

# ALADIN 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

8<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Darmstadt, Germany



## Minutes

### 1. Opening and welcome

As the General Assembly (GA) chair, M. Abdalah Mokssit, was nominated as the secretary of the IPCC and thus resigned from his GA chair position, the GA vice-Chair (Martin Benko) chaired the meeting. He opened the meeting at 09:00 and welcomed the participants (see Annex 1), specially those attending for the first time (M. Mohamed Mokhtari from Algeria, M. Christo Georgiev from Bulgaria, Mrs. Nataša Strelect Mahovic from Croatia, Mrs. Anne Debar from France, M. Imre Bonta from Hungary, M. Tayfun Dalkilic from Turkey) and the observers (Mrs. Jeanette Onvlee for HIRLAM and Mrs. Florence Rabier for ECMWF).

Due to travel setback, the Director of the Tunisian NMS and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) chair were excused to the GA meeting. PAC was represented by the PAC vice-chair (Mrs. Radmila Brozkova).

### 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted, with a change for point 7 that should have been proposed “for Decision” (D) and not “for Information” (I).

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> GA

The GA unanimously approved the minutes  of the 20<sup>th</sup> GA, without comments nor modifications.

### 4. Report from previous meetings

#### 1. Report from the 13<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) vice-Chair (Radmila Brozkova) reported on the 13<sup>th</sup> PAC held in Brussels in May 2016 (see  the provisional minutes of this meeting) :

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 A copy of the presentations of the 21<sup>st</sup> GA, some preparatory documents and some photos are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article308>.

- PAC recommended to go on with the preparation of a reference paper on the ALADIN system.
- PAC approved of the appointment of the Code Architect (CA), Daan Degrauwe. from Belgium
- PAC made no comment about 2016 budget and recommended to keep 11kE for the 2017 flat-rate contribution.

## 2. Report from the 4<sup>th</sup> joint HAC/PAC meeting

The joint Hirlam Advisory Committee (HAC) / PAC discussed the joint Aladin-Hirlam agreement and recommended its adoption. For the current branding, HAC/PAC recommended to use “the ALADIN-HIRLAM shared system” as the name of the common system and to use “HARMONIE-AROME” for the HIRLAM reference system. A sub-group from HAC/PAC was delegated to work on the definition of the common codes. The discussions on the joint governance and on the joint branding of the future single consortium were postponed to the next HAC/PAC meeting where a roadmap would be discussed. See (\*) the provisional minutes of this meeting for more details.

## 3. Report from the strategy meeting

The ALADIN PM (Piet Termonia) took the floor and reported on the strategy meeting. It was a joint meeting with the HIRLAM Program Manager (PM) and the HIRLAM Management (HMG) Group (HMG). From the ALADIN consortium, both PMs (ALADIN and LACE) were present together with Alain Joly, Philippe Bougeault and Claude Fischer from Météo-France. A number of ALADIN experts were invited for the different sessions to provide input for the discussions.

This was a technical meeting : its goal was to estimate the implications, in terms of technical/scientific code management, of the implementation of the strategic objectives, the new demands from end users, the algorithmic developments and the sanity check tool. It was also the opportunity to identify which topics are candidates for common core activities and which activities can be optional (to answer the first bullet of the joint declaration, set point 5).

As an outcome of the strategy meeting, Piet proposed to define the **common activities as the activities necessary to create the export versions** : ALADIN Code Architect (CA), ALADIN Coordination and Networking Activities (ACNA) and the Code Versioning (CV) for the creation the export cycles, these activities being clearly identified in the MoU5.

Besides these activities, Piet proposed to organize the activities in the future Work Plan in :

- **core programs (R&D)**: commonly agreed programs of recognized strategic importance that will benefit all partners. Two core programs are proposed “**Scalability**” (numerics, scalability and HPC developments) and “**DA for ALL partners**” (Development of a DA “starters kit” to help those ALADIN Members who do not have an operational data assimilation yet, and further developments of 3Dvar).
- **specific activities** : all activities carried out outside of the core programs that 1.) are needed by a limited group of member states who invest resources in it, OR 2.) do not lead in the short term to the creation of a new Canonical Model Configuration (CMC) or a major extension of the sanity check, OR 3.) are not needed to guarantee operations. A first list of activities in this category has been identified during the strategy meeting.

During the strategy meeting, the possibility of organizing common researches on items currently outside the scope of the ALADIN consortium were also discussed, for instance climate modeling (as a NWP community, we can contribute to climate, see the success of ALARO within CORDEX

or the work of HIRLAM with AROME-climate) and chemistry.

