



**EUR-OCEANS Network of Excellence
Network's Steering Committee meeting
Göteborg, 13-14 June 2007**

Participants:

Leaders and directors:

M. Barange (PML, United Kingdom)
J. De Macedo (FIST S.A., France – Administrative and financial coordinator)
M. Diepenbroek (University of Bremen, Germany)
C. Duarte (CSIC, Spain) – present only on 13 June
C. Fox (SAMS, United Kingdom)
P. Fréon (IRD, France)
C. Gernez (CNRS, France – Executive Director, non-voting)
R. Harris (PML, United Kingdom)
F. Köster (DIFRES, Denmark)
R. Lampitt (NERC-NOC, United Kingdom)
L. Legendre (CNRS, France – Deputy Scientific Director)
C. Le Quéré (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom)
K. Lochte (IfM-GEOMAR, Germany)
I. Siokou-Frangou (HCMR, Greece)
M. St John (University of Hamburg, Germany)
F. Thingstad (University of Bergen, Norway)
P. Tréguer (University of Brest, France - Scientific Director)
D. Turner (University of Göteborg, Sweden)

Invited:

B. Narayanaswamy (EuroCoML Project Officer)
C. Ellis-Evans (Chair of the EUR-OCEANS General Assembly)

Assistants:

P.-F. Baisnée (IRD, France – Assistant to WP6 and to the Upwellings System)
O. Bonilla-Findji (Oceanopolis, France – Assistant to WP10)
M. Calleja (CSIC, Spain – Assistant to WP8)
C. Frangoulis (HCMR, Greece – Assistant to the Mediterranean System)
I. Grigorov (CNRS, France – Assistant to WP3.1 and WP7)
J. Heard (PML, United Kingdom – Assistant to WP9 and to the North Atlantic Ocean System)
I. Hendriks (CSIC, Spain – Assistant to WP1.2)
R. Huber (University of Bremen, Germany – Assistant to WP2.2)
W. Koeve (IfM-GEOMAR, Germany – Assistant to WP1.1)
P. Matthews (CNRS, France – Assistant to the Scientific Director and Web editor)
A. Olsson (University of Göteborg, Sweden – Assistant to the Baltic Sea System)
S. Pesant (CNRS, France – Assistant to the Deputy Scientific Director and to WP2.2)
E. Stenevik (IMR, Norway – Assistant to the Arctic and Nordic Seas System)
C. Tancell (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom – Assistant to the Southern Ocean System)

Excused:

P. Cury (IRD, France)
S. Ghiron (Oceanopolis, France)

F. Joos (University of Bern, Switzerland)
E. Murphy (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom)
J. Ruiz (CSIC-University of Cadiz, Spain)
S. Sundby (IMR, Norway)

Absent:

O. Aumont (IRD, France)
K. Richardson (University of Aarhus, Denmark)

Wednesday 13 June 2007

1. Welcome and practical information, general introduction

D. Turner welcomed all participants in Göteborg. A. Olsson provided practical information.
P. Tréguer presented a general introduction to the meeting.

2. Update on the Annual review, the EUR-OCEANS Responses to the reviewers and the European Commission, and reaction(s) from the EC

P. Tréguer summarised the process and indicated that the Commission had informally approved both the EUR-OCEANS 2006 annual report and the response to the reviewers' comments (including its complement sent recently). L. Legendre recalled that the whole process is very complex, with the final objective being to obtain the funds for the next period. C. Gernez indicated that the third payment by the Commission should be received approximately at the same period as in 2006, i.e. in July or August. D. Turner asked the NSC about their opinion on the way this review process had been handled; his personal opinion was that it is managed fairly well. His opinion was shared by the NSC.

3. Report on the General Assembly meeting held in Glyfada on 27 April

C. Ellis-Evans (Chair of the EUR-OCEANS General Assembly) gave a presentation on the outcomes of the meeting held on 27 April. He stressed that the meeting was attended mostly by persons representing their institutes, who commented and voted on the agenda's items as they had been instructed.

