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ALADIN LTM meeting
Tuesday 8ᵗʰ April 2014
16:30-18:30 Bucharest, Romania

Minutes

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Participants

ALADIN Program Manager : Piet Termonia
LTMs and representatives :

Algeria :**Abdelhak Razagui** (LTM)   Morocco
Austria : **Florian Meier** (dep LTM), **Christoph Zingerle**   Poland : **Marek Jerczynski** (LTM)
Belgium : **Alex Deckmyn (LTM)**,   Portugal : **Maria Monteiro** (LTM)
Bulgaria : **Andrey Bogatchev** (LTM)   Romania : **Doina Banciu** (LTM)
Croatia : **Alica Bajic** (LTM)**, Dijana Klaric**   Slovakia : **Jozef Vivoda** (LTM)
Czech Rep : **Radmila Brozkova** (LTM)   Slovenia : **Neva Pristov** (LTM)
France : **Claude Fischer** (LTM)**, Ryad El Khatib**   Tunisia : **Zied Sassy** (LTM)
Hungary : **Gergely Boloni** (LTM)   Turkey : **Ersin Kücükkaraca** (LTM)
ACNA: Maria Derkova (Mariska)
LACE Program Manager : **Yong Wang**
Support Team : **Patricia Pottier**

Excused : Morocco : Hassan Haddouch (LTM)

1. Opening and welcome

Mariska opens the meeting and points that all partners but Morocco are represented.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted without modification.

3. Climates files

3.1 Wrap-up of clim/lbc update & switch to BULL@MF

Mariska coordinated the tests performed by Partners on the files from the Meteo- France mirror suite on BULL and when using newly generated climate files for telecom domain; and their subsequent smooth switch to operations.
Mariska thanks the rather good "discipline" of Partners in answering ACNA calls. The exercise shows that some level of coordination is useful to help to identify some problems faster. The exchange of information is also important as well to avoid possible problems.
Radmila thanks Mariska for her great job and underlines the importance of the ACNA position.
As there is no remaining issue, the action is closed.

3.2 Update of local clim files

Mariska explains that if partners would like to profit from new databases they should also update their local climate files, thanks to scripts sent by Françoise to those asking for. Belgium did tests but does not use the new local clim files operationally due to problems with lakes (with new clim files, some lakes appear on the postprocessing domains that indeed exist but are not in the run model; thus creating in-homogeneity and misunderstanding with end users). Partners who plan to switch to new local clim files should be aware of this possible problem (depending on location, lakes existence, grid size).
Mariska also warns the LTMs to check the content of the climate files and pay attention to the default values in the BULL script (that are different from the previous ones) and to some switches that should be changed accordingly (please note that ARPEGE shows some good scores with these new switches).
Mariska will send to the LTMs the information – where to find Françoise scripts - and the explanations on the switches changes given by Françoise and François Bouyssel.

Radmila asks if there is an up-to-date documentation to make sure that the important switches are well defined when we change cycles.
Mariska will collect the existing old documentations (ISBA, Martin Janousek and Dominique Giard documentations, ...) and ask relevant people to update them.
Piet asks the LTM to look for somebody in their team to help work on this.

4. **Partners' installation of CY38T1_bf03_export**

Since last LTM meeting where the export version of cy38T1_bf03 was declared, all partners have tried to install this export version, apart from those waiting for new machines. Majority of partners find it technically working and are still evaluating it. 2 partners -besides MF- have cy38T1 already operational (Cz, Tk without data assimilation), 3 partners have it in e-suite (Be, Mo, Si and Bg soon).
Mariska asks if there is some extra coordination or help needed for the others to move on cy38T1. No demand is expressed.
Piet insists on the importance of switching to the latest export cycle available as only those using the latest cycle can benefit from some help or ACNA coordination.

In order to avoid Partners doing the same debugging, Gergely proposes to use alabobo mailing list to share information when installing a new cycle.
Mariska will check with Olda how to provide access to LACE forum to non-LACE partners and encourages people to post problems (and solutions !) on the forum. Mariska will send the LTMs an email with information on how to join the LACE forum.

