



**1st Joint HAC-PAC
meeting
Monday May 6, 2013
09:00-11:30
Toulouse, France**



HAC Participants: Jan BARKMEIJER (NL rep.), Eric BAZILE (FR rep.), Bent HANSEN SASS (DK rep.), Sylvain JOFFRE (HAC Chair and FI rep.), Heiner KORNICH (SE rep.), Jorn KRISTIANSEN (NO rep.), Ray McGRATH (IE rep.), Aarne MANNIK (EE rep.), Jeanette ONVLEE (HIRLAM PM), Bartolome ORFILA (ES rep.), Jean-Noël THEPAUT (ECWMF observer)

PAC Participants: Philippe BOUGEAULT (MF rep.), Radmila BROZKOVA (LACE rep.), Fatih BUYUKASABBASI (PAC Vice-Chair), Claude FISCHER (CSSI Chair), Daniel GELLENS (non-LACE non-MF subs.), Gwenaëlle HELLO (MF subs.), Alain JOLY (MF rep.), Maria MONTEIRO (non-MF non-LACE rep.), Vladimir PASTIRCAK (LACE rep.), Patricia POTTIER (Secretariat), Michael STAUDINGER (PAC Chair), Piet TERMONIA (ALADIN PM)

Excused : Theodor F. HERVARSSON (HAC IS rep.), Adonas MAZEIKIS (HAC LT rep.), Abdalah MOKSSIT (PAC non-LACE non-MF rep.), Yong WANG (LACE PM)

1. PAC Chairperson opens the meeting.

2. PAC Chairperson proposes **HAC Chairperson as Chair of this 1st joint HAC/PAC meeting**. In case we decide to have similar joint meetings in the future, the chair could be alternatively HAC and PAC Chairpersons. The HAC/PAC members agree.

3. **Each participant introduced him(her)self during a round of introduction.**

HAC Chair asks Patricia to take the secretariat of the meeting.

4. **The following agenda is proposed and adopted :**

- 1. Opening by HAC & PAC Chairpersons
- 2. Election of Chair
- 3. Round of introduction of participants
- 4. Adoption of agenda
- 5. Introduction to the request from the ALADIN GA by PAC Chairperson
- 6. Presentation of the current governance in ALADIN and HIRLAM by ALADIN & HIRLAM Programme Managers
- 7. Presentation of the scoping paper (ALADIN & HIRLAM Programme Managers)
- 8. First reactions, discussion and search for consensual common position
- 9. Next steps
- 10. AOB
- 11. Closing of meeting

5. **PAC Chairperson introduces the request from the ALADIN General Assembly** to PAC and ALADIN PM to analyse the pros and cons of a further merge with HIRLAM.

The GA acknowledged the scientific convergence and decided to set up a Task Force to draft a merger road map, pending HIRLAM Council approval. This Task Force (ALADIN and HIRLAM PMs, HAC and PAC Chairpersons, Claude Fischer for MF) has already prepared some documents for the HAC/PAC meeting: a comparison¹ of the governance and budget of the 2 consortia and a scoping paper² written by the PMs. These documents point to some similarities between ALADIN

1 ALADIN-HIRLAM comparison, prepared from the MoUs, last budgets, current situation by P. Pottier

2 Prospects for further HIRLAM-ALADIN convergence : governance and other aspects by ALADIN and HIRLAM PMs

and HIRLAM or between LACE and HIRLAM, but also to differences between consortia or countries, i.e. on royalties (countries with full public funding having a free data policy, others with commercial incomes, ...). After discussion during this meeting, the HAC/PAC should prepare a final document from the PMs scoping paper, to be presented at the next HIRLAM Council (June 2013) and ALADIN GA (November 2013).

6. **ALADIN PM presents the current governance in ALADIN and HIRLAM.**

He underlines that it is the right time to look into the convergence, at mid-term of both MoUs but there is no need to rush into conclusions too hastily. He gives a rough summary of the document prepared after the Task Force's meeting, one month ago and presents ALADIN and HIRLAM governance's diagrams. The differences in the organisation structures of HIRLAM and ALADIN reflect, and have been driven by, historically grown differences in motivation, ambition and scope of the cooperation :

- in ALADIN: local NWP capacity building, stimulating the capacity of the teams to provide local solutions, cooperation on a common code, organisation around national teams, with MF in a central role;
- in HIRLAM: shared knowledge and resources, cooperation on common reference system at ECMWF and operations, project structure with funded management, project management responsible for quality of reference system.

The ALADIN GA is the supreme governing body, counterpart of the HIRLAM Council. GA is assisted by a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC).

The ALADIN executive part consists of the PM and the programme team: each country has a LTM, i.e. Local Team Manager, in charge of the execution of the work plan; the CSSI for Committee for Scientific and System/maintenance Issues is an advisory committee with a leader for main topics and an ACNA, a coordinator for networking activities who coordinates the implementation of the code in each country; a regular staff; a support team helps the PM with the newsletter, budget, manpower monitoring, organisation of meetings, ... All staff and positions are in-kind.