He informed the NSC that the representative of the Imperial College London, W. Hinsley, asked him shortly before the start of the meeting to read a statement on behalf of J. Woods. The GA Chair considered the content of this statement substantive and important, but it had not been raised beforehand with either the NSC or the EUR-OCEANS directors, so he judged it inappropriate for the statement to be given the status of an agenda item when meeting participants had not had sight of it beforehand. He advised W. Hinsley to pass the statement to the NSC via the Executive Director for more appropriate discussion and further allowed that issues from the statement could be introduced where appropriate as comments into the Assembly discussions on the accepted agenda items, which W. Hinsley did. Subsequently, J. Woods sent an e-mail of complaint to C. Gernez, P. Tréguer and L. Legendre. This e-mail was forwarded to C. Ellis-Evans, who responded to clarify the situation concerning the General Assembly meeting procedures. C. Gernez, P. Tréguer and L. Legendre also sent J. Woods a response, concerning the general functioning of the network, on which he had expressed disagreement. It seems that J. Woods accepted the answer regarding the General Assembly meeting, although he still had concerns about the general functioning of the network.

The question was raised whether J. Woods' views were shared by other EUR-OCEANS scientists. C. Ellis-Evans offered his observation that as a declared neutral within EUR-OCEANS, when significant points from the statement were introduced to the Assembly discussion on 27 April, he observed no obvious sense of support for these views but that at various other points there were very positive comments about the network's functioning. L. Legendre pointed out that J. Woods

had stated in his letter that Imperial College would refuse to participate in any sort of multi-site institute beyond 2008. This was precisely what was presented by the EUR-OCEANS Scientific Officer on 27 April as potential grounds for not receiving further funding during the existing EUR-OCEANS contract. However the practical implementation of this principle is not foreseen at this time. C. Duarte suggested, in answer to J. Woods' comments about the small amount of funds Imperial College received from the network, that the Executive Director provide the Member Organisations (MO) with a table showing how much funds each MO received since the beginning of the network.

L. Legendre commented on the vote of the Assembly concerning the budget, by stressing that the Assembly approved the 2007-2008 budget and agreed to pass on to the NSC the responsibility to make the necessary adjustments until the end of the network.

4. EUR-OCEANS multi-site institute

- Steps towards the EUR-OCEANS Institute: results from the Gyfada PIs meeting and General Assembly

K. Lochte presented a summary of the three models for the multi-site institute (a virtual association based on a multi-lateral agreement; a Centre of Excellence with a rotating flagship institute; a real physical institute inspired from the EMBL) discussed during the PIs annual meeting and the General Assembly meeting held in April. She recalled that the second model, the Centre of Excellence, was found more visible and quite attractive both by several PIs and General Assembly members.

She also pointed out two important elements: First, it should be made sure that not only scientists will find the model structure for the multi-site institute attractive, but also their management and directors at their respective institutes. Second, she recalled that the European Commission had launched a wide consultation on the Green Paper on a Maritime Policy for Europe; this Green Paper will play a key role in the orientation of marine science in the coming years, and directors of big institutes are already meeting to discuss and prepare future collaborations.

- Ongoing discussions with MarBEF and Marine Genomics Europe

P. Tréguer briefly presented the plans of MarBEF and Marine Genomics regarding a multi-site, virtual institute, and indicated that a joint meeting among the three NoEs was planned in early autumn to examine potential convergences. The European Commission would favour a common proposal from the three networks.

- Roles of the EUR-OCEANS Institute Council (EIC), the NSC and the General Assembly

L. Legendre presented the roles of these various bodies and stressed the fact that at the end of the process, the formal agreement leading to the creation of the multi-site institute will be signed by directors, not scientists. It is therefore essential to develop a project that is acceptable by the directors of organizations, in addition to be acceptable by the Commission.

It was agreed that the NSC would have a discussion on the principles of the multi-site institute, whereas the EIC would go into details.

