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# EUROGEO MARINE AND COASTAL ACTION GROUP

2025 Strategy  
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The **EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group** has been established to address Europe's pressing need for coordinated, user-oriented Earth observation (EO) solutions that support sustainable development and resilience across marine and coastal domains.

Operating under the broader framework of **EuroGEO**, which is Europe's regional initiative within the **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**, this Action Group focuses on projects integrating Ocean and Coastal EO and Prediction data to address pressing marine and coastal challenges.

The Action Group aims to coordinate EU marine and coastal initiatives in the **data-to-intelligence framework** for decision-making and resource management. The Action Group will seek to provide a structured overview, supporting the European Commission in identify actors, tools, and services supporting ocean applications. This will support strategic planning, improves cross-initiative visibility, and promotes synergies across platforms like the EU Atlas and joint use case libraries.

This Action Group draws upon the continent's robust EO infrastructure, notably the **Copernicus Marine Service and the Copernicus Coastal Thematic Hub**, and research programmes such as the "**EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters**" supporting the development of the **EU Digital Twin of the Ocean** to bridge the gap between science and decision-making.

In alignment with the **European Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, the group aims to contribute to Horizon Europe's priorities for 2025–2027 and beyond, supporting EO services remain cutting-edge and closely tied to EU policy objectives, including the **European Green Deal**. The strategy also reflects **GEO's Post-2025** vision of universally accessible Earth Intelligence, which calls for transformative shifts that bridge research, innovation, market uptake, and operational delivery. Crucially, the Action Group aligns with the **European Ocean Pact**, adopted in June 2025, which consolidates EU ocean policies under a single, coordinated framework to protect marine ecosystems, strengthen the sustainable blue economy, and support coastal communities. The Pact six priority areas including ocean health, maritime innovation, and ocean governance, resonate strongly with the Action Group mission to foster data-driven decision and policy making.

By engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders—from academia and research institutions to public bodies and the private EO sector—the **Marine and Coastal Action Group** seeks to co-develop strategic recommendations that foster knowledge-based information, improve access to evidence, and accelerate the integration of EO into marine governance, coastal resilience, and the sustainable blue economy.

The **Marine and Coastal Action Group** focuses on the open ocean to coastal areas continuum recognising that coastal zones are dynamic interfaces where terrestrial and marine processes converge, necessitating integrated management approaches. This holistic approach ensures that both marine and coastal environments are considered in the **data-to-intelligence framework** for decision-making and resource management, leading to more effective strategies.

This Action Group will be piloted by the EU offices of GEO Aquawatch and GEO Blue Planet. Membership is open to all stakeholders and those interested in joining are welcome to contact [euro@geoblueplanet.org](mailto:euro@geoblueplanet.org)

As the **EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group** takes shape, key objectives for the initial phase have been carefully drafted by GEO Blue Planet and Aquawatch EU representatives:

- Mapping the European landscape of the marine and coastal **data-to-intelligence framework** for decision-making
- Engaging with EU-funded marine and coastal projects contributing to GEO to identify their goals in the **data-to-intelligence framework**.
- Providing guidelines for sustainability of the **data-to-intelligence framework** activities, encompassing both public and private funding.

### Mapping the European landscape of the marine and coastal data-to-intelligence framework for decision-making

- **Mapping EU policies informed by marine and coastal data-based information.**  
Informed policymaking is essential for effective governance of marine and coastal resources. The Action Group will conduct studies to analyse existing EU policies through the lens of data-to-intelligence framework for decision-making. This includes identifying how data is transformed into actionable information and knowledge across EU institutions, agencies, and initiatives, and how this supports policy development and implementation.
- **Mapping EU marine and coastal programmes and EU-funded projects**  
To support strategic alignment and knowledge sharing, the Action Group will compile a comprehensive overview of EU marine and coastal programmes and projects. This mapping will identify thematic coverage, tools, and deliverables in the data-to-intelligence framework for decision-making, and alignment with GEO objectives, serving as a foundation for collaboration and strategic planning.

### Engaging with EU-funded marine and coastal projects contributing to GEO to identify their goals in the data-to-intelligence framework.

- **Fostering a collaborative environment where knowledge, resources, and innovations are shared.**  
By actively engaging with EU-funded projects that align with and contribute to GEO's objectives, the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group will facilitate identifying common goals in the data-to-intelligence realm to assist EU projects in translating their scientific findings for informed policy decisions, operational services, and societal benefits. This process will support the alignment of projects outcomes with the EU's Green Deal objectives. Such collaborations also promote the scaling of successful initiatives, ensuring that best practices are disseminated and adopted across Europe.
- **Co-designing strategies for data-to-intelligence activities in selected EU-funded projects**  
Stakeholder engagement is key to effective EO uptake. The Action Group will support co-design processes with selected projects, drawing on expertise from GEO Blue Planet, GEO AquaWatch, and EuroGEO, to tailor engagement strategies that enhance impact and policy alignment.

## Providing guidelines for sustainability of the data-to-intelligence framework activities, encompassing both public and private funding.

Long-term sustainability of EO-based decision-making requires robust funding models and institutional support. The Action Group will develop practical guidelines to help projects secure diverse funding sources—public, private, and hybrid—and ensure continuity of data-to-intelligence activities beyond initial project lifecycles.

### Cross-cutting Actions

The EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group will identify and promote programmes, initiatives and projects that have the potential to contribute significantly to GEO post-2025 strategy. By establishing a structured process for selecting and pushing for exemplary EU programmes and EU-funded projects in the R2O pipeline, the group will ensure that successful European initiatives receive the recognition and support needed to be promoted in the GEO Work Programme. This forward-thinking approach aligns with GEO's mission to harness the power of EO data for the benefit of society, emphasizing the importance of continuity and innovation in project development.

The **EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group** seeks to bridge the gap between data generation, information processing, and knowledge application—ensuring EO outputs are effectively translated into intelligence for policy and operational impact to address Europe's marine and coastal challenges. Its comprehensive objectives reflect a strong commitment to ensuring that scientific insights inform EU environmental strategies. By actively engaging with EU programmes and EU-funded projects, the group supports the **data-to-intelligence framework** initiatives through policy mapping, promotion of key projects in the post-2025 GEO strategy and supporting the co-design of effective engagement strategies. To ensure long-term sustainability beyond initial EU funding, the group will also develop guidelines for securing both public and private investment, fostering resilience and innovation in marine and coastal **data-to-intelligence framework** activities.