



**EUR-OCEANS Network of Excellence
Network Steering Committee meeting
Cambridge, 22-24 November 2006**

Participants:

Leaders and directors:

M. Barange (PML, United Kingdom)
P. Cury (IRD, France)
J. De Macedo (FIST S.A., France – Administrative and financial coordinator)
M. Diepenbroek (University of Bremen, Germany)
C. Fox (CEFAS, United Kingdom)
P. Freon (IRD, France)
C. Gernez (CNRS, France – Executive Director, non-voting)
S. Ghiron (Oceanopolis, France)
R. Harris (PML, United Kingdom)
R. Lampitt (NERC-NOC, United Kingdom)
L. Legendre (CNRS, France – Deputy Scientific Director)
C. Le Quere (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom)
P. Monfray (CNRS, France)
E. Murphy (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom)
I. Siokou-Frangou (HCMR, Greece)
M. St John (University of Hamburg, Germany)
S. Sundby (IMR, Norway)
F. Thingstad (University of Bergen, Norway)
P. Treguer (University of Brest, France - Scientific Director)
D. Turner (University of Göteborg, Sweden)

Assistants:

O. Bonilla-Findji (Oceanopolis, France – Assistant to WP10)
Y. Børsheim (University of Bergen, Norway – Assistant to WP5)
I. Grigorov (CNRS, France – Assistant to WP3.1 and WP7)
S. Ruiz (CSIC, Spain – Assistant to WP1.2)
P. Matthews (CNRS, France – Assistant to the Scientific Director and Web editor)
W. Koeve (IfM-GEOMAR, Germany – Assistant to WP1.1)
S. Hartman (NERC-NOC, United Kingdom – Assistant to WP2.1)
K. Larkin (NERC-NOC, United Kingdom – WP2.1 Project officer)
S. Pesant (CNRS, France – Assistant to the Deputy Scientific Director and to WP2.2)
C. Enright (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom – Assistant to WP3.2)
P.-F. Baisnée (IRD, France – Assistant to WP6 and to the Upwellings System)
J. Arrieta (CSIC, Spain – Assistant to WP8)
J. Heard (PML, United Kingdom – Assistant to WP9 and to the North Atlantic Ocean System)
A. Olsson (University of Göteborg, Sweden – Assistant to the Baltic Sea System)
C. Tancell (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom – Assistant to the Southern Ocean System)
E. Stenevik (IMR, Norway – Assistant to the Arctic and Nordic Seas System)
P. Buckley (CEFAS, United Kingdom – Assistant to the North Atlantic Shelves System)

Excused:

C. Duarte (CSIC, Spain)
F. Joos (University of Bern, Switzerland)
F. Köster (DIFRES, Denmark)
C. Lancelot (ULB, Belgium)
K. Lochte (IfM-GEOMAR, Germany)
J. Ruiz (CSIC-University of Cadiz, Spain)

Absent:

K. Richardson (University of Aarhus, Denmark)

Wednesday 22 November 2006

1. General introduction

L. Legendre recalled the new roles assigned to the Network Steering Committee (NSC) as proposed in June 2006 and validated by the General Assembly. As a step in this new context, the NSC elected E. Murphy chair of the meeting, and approved the revised agenda he had proposed. C. Enright provided practical information regarding the hotel hosting the meeting. The participants introduced themselves.

2. Review of the implementation of actions decided during the Brest NSC meeting

- *Presentation by C. Gernez*

- *Comments*

The document on “What EUR-OCEANS can do for you” was recognised as a priority and should be ready quickly (cf Action 9). It was noted that a continued emphasis on developing an appropriate gender balance in public outreach projects was required.

3. The EUR-OCEANS scientific priorities for each WP and System

Chair: C. Le Quéré

- *Presentation by C. Le Quéré*

C. Le Quéré stressed the usefulness of the recently compiled document on scientific priorities for each WP and System, but she also pointed out its lack of coherence as a whole. She listed common priorities among WPs and Systems but also identified gaps, due to the fact that WPs and Systems are at different stages of evolution and priorities for research development have varied.

- *Comments*

The need for a scientific vision for the 4 Themes, to be included in the priorities document, was recognised, as well as the need for more “practical” information, especially in relation to generic WPs. L. Legendre recalled that integration was the keyword for EUR-OCEANS, and stressed that it was therefore important to focus on linking and integration of existing science and infrastructure, rather than new initiatives.

Action 1:

- P. Treguer and L. Legendre to write a 1-page vision to be included as a general introduction to the priorities document following discussion and input by the NSC;
- C. Le Quéré to review the structure of the priorities document in order to make it more coherent;
- Theme leaders to meet and prepare a scientific vision document across their research themes, in cooperation with the Scientific Directors. The document would then be circulated to the NSC for wider discussion and input.

4. Common interests among Themes and Systems

Chair: C. Le Quéré

- Presentation by each Theme and System Leader, and discussion

WP4 Ecosystems end-to-end

It was recognised that there is some overlap between WP4 and WP3.2. It was suggested that more emphasis should be put on a smaller number of activities (e.g. the Parameterization workshop to be held in Cadiz) and that a follow-up on these should be made at annual PIs meeting.

