

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

2026 Meeting of the IODE Management Group
IOC Project Office for IODE, Oostende, Belgium
28-29 January 2026

REPORT (MAX 2 PAGES) - please answer in bullets where possible
1. Title of IODE Programme Component/Programme activity, IOC Programme or Decade activity (and acronym)
IODE Programme activity: OceanExpert
2. Report submitted by (Name/Date/email)
Sofie de Baenst (s.de-baenst@unesco.org) – 22 January 2026
3. Updates since IODE-28 (*)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Linked to the new platform:Ocean ConnectorWorking on the different levels of privileges in OESome activities were put on hold as to the budget cutProgress based on the recommendations from IODE-28:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Asking people to sign up and maintain their record: DONEThe Committee requested the OceanExpert programme activity to provide a document tag for RSB documents to facilitate their discovery and use: TODO- at the moment there is no official tag list in OE, so if we implement this we should not only do this for RSB, but provide a official keyword listThe Committee invited IOC regional sub-commissions to actively disseminate data and information activities in their own languages by recognizing IODE as a partner in their communication efforts, and also as an outreach strategy, to encourage ocean scientists to join the IODE community through OceanExpert: In progress (regions are created in OE, RSB are informed, SDB tries to connect to create awareness)
4. How does your work align with the objectives of IODE, the UN Ocean Decade, and other multilateral agreements?
IODE objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitates the discovery, exchange and access to marine data, metadata, products and information on events, experts, training courses,...Provide long term access to documentation and information on marine expertsTo assist MS to have the required information for their capacity development activities

Contributions to the IOC Capacity Development strategy:

- 1.3.3: Promote and assist with the development and strengthening of IOC alumni networks
- 2.2.2 Promote the sharing of Ocean Data and information by stakeholders

Contributions of OceanExpert to the UN Ocean Decade:

- Challenge 9 Skills, knowledge, technology transfer
- It supports (if used) all challenges, as it offers people to connect and enable codesign.

5. Prioritised deliverables 2026-2027

- Feedback survey asking on the needs of IOC staff
- Technical upgrade (Symphony)
- Rebranding – update of the website
- Implementation of the new privileges/ roles expert can have (on functionalities)
- Continous and improved QC
- Manual for IOC staff
- Better reporting tools for IOC staff and Member States
- Create better awareness

6. GOALS 2030 (Where do you see your work / activities / outcomes in 5 years?)

- Continue to provide a service others can build on (freely accessible data, SSO,...)
- Developed reporting tool
- Provide a clear dashboard to MS
- Build a stronger international Ocean community
- Build your own legacy as an expert in OE (IOC documents you contributed, certificates of training,...) available through your own profile page

7. Considerations for / Requests to the IODE Management Group

- Budget request to schedule the technical upgrade in 2026
- Budget and expertise for the rebranding of the website

(*) See Action sheet: [IOC/IODE-28/3 Annex V](#)