Piet asked the GA to take note of and comment on the proposed list of specific activities and on the two core programs. He also asked for guidance about the remaining strategic items (climate and chemistry).

Martin thanked Piet for his useful presentation and opened up the discussion.

There seemed to be some misunderstanding on the goal of the strategy meeting as a few GA representatives were expecting to be already presented with a clear strategy document, with high-level goals and a top-down strategy. Nevertheless, **the GA appreciated the progress in the strategy work, approved of the definition of the three types of activities (common activities, core programs and specific activities) and the reorganization of the Work Plan.**

The GA expects a clear classification of the activities (to be prepared by the PMs and the HAC/PAC chairs and discussed at the next HAC/PAC meeting) and a finalized work plan by the next GA, with commitments from all Partners to the core programs.

Philippe Bougeault (Météo-France) explained Météo-France reservations on chemistry and climate modelling activities : with the everyday difficulties to maintain the common code, Météo-France worries about enlarging the scope, thus the maintenance, of the common code. However, some Partners, including Météo-France, have plans or are already working on these activities, thus they could be considered as specific activities.

## **5. ALADIN-HIRLAM declaration : follow-up**

In the 2014 joint ALADIN-HIRLAM Declaration, the ALADIN GA and the HIRLAM Council (C) had identified five issues to be resolved with the aim of forming one single consortium by the end of the 2016-2020 MoUs. Both PM should report every six months on those issues to the consortia governing bodies.

Piet presented the status of these issues (see also points 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3) and then proposed their translation into a roadmap (leaving aside the branding issue), based on the work of the sub-group from HAC/PAC that had been delegated to work on the definition of the common codes :

- the signature of the new ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement : this is a preliminary step to define the ALADIN-HIRLAM common codes;
- the redaction and the publication of papers to deal with legacy : HIRLAM has already submitted their paper and ALADIN is working on a paper to describe the status of the ALADIN System and its two CMC (as they are defined in the MoU5);
- the agreement on the list of core, common and specific activities (see point 4.3);
- the redaction of the work plan for the two core programs: dynamics/scalability and data assimilation for all;
- the proof of concept of a third CMC with adding the new CMC proposed by HIRLAM (a new physics package, so-called HARMONIE-AROME) in the Toulouse repository, extending the sanity check to this CMC, organizing its maintenance in the repository, to be presented -when all previous points are solved- in an ALADIN-HIRLAM System paper that will describe the three CMC.

The GA was confused about the papers : HIRLAM has already submitted theirs (with Météo-France and ALADIN being given the opportunity to re-read it and make comment), LACE is ready for submission at the beginning of 2017, ALADIN is working on the description of the ALADIN System. The GA would have expected better communication between the three PMs and urged them to better exchange. Anyhow, the GA insisted on finalizing the ALADIN manuscript as soon as possible and tasked the HAC/PAC to monitor the progress of publications.

Philippe congratulated Piet (and the HAC/PAC subgroup) for their huge work on the definition of the contents of the common codes, that will help providing an initial common ownership to HIRLAM, based on the CMC (when there is sufficient commitment for maintenance of these tree CMC). Piet added that, besides this initial IPR, a common reporting system together with HIRLAM would still have to be agreed to estimate the IPR evolution (in ALADIN, the IPR are based on manpower reporting, see point 6.1).

Overall the GA approved on the roadmap and trusted Piet with the details. The GA asked Piet to further work on this roadmap and to propose it at the next HAC/PAC.

Yong Wang and a few others reminded that the consortium also needs a work plan till 2020. The GA understood that time had been limited to prepare it this year, and expected to receive a short-term work plan at its next session.

## 6. Activity reports

### 1. Common activities

The CSSI chair (Claude Fischer) presented an overview of the evolution of the code versions ; the Météo-France, ECMWF and ALADIN-HIRLAM Partners codes are integrated and the new code versions (cycles) are discussed in ad-hoc committees (HMG-CSSI, ARPEGE-IFS coordination meeting, ...) to anticipate possible technical conflicts. Last 12 months, 4 common cycles were jointly built (by MF/ALADIN and HIRLAM) and tested with shared sanity check tools and data. The HIRLAM contributions to the new cycles is increasing.

Claude gave a few highlights(\*) of the recent code developments, such as the impact of the AROME surface scheme (SURFEX) now being implementing in ARPEGE, the work on optimization of the code that helps to gain time, taking advantage of the recent studies on the code performances with different compilers, ...

