ALADIN LTM meeting
Wednesday 15th April 2015
15:45-18:00 Elsinore, Denmark

Draft minutes

Participants

ALADIN Program Manager : **Piet Termonia**
LTMs and representatives :

Algeria : **Mohamed Benamara** (LTM)
Austria : **Christoph Wittmann** (LTM), **Christoph Zingerle**
Belgium : **Rafiq Hamdi** (dep. LTM),
Bulgaria : **Boryana Tsenova** (dep. LTM)
Croatia : **Alica Bajic** (LTM)**, Dijana Klaric**
Czech Rep : **Radmila Brozkova** (LTM)
France : **Claude Fischer** (LTM)**, Ryad El Khatib**
Hungary : **Mate Mile** (dep. LTM)
ACNA: Maria Derkova (Mariska)
Hirlam observer : Ulf Andrae
Support Team : **Patricia Pottier**
Excused : **LACE Program Manager** : **Yong Wang**

Morocco : **Hassan Haddouch** (LTM)
Poland : **Marek Jerczynski** (LTM)
Portugal : **Maria Monteiro** (LTM)
Romania : **Mirela Pietrisi** (dep. LTM)
Slovakia : **Jozef Vivoda** (LTM)
Slovenia : **Neva Pristov** (LTM)
Tunisia : **Zied Sassy** (LTM)
Turkey : **Alper Guser** (LTM)

1. Opening and welcome

Mariska opens the meeting. Patricia points that, for the first time ever, all partners are represented at an LTM meeting. As for the annual workshops, last time all ALADIN countries where represented (14 only at that time) was during the 10th ALADIN WK (7-8 June 2001) in Toulouse : we succeeded then to gather all countries as the Wk was just after the 10 years anniversary, the MoU signing and just before the ALANET training course in Gourdon (11-22 June 2001).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted without modification.
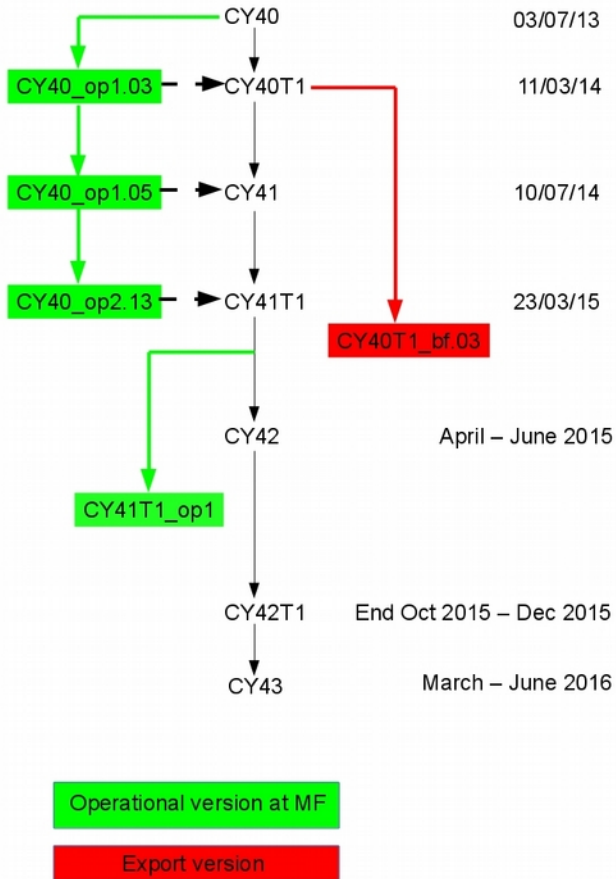
3. Code & Cycles

3.1 MF report on cycles and e-suites

Claude presents (see the graphic below) the timing of the cycles and e-suites and gives some important milestones :
- CY40T1_bf03 export version to be disseminated in a few weeks (cf point 3.3)
- CY41T1 was declared in March 2015; an e-suite based on cy41T1 will be prepared this summer. CY41T1 will introduce changes mostly for observations (changes in physics are still under discussions)
- the common cycle with ECMWF CY42 should be declared this summer.

- Preparation for CY42T1 is planned during mid-Oct – Dec 2015.
- the next common cycle will be CY43 over March-June 2016.

Claude thanks all teams who have sent people to Toulouse for the last phasings. We have had solid phasers teams with people who have been working hard and well.