WP5 Biogeochemistry

A topic on ocean acidification is scheduled in FP7.

WP6 Ecosystem approach to marine resources

P. Cury gave a summary of past activities (summer school, vision paper, workshops organised, review paper, Fact Sheets with WP9, movie with WP10, webpages) and future, planned activities, to be discussed later on by the Task Team.

WP7 Within-system integration

These were an active debate about the development of this WP. It was suggested that a new leader is sought for this Theme, as P. Monfray will change positions within CNRS. Marco Zavatarelli (PI, CoNISMa, Italy) has expressed his interest in this role. The NSC however, noted that this was an area that required more discussion as the development of integration, especially between Themes, was the central goal of the network. This was discussed further under the item on development of the network.

North Atlantic Ocean

A meeting of the North Atlantic cluster (North Atlantic Ocean, North Atlantic Shelves, and Arctic and Nordic Seas Systems) was run successfully in London at the beginning of November. The record of that meeting will be available soon.

R. Lampitt suggested enhancing the interaction between WP2.1 and the various Systems (e.g. in relation with time-series).

Arctic & Nordic Seas

Two major symposia related to EUR-OCEANS will take place in Tromsø in January and March 2007. A synthesis report for polar regions will be prepared with the Southern Ocean System, and another one on ecosystems research, with the North Atlantic cluster. A floating university is planned for late May or early June 2008 on integrated ecosystem research, with berth spaces for 12 to 15 students and 5 lecturers.

North Atlantic Shelves

An information and 'advertisement' campaign is planned, with P. Buckley visiting several MOs involved in the North Atlantic Shelves System to present EUR-OCEANS activities.

Baltic Sea

A better interaction with the BONUS ERA-Net project is sought.

Mediterranean Sea

Given the great success of the summer school organised in Ankara, Turkey, in August 2006, a new school could be planned in the same venue in 2008.

There is a lack of interaction with Themes. The Task Teams appointed at the beginning of the project are 'in dormancy'. The INTEGER workshop is planned to aim at listing all Mediterranean projects that are funded nationally or regionally. The focus will then be put on internal coordination in the Mediterranean System, before developing interactions with other Systems or WPs.

Upwelling Systems

The activation of the 'associated member' status (i.e. organisations that are not member of the network but can participate in its activities) would be appreciated.

Southern Ocean

ICED has developed extensively with a lot of EUR-OCEANS effort over the last 6 months and the new website has been launched this week (<http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/Resources/BSD/ICED>). A field coordination workshop is planned for early 2007 (led by Uli Bathmann at the AWI) and an ecosystem modelling workshop is planned for late 2007. The aim will be to have a science focussed session during the annual meeting.

- Synthesis

A lot of progress has been made in integrating the Themes (particularly Themes 1 to 3) and the Systems.

There could be more integration among Systems. The North Atlantic cluster has already started to move in that direction with the London meeting. However, some Systems should focus on internal coordination before seeking to develop interactions with other Systems.

Theme 4 (WP7) is at a standstill. P. Monfray's leaving is an important opportunity to review the planned activities for that WP and how best to develop integration activities.

5. Common interests among generic WPs (i.e. not Themes) and Systems

Chair: P. Cury

- Presentation by each generic WP Leader or Assistant

WP1.1 Sharing facilities

The joint mobility call for technical training was closed in September. Seven facilities offered training opportunities, and eight technicians applied for a mobility grant, all in the same facility. It was proposed to organise a joint call again, but outside the summer period in order to increase participation. It was noted that language is an issue needing to be addressed in future. It was recommended that statistics be collected about the actual sharing of facilities and the added value of having a sharing facilities programme.

WP1.2 Mobility and communication

Participation in the last mobility call was low. It was proposed, for future calls, to increase the amounts of the mobility grants, to advertise the call better and possibly to remove the less popular type of stay (technical training). It was also suggested to extend the possible duration of mini-sabbaticals.

WP2.1 Observing systems

WP2.1 had decided to focus its activities on deep ocean Eulerian observatories. The Monaco workshop held in April 2006 was essential in this respect. The main problem currently for WP2.1 is the lack of interaction with Systems. Contacts are established directly with observatory people rather than with Systems Task Teams. It was recognised that this issue will require attention in future.

A connection with WP2.2 for data issues was also recommended.

WP2.2 Networked databases

Additional funds are requested to run a data mining programme and a data rescue programme (as a continuation of the current one). It was agreed that proposals to these programmes should be driven by users, not holders of the data. The list of interface variables identified by WP3.1 for instance could be used as a priority list for the data rescue programme.

WP3.1 Model interfacing

P. Monfray recalled that a distinction was clearly made in November 2005 in Gatwick between WP7, which focuses on modelling at each trophic level, and WP3.1, which focuses on the interfaces between trophic levels.

WP3.2 Global Ocean

There is an important lack of data for model validation within WP3.2.

The connection with WP3.3 exists, through the integration of models within the Earth System, however this is mostly done outside EUR-OCEANS.