- Composition and functioning of the EIC; discussion in preparation of the next meeting of the EIC

P. Tréguer recalled who are the present members of the EIC. It was stressed that it would be important to have a representative from the UK. The NSC agreed upon the difference between *members* of the EIC, i.e. representatives of their institutions nominated by their directors, and *observers*, i.e. persons who do not represent their institution.

During the discussion, the importance of including University representatives in the EIC was stressed. The many achievements of EUR-OCEANS, as well as its strategic position with regard to the future merging of IMBER and GLOBEC were found to be a solid basis to develop a multi-site institute. However, the relationships and connections among the various actors of the European Research Area (NoEs, ERA-Nets, etc), and with the existing initiatives, including large clusters

(e.g. the KDM consortium in Germany), are not very clear. The NSC recognized the need for the multi-site institute to be attractive not only to scientists, but also to directors, faculty deans, and the European Commission. This objective could be reached by addressing specifically the maritime policy that is under preparation by the Commission; this major policy which will require networking among countries, could offer a common ground for the three marine NoEs, and would be a source of funding (about 15 research projects were funded over the past years in relation with the similar Water Framework Directive of the EU). The NSC also recognized the need for the future institute to be science-driven; some members were in favour of a specific focus rather than a broad topic. The structure should have a good degree of flexibility, and a rotating leadership.

5. Review of actions from previous NSC meetings and formal approval of the chairperson, venue and date of the next NSC meeting

- Review of actions

C. Gernez presented a follow up on the actions decided during the NSC meetings in Brest in June 2006 (Table 1) and Cambridge in November 2006 (Table 2).

Table 1: Brest NSC meeting: All the actions decided were done

Action	Content
Action 1	[Executive Director]: Setting up of a small working group including PIs, and WP/System Leaders and Assistants to assist the Executive Director and the webmaster in the revision of the website, and to prepare a short document explaining to PIs “what EUR-OCEANS can do” for them.
Action 2	[Themes and Systems Leaders]: Initiate a discussion by e-mail on common interests among Themes and Systems, and continue it during a whole day at the next NSC meeting.
Action 3	[Executive Director]: Announce important discussions or votes by e-mail, with a link to a forum section on the website where a debate could take place without overloading mailboxes (either in the private area of the website, or, if such area was suppressed, on a page accessible only through the link provided by e-mail)
Action 4	[Executive Director]: Put the recipients of the messages in the “blind copy” (Bcc) field in future correspondence.
Action 5	[EUR-OCEANS office]: Print and distribute by post the short document on “What EUR-OCEANS can do for you?”
Action 6	[Executive Director and members of the working group]: Activation of the working group composed of C. Fox, I. Siokou-Frangou, P. Fréon and C. Gernez and work on the membership issue. Presentation of an analysis during the next NSC meeting.
Action 7	[Executive Director]: Prepare a revised table for the budget showing, on a multi-annual basis, (i) the fixed expenses (Assistants, PhDs and post-docs) and (ii) the other expenses, indicating the degree of freedom. Circulate it among NSC members for an electronic discussion.
Action 8	[Executive Director]: Prepare a short document explaining the budget and how funds can be spent, to be put on the website and circulated among Assistants.
Action 9	[Scientific Directors and EUR-OCEANS office]: Forward the request for amending the Consortium Agreement to the General Assembly as soon as possible, with a letter explaining that the proposed changes are in response to the reviewers’ comments, and are considered by the NSC and the EC as improvements of the management structure of the network.
Action 10	<i>WP1.2 Mobility and communication</i> : Modify the Awards programme as indicated in point 9.
Action 11	[C. Le Quéré (coordination) and NSC members]: Prepare a short document to describe the EUR-OCEANS scientific priorities for each WP and System, in order to allow PIs to better focus their activities and be prepared to respond to future internal calls.
Action 12	<i>WP1.2 Mobility and communication</i> : Include a specific section in the Newsletter dedicated to the promotion of intermediary, exciting results from WPs and/or Systems.
Action 13	[WP10 and Gender Equality Council]: Improve consideration of gender issues in future outreach products.

