



Technical Annexe for consultancy support on partnership relation activities for the Euro-Argo ERIC Office

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	CONTEXT	2
II.	OBJECTIVES.....	2
III.	ACTIVITIES	3
IV.	REALISATION, ORGANISATION	3
V.	CALENDAR, DELIVERABLES	3



I. CONTEXT

The international operational oceanography programme ARGO was established in the early 2000s through an international collaboration of some 30 countries. The initial goal of ARGO was to achieve the density of one float per 3° latitude by 3° longitude box (Gould et al., 2004). These floats provide temperature and salinity profiles every 10 days between 2000 metres and the ocean surface.

The Euro-Argo ERIC is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (EC Regulation No 723/2009) with a legal statute registered at the European Commission since May 2014. Euro-Argo aims to ensure the sustainability of the overall European contribution to the Argo international programme – deploying and maintaining a global network of autonomous oceanic instruments (profiling floats). All details on the Euro-Argo ERIC can be found on the Euro-Argo website (<https://www.euro-argo.eu>)

In the oceanographic domain, Euro-Argo missions are:

1. to promote and coordinate the Euro-Argo strategy and to develop an implementation plan within the Argo international context,
2. to promote the scientific results achieved by Euro-Argo partners, and
3. to coordinate joint scientific activities that have been defined by the Euro-Argo Management Board and endorsed by the Euro-Argo Council.

Some of these activities are carried out within European projects, currently being:

- [Euro-Argo-RISE](#) (Euro-Argo Research Infrastructure Sustainability and Enhancement).
- [ENVRI-FAIR](#) (ENVironmental Research Infrastructures building Fair [Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable] services Accessible for society, Innovation and Research).
- [ERIC Forum](#) (Bringing European Research Infrastructures together).
- [EuroSea](#) (Improving and integrating the European Ocean Observing and Forecasting System).
- [DOORS](#) (Developing Optimal and Open Research Support for the Black Sea).

Euro-Argo is one element of the Landscape of European Research Infrastructures and needs to further develop collaborations with other Research Infrastructures as a contribution to the European Ocean Observing System. Moreover, Euro-Argo is essential for both scientific and operational applications. Strengthening links with this wide variety of stakeholders is essential for a smooth development of the Euro-Argo ERIC.

It is in this context that the Euro-Argo ERIC office identified the need to foster collaboration with Euro-Argo stakeholders and is seeking for support on this activity.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the consultancy contract are to:

1. Support the Euro-Argo ERIC for activities related to ERIC management, including interactions with ESFRI and with the ERIC-FORUM,
2. Support the Euro-Argo ERIC in the activities related to stakeholder engagement, policies to be carried on in EU projects,
3. Support the Euro-Argo ERIC in the development of the Euro-Argo Strategy 2030 and Long-term Sustainability Plan,
4. Support the Euro-Argo ERIC in the Horizon-Europe call watch to identify opportunities in line with the Euro-Argo Strategy and [5-year plan](#).



III. ACTIVITIES

- Analyse the present procedure of floats procurement through the Euro-Argo ERIC on behalf of its members and propose updates to facilitate the development of this service for all of the Euro-Argo ERIC Members. In particular the question of VAT will be examined and ad hoc solutions will be explored.
- Support Euro-Argo contribution to public marine environment management policies when relevant, and in particular contribute to the ENVRI-FAIR (WP3-4), EuroSea (WP8) and DOORS (WP8)H2020 projects.
- Participate, when required, in European forums (ESFRI, International Conference on Research Infrastructures) and represent Euro-Argo ERIC in the ERIC Forum network. Prepare the Euro-Argo ERIC for the future ESFRI evaluation (proposal for the development of specific KPIs to fulfil the [OECD recommendations](#), prepare material for the Euro-Argo ERIC socio-economic impact assessment). Feedback to the ERIC office on the ERIC-Forum deliverables that would be of interest for the Euro-Argo ERIC activities and support their implementation.
- Contribute to the development of the Euro-Argo 2030 Strategy and Long term Sustainability Plan as part of the Euro-Argo-RISE project in support of the Euro-Argo ERIC office.
- Develop new funding opportunities for the Euro-Argo ERIC (lobby and setup of / participation to proposals for project funding (e.g. DG-MARE, Horizon Europe, MISSIONs, etc.)

The Euro-Argo Eric Programme Manager can solicit the consultant on subjects not listed in the activities within the limit of the number of days specified in the contract.

IV. REALISATION, ORGANISATION

The activity will be realised in the office of the consultant. A minimum of 50 days (one week a month except during the holiday periods), to be scheduled with the Euro-Argo ERIC Programme Manager, will be worked at the Euro-Argo ERIC premises in Plouzané/France to facilitate interactions with the ERIC office team. These costs will be covered by the consultancy contract.

To facilitate interaction with the team, the person in charge of this activity should also attend the Euro-Argo ERIC office weekly meeting by videoconference or on site (except during holidays).

Depending on the subjects addressed, the consultant will be invited to participate to Euro-Argo ERIC Management Board meetings that are held 3 times a year (one in person and 2 in Visio Conference).

The contract duties may require travelling in Europe to represent the Euro-Argo ERIC. These expenses will be covered directly by the Euro-Argo ERIC and is not included in the proposal.

V. TIMESCALE AND DELIVERABLES

The contract is set for one year. The start date is estimated to be the 15th of November 2021 with an end date on 14 November 2022. The workload is estimated to 110 days but can be revised to fit the planned budget.

The consultant will provide monthly reports that will summarise the previous month activity and a work plan for the ongoing or planned activities. This document will be provided with the monthly invoice that will be paid after validation of the report within 5 working days.

When representing the ERIC at a meeting, the consultant has to provide a report summarising the main points that are of interest for the Euro-Argo ERIC and some elements/perspectives regarding the specific objectives previously set by the Programme Manager regarding the participation of the consultant to these meetings.



VI. SUBMISSION OF THE TENDER DOCUMENTS

The consultant should submit the following information in his/her proposal:

- His/her understanding of the problem and proposals for how he/she would help the Euro-Argo ERIC on the identified topics
- A breakdown of fees and expenses including a total
- CV of the consultant who will be undertaking the work
- Details of similar work he/she has done
- An example of one piece of work relevant to the activity required in this tender

The proposal should be submitted for the 22nd of October 2021, 10:00 UTC by email to contact@euro-argo.eu