Ferry-box lines
An important component of a European ocean observing system

Background for a discussion

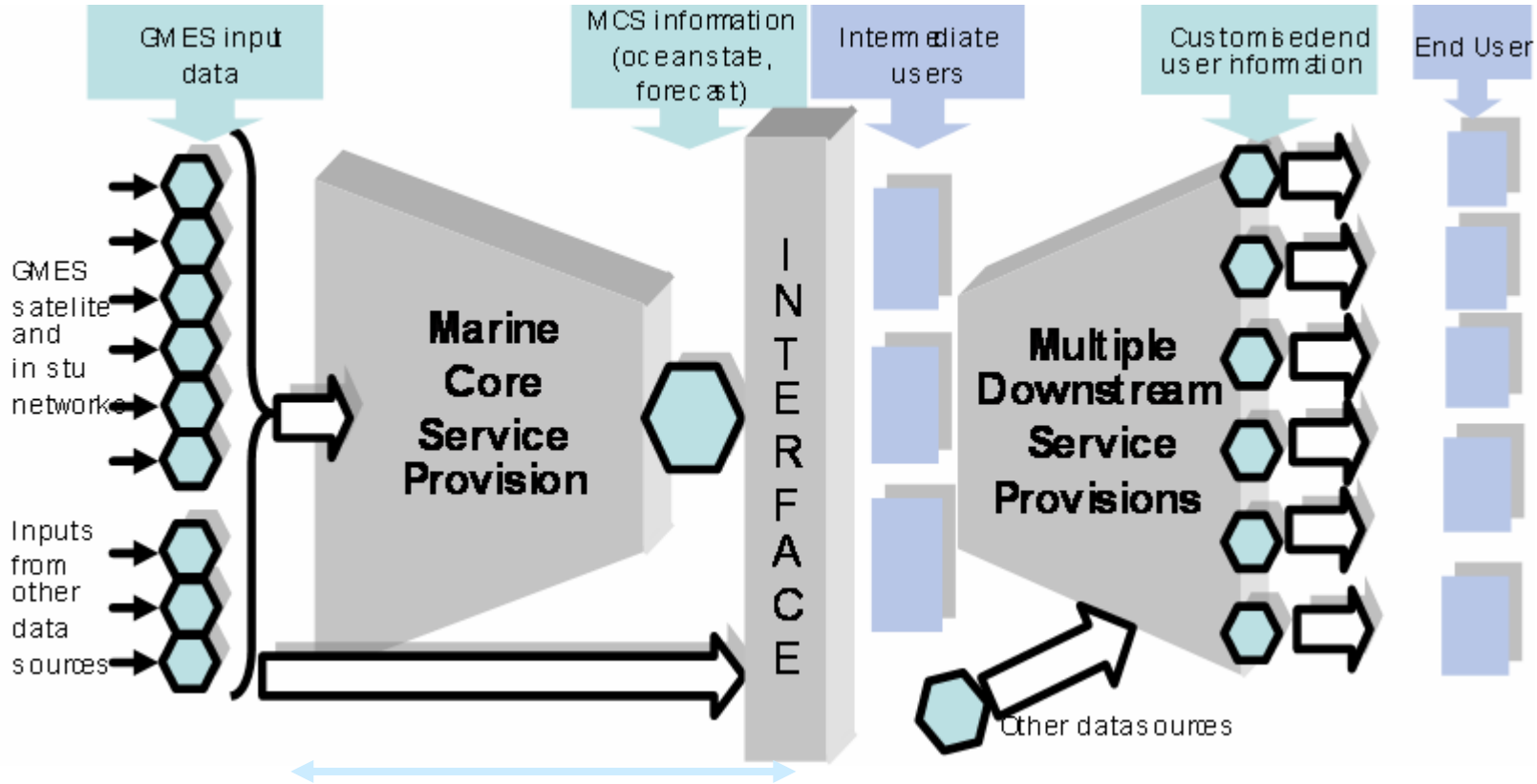
Observations not taken today are lost forever

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, GMES / DG Enterprise

The GMES Marine System Design

ESA

EEA



Mulranny, Ireland © Lionel Flageul

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNET)

Need for marine data

It is now well-known that the rhythms and cycles of the marine world influence human activity in a multitude of ways. For instance the abundance and diversity of marine life influences the provision of food; changes in coastal morphology influence erosion, flooding and transport infrastructure; and ocean circulation is a primary, if poorly-understood, influence on the terrestrial climate. Since the industrial revolution humans have, in return, begun to exert an increasing influence on the marine world. This circle of interdependence between the human and marine domains is accelerating. But the magnitude of future changes in oceanic systems, their impact on human activity and the feedbacks on the ocean from these changes in human behaviour cannot be forecast without understanding the way the system works now and how it worked in the past. Scientists, regulators and commercial bodies need reliable observations and data if they are to contribute towards a sustainable development of the maritime economy. Gaps in the record cannot be filled later.