WP3.3 Earth System

No representative for WP3.3 attended the meeting.

WP8 Training for researchers and other key staff

The issue of funding of the 2nd call for post-docs was addressed during the session on the budget.

WP and Systems leaders are encouraged to propose topics and young scientists as potential organisers for summer schools.

WP9 Transfer to socio-economic users

The 'press office' suggestion was welcome by M. Barange. Its implementation will require a close cooperation between WP9 and WP10. A dissemination of scientific information at the European level should be sought.

WP10 Public outreach

It was recommended that press conferences and other outreach activities should be organised in different European countries, other than France. This can only be achieved with the collaboration of aquaria from the network. A great interest in this has already been shown by some aquaria, and activities are planned for the National Science Week in the UK (March 2007).

6. Preliminary budget statement

Chair: P. Fréon

A general overview of the budget for 2006, 2007 and 2008 was presented by C. Gernez.

Thursday 23 November 2006

7. The 2007-2008 budget

Chair: P. Fréon

- Presentation by C. Gernez

C. Gernez presented a simplified table showing the funds that were spent in 2005 and spent or committed in 2006. The total remaining amount to allocate for 2007 and 2008 was 981,000 Euros. C. Gernez then recalled the first and second priorities as agreed by the NSC in June 2006, as well as the new requests.

- Discussion and allocation of funds

The funds allocated to the various items are indicated in the table below (unit: k Euros).

Item	<i>Allocated in 2006 - reminder</i>	Allocated in 2007	Allocated in 2007	Allocated total 2007 + 2008
Top priorities				
Workshops (organisation)	143	150	50	200
Public outreach (complement)	0	20	20	40
Mobility	50	50	50	100
Training (summer schools, floating universities)	55	50	100	150
Communication	3	20	20	40
Website (2)				
Second priorities				
Post-docs (2nd call) (3)	0	90	180	270
Integration projects (1)	0	100	50	150
Assistants meetings (4)	0	15	15	30
Symposia (5)	0	0	80	80
New requests				
Printing reports (BASIN) (6)	0	4,5	0	4,5
Data rescue (7)	96	75	25	100
Data mining	0	75	25	100
Sharing facilities (8)	0	50	0	50
Total		699,5	615	1314,5
Difference with available amount (981 K Euros)				-333

(1) Integration projects could include the writing of review papers and should be advertised at the 2007 annual meeting. The NSC agreed to give a mandate to the Executive Committee to draft rules for these projects.

(2) The resources needed for the website in 2006-2008 were included in the total amount committed in 2006, therefore no additional resources are shown in the table. The NSC agreed to give a mandate to the Executive Committee to allocate more resources to this crucial activity, should the need occur.

(3) It was agreed that the 2nd call for post-docs would support 18-month grants, with a full funding from EUR-OCEANS and amounts adjusted to the cost of living in each countries. The detailed decision is left to the Training Task Team.

(4) These funds should be used to support assistants' attendance to NSC meetings.

(5) No symposia are planned for 2007. A number are being planned for 2008:

- Upwelling System symposium: the NSC agreed to allocate 40 k Euros to this initiative;
- Conference for socio-economic users: this conference is planned in the EUR-OCEANS contract, and could either be associated with the final PIs meeting, or to a similar event organized by GLOBEC. Funds will be available for that in any case;
- A specific EUR-OCEANS integration symposium encompassing Themes 1-4 is also being considered as a collaboration for 2008. If this is to be developed further, details are required for the next NSC meeting with a budget estimate for discussion as part of the overall budget considerations.

(6) The BASIN report will be printed as a part of a GLOBEC series.

(7) The NSC recommended that data rescue activities be driven by the requirements of EUR-OCEANS and the needs of the users rather than those of the data providers. Proposals should be evaluated in the light of the scientific priorities document and the data needs expressed in the session on Data strategy and products.

(8) Funds were requested to support examples of sharing facilities in order to demonstrate the value of this type of activity. These funds would be mainly used for salaries, consumables and travel expenses. It was agreed to include these funds in the budget although little evidence is given that the activity will lead to any fruitful result.

Another request was made to fund a salary for someone to do the work planned in WP7. It was rather recommended to wait until a strategy for integration was clarified so that funding could be targeted on integration between Themes (see discussion Point 15).

The final total difference with the total available funds is higher (333 k Euros) than the 20% which was suggested to keep as a realistic figure.

8. Presentation of the new EUR-OCEANS website

C. Gernez presented the new version of the EUR-OCEANS website, which was made available online on 21 November. It was recognised that this version is not yet finalised, and agreed that this task should be a priority for both the webmaster and the web editor (acting as a project manager) for the following 3 months. The NSC noted that the web editor could only provide full-time input for a maximum of 3 months. The NSC agreed that if further resources are necessary during that period or afterwards these should be provided as this is a priority activity. It was recommended to include the document “What EUR-OCEANS can do for you” on the homepage.

Action 2: Webmaster and web editor (acting as a project manager) to fully dedicate their time to the finalisation of the new website for the following 3 months.