Table 2: Cambridge NSC meeting

Action	Content	Comments
Action 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P. Tréguer 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 	Still to be done; this action is considered important with regard to the development of the multi-site institute

	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 <i>Done</i>	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 <i>Done</i>	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 <i>Done</i>	- 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 <i>Done</i>	- 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.	Not done. However given the new context of the development of the multi-site institute, the NSC agreed (1) to stop including PIs or MOs in the network ¹ , and (2) to activate the 'Associated member' status (see Action 1, Appendix 1).
Action 7 <i>Done</i>	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 <i>Done</i>	Assistant to the Chair of the next NSC meeting to organize the assistants parallel session.	
Action 9 <i>Done</i>	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	1) C. Gernez to collect information about all potential sources for funding within FP7 and to report to NSC.	1) Not done. Converted into a new action (see Action 2, Appendix 1)

¹ Except for the replacement of the WP1.1 leader (see Conclusions), and for the possible inclusion of CLS, which should be reconsidered by the General Assembly

	2) P. Tréguer 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.	2) Done. The answer is that the Commission will not fund the virtual institute.
Action 11 <i>Done</i>	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	
Action 12 <i>Done</i>	Organisation committee to be set up including I. Siokou, P. Tréguer 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.	Not done. However given the new context of the development of the multi-site institute, the NSC agreed to dissolve the joint working groups.
Action 14 <i>Done</i>	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	Not yet done. C. Gernez presented the list of MoU. It was decided to maintain the action (see Action 3, Appendix 1)
Action 16 <i>Done</i>	C. Gernez and E. Murphy to finalise a draft record of the Cambridge meeting to be circulated among the NSC.	
Action 17 <i>Done</i>	P. Tréguer and L. Legendre to approach network members from the South of Europe in order to find a venue for the autumn NSC meeting.	
Action 18 <i>Not done</i>	I. Grigorov to run tests with the WP10 web-conference tool in liaison with S. Ghiron and others, and to report to the NSC.	
Action 19 <i>Done</i>	P. Tréguer and L. Legendre to finalise the process for O. Aumont to take the WP3.1 leadership after P. Monfray.	
Action 20	Theme leaders and Scientific Directors to lead the work to fulfil WP7's objectives.	Partially done. It was agreed to pursue the approach initiated (see Action 4, Appendix 1)
Action 21 <i>Done</i>	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. Tréguer, 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.	Will be done through the EIC.

- *Next NSC meeting*

It was agreed to organize the next NSC meeting on 20-21 November 2007 in Palma de Mallorca (Spain). The meeting will be chaired by Carlos Duarte.

6. Information about final selection of Integration Projects and launch of a second call

C. Gernez presented the current status of the eight proposals for Integration Projects that were received for the call opened in February 2007. Six of these proposals have been reviewed by external and internal reviewers; two of them still lack a complete review. The total budget requested by the eight proposals is lower than the budget allocated to the call, and none of the six projects reviewed has been judged irrelevant to EUR-OCEANS or of a poor scientific level. It was agreed to fund these six proposals and to rapidly complete the review of the last two.

A new call will be open for Integration projects, with a budget of 100,000 Euros. It was agreed to extend the terms of the call and to allow the use of funds for the recruitment of personnel (see Action 5, Appendix 1).

7. Presentation of the outcome of the recent Data Rescue and Data Transformation Calls

S. Pesant presented the outcome of the two calls. The NSC congratulated him for the transparent review process. It was suggested to open a new call in order to fund some of the many good proposals that could not be selected due to a high competition. It was also suggested to forward the comments from the reviewers to all proposers.

