

DATA-TO-INTELLIGENCE:
CO-CREATING STRATEGIES WITH EU INITIATIVES

EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group
6-7 July 2026, WMO, Geneva

Workshop Report – October 2026

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1. Introduction

The EuroGEO Implementation Plan establishes the Marine and Coastal Action Group as one of its nine thematic implementation mechanisms. GEO Blue Planet, together with GEO AquaWatch, has been appointed to co-lead this Action Group, providing strategic coordination and guiding its implementation. The EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group Workshop marks the official launch of this effort by bringing together key stakeholders to define priorities, establish a common implementation roadmap, and initiate collaborative activities that will strengthen Europe's contribution to the GEO Post-2025 Work Programme.

The Workshop brought together representatives from European-funded projects, operational services, international organisations, programmes and initiatives, as well as the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), to jointly explore how marine and coastal Earth Observation can better support evidence-informed decision-making across Europe.

Rather than focusing on individual project results, the workshop adopted a Data-to-Intelligence perspective, encouraging participants to identify shared strengths, common challenges and opportunities for collaboration across the entire value chain—from data collection to societal action.

Through keynote presentations, project pitches, breakout discussions, collaborative exercises and plenary exchanges the workshop established a shared understanding of current practices, emerging priorities and future directions for the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group.

1.1 Data-to-Intelligence Value Chain

The workshop adopted the Data-to-Intelligence Value Chain as a common framework to structure discussions and explore how marine and coastal Earth Observation can better support evidence-informed decision-making. Instead of concentrating on individual projects, the framework considers the complete journey from data collection to societal action, recognising that value is created through the successful integration of each stage of the process.

Project presentations, breakout discussions and collaborative exercises were organised around the five interconnected components of the value chain—Collect, Transform, Share, Use and Action (Figure 1). This shared framework enabled participants to identify complementarities across projects, locate shared gaps and challenges, and explore opportunities to strengthen the European Marine and Coastal Earth Observation ecosystem as a whole.

