



Terms of Reference

14 April 2021

About this document

This document outlines the terms of reference (ToR) for the EOOS Operations Committee (OC). These should be read in conjunction and context with other EOOS related policies.

Key responsibilities

The EOOS Operations Committee key responsibilities are to:

- Provide information about relevant opportunities for EOOS;
- Support the flow of information on ocean observing activities across national, regional and global scales;
- Identify system requirements to meet user needs for sustainable ocean observing;
- Support and enable the EOOS implementation plan where relevant and practicable, through liaising with implementers and policymakers at a national level, and seeking synergies with adjacent nations at regional and pan-European scales;
- Provide advice to the EOOS Steering Group about changes in the ocean observing landscape at European and international level and identify actions for EOOS to further its goals and objectives;
- Advocate for coordinated and integrated sustained ocean observing system that encompasses multiple scales, communities and disciplines at national and pan-European levels and for the role of EOOS as a coordinating framework;
- Contribute to the mapping of infrastructure, technology and human capacity to help identify gaps in ocean observing system at regional and/or European level;
- Identify shared priorities through the development of a work plan;
- Provide advice on EOOS added value.

Function

The EOOS Operations Committee is part of the EOOS governance representing the ocean observing implementers at national, regional and pan-European levels to help with the long-term sustainability of the ocean observing efforts in Europe and to implement EOOS progressively.

Structure

The EOOS Operations Committee will be structured as follows:

Members:

- GOOS National Focal Points for Europe
- Relevant European Research Infrastructures
- European Earth Observation Agencies
- EuroGOOS Regional Operational Oceanographic Systems (ROOS)
- EuroGOOS Task Teams



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Observers:

- EOOS Steering Group (SG) members
- experts that are called upon on an as-needed basis
- GOOS nominated representative

Composition

GOOS National Focal Points for Europe

The GOOS National Focal Points for Europe are invited to act as the main contact points for EOOS to each nation. They will provide information to EOOS OC about national priorities, gaps and potential opportunities to advance EOOS, and will advocate for sustained national ocean observing systems that can contribute to EOOS. In the EOOS OC context it is expected that the GOOS National Focal Points for Europe will liaise with their nation's operators, networks and policymakers to foster national coordination, facilitate and maintain the information flow between EOOS and their nation, and facilitate information flow between nations on multidisciplinary ocean-observing activities.

Where relevant and able, they will work to facilitate the creation of National Committees or other appropriate fora to bring multiple sectors and stakeholders together to define requirements, improve coordination, collaboration and development of national ocean observing systems including the advocacy for sustained funding for ocean observing.

Relevant European Research Infrastructures

Representatives of European Ocean Observing Research Infrastructures (ERICs and Projects) will provide perspective and information on opportunities, encouragement and enhancement of existing collaborations, identification of gaps in observational data, technology for their FAIR-compliance transformation and interested communities and stakeholders.

EuroGOOS Regional Operational Oceanographic Systems (ROOS)

EuroGOOS ROOSes, feed marine data to pan-European portals bringing tangible added value to European cooperation. Working hand in hand, EuroGOOS members, ROOS, and other EuroGOOS networks jointly enhance the European leadership in ocean observing, forecasting and services. As regional collaborating bodies, ROOSes will provide the operational and regional perspective across networks on requirements and implementation within their regions.

European Earth Observation Agencies

European Earth Observation Agencies will link EOOS OC and the satellite remote sensing community to facilitate discussions between the satellite and in situ observation groups on data requirements, including technical, temporal and regional requirements to ensure full integration and response to user needs. They will facilitate information exchange between the in situ and satellite ocean observation communities on how best to optimize and integrate in situ and satellite-derived ocean observation data for cross-validation and provide a potential link between the atmosphere and ocean observing communities.

EuroGOOS Task Teams

The EuroGOOS Task Teams have played an important role in driving progress in Europe for observing platform and connect to the global ocean observing community. They promote scientific synergy and technological collaboration globally and among European ocean observing infrastructures. EuroGOOS Task Teams will be able to provide advice as implementers of current and future observing requirements in Europe and help support emerging networks of platforms.

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Membership

The above entities represented in the Committee will nominate a representative. Interested parties not yet represented in the Committee are welcome to apply to become members. Applications will be assessed by the Chair and Vice-Chair based on needed expertise and will decide representation status: observer or member.

Chair of the EOOS Operations Committee

The Chair represents the EOOS Operations Committee and takes responsibility for its deliverables. The Chair is responsible for coordinating with and reporting to the Steering Group (SG), ensuring the quality and relevance of the Operations Committee outputs and/or recommendations and their timely delivery as agreed by the Committee members.

The Chair becomes a de facto member of the Steering Group and will be asked to comply with the objectives of the SG, commit to attend the EOOS governance meetings, deliver input and recommendations, enable dialogue and communication across the EOOS stakeholders, and act as an EOOS ambassador.

A call for nominations for the EOOS Operations Committee Chair is open to all the members of the EOOS Operations Committee. A new call for nominations will be launched before the following Committee meeting, and members will elect their Chair from the pool of nominations. The Chair will serve for three years with possible re-election for an additional two years.

The Chair of the EOOS OC will be responsible for:

- Scheduling and conduct the Committee meetings, including inter-sessional meetings;
- Planning and drawing up an agenda with support from the Vice-Chair and the EuroGOOS Secretariat;
- Implementing decisions.

EuroGOOS Secretariat will provide administrative support for the Chair of the EOOS OC and will be responsible for:

- Note keeping and report writing;
- Following up on agreed actions;
- Facilitating communication within the Committee;

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- Supporting coordination of the Committee's meetings and work.

Vice-Chair of the Operations Committee

The Vice-Chair will support the Chairperson in planning and running the meetings, and will stand in for the Chair and run meetings if required. The Chair and Vice-Chair will liaise regularly to ensure both are informed about the EOOS OC activities and current issues in ocean observing.

To commence the work of the EOOS OC, the EuroGOOS Secretary General will act as Vice-Chair. It is expected that the new Vice-Chair will become the Chair once the term of the previous Chair ends. To ensure continuity, a call for nominations for a new Vice-Chair will open at least one year after a new Chair has been appointed making sure there is an overlap of at least one year.

Meetings

The Operations Committee will meet 2 times per year, either face to face or via teleconference. Inter-sessional meetings will be undertaken as needed and could be proposed by members of the committee. EuroGOOS personnel will assist in organizing the meetings.

The meeting's agenda and relevant documents will be circulated at least two weeks in advance before each meeting.

The Chair and the EuroGOOS Secretariat will document the outcomes of the meeting and circulate among members within 15 days of the meeting. They will follow up on the agreed actions by implementing them or by ensuring that the responsible parties undertake the actions promised.

Reporting

The EOOS Operations Committee will report to the EOOS Steering Group.