8. Information on model integration and about the ESSAS programme

- *Model integration*

C. Le Quéré presented the main outcomes from the Green Ocean workshop recently held in Villefranche-sur-mer, as well as results published recently in *Science*². She showed that climate change was observed in many physical variables (temperature, winds, water fluxes, energy transport) and that we are starting to detect the impact of these physical changes on marine biogeochemistry. She showed the projected results from climate-carbon models, and how these reproduce only partly the observed trends. She then showed how the ongoing developments of a global model based on Plankton Functional Types have the potential to improving our understanding of climate change impact and feedbacks. However the limiting factor now is our ability to constrain models with observations. Much work is being done within EUR-OCEANS to improve the availability and synthesis of data. In parallel, the modelling effort is producing already some results, which are so far only preliminary. The links between various WPs and Systems in EUR-OCEANS greatly help to stimulate the field and to provide relevant information.

- *ESSAS*

L. Legendre informed the NSC that during an ESSAS (Sub-arctic Seas component of GLOBEC) meeting on sea-ice he attended in Japan, there was a presentation of the EUR-OCEANS Model Shopping Tool (MoST) by one of the Japanese modellers who developed the NEMURO model. L. Legendre noted that the MoST created excitement among two types of people: (1) non modellers, and (2) non-ecosystem climate modellers, and stressed the paradoxical situation, i.e. the fact that such a tool would not be developed by ecosystem modellers spontaneously, whereas it was much appreciated in the community. The question was raised of how to maintain this tool and the corresponding effort beyond the EUR-OCEANS NoE. It was suggested to estimate the cost of

² Science 22 June 2007: Vol. 316. no. 5832, pp. 1735 - 1738 DOI: 10.1126/science.1136188 Saturation of the Southern Ocean CO₂ Sink Due to Recent Climate Change. Corinne Le Quéré, Christian Rödenbeck, Erik T. Buitenhuis, Thomas J. Conway, Ray Langenfelds, Antony Gomez, Casper Labuschagne, Michel Ramonet, Takakiyo Nakazawa, Nicolas Metzl, Nathan Gillett, Martin Heimann

maintaining the EUR-OCEANS integration tools (MoST, sharing of facilities, networked databases...) in order to better decide which one(s) could be sustained beyond 2008.

9. European Census of Marine Life (EuroCoML)

B. Narayanaswamy, the EuroCoML Project Officer, presented the project. EuroCoML is based on a growing global network of researchers in marine biodiversity, and is organised in Regional Committees which are meant to coordinate national programmes in their geographic areas. EuroCoML has partnerships with MarBEF, HERMES, and the European Science Foundation. Among its activities are included a number of Outreach initiatives, e.g. a travelling exhibit accompanied by a book, newsletters, and activities with schools. EuroCoML offers to any project the possibility of affiliation.

During the discussion which followed the presentation, B. Narayanaswamy detailed how EuroCoML can fund projects (some funds are available for workshops).

10. Meeting of the WP and Systems Assistants (see record in Appendix 2)

Thursday 14 June 2007

11. Scientific impacts of EUR-OCEANS

P. Tréguer summarized the expected review/synthesis papers from EUR-OCEANS in the coming months. M. St John informed the NSC about two additional products (a review paper to be submitted on 15 June 2007, and a special issue of Progress in Oceanography dedicated to the outcome of the Cadiz symposium on Parameterization).

P. Tréguer and L. Legendre proposed that WP and Systems leaders present the scientific highlights of their domains at the November NSC meeting. It was also proposed to invite the members of the Scientific Council to this presentation, and to ask them to review the scientific progress of EUR-OCEANS on that basis. Their report could be included in the 2007 annual report to the EC in order to provide the Commission and the external reviewers with a high-level, independent assessment of the EUR-OCEANS' science. It was also suggested to invite some selected PhD students and post-doc fellows to present their work to the Scientific Council, given their significant scientific contributions to EUR-OCEANS. The NSC agreed to dedicate one day and a half to this scientific review, and half a day to the regular, internal business of the NSC (see Action 6, Appendix 1).

12. Budget: adjustments to the 2007-2008 budget approved by the General Assembly

C. Gernez presented the budget as approved by the General Assembly in April, and the updated budget since then, taking into account the recent vote of the NSC concerning the allocation of 100,000 Euros to a second call for Integration Projects.