9. Roles of assistants in the proposed actions/initiatives, to enhance the interactions among WPs and Systems

Chair: R. Harris

- Presentation by R. Harris

- Discussion

It was confirmed that assistants would be invited to all NSC meetings.

It was suggested that spending too much time on internal organisation should be avoided, and rather focussing on delivering things in a more pro-active fashion. With this respect, it was agreed that assistants should focus on products of the network, which they could prepare during less formal, more ‘hands-on’ parallel sessions during NSC meetings.

I. Grigorov presented the ideas for the press office. The plan was recognised as useful as a way to put forward what has been achieved by the network. It was suggested to rename it “identification of scientific highlights”. Whether all assistants have time to be involved in this scheme still needs to be addressed.

10. Common interests among WPs (Themes and generic WPs) and Systems: Conclusions

Chair: E. Murphy

Three key common interests and potential domains for interactions were proposed:

- Common vision and shared projects: to be implemented through a scientific vision paper to be written by the Theme Leaders and the Scientific Directors (cf Action 1), the improved (re-

structured) priorities paper, and an active role of EUR-OCEANS in other international and European projects or organisations (BASIN, ICES, ICED, IPY, BONUS, SESAME);

- Foster interaction among WPs: to be achieved during the annual PI meetings (a more specific focus on science with short summaries of workshops, presentation of visions ...), during NSC meetings (a few science topics to be selected and reported on), and through Assistants, who are key to the promotion of common products of the network;
- Foster interaction through students: it is proposed to build a long-lasting network of young scientists and students by encouraging them to present their work at annual meetings and on the EUR-OCEANS website, and by investing in summer schools.

11. Preparing the meeting of the General Assembly

Chair: D. Turner

In presence of Cynan Ellis-Evans, Chair of the General Assembly

The first physical meeting of the General Assembly is planned on 27 April 2007 in Glyfada (Athens), Greece, just after the EUR-OCEANS annual meeting.

- *The rule of unanimity*

L. Legendre recalled that all decisions of the General Assembly had so far been required to be unanimous. However, at the occasion of the vote on the proposed amendment to the Consortium Agreement, held in August 2006, two members of the Assembly voted against the proposition, thus causing it to be rejected. After being contacted by the executive director they accepted to withdraw and to modify their votes, respectively. One of these members then contacted L. Legendre to express his strong feelings against the unanimity rule, which can actually be seen as the antithesis of democracy (any negative vote blocks the whole process).

It was agreed to bring this matter to the Assembly for a discussion during its meeting on 27 April 2007, and it was suggested to propose a new rule of a 2/3 majority to replace unanimity.

Action 3: L. Legendre to write a draft document explaining the context and the proposition to the Assembly, to be circulated to the NSC.

- *The membership issue*

C. Gernez presented the work and the proposals made by the working group on the membership issue.

It was agreed that the coming 2 year period (for which current members may withdraw and new members may be accepted) should be considered separately from the period beyond 2008 for which membership must be clearly defined.

Proposals 1 and 2.1 from the working group were adopted as actions.

Action 4:

- Executive Director to contact the 3 PIs who have replied 'No' to the preliminary question in the 2005 questionnaire, and to ask their respective MOs to identify new PIs (providing they meet the excellence criteria) or to withdraw.

- Executive Director to contact the 6 MOs which declared no costs, or zero person.months, in the 2005 financial report, and to ask the reasons for this. If due to lack of interest or of time, suggest they withdraw.

- Executive Director and working group to carefully evaluate the participation of the 18 PIs who did not reply to the 2005 questionnaire through their replies to the 2006 questionnaire.

Action 5:

- Executive Director to determine a list of targeted PIs according to the calculated mark (threshold value: 3), and to contact the targeted PIs and their respective MOs and ask them to respond on the

limited involvement of their PIs in the network's activities. MOs would be asked either to identify new PIs (providing they meet the excellence criteria) or to withdraw.

- Executive Director to contact the targeted PIs through a telephone call followed by an official letter to them and to the director of the MO. The phone call could be cascaded down to the System Assistants if numbers were too high, with a reasonable timeframe to complete the task.

Action 6: Systems and WP leaders to propose potential new MOs and new PIs (within current MOs and within potential new MOs) to the Executive Committee by end January 2007. Proposals to be reviewed by the NSC and then forwarded to the General Assembly for a decision on 27 April 2007.

- *Convening the General Assembly in April 2007*

P. Tréguer presented a list of suggested items to include in the agenda for the Assembly meeting. It was recommended to add the following items to the list:

- links with other NoEs;
- plans for FP7.

It was suggested to make the meeting attractive to Assembly members by providing them with the scientific vision paper in advance, as well as the "What EUR-OCEANS can do for you" document. It was also suggested to encourage MOs to invite a second person, preferably with high level of responsibility, in addition to the appointed member.

Action 7: Scientific Directors to prepare background documents and agenda ready for end March 2007, in collaboration with the Chair of the Assembly.