5. **Progress and Plans of Cycles and O/E-suites at MF**

– Progress and plans of Cycles
Claude summarizes the main message of his comprehensive preparatory document 5. MF is presently dealing with 3 versions (cy40t1, cy40_op1 and cy41). One phaser could be still invited on MF funds, to help with validating variational assimilation in CY40T1. Phaser team for CY41 is considered as complete. Next phaser invitations will be for CY41T1, likely over [November 2014-February 2015]. LTMs are invited to check for local candidates with appropriate knowledge.
Cy41 is expected to be declared at the beginning of July 2014. LTMs should take note that the next IFS-

common cycles will include significant code overhaul, among which the arrival of F2003 features (CY41, CY42).

– O/E-suites at MF :

Besides the forthcoming technical E- suite (changes in IO, without expected impact on coupling files) in April 2014; a major E-suite for high resolution is planned to switch into operations during the 1st quarter of 2015 (see the document 5 or the presentations during the Wk for the contents of this E-suite).
MF intends to prepare an export version of cy40t1 (before the following cycles that will be more impacted by OOPS).

Gergely asks about the necessity to train people on C++ to be able to install "OOPSified" cycles. Jozef wonders about any existing standards for C++ in OOPS or requirement for compilers. Mariska expresses the need for some test codes that the partners could try on their machine or use for benchmark (Radmila's remark).
Claude explains that basic knowledge on C++ will prove useful as the local teams would probably face specific problems depending on computer or compiler. Claude advises to use the OOPS toy model for tests or benchmarks. The C++ used by OOPS is an ANSI standard plus specific libraries with extra facilities (Boast, Python). Claude and Piet will ask at the next OOPS meeting for any specific requirements for C++ compiler (on top of ANSI norms).
Piet adds that it is important that some partners do some tests and Claude stresses that an ALADIN contact point for helping the ALADIN partners to get started with OOPS should be found. This contact person will use the toy model and will liaise with MF specialists.
Radmila asks what other new features are foreseen to appear in the code in the near future (e.g. co-arrays of F2008)? To be asked at coordination meeting with ECMWF.

6. **Newsletter & Support team activities**

– Manpower reporting

Patricia reminds the manpower reporting rules to the LTMs : do not report vacations; keep track of HIRLAM visits, do respect the deadline (stays can be registered as soon as they end; home work must be registered during the first month of each quarter i.e. April for Q1, July for Q2, ...). Patricia explains the purpose of these rules (cross-checking, control, ...) and shows statistics she prepares from the manpower data. These statistics allow monitor the manpower status and evolution in ALADIN; they are presented at each General Assembly and are available on the aladin website (together with full registration rules).
Piet stresses that these numbers are really important.(i.e. for Directors voting rights, royalties share, ...) and urges the LTMs to report on time and with accuracy.

– Budget

Patricia explains the budget system with its three channels (flat-rate, LACE, Météo-France) and insists on each channel having its own constraints and rules that must be coped with. She presents the 2013 resources and expenses, as approved by the last General Assembly. Piet explains that the aim of this mechanism is to minimize the number of transactions. Patricia and Piet explain the issue with the "penalties".

– Toulouse visitors

From January 1st, 2014, for security reasons, the access to GMAP offices is only allowed between 7:00 and 21:00 on working days. On Saturdays and on Meteo-France RTTi days, if necessary, you may be given an access between 8:00 and 17:00. No access on Sundays nor on bank holidays. French Bank holidays and Météo-France RTTi days are listed on the aladin web-side (see under "ALADIN people"

directory).

  – Newsletter

Patricia gives the status of the common ALADIN/HIRLAM Newsletters. The 2nd one will be published within a week with many ALADIN contributions (10 articles from Piet's "Tour d'ALADIN" and one PhD in Slovenia).

