



EuroGOOS
European Global Ocean
Observing System

OUR OCEAN IS FOR OUR CHILDREN

Press release for the Our Ocean Conference, 5-6 October 2017, Malta

Launch of an ocean literacy child book **'The Ocean is My Home'** published by EuroGOOS on the occasion of the Our Ocean Conference 2017

Us, present at the Our Ocean conference, politicians, business people, scientists – what are we working for? The answer is clear - it is for the future. But this future is not an abstract notion. Science have shown, the ocean is in an alarming state. It is predicted that with the current plastic production, consumption, and disposal practice, in about 20 years plastic will overweight fish in the global ocean. This is when our children and grandchildren will be adults.

But the greatest threat to our ocean is ignorance. So, here comes Jake, a sea turtle created by EuroGOOS to explain to children and their parents the ocean's role and why we need more knowledge about it. The ocean is very much like the land, says Jake on the first pages of this book. The ocean cities are coral reefs, a critical environmental element. There are kelp forests, rivers, mountains, and volcanoes in the ocean too. Only the ocean is much bigger than the land, its surface alone is over 70% of the planet, without considering its depth. The ocean also has the richest biodiversity on the planet. However, most of this ocean and its living organisms aren't even mapped or discovered to date.

Did you know that the water falling from the sky when it rains comes from the ocean? The ocean also regulates our climate, absorbs a quarter of our CO₂, and produces half of the oxygen we breath. In addition to these ecosystem services, the ocean carries the lion share of the world trade and cabled communication, as well as supplies our food and resources.

Jake isn't a simple sea turtle. He's been tagged by scientists to collect ocean data and track his location. A small part of an enormously complex ocean observing system. So much more to learn and discover about the ocean, so many threats to overcome, and so little time is on our hands. With this child book EuroGOOS makes it clear: the future is now. The ocean future is made up of a wide public awareness, political will, and international scientific collaboration. Our ocean literacy is a paramount contributor to this. Each of us can do something for our ocean right now. Take a step in reducing your plastic consumption today, calls our little sea turtle. And spread the word around you.

No matter where we live, by the ocean and far away from it, it is the biggest part of our home, the blue planet. Let us make our future now (Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Prize laureate).

Ends.





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The EuroGOOS child book, 'The Ocean is My Home', will be presented at the Our Ocean Conference exhibition pitch stage on Friday 6 October.



The book is available for download free of charge at:
www.eurogoos.eu/publications

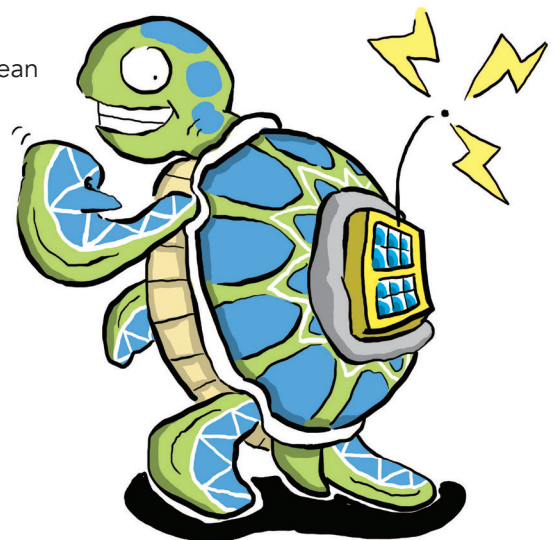
A limited number of hard copies will be made available during the EuroGOOS presentation at the Our Ocean conference exhibition on Friday 6 October, and for accredited media.

Dina Eparkhina, Karri Lehtonen. The ocean is my home. For children, parents, and our ocean.
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EuroGOOS is a pan-European network committed to ocean observing, forecasting and service development. EuroGOOS identifies priorities, enhances cooperation and promotes the benefits of oceanography to ensure sustained observations are made in Europe's seas underpinning a suite of fit-for-purpose products and services for marine and maritime users.

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