12. Data strategy and data products in EUR-OCEANS

Chair: C. Le Quéré

S. Pesant presented and commented on a scheme showing the way from unarchived data to models. C. Le Quéré recalled that two levels of action were to be distinguished in relation to data: 1) the gathering of existing data, i.e. the creation of databases and data portals (realistic with EUR-OCEANS funds), and 2) the extension of information, i.e. of databases (not realistic with EUR-OCEANS funds).

Three data products were identified in the priorities paper:

- 1) a vital rates database related to activities of WP4
- 2) a global biomass database related to activities of WP3.2
- 3) a database of the distribution, abundance and population structure for the Southern Ocean system. This activity was already funded in the first call of the data rescue.

No other data needs have been specifically identified in the priorities paper or in the discussion. However, WP and Systems who have not yet provided information are invited to identify their data priorities and include them in the priorities paper.

13. New initiatives for 2007-2008: Workshops and summer schools

Chair: I. Siokou-Frangou

Workshops

I. Siokou-Frangou recalled the workshops planned for 2007 and 2008 and supported or endorsed by EUR-OCEANS. There is an uncertainty that the planned workshop to be organized by WP1.1 on model agreements for sharing facilities will be held, as there is very little interest for it among the membership.

It was agreed not to change the rules for the evaluation of workshop proposals (i.e. proposals are ranked and commented on by the NSC, then a final decision is made by the Executive and circulated to the NSC by email with justifications of the decisions, and the whole procedure is conducted through e-mail).

The two deadlines for submitting workshop proposals in 2007 were set on 31 March and 2 October, as in 2006.

Summer schools

J. Arrieta briefly presented the two proposals for summer schools received this year. The Training Task Team decided to support one of them (Habitat modelling of marine populations, proposed by Ifremer, France) and not to recommend the second one (World Climate and Overturning Circulation in Oceans and Mediterranean Seas, proposed by OGS, Italy).

It was agreed that the call for summer schools proposals should be better advertised in future (possibly through posters), and NSC members were invited to propose topics and to approach young scientists as potential organisers.

Plans for future summer schools include one on Parameterization, one on Ecosystem Modelling (both envisaged by WP4 and WP6), and possibly one on Global Modelling. A joint project with IMBER is also envisaged. I. Siokou recalled that Temel Oguz was willing to host another EUR-OCEANS summer school in Ankara, Turkey, in 2008.

14. Feedback from the assistants break-out meeting

I. Grigorov presented the main issues discussed during the parallel assistants meeting (chaired by C Tancell).

Future Assistants meetings: it was agreed to schedule a flexible half-day session for Assistants in parallel with each NSC meeting. The agenda for this session should be prepared in advance.

Action 8: Assistant to the Chair of the next NSC meeting to organise the Assistants parallel session.

Website: it was again recognized that the website is a crucial tool which urgently requires attention. Assistants suggested that one webmaster for two sites (www.eur-oceans.eu and www.eur-oceans.info) was not realistic in this context. The NSC agreed to allocate more funds to allow WP10 to employ a webmaster for a few months for the .info website, so that the main webmaster could dedicate his full time to the main EUR-OCEANS website (.eu). It was also agreed that P. Matthews (web editor and assistant to the Scientific Director) would dedicate 100% of his time to the website in the coming 3 months.

'What EUR-OCEANS can do for you' document: a draft had been prepared by the assistants during the meeting and will be completed shortly, then sent to C. Gernez for her review (**Action 9**).

15. Discussion: Where is EUR-OCEANS going during the next two years?

Chair: E. Murphy

- Presentation by P. Treguer

P. Treguer presented key achievements and questions for the network.

- Discussion

It was suggested to focus the science of the network on some specific, visible outputs (e.g. model interfacing). These could be reached through the new "integration projects" (cf. session on the budget).

The question of the usefulness of a sharing facilities programme was raised. It was usually noted that scientists do not use facilities outside their institution/country due to lack of funds rather than lack of knowledge about these facilities. It was suggested to continue running the programme, and to see it as a long-term project rather, complementary to short-term initiatives funded by the European Commission (e.g. use of large facilities). BASIN, ICED and the partnership of the Upwelling Systems were recognized as the main international cooperation initiatives of EUR-

OCEANS. Links to GLOBEC and IMBER are also well established. It was suggested to activate other international agreements, e.g. with BENEFIT and Scripps.

The question regarding the fate of WP3.1 and WP7 after P. Monfray's leaving was raised again. It was noted that WP3.1 was developing well with a clear vision and it was recommended that it continue. It was also noted that it would be useful to develop the integration activities of WP7 around the Themes. The effort in this area could be specifically used to develop integrated science products around the network Themes.

16. New initiatives in the context of FP7

Chairs: P. Tréguer and L. Legendre

- Presentation by R. Lampitt

R. Lampitt presented an overview of FP7's structure and detailed information about the topics of relevance to the EUR-OCEANS community in the 'Environment' thematic priority.

- Discussion

It was clear that no single EUR-OCEANS type bid would be possible under FP7. However, there were already a lot of clear science areas where EUR-OCEANS scientists were well placed to develop proposals. Facilitating the development of proposals would be an important role for EUR-OCEANS. In this regard it was noted that a number of clusters of groups in EUR-OCEANS were already working together on joint proposals and PhD programmes. It would also be useful to examine whether some funding is available for continuing some EUR-OCEANS umbrella activities to help link across proposals and to build on the legacy of EUR-OCEANS.