The 3rd one will be mainly devoted to key presentations given during this Bucharest workshop and some speakers will be asked to write an article based on their presentation during the workshop (deadline : end of summer).

Piet thanks Patricia for her work on these aspects.

7. Planning of future meetings

7.1 forecasters meeting

Piet explains that the General Assembly last November asked for a portfolio with specific cases where the high resolution performs better than ECMWF (i.e. the 2013 CE flooding case, the Belgian Pukkelpop festival, ...). We were also asked to develop common tools to help each country assess the quality of the products supplied to end users. Additionally, it was observed that forecasters need guidance on how to use convection permitting model output and the link between the research and the forecasters should be enhanced.

To answer these requests, Piet proposes to organize a forecasters meeting and Ersin offers to host it in Ankara, tentatively during the 2nd week of September (i.e. week 37). The meeting will have two main parts (scientific presentations; presentations by experienced forecasters). Besides, two working groups will be settled (on tools, on the portfolio).

The General Assembly agreed with some flat-rate funding to be used for this meeting and Yong committed to LACE Council to fund one person per LACE member (either forecaster of scientist, not yet decided).

About 10 forecasters are expected so far.

Piet will prepare some concrete background information to be given to forecasters to prepare their presentations and the following discussions.

7.2 HARMONIE WW

Piet recalls the object of the next HARMONIE System WW, following last year WW in Ankara: to install HARMONIE as a system (scripts, validation environment, ...) in an ALADIN country with the additional aim this year to implement some ALADIN tools in the HARMONIE system.

Olda (with help of Mariska) will organize this WW in Bratislava. So far, Austria, Belgium, Portugal and Slovenia have expressed their interest. Mariska asks those interested by attending the HARMONIE system WW in Bratislava to contact her.

7.3 list of 2014 meetings

Patricia has prepared a summary of the ALADIN and HIRLAM events planned for 2014 (the list will be published in the Newsletter 2).

Piet informs that the announced ALARO baseline validation WW in Brussels will probably be postponed to beginning of 2015.

Neva reminds everybody about the approaching deadline to register to the ALARO-1 WD.

  7.4 hosting of next ALADIN workshops (& HIRLAM All Staff Meetings)

In the even years, one ALADIN country organizes the joint ALADIN workshop and HIRLAM All Staff Meeting.
Zied expresses the wish of INM to host the next workshop in Tunis in 2016. Ersin adds that Turkey candidates for hosting the 2018 workshop and Gergely proposes Hungary for 2020.
These proposals are welcomed and unanimously agreed on.

8. Report from the SURFEX Steering Committee

Piet reports on two questions from the last SURFEX Steering Committee.
 – Is any Partner still using off-line OI_main ?
 – Does any Partner have any activities on the processing of geospatial data ?
Piet will send a mail with these two questions and every LTM is expected to answer yes or no.

  9. AOB

None.

Mariska closes the meeting and makes rendez-vous for the next LTM meeting on September 30th late afternoon in Offenbach, besides EWGLAM meeting.

Annex : Agenda with list of preparatory documents

Agenda	Introduced by	Documents
1. Opening and welcome	ACNA	
2. Adoption of the agenda	ACNA	Agenda

3. Climate files
    3.1 Wrap-up of clim/lbc update & switch to BULL@MF
    3.2 Update of local clim files
	ACNA&ST&PM	Doc_3.1

4. Partners' installation of CY38T1_bf03_export	ACNA&ST	Doc_4
5. Progress and Plans of Cycles and O/E-suites at MF	ST	Doc_5
6. Newsletter & Support team activities	ST	Doc_6

7. Planning of future meetings
    7.1 forecasters meeting
    7.2 HARMONIE WW
    7.3 list of 2014 meetings
    7.4 hosting of next ALADIN wks
	ACNA&PM	Doc_7.1
		
		Doc_7.3
		Doc_7.4

8. Report from the SURFEX Steering Committee	PM	Doc_8
9. AOB	ACNA	