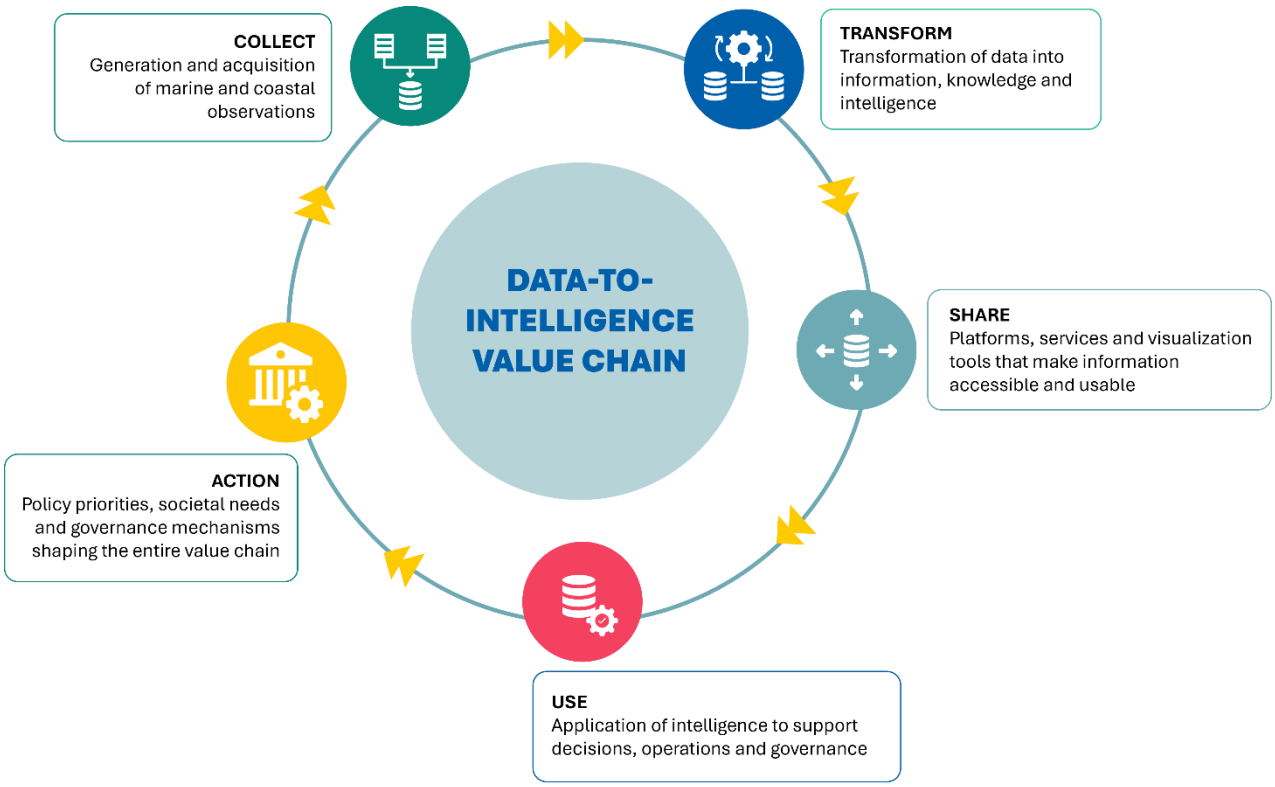


Figure 1. The Data-to-Intelligence Value Chain provided the common framework for discussions throughout the workshop, supporting the identification of strengths, challenges and opportunities across the full Earth Observation value chain.

1.2 Collaborative Workshop Process

The workshop followed a collaborative and progressive process designed to move from knowledge sharing towards the co-creation of a shared vision for the future of the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group (Figure 2).

The first day focused on sharing project experiences, showcasing practical approaches, innovative solutions and lessons learned across the Data-to-Intelligence Value Chain.

On the second day, participants worked in multidisciplinary breakout groups to identify common gaps, challenges and needs across the European marine and coastal Earth Observation community. The priority issues identified by each group were then collectively reviewed and prioritised through a community voting exercise. Building on these priorities, participants co-developed strategic priorities and explored pathways to strengthen the uptake, integration and long-term sustainability of Data-to-Intelligence approaches across Europe.

The workshop concluded with each breakout group presenting the strategic priorities to the wider audience. An open discussion was held, enabling participants to reflect on common themes, identify cross-cutting priorities, and share perspectives on the future activities of the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group.

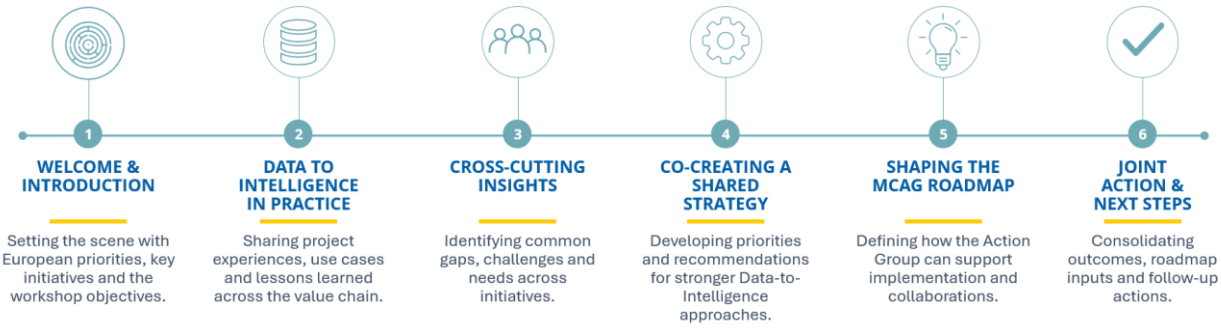


Figure 2. Collaborative workshop process, illustrating the progression from project experience sharing to the co-development of strategic priorities for the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group.

2. Workshop at a glance

The workshop brought together 29 participants from 21 organisations, representing 24 projects, programmes and initiatives across the European marine and coastal Earth Observation landscape. Table 1 provides an overview of the workshop and its key characteristics.

Dates	6-7 July 2026
Location	GEO Secretariat (WMO), Geneva, Switzerland
Participants	29 participants from 21 organisations
Represented	24 projects, programmes and initiatives
Workshop format	Keynotes, project pitches, breakout discussions, co-creation sessions and plenary discussions
Common framework	Data-to-Intelligence Value Chain

3. Key Outcomes

The workshop generated several shared insights and achieved strategic outcomes reflecting the collective experience of participants across the European Marine and Coastal Earth Observation community. While discussions covered a wide range of topics, several recurring themes emerged, highlighting common priorities, shared challenges and opportunities to strengthen the transformation of Earth Observation data into actionable intelligence. The following sections summarise the key outcomes that emerged throughout the workshop.

3.1 Building a European Marine and Coastal EO Community

One major workshop outcome was the recognition that Europe already possesses a rich and diverse ecosystem of Marine and Coastal Earth Observation initiatives. Participants agreed that greater impact can be achieved by strengthening collaboration and coordination between projects, operational services, researcher infrastructures and user communities.