It is equally well-known that each country's territorial or jurisdictional waters are part of a dynamic global system connected by shifting winds, seasonal currents and migrating species. Therefore analysing the processes that govern the present state and future behaviour of these waters cannot rely exclusively on data collected within that country's own jurisdiction. Cooperation across borders is needed. And since atmospheric processes influence ocean currents which influence the diversity and distribution of marine organisms which influences fishing practices which influence ecosystem health, scientists working in different disciplines need to access and understand data collected and distributed by scientists from other disciplines including marine and atmospheric chemistry, biology, physics, and marine geology. The value of a complete set of multidisciplinary interoperable marine data is much more than the sum of the parts.

Funding challenges

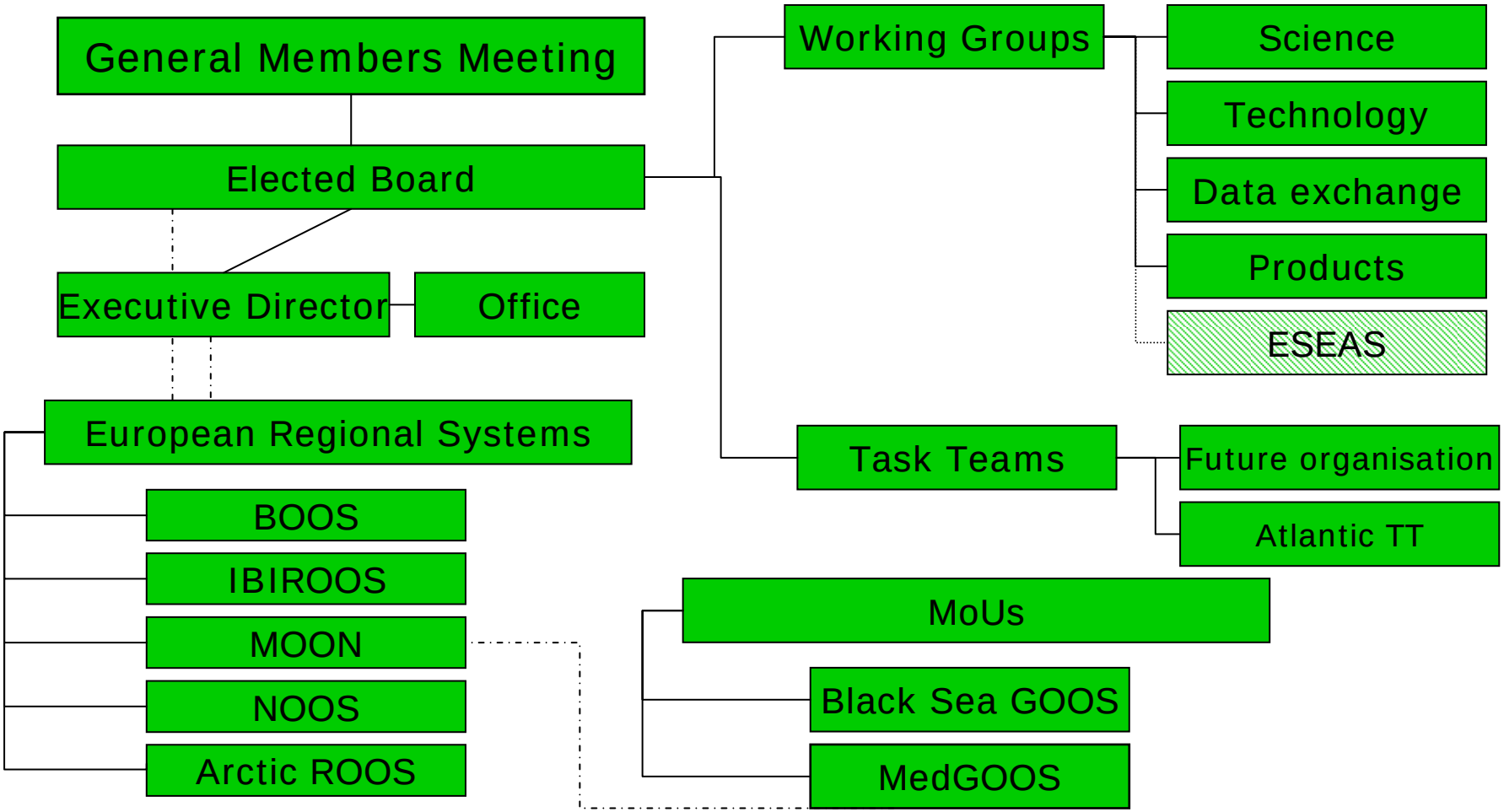
- Sustained observations
- Implementation projects
- R&D and pilot projects
- Data management