The call for next phasers will be for the end of the year for 42T1 and next one in spring and beginning of summer next year. All LTMs should already think about people who could join these phasings and send the name of their proposed candidates to Claude.

Status of ALARO1: in CY41T1 sanity check in mitraillette by Olda OK; norms check with respect to CY38T1 ALARO1 version on NEC by Radmila reasonable thus OK. ALARO1 in CY40T1_bf03 still to be checked – Radmila has problems with command-line options removal under git. Once solved and checked, the corresponding ALARO1 namelist by Radmila and small script to replace command-line options by namelist variables to be provided in the .tar file of CY40T1_bf03 export version.

Last autumn, BUFR format changes in bator were completed for the TAC2BUFR migration. These changes are not in cycle 40T1_bf3 (as this cycle is based on March 2014 version) but should work with CY40_op2 and will be included in CY41T1. BUFR-compliant bator version should exist for CY38T1_op. For technical questions, contact point in Toulouse is Claude. Alena and the OPLACE data team are already working on it (in OPLACE BUFR are converted to ASCII thus the BUFR format is not crucial yet). Mariska will make an inquiry to follow the progress in the migration to the new BUFR format.

MF no longer prepares html versions of the export versions. Ryad explains that the fortran2html tool is no longer maintained and not very performant as the fortran code is more and more complex. Ryad proposes to use rather Philippe Marguinaud's tool VIMPACK (available in the last versions of GMKPACK). In Prague, the tool formerly used is planned to be ported to GIT. In HIRLAM, Ulf used fortran2html for CY38 and the result is available on hirlam repository (https://hirlam.org/codebrowser/cy38h1.beta.1/).. The link should work from ALADIN NMS' web domains. If not, or for individual access, contact Ulf.

3.2 Wrap-up of the Arpege-HR e-suite switch

Due to problems to be addressed that delayed the switch, it took place on Monday (April 13), during the Wk. Testing of the new coupling files had been prepared for all partners in February with GCO, after early testing by Mariska.
Radmila reports that the short evaluation at CHMI of alaro forecasts with the new coupling files shows an amelioration (due to better coupling files).
Mariska kindly asks that MF try to avoid such switches during the WK/ASM and EWGLAM, if possible.

3.3 Cycle validation, export versions

A next export version will be released soon (based on cy40t1_bf.03). Tests with so-called "mitraillette" has been done with AROME-France and ALARO-1. MF will verify the meteorological acceptability of AROME-FR with assimilation and Radmila will finish the validation of the ALARO-1 developments she has phased with this version and give the namelist for ALARO-1. This should be ready within a few days *[editor's note : it was done first week of May]*.

Piet proposes that Mariska follows how partners are moving to the new export version (as it was done for the previous version when it took about one year for everybody – who had the computer resources at that time – to move to cy38t1_bf03_export). An update of the Partners' move to cy40t1 will be provided at the next LTM meetings.

Ulf explains that he imported cy40T1_bf03 as soon as it had been declared, and uses it now to build the next operational version of Harmonie for HIRLAM (to be used operationally after summer).

Due to changes in the SURFEX version used in cy40t1, partners will probably have to re-do clim files and constant files (case of AROME for instance). Piet advises the LTMs to use ALADIN/ALARO rather with ISBA (that is validated) than with SURFEX with the modifications introduced by Rafiq. These modifications were made for CY38T1OP3[*] based on a pack from Prague in order to be able to run ALARO-1 with SURFEX. They will be reported later in SURFEX V8.

To face this additional complexity, it will be proposed at the next HMG/CSSI to validate together with HIRLAM the export version of cy40t1 *[editor's note : HMG/CSSI approved this and a system WW will be organized in autumn]*.

Ulf asks whether an export version of cycle 41t1 will be prepared. Claude answers that the question is still open : 41t1_main cycle is a well validated version => it would be technically possible to propose it as an export version, but there are no firm calendar plans yet.

3.4 F2003 features accepted a/o discussed with ECMWF

Everybody is invited to check on their platforms the seven F2003 features that will appear until cycle 41 (list available on the Partners' only part of the aladin website (please **log in first** and then you'll find the document under "export versions" directory or click on with :
http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article285). More features will appear in cycles 42 and 43.