L. Legendre stressed that nearly 300,000 Euros were over-budgeted, and therefore suggested not to reallocate small amounts, as they would anyway serve to compensate the over-budgeted 300,000 Euros. He also suggested to review this 'moving objective' every 6 months.

Many NSC members felt that more money should be directed to support the organization of workshops, with a final decision being deferred until after the close of the next workshop call at the next NSC meeting. It was also suggested to make a final decision on the Integration Projects selected through the second call during the November NSC meeting.

The assistant of WP8 (Training) indicated that there were remaining funds from the recent post-doc call, and that with additional support of 20,000 Euros a fifth post doc could be supported. The NSC granted the additional 20,000 Euros, and requested more transparency in the evaluation and selection of the post-docs. The webpage on PhDs and post-docs funded by EUR-OCEANS is currently empty and this must be corrected as soon as possible (see Action 7, Appendix 1).

It was recalled that the amounts of money to support travel to the annual PIs meeting do not always meet the cost of travelling. The availability of additional funds to support travel was asked to be

considered from some of the money being saved. It was recalled that although savings have been made, the use of this money must also be considered for the reduction of the current projected deficit so that the project terminates with a “zero balance”.

Additional funds were required for a further round of the Funding Programme for Data Rescue and Integration (WP2.2). The decision will be made at the November NSC meeting.

Finally the NSC recommended that the process of requesting an extension of the contract, with no additional funds request, be started to ensure an orderly wind down of the project after 31 December 2008.

13. Preparation of the 2007 financial reporting

J. de Macedo presented the various steps, deadlines, and documents required for the financial reporting procedure. P. Tréguer recalled and stressed that while raising a very low enthusiasm among PIs, this procedure is crucial to the fate of the network, by conditioning its further funding for the last year, i.e. the EC will not tolerate a delay in producing the financial report in 2008. The NSC recommended that FIST build on the experience of the first two years and pay particular attention to the MOs which delivered their report late in 2006 and 2007.

14. Organisation of the 2008 annual meeting (final meeting)

P. Tréguer and L. Legendre initially proposed to organise the final meeting in November 2008, back-to-back with a NSC meeting. Task Teams meetings could be organised next to the June 2008 NSC meeting to compensate for the absence of PIs meeting in spring. However the NSC did not see the need for these Task Teams meetings.

It was agreed to try and organize the June 2008 NSC meeting next to an existing event (e.g. the Upwelling Symposium in the Canary Islands, the Socio-economic symposium in Rome, or the AMEMR conference, among other possibilities). The final meeting should be organised as an open conference, with plenary sessions rather than parallel ones, and if possible back-to-back with another meeting involving part of the EUR-OCEANS community (e.g. the SESAME annual meeting). The NSC agreed to leave this preparation work to the Executive Committee, who should report on it and make propositions during the next NSC meeting.

15. Conclusions of the meeting

D. Turner presented conclusions on the following points:

- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU): see Action 3, Appendix 1
- Membership of the EIC: Beatriz Baliño (University of Bergen, Norway) and Stelios Kastrinakis (HCMR, Greece) were accepted as new members of the EIC, representing their respective organisations. The status of the three current observers (Alessandro Crise, OGS, Italy; Carlos Garcia Soto, IEO, Spain; Wojciech Wawrzynski, Sea Fisheries Institute, Poland) remains unchanged. A representative from the UK will be sought.
- Multi-site institute: D. Turner summarized the discussion of the previous day, and K. Lochte presented the potential features of the multi-site institute as discussed by the NSC. These conclusions will be forwarded to the EIC in preparation of its 26 June meeting. It was decided to invite Cynan Ellis-Evans to the next NSC meeting in order to keep him involved in the discussions on the multi-site institute before the final vote of the General Assembly.

K. Lochte informed the NSC that due to her new position at the AWI, she wishes to quit her role as WP1.1 Leader. The NSC approved the nomination of Arne Koertzing (IfM-GEOMAR) as new leader of that WP.