It was suggested to open a forum on the website where EUR-OCEANS members could exchange information about proposals under preparation.

It was recommended to identify other sections of FP7 where funding could be available (e.g. Marie Curie actions, infrastructures, but also the European Research Council, which allows for more open scientific proposals), and to be in contact with the EUR-OCEANS project officer in Brussels to find the best appropriate ways to find funding beyond 2008 in order to support the development of umbrella activities as a vision of the virtual institute.

Action 10: C. Gernez to collect information about all potential sources for funding within FP7 and to report to NSC. P. Treguer and L. Legendre to discuss with C. Fragakis and/or P. Mathy about the best opportunities or strategies for funding the infrastructure required to develop this coordinating vision of a virtual institute.

17. Reports from the working groups of the three marine NoEs on the "virtual institute"

Chair: F. Thingstad

The four following working groups were created jointly by EUR-OCEANS, MarBEF and Marine Genomics:

- WG1: Scientific Challenges (EUR-OCEANS representative: Prof. Paul Wassmann, University of Tromsø, Norway)
- WG2: European Doctoral School/PhD programme (EUR-OCEANS representative: Prof. Dieter Wolf-Gladrow, Alfred Wegener Institut, Germany)
- WG3: Shared Facilities (EUR-OCEANS representative: Dr Lucas Stal, NIOO, Netherlands)
- WG4: Personnel Mobility (EUR-OCEANS representative: Prof. Carlos Duarte, CSIC, Spain)

- Presentation by P. Treguer and L. Stal

P. Treguer presented excerpts of the report from WG1, on behalf of P. Wassmann, personal views on the topic of WG2, and excerpts of the conclusions from WG4.

L. Stal presented orally the discussions held in WG3. There are currently no activities related to sharing facilities in Marine Genomics or MarBEF. The EUR-OCEANS WP1.1 database and

activities could therefore be expanded in the other two NoEs; however this would require funding from them and no such willingness is noted yet. The discussion within WG3 lead to several questions: what is a facility? What is a “large facility”? What are the needs for shared facilities (both for existing ones, and potential needs for new ones)? What is expected from a facility (technical help, financial support, on-site accommodation, etc)? Should sharing facilities be a step towards sharing research programmes as well?

- Discussion

Several NSC members shared the opinion that the European Commission’s initiatives regarding facilities were misguided in favouring a top-down approach. It was noted in the discussions that it was not feasible to develop quickly towards a virtual institute across European marine science at this time. However, the successes of EUR-OCEANS showed that integrated activities were both possible and valuable.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the 4 WG should continue their work with a focus on practical and pragmatic goals.

On the future of the overall network

L. Legendre stressed 3 important aspects regarding the future virtual institute: 1) it is no longer in EUR-OCEANS’ official mandate to create such an institute, but the network will continue its work in this direction because it is seen as a valued objective; 2) the initial ambition must be modified to the development of multi-lateral agreements or “clusters” which should remain after 2008; 3) the value of the network should be to provide examples of what could be done in future (clusters, agreements for joint PhD programmes, etc).

The NSC agreed that EUR-OCEANS integration activities that had developed over the last 2 years had generated a step change in communication and activity on collaborative marine science across Europe. Although FP7 does not offer the opportunity to continue EUR-OCEANS in its current NoE form beyond 2008, it was considered crucial that the legacy of EUR-OCEANS is not lost. The NSC agreed that the development of a central umbrella activity with some centralised infrastructure to maintain the website, to communicate on proposals, to identify and obtain funding and to facilitate integrated activities, including writing proposals and integrated science papers, was an important and achievable goal.

In conclusion, it was agreed that this umbrella/facilitation role would be a guiding principle as a vision for the virtual institute beyond EUR-OCEANS. The aim would be to maintain the integration legacy of EUR-OCEANS by having some central infrastructure to facilitate proposals and develop integrated activities beyond 2008.

18. EUR-OCEANS Awards: Conclusions of the discussion initiated through web forum

Chair: P. Monfray

- Presentation by C. Gernez

C. Gernez recalled the discussion held during the Brest NSC meeting and on the Web forum. She presented the remedial actions proposed by C. Duarte to improve the Awards programme:

1. Pro actively encourage all Systems and WPs to submit nominations.
2. Pro-actively encourage the Gender Equality Council to submit nominations.
3. Advertise the call for Awards nominations on the web pages of the three marine Networks of Excellence and relevant Integrated Projects and in the GLOBEC and IMBER Newsletters.
4. Advertise in Society Bulletins (ASLO, EOS, etc) one key magazine (depending on costs) and dedicated marine portals like EUR-OCEANS, CIESM, ICES and IOC.

- Discussion

It was agreed to implement the first 3 proposed actions. The fourth action could be implemented later on if required.