Turkey already reported that some features do not compile with their INTEL11 compiler. Claude thanks Alper for the tests he made. Ryad explains that F2003 is well supported by the free compiler gfortran and that its performance is acceptable.
Partners are encouraged to include these F2003 features in their benchmarks when applying for new machines. The same advise is given to include : C++ with boost, python, .. (contact Claude for a comprehensive lists of tools to include in your benchmark).

4. Wrap-up of the LBC WW

Mariska thanks MF people for their help during the domains preparation.
LBC WW was a success : the requested domains changes from the current status are documented and

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[*]CY38T1OP3 : The label "op3" denotes Prague local version, which is based on CY38T1_bf3 export + it contains the ALARO1 version A patch, distributed via LACE to the interested ALADIN Partners. The equivalent of this library is phased to CY40T1_bf3 which will become the export version and to the CY41T1.

the new domains are ready (were prepared with cycle 40op2).
Next steps: MF operations & IT people to evaluate the feasibility of the request (in term of volume of the data at MF and operations possible limited bandwitdh for some transmission channels to some partners; in term of manpower on MF side); then GCO action to re-do all the work in MF environment (and partners will have to check the test coupling files produced by GCO).

Mariska warns to be careful with e923 as namelists default values (roughness coefficient) are adapted for AROME and SURFEX.

5. Feedback from GA

Piet reports on the last GA and the 1st ALADIN GA/HIRLAM Council (Reading, Dec. 2014). For the next 5 years, ALADIN and HIRLAM will still remain two separate consortia, with two different MoUs, different funding, bodies, ...
The next ALADIN MoU will be only slightly modified in order to comply with the common declaration at the joint GA/Council, to prepare a future merge (after 2020), a clear definition of the ALADIN system and to introduce a Code Architect who will carry out scientific and technical studies to assist the ALADIN PM with the definition and the implementation of the ALADIN Canonical Model Configurations. See Piet's presentation during the Wk or the minutes of the last GA for more details.

Piet asks for comments from the LTMs to port them back at the governance level (next PAC).
- Radmila insists on keeping the clear definition of the ALADIN system as in the current MoU (various configurations of one system, ALADIN, whose name is well known by the ministries and the public and has a good reputation). The notion of ALADIN system makes easier the negotiations for licenses to provide the source code. As PAC member, she will repeat this comment during PAC meeting.
- Hassan asks about the Data Assimilation notion in the definition of the ALADIN system. Piet answers that the new MoU will contain something about DA, general enough to help Partners collaboration on DA, without imposing it to all Partners. Piet invites Hassan to discuss longer with Claude and himself before PAC.
- Radmila asks that the annexes are carefully scrutinized. This has already been done and some updates are proposed.

6. Newsletter

Patricia gives the status of the common ALADIN/HIRLAM Newsletters. The 4th one was published at the end of February with 23 articles for a big "Tour d'ALADIN-HIRLAM".
The 5th one will be mainly devoted to key presentations given during this Elsinore workshop and some speakers will be asked to write an article based on their presentation during the workshop (deadline : end of July). A pre-selection by Piet to be made asap, a remainder to possible contributors to be sent by Patricia afterwards.
Patricia insists that the contributors do use the templates proposed on the ALADIN website : http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article260 (.odt, .doc, .tex). It really makes things easier.

Piet insists on the importance of the newsletter (it's all together a report-like document, the reflection of the activity in ALADIN, an historical document, …); he uses them for his report to PAC or GA, … ; he encourages the LTMs to make sure they contribute to it.

7. Information for Toulouse visitors

Jean Maziejewski will leave GMAP in June, there will be no replacement. The contact persons for planning Toulouse stays are Claude and Patricia. Please put them in copy when discussing visits in GMAP. Eric Escalière will take care of the office allocation (thus, you may include him in your email exchanges when you are discussing precise dates) and of the computer arrangements (as usual)..

Recently, due to the closure of one Residence building, several ALADIN visitors in Toulouse had to book rooms outside the Météopole. Indeed, since two out of the three residences are doomed to be definitively closed, the number of available accommodation for visitors at MF will be significantly reduced.

Heads of MF Research Department and International Affairs are currently discussing with the Météopole Residences responsible people to have an allocation of rooms in the Residences : we will do our best to offer rooms for longer visits (phasers, bilateral visits, flat-rate stays, ..). For shorter visits (one week or less), alternative solutions outside MF exist, at acceptable price, not far from MF (B&B, private residences, …). Claude stresses that accommodation for longer stays, outside MF, also seems possible at acceptable prices, though we favor the possibility to be able to continue to offer MF rooms.

