

EuroGOOS Strategy (Post 2020)

Background: (text below be removed in final draft)

In order to come up with the broad elements of a new EuroGOOS Strategy, the EuroGOOS Office initiated a facilitation session with Strategy consultant (Olive Fives) involving George Petihakis, Henning Wehde, Erik Buch, Glenn Nolan, Dina Eparkhina and Vicente Fernandez in Brussels on April 1st and 2nd 2019. The consultant recommended we use a template (below) to approach the strategy as a small group before broadening participation to include our Executive Board more widely and our ROOS, task team and working group chairs. A World café was organised at the EuroGOOS General Assembly in Heraklion (May 7th to 9th 2019) where a variety of feedback was provided. Much of this is now incorporated into the functional plan (Annex 1) with a shorter summary of each strategic objective provided in this main document.

A brief history of EuroGOOS (include high level description of previous strategic objectives)

EuroGOOS was established in 1994 to “make sure that the global infrastructure of GOOS is designed so as to guarantee the required data products and benefits needed by Europe” (The Case for EuroGOOS, ECOPS 1994, 3rd draft 15.03.94).

EuroGOOS was set up to:

- Support sustained ocean observing in Europe and help improve marine forecasting, which would in turn allow gaining economic and environmental benefits;
- Ensure data aggregation from national marine research institutes and inter-national and regional organizations like ICES, ESA, ECMWF, etc, and manage operational oceanography on a European scale, for the benefit of “global operational oceanography (GOOS)”;
- Include participation of “key European agencies”.

The proposal for EuroGOOS stemmed from the activities of the European Committee on Ocean and Polar Science (ECOPS) which were facilitated by the European Science Foundation (ESF). ECOPS is also at the origin of the establishment of the Marine Board-ESF (which renamed itself to the European Marine Board in 2013).

Since 1994, EuroGOOS, following its initial remit, has set up a robust network of oceanographic, hydrographic, met, and broad ocean science agencies and institutes in Europe. EuroGOOS has been instrumental in the establishment of the Copernicus Marine Service and the EMODnet Physics. EuroGOOS task teams have been established in 2015 to support infrastructure sustainability and development in Europe and feed into the European data aggregation activities.

EuroGOOS was set up and recognized as the European contribution to GOOS. In 2010, however, Marine Board-ESF launched an idea to establish EOOS, European Ocean Observing System, which has become also recognized as the European contribution to GOOS. The remits of both EuroGOOS and EOOS are clarified in this strategy.

GOOS was initially set up to enhance the global operational oceanography network. In 2012, GOOS decided to broaden its areas of activities to include also ocean/ecosystem health and climate. This change has not been implemented in the EuroGOOS strategy 2015-2020. This new strategy 2020-2030 is underpinning the implementation of the full GOOS scope in the EuroGOOS activities, spanning operational services, ocean/ecosystem health and climate.

International policy drivers for EuroGOOS:

- Agenda 2030
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Paris Agreement
- G7 communiques, including Tsukuba, Turin, Charlevoix, Metz

The above internationally underpinned by: GEO, IOC, GOOS.

European policy drivers for EuroGOOS:

- Integrated Maritime Policy 2007
- Blue Growth Strategy 2012
- Marine Knowledge Strategy 2012
- Ocean Governance Communication 2016
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008
- Marine Spatial Planning Directive 2014
- ESFRI Roadmaps
- Copernicus Programme.

The above underpinned in Europe by (not exhaustive list): EMODnet, Copernicus Space/Service/In Situ components, European Commission projects, European Environment Agency, JRC, MSP Global, European research infrastructure initiatives, European Marine Board, JPI Oceans, ICES, Regional Conventions, BONUS, etc.

1: EuroGOOS VISION

- A world where ocean information is available, valued and used for sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity

2: MISSION:

Contribute, as European component of GOOS, to the definition, support, promotion and implementation of operational oceanography, ocean health and climate services, fostering the scientific understanding of the European seas, as well as its preservation and sustainable exploitation.

3: VALUES are those qualities and behaviours most highly regarded by the group that will support forward movement. They are the foundation, or the essential tenets, of any organisation.

Values (draft and not ranked in order of importance/significance)

Ideas: Trust, partnership, integrity, inclusiveness, open-mindedness

Suggest that these are expanded to a short paragraph on each value.

4: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

EuroGOOS has defined 5 strategic objectives for the 2020-2026 period. These objectives are the product of an analysis of the previous EuroGOOS Strategy (2014-2020) and its implementation, member surveys, stakeholder interactions within the development of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and members and Executive Board's feedback provided in 2019.