C. Duarte was contacted by e-mail during the meeting and he confirmed his validation of the NSC's decision.

Action 11: WP1.2 to open a new call for Awards and to implement the following actions:

- Pro-actively encourage all Systems and WPs to submit nominations
- Pro-actively encourage the Gender Equality Council to submit nominations.
- Advertise the call for Awards nominations on the web pages of the three marine Networks of Excellence and relevant Integrated Projects, and in the GLOBEC and IMBER Newsletters

19. Organisation of the 2007 Annual PIs Meeting

Chair: E. Murphy

It was agreed that there should be a strong focus on science in a Symposium type format at the next meeting to encourage active participation by a wider group of PIs across the network. It was agreed to have a strong central plenary session that would focus on the central science themes of EUR-OCEANS. However, these should attempt to draw on appropriate science from across a range of Themes and Systems. It was suggested that parallel sessions would also be required to consider more specifically Systems, Themes, and their interactions. It was also agreed to encourage PIs, and especially younger scientists, to present their work, and to have presentations or posters from the PhD students and post-docs supported by EUR-OCEANS.

It was suggested to include a brief presentation of "What EUR-OCEANS can do for you" in plenary. It was also suggested to invite the METAOCEANS students to the annual meeting.

It was noted that the timescales for doing this were tight but it was important to get a call for presentations/posters out quickly focussed on the Themes. It was also noted that some selected individuals may be invited from outside the network, but we should try and encourage internal PIs for this meeting.

Action 12: Organisation committee to be set up including I. Siokou, P. Treguer and L. Legendre and the Theme leaders to help devise the meeting plan and select the presentations for the science sessions.

20. Preparation of the 2006 annual reports: timeline, distribution of tasks

Chair: E. Murphy

- Presentation by C. Gernez

C. Gernez recalled the various components of the annual reports, and proposed a procedure and a timeline to prepare and submit the reports.

- Discussion

It was agreed to set the following strict deadlines in order to have all possible guarantees that the complete reports will be produced on time:

WP reports - end December 2006

MO Financial reports – mid January 2007

Final reports to General Assembly – end January 2007

Final reports to Commission – 15th February 2007

L. Legendre informed the NSC that the review process would be conducted in a slightly different way in 2007. External reviewers will not be invited to attend the annual meeting due to its date falling beyond of the legal period allowed by the Commission for the review process. A group of NSC members responsible for the various components of the network will meet the reviewers and C. Fragakis in March 2007. L. Legendre and P. Treguer will inform the NSC as soon as a date is set for that meeting.

21. Conclusions of the meeting

Chair: E. Murphy

Documents

3 documents are to be prepared (cf Actions 1 and 9):

- the scientific priorities document, to be re-structured by C. Le Quéré and completed by a 1-page vision for the network written by P. Treguer and L. Legendre
- the “What EUR-OCEANS can do for you” document, drafted by the assistants, sent to C. Gernez and validated by the NSC, then put on the website and mailed out to all MOs with a letter on how to use EUR-OCEANS funds
- the scientific integration document, i.e. the vision paper, to be prepared by Theme leaders and the Scientific Directors, and circulated to the NSC.

Composition of the Scientific Council

Names should be provided to the Scientific Directors by mid-December. Adequate candidates will be approached by the end of December.

Links across NoEs

The discussions should continue and include the recently funded ESONET NoE.

Action 13: Executive Committee to clarify the requirements, especially on sharing facilities, and to define options for enhancement of these links.

Call for integration projects

Action 14: Executive Committee to generate a mechanism for these projects, and to circulate it to the NSC by early January 2007.

International cooperation (Memoranda of Understanding, MoU)

Action 15: Executive Committee to follow up MoU and request comments on what has been done

Budget

Important developments have been made. Using QuickBooks was suggested by M. Barange; C. Gernez will examine that possibility in more detail.

Website

The NSC agreed that the implementation of development of the website was a top priority (cf Action 2).

Running the NSC meetings

- **Action 16:** C. Gernez and E. Murphy to finalise a draft record of the meeting to be circulated among the NSC.
- D. Turner offered Göteborg as a venue for the next NSC meeting. The offer was accepted. C. Enright will be in contact with A. Olsson concerning the practicalities of the organisation of the meeting. Exact dates will be defined through the Meet-O-Matic tool.
- **Action 17:** P. Treguer and L. Legendre to approach network members from the South of Europe in order to find a venue for the autumn meeting.
- It was suggested to test web-based conference tools for small groups (e.g. assistants).
Action 18: I. Grigorov to run tests with the WP10 web-conference tool in liaison with S. Ghiron and others, and to report to the NSC.

Developing EUR-OCEANS

- It was recognised that integration has developed well both in terms of science and integration of member organisations.