Many projects (ESCAPE, OOPS, COPE, ...) also affect the code. Claude gave the example of the ESCAPE project and explained the role of the ALADIN CA with respect to ESCAPE.

A new export version of the ALADIN NWP system was prepared on a more recent common cycle and made available within all LAM partners, for installation and testing in the NMS. Claude acknowledged the coordination of this installation by the ACNA (ALADIN Coordinator for Networking Activities).

**Martin thanked Claude for this report and the GA took note without question.**

### 2. Core programs : dynamics, DA

This point was presented and discussed at point 4.3.

### 3. LACE

The LACE PM (Yong Wang) reminded the principal objectives of LACE : 1) developing state of the art limited area model and data assimilation system; 2) conducting scientific and technical research jointly towards improving the quality of the forecasts. He gave some examples of LACE common operation :

- OPLACE : the common Observation Pre-processing for LACE DA and verification and exchange of national surface data within LACE Partners. OPLACE helps the LACE Partners to run DA : among the 7 LACE Partners running ALARO or AROME with resolution from 1.2 to 8km, 5 Partners have operational DA, the 2 others in an experimental mode.
- ALADIN-LAEF : LACE Partners jointly use their resources at ECMWF to run an ensemble.
- The usage of Mode-S data over central Europe is becoming possible.

### 4. Tour d'ALADIN

The ALADIN PM (Piet Termonia) gave his “**tour d'ALADIN**”<sup>(\*)</sup>, i. e. how **things are evolving in the consortium, seen from the highlights sent by the LTMs**. More detailed information will be available in the ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletter n°8 where the LTMs will publish articles on these very highlights.

As a conclusion, Piet underlined that most ALADIN non-LACE partners are trying to work on Data Assimilation and are missing some tools (the scripting system) : a DA basic kit Working Week or Days might help them. Piet also acknowledged a fresh momentum of young people (in Algeria, Bulgaria, Poland, Tunisia).

This year, ALADIN celebrated its 25 anniversary : dedicated poster, celebration during the ALADIN/HIRLAM Workshop, dedicated Newsletter n°7, ... Some actions have also been taken to take care of this legacy and to improve ALADIN visibility : an article is under preparation, some **leaflets have been printed** (the first side is common for all partners and the back can be personalized). The personalized leaflets for Croatia, Czech Republic and France were distributed (and can be [downloaded on the aladin website](#)). Leaflets for the other Partners will be prepared at the beginning of 2017, if their LTM ask for it and send Patricia their personalized text and figures.

**Martin acknowledged the huge work done over the consortium.** He thanked everybody for this impressive progress.

### 7. ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement

Martin thanked Philippe for his role in preparing the agreement and opened the floor for comments.

**The GA unanimously approved the current wording of the document** (version V6, distributed as preparatory document to the GA) and agreed that the GA chair should sign it.

Florence Rabier commented that the text had just been checked at ECMWF (ECMWF is implicitly a partner as they share the code with ALADIN-HIRLAM). Their only proposal was to reference the new ECMWF-MF agreement on ARPEGE-IFS, instead of the former one that was attached to previous ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement.

## 8. Budget issues and manpower

### 1 1. Manpower figures

Each quarter the LTMs register the work done in their NMS by their local staff or their visitors during scientific and technical visits or training courses : name, subject, duration, type of work, etc ... The manpower database keeps these data since 1991. Patricia Pottier presented(\*) the figures for the accumulated manpower investment since the start of the ALADIN Project in 1991 until summer 2016. She reminded that the accumulated manpower investment between 1991 and 2015 is in Annex I of the 5<sup>th</sup> MoU and defines the IPR and the voting rights at the GA.

These figures are also important to monitor the evolution of the consortium.

- The breakdown of the manpower gives a roughly balanced share between the three components of ALADIN (1/3 LACE, 1/3 Météo-France, 1/3 flat-rate Partners).
- During the first years, all the work was done in Toulouse, mainly by visitors from Central Europe. Nowadays, most people work in their NMSs, with less visits and face-to-face meetings (the mobility shows a long-term decrease, the emphasis being lately put on web- or video-meetings).
- Last year, the manpower was equivalent to 90 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) persons.
- All partners have significantly contributed to the manpower, even if the accumulated data since 1991 may give a distorted view for the last countries to join ALADIN.
- Most reported activities are on developments.
- Whatever the size of their team and their manpower investment in ALADIN, most of the Partners dedicate about ½ FTE to their local maintenance. Their contribution to the centralized maintenance in Toulouse is much more in-homogeneous (some Partners very regularly contribute to the phasing, others much less). In Météo-France, an average of 4 ETP are dedicated to the maintenance (including the centralized maintenance).