European problems/challenges

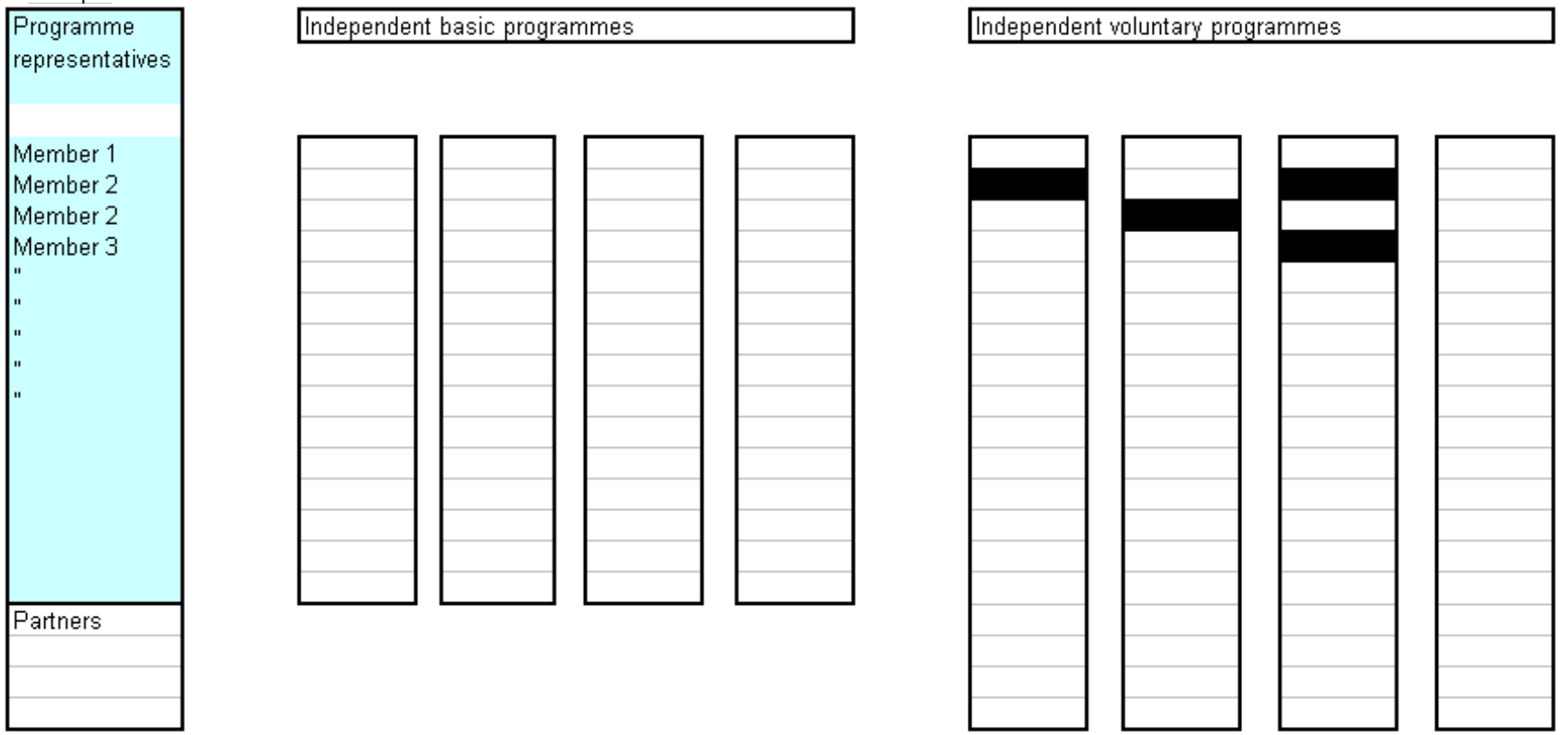
- National
  - All resources are originally national, most of them to satisfy national needs or duties.
- European
  - Political initiatives that will be implemented
    - GMES, EMODNET, European Research Infrastructure, ...
  - EEA, EMSA
- Projects
  - European Commission and ESA finance R&D projects to support political initiatives
    - EDIOS, ESEAS, Ferry Box, MerSea. SEPRISE, SeaDataNet, ECOOP, MyOcean 1, MyOcean 2 ?, EuroARGO, EuroSites, ...

How will project achievments be sustained?

Present structure of EuroGOOS



New organisation (EIG)
One high level representative (consortium) for each nation



DRAFT. Under discussion and development in the EuroGOOS Expert Group on the future EuroGOOS

How do we keep the momentum in the joint Ferry box initiative ?

- Network of excellence
- WG in EuroGOOS
- Separate organisation
- Voluntary programme in future ”EuroGOOS”
- ERIC/ Coastal observatories
- Host for next workshop
- Workplan with commitments
- ???