/service) which is described and documented;
- Candidate nominations must come from the current EuroGOOS members (<http://eurogoos.eu/>).

* For female candidates with children, age limit criteria is automatically extended by one year per child. For male candidates with children, the limits can be extended by the actual time taken off as paternity leave or - if their partner is working at least 80% FTE - by 1.5 months per child, whichever is longer. Severe illness and extended military service are considered as exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis. If you feel the circumstances warrant an extension of the eligibility periods for your candidate, please contact the EuroGOOS office for advice before submitting the nomination.

Evaluation

Nominations are evaluated by the EuroGOOS Executive Board who will act in a personal capacity regardless of their institutional affiliation.

Award ceremony

The medal is awarded at a high-level pan-European event in ocean science, technology and/or policy, e.g. the European Maritime Day, or at the EuroGOOS General Assembly.

Payment of the grant is made within one month after the award to the bank account indicated by the winner.

Winner's obligations

The winner is obliged to use the award grant to attend relevant events and conferences and deliver presentations and/or posters, as well as report on the use of funds and the usefulness (impact) of those activities. The following documents are to be submitted to the EuroGOOS Office:

- Two reports, mid-term and final including:
 - Abstracts of presentations and/or posters delivered;
 - Feedback on the impact of the grant outlining its effect on the winner's research/visibility/potential opportunities. Have new work or network connections emerged? Has the winner's understanding of the landscape changed? Have any funding opportunities emerged? Have the events/conferences attended contributed to the winner's knowledge or work practices?
- By accepting the award, the winner will accept that EuroGOOS will publicize the award and the winner's pictures may be released online and in EuroGOOS dissemination materials.

Further information

The EuroGOOS Office is coordinating the award; all queries should be addressed at:

Email: info@eurogoos.eu

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