**The GA thanked Patricia for these comprehensive statistics and took note without question.**

### 2. Execution of the on-going budget

Patricia reported(\*) first on the execution of the part of the 2016 budget for the non-LACE non-MF Partners. This budget was managed through the so-called “flat-rate” mechanism” : despite the administrative complexity of this flat-rate budget (plans established in January for the whole year, for scientific visits and missions, at a time when not all events, especially working weeks, are fully known), most of the planned flat-rate actions were realized on-time. Patricia underlined that, during the last years, all the flat-rate partners had succeeded to send their LTM to the ALADIN meeting twice a year, on their flat-rate budget. ¾ of the budget was spent for scientific and technical visits, between flat-rate partners and LACE countries or Météo-France.

Patricia gave then some statistics on the whole budget (including the LACE budget and MF part) : all Partners contributed for 11kE, with additional voluntary contribution from IRM (mobility of the PM), MF (invitations for some scientific and maintenance visits in Toulouse), from LACE (contribution by the LACE partners to the LACE budget on top of the 11kE). As for the expenses, besides the visits, the budget funded some networking costs (meeting organization and missions, leaflets, ..), some costs staff (in LACE mainly, and for the first time in the whole ALADIN with the 1/2ETP funded for the Code Architect) and the contribution by MF to HIRLAM.

**The GA took note without comment.**

### **3. Adoption of the 2017 budget**

Patricia reminded that the ceiling of the 2017 contribution should be adjusted with the inflation in 2015 over the Euro zone. As this inflation is equal to 0%, the ceiling remains unchanged. Thus, she prepared the 2017 proposed budget, based on a flat-rate contribution of 11k€ per country.

**The GA unanimously approved of the flat-rate contribution at 11000€ per country and of the budget proposed for 2017.**

### **4. Royalty-linked issues**

For information of the GA, Patricia gave some budgetary aspects of the ALADIN royalties concerning actions performed by Météo-France International (MFI) during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> MoU periods. **The royalties mechanism stops with the 5<sup>th</sup> MoU but, to insure a clean financial close, all Partners should claim the royalties for 2016 (and any other possible arrears for the previous years).**

## **9. Governance issues**

### **1. New membership (if any)**

None.

### **2. Election of new GA Chair and vice-Chair**

**The GA members unanimously elected their former vice-Chair (Martin Benko, from Slovakia) as their Chair for a two year period and Mrs. Anne Debar (Météo-France) as their vice-Chair for a two year period.**

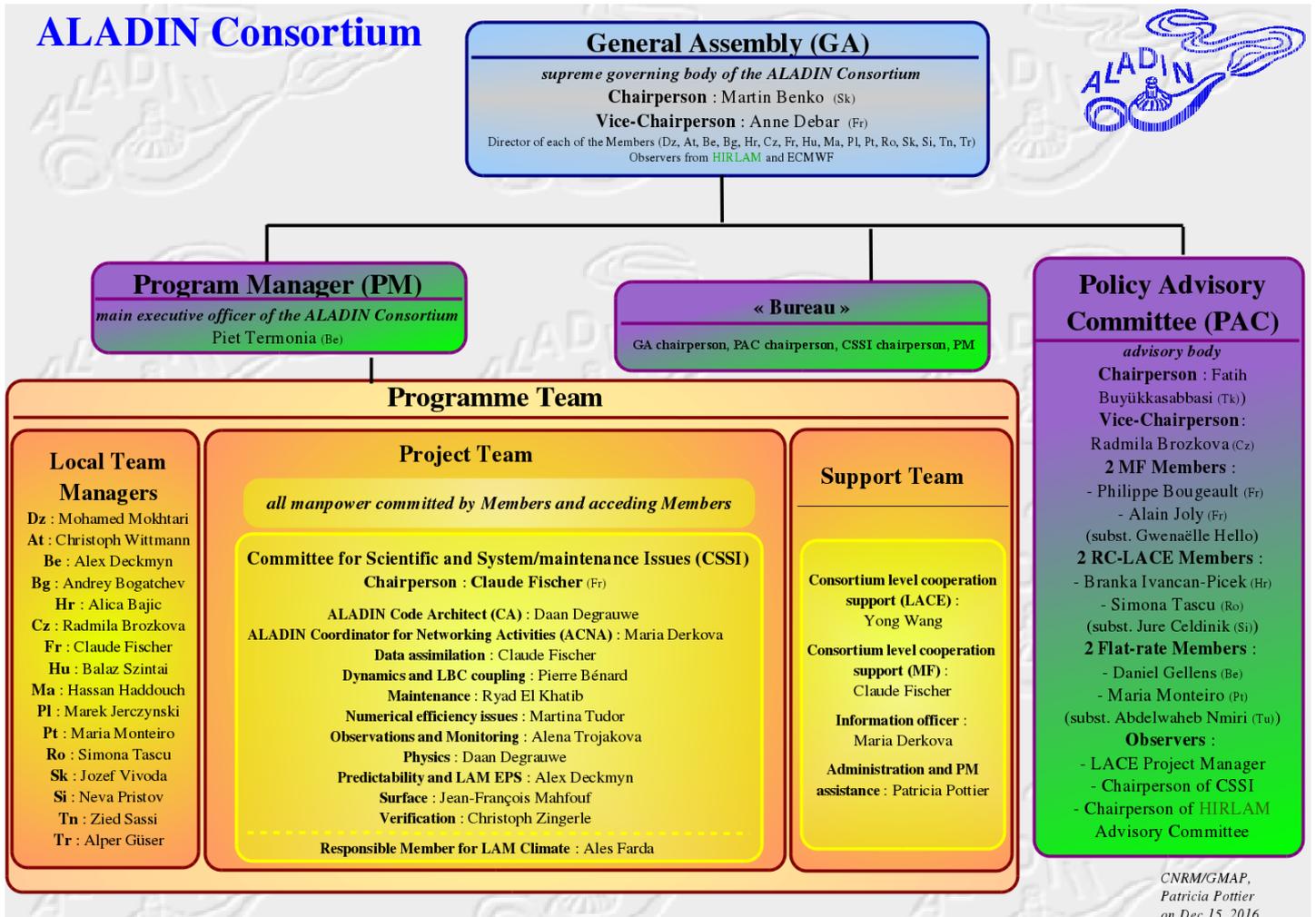
### **3. Report on the Code Architect (CA) appointment**