The workshop highlighted the value of moving beyond individual project perspectives towards a collaborative community capable of exchanging knowledge, identifying common priorities and collectively addressing challenges that extend beyond the lifetime of individual projects.

The EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group was identified as a key mechanism to foster this collaboration, strengthen connections across initiatives, and support long-term community engagement.

3.2 From research outputs to operational impact

A recurring theme throughout the workshop was the importance of ensuring that research outcomes continue to generate value beyond individual project lifetimes.

While European projects continuously develop innovative methods, products and services, participants highlighted the challenge of transitioning these innovations into sustainable operational services. Strengthening pathways between research and long-term operational uptake was identified as a key priority, particularly through closer connections with European infrastructures such as EMODnet, Copernicus Marine Service, and the European Digital Twin of the Ocean.

Participants affirmed that innovation delivers lasting impact only when it is accessible, sustained and consistently adopted by the communities it serves.

3.3 Interoperability as an enabling condition

Participants consistently identified interoperability as a key enabler of an effective European Earth Observation ecosystem. Discussions highlighted that interoperability extends beyond technical compatibility and encompasses:

- common standards;
- FAIR data principles;
- harmonised methodologies;
- high-quality metadata;
- integration between observational systems, modelling frameworks and digital infrastructures.

Rather than developing additional standalone platforms, participants called for strengthening the interoperability and integration of existing European capacities.

3.4 Centering Users

Participants consistently emphasized that Earth Observation activities should be driven by user needs rather than technology alone.
Effective co-design of solutions alongside stakeholders was identified as a critical factor in ensuring that products and services address real decision-making contexts and deliver tangible societal value. At the same time, discussions underscore growing stakeholder fatigue driven by repeated engagement requests across multiple projects.
Participants emphasized the critical need to strengthen coordination between initiatives, demonstrating clear value to participating stakeholders and foster more meaningful and efficient engagement approaches.

3.5 From Evidence to Action

Participants recognised the significant progress achieved in transforming observations into information. However, discussions also highlighted that translating evidence into action remains one of the greatest challenges across the Data-to-Intelligence Value Chain.
Strengthening dialogue between scientists, operational organisations, policymakers and users was identified as essential to improve the uptake of Earth Observation information in policy, operational and decision-making processes.
The workshop made clear that Earth Observation systems succeed only when robust scientific evidence translates into decisive, evidence-informed action.

3.6 Long-Term Sustainability Requires Governance

A recurring and central theme across discussions was the imperative to establish robust governance mechanisms, structures capable of sustaining collaboration and driving scale-up beyond the individual project funding cycles. Participants highlighted that the long-term sustainability of Earth Observation services depends not only on continued investment but also on:

- **clear institutional responsibilities** (well-defined roles and accountability across all entities involved);
- **long-term stewardship** (sustained commitment to the ongoing management and evolution of service);
- **operational ownership** (designated bodies with the authority and capacity to maintain service continuity);
- **sustainable financing mechanisms** (diversified and reliable funding models that extend beyond initial investment cycles);
- **active community coordination** (continuous engagement and alignment among stakeholders to ensure services remain responsive to evolving needs).

Participants underscored that these governance dimensions are as essential as technological innovation in ensuring the enduring impact and operational continuity of European marine and coastal Earth Observation initiatives.

4. Looking Ahead

This workshop marks the first step in a broader process to establish the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group and define future direction. The key outcomes presented in this document reflect the main discussions and preliminary priorities identified by the invited participants. This document does not necessarily reflect the views of each participant, nor those of their respective institutions. These outcomes will be further refined with the wider EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group community and will inform the development of the Action Group Roadmap, to be disseminated at a later stage.
Building on the strategic priorities identified during the discussions, the following actions will be undertaken during the 2026-2027 period:

- **Consolidate workshop outcomes** into a structured input document to directly inform the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group Roadmap;
- **Draft the Roadmap** outlining concrete collaborative actions, partnerships, and implementation pathways for strengthening marine and coastal Earth Observation across Europe;
- **Strengthen the coordination mechanisms** (e.g., regular check-ins) to ensure continued engagement and shared ownership among participants;
- **Present the draft Roadmap** at a follow-up meeting or forthcoming EuroGEO event for community feedback and endorsement before finalization.

Through this iterative process, the Action Group will translate the strategic priorities identified during the workshop into a concrete, actionable Roadmap, ensuring sustained community engagement and a clear pathway toward long-term impact.



Figure 3. Participants of the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group Workshop, Geneva, Switzerland, 6–7 July 2026.

The workshop brought together representatives from the following projects, programmes and initiatives.

Figure 4. Participating projects, programmes and initiatives represented at the EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group Workshop.