- WP3.1: **Action 19:** P. Treguer and L. Legendre to finalise the process for O. Aumont to take the leadership after P. Monfray.
- WP7: **Action 20:** Theme leaders and Scientific Directors to lead the work to fulfil WP7's objectives. The continuation of WP3.1 was agreed. The development of integration science should be discussed by the Theme leaders and the Scientific Directors when they meet to generate the integration document. The NSC priority in this area was integration within and between Themes. Discussions between the Theme Leaders and the Scientific Directors should focus on ensuring effort and resources associated with WP7 are targeted at developing integration within and between Themes.
- FP7: EUR-OCEANS should encourage and facilitate the development of proposals.
- The EU Oceans'07 meeting in Aberdeen will be an important opportunity to communicate the successes of EUR-OCEANS and planned future developments. The NSC considered that it is important that EUR-OCEANS is represented at the meeting.
Action 21: Executive Committee to plan to ensure presentation and representation of EUR-OCEANS at Oceans'07.
- Beyond EUR-OCEANS: A vision document is needed. Ideally it should be sought to maintain an 'umbrella' with a baseline funding and a coordination office.
Action 22: Small team to be set up including C. Gernez, P. Treguer, L. Legendre, and other volunteers to think about what EUR-OCEANS has achieved, what should continue, and to work on possible options for developing the 'umbrella' vision.

E. Murphy thanked all participants for their active and very positive contributions to a successful meeting.

Appendix 1: Action points

Action 1:

- P. Treguer and L. Legendre to write a 1-page vision to be included as a general introduction to the priorities document following discussion and input by the NSC;
- C. Le Quéré to review the structure of the priorities document in order to make it more coherent;
- Theme leaders to meet and prepare a scientific vision document across their research themes, in cooperation with the Scientific Directors. The document would then be circulated to the NSC for wider discussion and input.

Action 2: Webmaster and web editor (acting as a project manager) to fully dedicate their time to the finalisation of the new website for the following 3 months

Action 3: L. Legendre to write a draft document about the modification of the unanimity rule of the General Assembly, explaining the context and the proposition to the Assembly, to be circulated among the NSC

Action 4:

- Executive Director to contact the 3 PIs who have replied 'No' to the preliminary question in the 2005 questionnaire, and to ask their respective MOs to identify new PIs (providing they meet the excellence criteria) or to withdraw.
- Executive Director to contact the 6 MOs which declared no costs, or zero person.months, in the 2005 financial report, and to ask the reasons for this. If due to lack of interest or of time, suggest they withdraw.
- Executive Director and working group to carefully evaluate the participation of the 18 PIs who did not reply to the 2005 questionnaire through their replies to the 2006 questionnaire.

Action 5:

- Executive Director to determine a list of targeted PIs according to the calculated mark (threshold value: 3), and to contact the targeted PIs and their respective MOs and ask them to respond on the limited involvement of their PIs in the network's activities. MOs would be asked either to identify new PIs (providing they meet the excellence criteria) or to withdraw.
- Executive Director to contact the targeted PIs through a telephone call followed by an official letter to them and to the director of the MO. The phone call could be cascaded down to the System Assistants if numbers were too high, with a reasonable timeframe to complete the task.

Action 6: Systems and WP leaders to propose potential new MOs and new PIs (within current MOs and within potential new MOs) to the Executive Committee by end January 2007. Proposals to be reviewed by the NSC and then forwarded to the General Assembly for a decision on 27 April 2007.

Action 7: Scientific Directors to prepare background documents and agenda for the General Assembly meeting of April 2007, to be finalised by end March 2007, in collaboration with the Chair of the Assembly.

Action 8: Assistant to the Chair of the next NSC meeting to organize the assistants parallel session.

Action 9: Assistants to finalise a draft document for 'What EUR-OCEANS can do for you' and to send it to C. Gernez for her review. Final document to be validated by the NSC, then put on the website and mailed out to all MOs with a letter on how to use EUR-OCEANS funds.

Action 10: C. Gernez to collect information about all potential sources for funding within FP7 and to report to NSC. P. Treguer and L. Legendre to discuss with C. Fragakis and/or P. Mathy about the best opportunities or strategies for funding the infrastructure required to develop this coordinating vision of a virtual institute.

Action 11: WP1.2 to open a new call for Awards and to implement the following actions:

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- Advertise the call for Awards nominations on the web pages of the three marine Networks of Excellence and relevant Integrated Projects, and in the GLOBEC and IMBER Newsletters

Action 12: Organisation committee to be set up including I. Siokou, P. Treguer and L. Legendre with input from the Theme leaders to help devise the meeting plan and select the presentations for the science sessions.

Action 13: Executive Committee to clarify the requirements for the work of the joint working groups among the three marine NoEs, especially on sharing facilities, and to define options for enhancement of these links.

Action 14: Executive Committee to generate a mechanism for the integration projects, and to circulate it to the NSC by early January 2007.

Action 15: Executive Committee to follow up MoU and request comments on what has been done

Action 16: C. Gernez and E. Murphy to finalise a draft record of the Cambridge meeting to be circulated among the NSC.

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Action 20: Theme leaders and Scientific Directors to lead the work to fulfil WP7's objectives.

Action 21: Executive Committee to plan to ensure presentation and representation of EUR-OCEANS at Oceans'07.

Action 22: Small team to be set up including C. Gernez, P. Treguer, L. Legendre, and other volunteers to think about what EUR-OCEANS has achieved, what should continue, and to work on possible options for developing the 'umbrella' vision.