Figure 1 Overview of new EuroGOOS Strategic Objectives (not meant as final graphic; just for illustration)

Strategic Objective 1: Communities of practice:

EuroGOOS has long provided a forum for discussion of developments within operational oceanography and will establish and maintain European Communities of Practice for user requirements and delivery of services, ocean best practices and FAIR and timely data delivery among our members and in the wider ocean observing and forecasting communities. Building responsive and efficient communities of practice will require engagement well outside of the EuroGOOS traditional circles of influence, reaching out to industries, economists, broader scientific disciplines, educators, and so on and so forth. EuroGOOS will strengthen its Regional Operational Oceanographic Systems, task teams and working groups with a view to providing integrated services to the community and to transfer marine technology and know-how to regions of need. Furthermore, EuroGOOS will monitor the implementation of the European Ocean Observing System. Sustained EOOS will form the basis of the ocean observations and services value chain. EOOS will ensure that ocean observations are fit for purpose to respond to the needs of the users of the earth system information and services and be seamlessly integrated with other areas. Specific actions are proposed in the functional plan.

Strategic Objective 2: Advocating for the operational oceanography value chain

The need for fit for purpose and sustained ocean observations leading to high quality ocean forecasts and services has never been higher. EuroGOOS will continue its advocacy for a sustained and fit for purpose European Ocean Observing System at both member state and European Commission level. European operational oceanography will be promoted in the context of the Global Ocean Observing System. Central to this is strengthening GOOS coordination at national level to ensure alignment with national priorities and to increase awareness among funders working towards a unified voice for ocean observing in Europe. EuroGOOS will also strengthen its member representation to achieve high level buy in to its vision for the coming years. Specific actions are proposed in the functional plan.

Strategic Objective 3: Partnerships:

EuroGOOS recognises the need to deliver not just operational services but also to ocean health and climate user communities. EuroGOOS will continue its work as a GOOS Regional Alliance and contributor to GEO Blue Planet. We will also develop partnerships with major players in the ocean health and climate domains and maintain the long-standing partnerships with those involved in operational services. EuroGOOS will engage in strategic projects of relevance to our community and ensure that our domain knowledge informs and underpins emerging European policies. The Copernicus Services are central to the continued success of EuroGOOS. Links to the Copernicus Marine Service will be enhanced while new relationships will be developed with the Copernicus Land and Climate services. EuroGOOS will build on links developed with the meteorological community and foster links between the research community and operational centres to ensure that state of the art observing and forecasting systems are available in an operational setting. Specific actions are proposed in the functional plan.

Strategic Objective 4: Sustained value chain

EuroGOOS endeavours to place the observations and forecasts needed by operational users on a sustained footing. This requires strong coordination at European level, a well-established link to users and analysis and understanding of the monetary and non-monetary value of the operational oceanography value chain. EuroGOOS will lead the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) framework in the coming years bringing operators, funders, policy makers and users together to deliver a sustained and fit for purpose ocean observing system in Europe. The overall goal is to achieve a level of sustainability for the system that compares with the meteorological community where 75% of observations are on a sustained long-term footing. Specific actions are proposed in the functional plan.

Strategic Objective 5: Public awareness:

EuroGOOS plans to enhance public awareness of operational oceanography to the point where the public are mobilised on matters of importance linked to ocean observing and forecasting. EuroGOOS will engage in appropriate citizen science initiatives, through projects and in the operational value chain. EuroGOOS will also establish and participate in events that promote the next generation of ocean scientists, seafarers and users of the ocean. A knowledge transfer hub is foreseen as part of the EuroGOOS strategy to enhance awareness and inform the public about operational oceanography. Specific actions are proposed in annex 1.

5: SUPPORTS are trends or factors in the environment that support the objectives.

Supports (draft and not ranked in order of importance/significance)

EuroGOOS has established a track record in operational oceanography spanning 25 years. In that time, the organisation has established 5 Regional systems (ROOSs), several working groups and task teams and integrates the perspective and expertise of 40+ marine institutes in 18 countries. EuroGOOS has very strong and successful links to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) of IOC UNESCO. EuroGOOS has developed solid relationships with many institutions and communities which it can build upon in the coming years. Its location at the heart of Europe (central Brussels) is also a distinct advantage in terms of access to decision and policy makers and in facilitating the work of its members. Combining these attributes puts EuroGOOS in a strong position to implement the 5 strategic objectives of the new strategy.

6: CHALLENGES are the factors in the environment that inhibit or impede action and progress. Listing these factors and exploring them diminishes their threat. Identifying challenges can also spark new ideas for bold steps.

Challenges (draft and not ranked in order of importance/significance)

EuroGOOS acknowledges that most of its members engage in EuroGOOS activity on a best endeavours basis, outside the main scope of the core work of their own organisations. In some cases, our members do not share a common view of a particular topic which has the potential for conflict. There is considerable geographic heterogeneity in the development and sustainability of operational oceanographic systems in Europe that can be addressed through combined efforts at national and EU level. The overall resourcing of ocean observations and forecasts remains a challenge to delivering a sustainable service. EuroGOOS is aware of these challenges and endeavours to overcome such challenges on a day to day basis.