**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission***Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies*



**Steering Group for the IODE Programme Activity ‘OceanExpert’**

**Annotated Agenda**

**Second Session (online)**27 November 2023

27 November 2023

English only

For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as follows:

Steering Group for the IODE Programme Activity OceanExpert Second Session (SG-OE-II),, 27 November 2023 (online meeting) xxpp. & Annexes, 2023. (Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies).

**Table of contents**

 **Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. New structure IODE
4. Workplan 2023 + deliverables
5. Workplan 2024 + workplan 2025-2027
6. Outreach
7. Funding
8. Chair
9. Any other business
10. Next meeting

**ANNEXES**

ANNEX I: List of Participants

ANNEX II: workplan 2024- 2025/2027 and budget

# Introduction

The second Session of the Steering Group for IODE Programme Activity ’OceanExpert’ was convened on 27 November 2023. Background documents were prepared and shared with all Steering Group meeting participants in advance of the meeting.

[**https://oceanexpert.org/event/4002**](https://oceanexpert.org/event/4002#overview)

The purpose of the meeting is to provide a comprehensive overview of progress on the work done in 2023 and to get feedback on the workplan for 2024 and 2025-2027.

# Opening of the meeting

Ms Sofie de Baenst opened the meeting by welcoming everybody online.

# Adoption of the Agenda

Mrs Sofie de Baenst presented the draft agenda, which was accepted by the SG.

# New structure IODE

Ms Sofie de Baenst explained the new IODE structure to the SG members. Informing them that OceanExpert falls under the IODE Programme Component ‘Ocean Data and Information System’ (ODIS).

Definition Programme Activity:

*Long-term action receiving minimal UNESCO/IOC RP funding supplemented by in-kind and/or extra-budgetary support;*

*These are long-term actions that support/contribute to one or more Programme Component. They receive some UNESCO regular programme funding (if available). These actions should always be co-funded from extrabudgetary sources (including in-kind staff time contributions). They may also*

*contribute to other Programme Activities or Projects in the same or different Programme Components.*

*If Programme Activities are unable to mobilize extra-budgetary funding or in-kind (staff time) contributions then the IODE Committee may decide* *to terminate a Programme Activity or identify another “parent” organization.*

OceanExpert, being an IOC Information system, fits perfect under the Programme Component ODIS. Though, we should not overlook the fact that OceanExpert can also be seen as a cross cutting Programme Activity, meeting the needs of all 3 Programme Components (ODIS, OTGA and OBIS).

This new structure has an impact on the management of the Programme Activity ‘OceanExpert’ ([see IOC Manuals and Guides 91](https://oceanexpert.org/document/32232)) e.g. a more detailed workplan, budget overview, Steering Group, chair,…

We are currently still in a transition period, understanding we can’t meet all expectations immeditately. The transition shall be completed prior to the next IODE Management Group meeting ( February 2024).

# Workplan 2023 and deliverables

In 2021 we had our first SG meeting online. In 2022 we have set up a informative document informing on the deliverables of 2022 and the workplan of 2023.

(see document in the OE event of this meeting : [**https://oceanexpert.org/event/4002**](https://oceanexpert.org/event/4002#overview) **)**

**The following deliverables were set for 2023:**

1. Update the registration process

development done, still in testing phase. We hope having this implemented on the live version by the end of the year.

Extra volunteers from the SG for testing are appreciated.

1. Revise Data policy

consulted the current GDPR and UN regulations on storing personal data and updated the OE data policy in April 2023.

<https://oceanexpert.org/disclaimer>

1. Bug fixing based on end users feedback + improvement user interface based on end users input/ requests

ongoing work, e.g. create a tag for ECOPS, problems with uploading documents to an event, creation of extra groups, mailing problems (mailchimp), register to an event, change country names,…

1. Further development connection with OceanTeacher website

improvement of the SSO to the Oceanteacher website, updating names of countries for reporting. Currently under construction is the possibility for OceanTeacher to push more info into OceanExpert (automatically) to avoid duplicate work (e.g. event creation, populating participants list).

1. Update the current manual – guidelines

a detailed overview on how to register on the website is outlined, further update of the manual will be dealt with in 2024.

1. Meetings

Arno and Sofie had bi-weekly meetings to discuss, check priorities, do tests,…

1. Increase API linkages:

OTGA, IOC CDhub, SDG 14,3,1 portal, ODISCat, OBIS, ODIS-arch,GOOS, IODE, HAB, IOC site, Ocean Literacy, OdinAfrica, IOCaribe, Ocean Infohub, OBPS,…

1. Statistics ( 20 Nov 2023)

Experts – 26586

Institutions 8092

Events – 3314

Documents – 32308

# Workplan 2024 and workplan 2025-2027

Related to the new IODE structure, we need to create a more detailed workplan for the upcoming years.

A first draft of the workplan was sent to P. Pissierssens on 15 November 2023. The draft was shared afterward with the SG to ask for comments (Gsheet). These comments were discussed during the SG meeting on 27 November 2023. The final workplan for 2024 and for 2025-2027 will be sent to Peter Pissierssens by 30 November 2023. Workplan and budget will be discussed during the IODE Management meeting in February 2024.

The final version is attached to this document.

It was suggested to the Steering Group to share their point of view on what we need to accomplish in the next few years (expectations).

Input/feedback Steering Group:

# Outreach

Although this is also included in the workplan for 2024 and 2025-2027, this item needs further discussion.

The IODE survey (this internal document is discussed during the meeting) showed that the OceanExpert web interface is well known amongst the research community. We think, we still need to emphasize more the advantage of having a profile in our directory to researchers, scientists and trigger them to update their profiles.

Related to the Ocean Decade Conference that is taking place in Barcelona, April 2024, we would like to create a 2min video explaining what OceanExpert is and what it is used for.

Some extra outreach material would also be appreciated. Pull outs, stickers, flyers,..

Feedback Steering Group?

We also think we should try again to get on board with the Decade team. The Decade roster was not accepted, but we think we should reinforce the opportunities to the Decade Team.

Other outreach possilibities:

# Funding

The OceanExpert activity was never really able to expand due to a lack of funding.This has an impact on having staff to improve the technicalities, manage quality control and improvements to the user interface. Since a very long time, IT assistance was granted by VLIZ staff that was seconded to the IODE project office and since a few years an administrative assistant that was hired to serve 3 FUST projects.

The above was only possible due to the funding by the Government of Flanders (Belgium).

Taking into account that the FUST project are coming to an end and based on the increased budget of IODE, we hope to get more funding to further develop OceanExpert and to hire short term consultants to assist Arno and Sofie with this.

# Chair

ROLE OF THE STEERING GROUP (CO-)CHAIR(S)

<https://oceanexpert.org/document/32232>

The Steering Group members decided to …

# Any other business

# Next meeting

We need to see if there is need for a more practical in between meeting with the entire or some of the SG members to check on priorities for the changes to OE.

Next SG meeting ( SG-OE-III) will be conducted online in Nov 2024. Exact date to be announced.

**ANNEX 1**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**