HIRLAM Advisory Committee (HAC) is composed of the Heads of Research who are in charge of allocating manpower in their teams (analogy with LTMs).

The HIRLAM program team includes the HIRLAM Management Group (HMG: a responsible leader for main topics), a core staff per institute (each country dedicates manpower at the entire disposal of the project); regular staff and core staff are both in-kind but the PM decides what core staff do.

HAC Chair adds that PAC advises in policy whereas HAC rather advises on scientific policy and has been asked to take care of conveying end-users needs.

7. **ALADIN PM goes on with a summary of the PMs' scoping paper**

As ALADIN focuses on local capacity building whereas HIRLAM focuses on a reference system, and despite the common rolling plan, the two consortia have different practices in validation.

The Task Force concluded that the working practices of both consortia should be analysed further before any decision on any new steps towards convergence.

A working meeting is planned in Ankara (Turkey is building up its capacity as a new ALADIN country) to validate the latest cycle for Turkish needs, using (and thus having installed, with the help of the HIRLAM Project Leader for System) the HIRLAM tools that are used for performing validation of cycles by HIRLAM. The aim is to analyse the feasibility of adapting the HIRLAM tools and the transportability of the HIRLAM cycle validation practices to an ALADIN country. This exercise will be limited to one ALADIN country and will not address the coordination of the validation.

To return to the governance itself, the Task Force does not think that we can sign a common MoU in 2015 but proposes some concrete steps: back-to-back HAC/PAC meeting (if positive feedback from this 1st one), back-to-back Council/GA for 2014.

8. First reactions, round discussion and common consensual position

The Chairman thanks ALADIN PM for his comprehensive presentation. He approves the idea to extend the common work done in the existing rolling plan to test if the two consortia can work together on certain packages, such as validation.

Many participants acknowledge the quality of the preparatory documents and the presentation by ALADIN PM.

The question about a future convergence is all the more legitimate as the two consortia are developing the same NWP system. As far as we know about the future (ECMWF plans, OOPS, COPE,), more collaboration on observations and system will be required to cope with our aim of running both forecast and data assimilation.

But, we need to give time to time and to give system aspects the highest priority despite that the governance convergence appears also important (but not the priority so far.)

Some comments and proposals for improvements of the PMs' scoping paper are made :

- to correct a few imprecisions about LACE;
- to add a long term vision, pointing the benefits of the convergence to each consortium, to be discussed by GA and Council;
- to show that the scope is not so different; we do have a common purpose: to develop a common NWP system.
- to underline the importance in ALADIN of preserving developments in countries: science and code are related and one has to know the code to do the science; to show how HIRLAM code experts could benefit from ALADIN code experts;
- to take into account the whole aspect of maintenance: although it appears in the scoping paper, performance validation is not the only aspect of maintenance: the upstream part (technical robustness) is also important and mostly done by ALADIN so far, HIRLAM dealing better with the downstream part (performance validation); despite our different practices, there is complementarity for maintenance between the two consortia.

All HAC/PAC members can send comments on the scoping paper before June 1st. PMs will then prepare a new version of the scoping paper, to be presented to Council and GA.

Some main differences between the consortia are in financial aspects: financial allocations and control are much more used in HIRLAM and LACE than in ALADIN (it is already the case within ALADIN consortium between LACE and non-LACE partners);

- the data policies are very different within the countries: the EU directive INSPIRE³ is dealing with data policy at a much larger scale than the meteorological data policy within ALADIN-HIRLAM countries; however, the ALADIN and HIRLAM community is not an insignificant part of the meteorological community and could come with proposals.

The HAC/PAC recommends to create a Task Force dedicated to data policy issues, with experts on data policy from ALADIN and from HIRLAM. Each consortia will send a list of 2-3 proposed

³ INSPIRE will enable the sharing of environmental spatial information among public sector organisations and better facilitate public access to spatial information across Europe (came into force on 15 May 2007 with full implementation required by 2019)

specialists to Patricia to centralise. This Task Force could have a side meeting beside the next meeting of the ECOMET working group in September.

9. Next steps

The new version of the scoping paper will be presented to Council and GA for decision to go further or not (e.g. by continuing the Task Force ?).

THE HAC/PAC recommends a back-to-back Council/GA for 2014, besides autumn EUMETNET Council.

PAC Chairperson proposes to hold again a back-to-back HAC/PAC meeting again next year, with a slightly adapted organisation in order to allow observers to attend both their internal meeting and the one at which they are observer only. Patricia asks that next meeting be held not too soon after the annual joint Workshop/All Staff Meeting (the next joint Wk/ASM will be held in Romania, on April 7-11, 2014).

The HAC/PAC could be hosted in Lisbon (to be confirmed), on May 19, 2014 (depending on the date of the ECMWF Council), with the agreed schedule: PAC meeting on Monday morning, 2nd joint HAC/PAC meeting on Monday afternoon, HAC meeting on Tuesday.

10. AOB

None.

11. HAC Chairperson thanks the participants and closes the meeting at 11:45.



HAC-PAC Participants' photo