The CA is the first (and only) position funded by ALADIN. The very transparent selection procedure, as defined by the 20<sup>th</sup> GA, was implemented and the confidential report of the selection was approved by PAC. The outcome of the selection is Daan Degrawne from Belgium. More information could be asked to Piet.

### **4. PAC composition**

Václav Dvořák (chair of the LACE Concil) informed the GA about some changes in the LACE representatives at PAC : Simona Tascu from Romania replaces Vladimir Pastircak from Slovakia.

Taking into account the above changes, the new matrix of the ALADIN consortium is :



## 10. Date and place of the next General Assembly

This point was discussed later during the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint ALADIN General Assembly and HIRLAM Council meeting. The next meetings will be held in Cracow (Poland), according to the following schedule :

- Tuesday 21 November 2017 morning : ALADIN GA
- Tuesday 21 November 2017 afternoon : LACE and HIRLAM councils in parallel
- Joint dinner on Tuesday evening
- Wednesday 22 morning 2017 : joint ALADIN-HIRLAM meeting

## 11. A.O.B

Piet thanked Philippe for his PAC-related work over the past year, and specifically for his efforts and contributions in the preparation of the ALADIN-HIRLAM collaboration agreement, and he thanked the ALADIN support team (Claude and Patricia) for all their work for the consortium.

## 12. Closing

The new GA chair closed the meeting at 12:45.

## Annex 1 : Participants

COUNTRY	NMS	Participants
ALGERIA	ONM	HAMADACHE Bachir MOKHTARI Mohamed
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	WANG Yong
BELGIUM	RMI	GELLENS Daniel
BULGARIA	NIMH	GEORGIEV Christo
CROATIA	DHMZ	STRELEC MAHOVIĆ Nataša
CZECH REP	CHMI	DVOŘÁK Václav BROZKOVA Radmila
FRANCE	MF	DEBAR Anne BOUGEAULT Philippe FISCHER Claude
HUNGARY	HMS	BONTA Imre
MOROCCO	DMN	NASSIF Abdallah HADDOUCH Hassan
POLAND	IMGW	SKAPSKI Roman BOCHENEK Bogdan
PORTUGAL	IPMA	VITERBO Pedro
ROMANIA	NMA	MATEESCU Elena TASCU Simona
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	BENKO Martin
SLOVENIA	EARS	BERGANT Klemen
TUNISIA	INM	
TURKEY	TSMS	DALKILIC Tayfun
ALADIN / PM		TERMONIA Piet
ALADIN / ST		POTTIER Patricia
ECMWF observer		RABIER Florence
HIRLAM observer		ONVLEE Jeanette