D. Turner closed the meeting by thanking the participants for fruitful discussions.

Appendix 1: Action points

Action 1: Activate the "associated member" status (i.e. institutions that receive information from the network and can participate in its activities, but receive no funding). Associated members should be proposed by WP or System leaders, and would be approved by the NSC.

Action 2: Identify relevant and successful FP7 proposals submitted by EUR-OCEANS scientists in the first call (both as coordinators or participants), by enquiring in each Theme and System.

Action 3: Follow up on MoU and cooperation agreements both in the Systems concerned and globally, and report on this at the November NSC meeting.

Action 4: Continue to implement the approach agreed upon by the Theme leaders and the Scientific Directors concerning the work of WP7.

Action 5: Open a second call for Integration Projects with extended terms (recruitment of personnel allowed).

Action 6: Invite the members of the Scientific Council to the November 2007 NSC meeting, for a presentation of scientific highlights by each WP and System (including presentations by some PhD students and post-doc fellows).

Action 7: Provide information on the EUR-OCEANS funded PhD students and post-doc fellows on the website.

Action 8: Provide guidance agreed upon by NSC to the EIC for the 26 June meeting.

Action 9: Identify a new chair for the GEC.

Appendix 2: Record of the Assistants' meeting

All the Assistants present participated in this meeting

- *Outreach*

The contacts between the Network of Aquaria and the rest of EUR-OCEANS are limited and should be increased. It was also questioned if all the Aquaria members are on the regular EUR-OCEANS list and if they are considered as normal EUR-OCEANS member institutes regarding e.g. mobility calls.

There exists a list of teachers for distribution of outreach material but more names are requested.

The presence of local outreach offices at many of the different member organisations was discussed. It was mentioned that one often has to do most of the work themselves, but still should remember that they can get help from such facilities.

The weather station activity needs translations into more languages. Translations of other things, e.g. films, are needed as well, although quite a lot of help has been found so far and the work is in progress.

The question of making popular scientific summaries of e.g. paper of the month, research highlights etc was also discussed. The main problem is to get someone to do the transformation/translation needed but also to some extent to make a selection. To start with, the research highlights will in their present form be more accessible, e.g. by linking them to the outreach web site.

- *Fact sheets*

It was felt that there could be a benefit from producing fact sheets in connection with the different kinds of EUR-OCEANS funding. The outcome of different funded activities is very variable but at least some of them could provide a good opportunity to summarise a topic, a method or similar. When funding any kind of activity it should be considered if an extended report, a fact sheet or something should be requested as an outcome.

- *Mobility calls*

The possibilities to use the mobility calls to fund networking on outreach were discussed. This could be done by submitting a proposal to e.g. the short-visit call, which is open until 15 September. Such proposals are encouraged and ideas should be discussed among the assistants.

- *Virtual discussions*

There are possibilities for virtual discussions within some of the organisations but at other there are restrictions that may limit such a use. The following questions should be enquired: Which types are of interest, e.g., chat, talk, video etc, which are available today and what restrictions are there?

- *Action points:*

- Supply Osana Bonilla with information on the public events arranged by the assistants' institute or in their country. – **All**
- Assistants who have contacts, e.g. teachers, which would be interested by the outreach material from the network to contact Osana Bonilla. – **All**
- Find help with translation of outreach material such as films and the weather station project. Most help is needed in German, Greek, Italian, Polish and Swedish, more information in e-mail from Osana Bonilla and at the outreach web site. – **All**
- The research highlights will be linked from the outreach site and e-mail alert service will be set up to announce when new ones are available. – **Osana Bonilla-Findji**

- Give general guidelines on the production of fact sheets for funded activities. – **Jessica Heard**
- Produce a fact sheet on the very successful EUR-OCEANS technical training session on "Automated Imaging Analysis of Mesozooplankton", including some science about the use of this emerging methodology. - **Stéphane Pesant** (together with Gaby Gorsky)
- Ideas and discussions on outreach proposals that can be submitted to the mobility call. – **All**
- Check the possibilities for virtual discussions. – **Ivo Grigorov**