As both office and room allocations are growing more complicated, LTMs are asked to plan the visits as soon as possible and to be very reactive during email exchanges for organizing the visits.

8. Planning of future meetings, forthcoming training courses, work meetings

A list of future meetings was published in the Joint ALADIN/HIRLAM n°4, page 91. Additional information :
- choice of possible dates for the forecasters meeting in Lisbon: 3 days during week 42 (tbc)
- General Assembly, week 48 in Algiers, tentatively from Tuesday to Thursday (tbc)
- HARMONIE System WW: 18-22 May, 2015, in Vilnius, second WW in autumn (date and place tbd)
- WW on EPS and predictability : 19-23 October 2015, place tbd
- LSC : together with LACE DA
- next ALADIN Wk (with LTM meeting) on 4-7 April 2016, in Tunisia (exact location tbd).

Patricia asks to be sent the information as soon as dates/locations are decided : this information is published twice a year in the newsletters and available all-year-round on the aladin website : on the meeting section of the webside, you have access to dedicated articles that contain, for each type of meetings, the documents of previous meetings and the announcement of next meetings :
- (General) Assembly of ALADIN Partners
- ALADIN annual workshops (joint with HIRLAM ASM from 2007)
- ALADIN Local Team Managers (LTM) meetings
- Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and "Bureau" meetings
- ALADIN, ALARO, HIRLAM or HARMONIE Working Weeks
- CSSI (+ST) and HMG/CSSI meetings
- EWGLAM/SRNWP meetings and workshops
Etc …

(Patricia's note : to provide you an easier overlook, I will gather all the dates on an on-line single page .. as I did until 2013 – for ALADIN only events - in the former Meetings' museum : http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/meshtml/Meetings-summary.html).

9. AOB

9.1 Coupling of Arpege with SURFEX to ALADIN without SURFEX: stay in Toulouse

ARPEGE is going to run with SURFEX in 2016. Thus, we should be prepared to couple ALADIN without SURFEX to ARPEGE with SURFEX. A first stay is already planned in Toulouse (Wafa Khalfaoui from Tunisia, forth quarter of 2015, on flat-rate budget) but we should think about continuing the work on that topic.

Neva reports on the good job accomplished during last year flat-rate stays in Ljubljana: the tool for monthly verification/monitoring reports exists but still need to be implemented operationally. Neva will send first examples of the reports to Piet and Christoph. This will be then presented and discussed at the next LTM meeting besides EWGLAM meeting.

9.2 Closing

Piet congratulates Mariska for the good organization of this meeting and the LBC WW.

Mariska closes the meeting and makes rendez-vous for the next LTM meeting on October 6th, 2015, late afternoon in Belgrade, besides the EWGLAM meeting. Patricia advises everybody to check in advance their relevant visa procedure to enter Serbia.

Annex : Agenda with list of preparatory documents

	Agenda	Introduced by	Decision, comments, information	Documents
1.	Opening and welcome	ACNA		
2.	Adoption of the agenda	ACNA		Agenda
3.	Code & Cycles			
3.1	*MF report on cycles and e-suites*	CF	information	doc_3.1
3.2	*Wrap-up of the Arpege-HR e-suite switch*	CF, ACNA	information	-
3.3	*Cycle validation, export versions*	CF, PT, ACNA,	information	-
3.4	*F2003 features accepted a/o discussed with ECMWF*	CF	information	doc_3.4 (F2003 file)
4.	Wrap-up of the LBC WW	ACNA	information, decision	doc_4 (1)
5.	Feedback from GA	PT	information	doc_5a, doc_5b Declaration, minutes and presentations on-line (2)
6.	Newsletter	PP	information	NL No4 on-line (3)
7.	Information for Toulouse visitors	PP	information	
8.	Planning of future meetings, forthcoming training courses, work meetings	PP/PT	information	NL No4 p91
9.	AOB	ACNA		
9.1	*coupling of Arpege with SURFEX to ALADIN without SURFEX: stay in Tls*	ACNA		

(1) whole LBC WW table (several sheets to check):
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11WC3s_w8YI61gAB2DixINnLBFy6UrpCcIjGaQ18xocw/edit#gid=0
(2) presentations and minutes of GA and GA/Council http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article271
(3) link to the Newsletter No4 : http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/IMG/pdf/nl4.pdf
list of events : see page 91