

ALADIN 23rd General Assembly

19th November 2018
Zagreb, Croatia



Minutes

Opening and welcome

The Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service Director, Branka Ivančan-Picek, welcomed the participants to the General Assembly (GA) meeting.

The GA Chair, Martin Benko, opened the meeting and greeted the participants (see Annex 1), specially those attending for the first time (M. Libor Cernikovsky from CHMI, Mrs. Florinela Georgescu from Meteo Romania, Mr. Jure Jerman from ARSO, Mr. Volkan Mutlu Coskun and Mrs. Ande Turkyilmaz from TSMS, Mrs. Martina Tudor the new LACE PM) and the observer (Mrs. Jeanette Onvlee for HIRLAM).

All ALADIN Partners were represented besides IPMA (Portugal) who sent their position on the points on the agenda and Maroc-Météo (Morocco).

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

A point on the “Possibility to provide the shared ALADIN-HIRLAM codes to NHMS from non-European emerging countries” was on the agenda of the joint GA-C (ALADIN General Assembly and HIRLAM Council). Radmila Brozkova asked to discuss this point also in the ALADIN GA. Jeanette proposed that the presentation on HIRLAM activities in UWC (United Weather Centers) that was on both agendas of the GA and the joint GA-C would be only presented during the joint meeting.

The GA agreed on both proposals and **the agenda was unanimously adopted, with these changes.**

2. Report from previous meetings (PAC and PAC-HAC)

As asked by the last joint GA-C in Krakow, the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the joint PAC-HAC (HIRLAM Advisory Committee) held two meetings in 2018 : the PAC Chair (Daniel Gelens) reported on the spring meetings in Dublin (15th PAC and the 6th joint PAC-HAC) and the autumn Prague meetings (16th PAC and the 7th joint PAC-HAC). For details, see (*) the minutes of these meetings. Daniel highlighted the following points:

- Rolling Work plan (RWP) : the new format of the RWP was approved, the realization of the RWP2018 scrutinized (compared with the commitments) and PAC recommended the approval of the RWP2019;
- Manpower monitoring tool : a new tool was developed by Patricia Pottier; PAC validated it (and approved the few modifications proposed in the reporting after 6 month utilization); PAC appreciated the possibility to get clear evaluation of the FTE projected and reported by

(*) A copy of the presentations of the 23rd GA, some preparatory documents and some photos are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article326>.

the teams; the distribution of committed manpower among the Work Packages was also considered as an important asset for resource planning;

- Scope document : The 3rd joint GA-C tasked the PMs, together with PAC-HAC to make proposals on the scope of the future single consortium. The scope WG (ALADIN, HIRLAM and LACE PMs, HAC, PAC and CSSI chairs, PAC MF rep.) met and web-met (Feb.-March 2019) and proposed a draft document that was discussed at the 6th joint PAC-HAC, amended there, then distributed to the ALADIN GA and HIRLAM C (June 2018) for comments; the scope WG prepared a new version after summer, that was discussed at the 7th joint PAC-HAC (Oct. 2018) where PAC-HAC agreed on the proposed scope document with a few modifications; the scope WG prepared an updated version of the document accordingly (this document was distributed as a preparatory document to the joint GA-C); the last PAC-HAC also tasked the scope WG to further reflect on the quality assurance procedures;
- PAC recommended the adoption of the 2019 flat-rate contribution proposed by the ALADIN PM, Piet Termonia.
- PAC-HAC supported MF proposal to share the code with emerging countries under some conditions raised in the minutes of the 7th PAC-HAC meeting.

Martin opened the floor for comments.

Radmila regretted that, due to the tight calendar between the PAC-HAC and GA-C meetings, the draft minutes of the 7th PAC-HAC meeting had been distributed as preparatory documents for GA-C before their approval.

About the manpower monitoring tool, Radmila requested it could make more visible the contributions to the T-codes, i.e. the common library in the Toulouse repository (the actions are reported by person and by Work Package, without explicit mention to their impact on the T-codes).

Anne Debar thanked Patricia for the manpower monitoring tool and congratulated the PMs and the PAC-HAC for all the work on the convergence.

3. Activity reports and plans

1. Tour d'ALADIN

Piet gave an extensive “**tour d'ALADIN**” (see the on-line^(*) presentation), **how things are evolving in the consortium, seen from the highlights sent by the LTMs**. Detailed information will be available in the ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletter¹ n°12 (due in January 2019) where the LTMs will publish articles on these very highlights.

Martin congratulated all Members for these achievements on the local or regional developments and implementations, that are part of ALADIN common system.

2. Common activities, DA coordinator, Code Architect, ACNA

Piet and the CSSI chair (Claude Fischer) reported on management and the common activities, including the work on the positions funded at the consortium level (CA: Code Architect and DA coord: Data Assimilation coordinator).

Piet reported on the process to prepare the RWP2019 and gave some statistics on the committed manpower on each Work Package.

Claude presented^(*) an overview of the evolution of the versions (cycles) of the Météo-France (MF), ECMWF and ALADIN-HIRLAM Partners shared codes. Some cycles are prepared jointly with ECMWF, others are prepared with the LAM Partners only. These modifications represent thousands of touched files and hundred of thousands of modified lines in the code (320000-50000 lines). Claude gave some specific examples of these recent code developments (for instance a very

¹ See the ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletters : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article260>

important re-coding of DA due to the OOPS refactoring). These new cycles are validated with the sanity check tools shared between MF/ALADIN and HIRLAM and discussed in ad-hoc committees (HMG-CSSI, ARPEGE-IFS coordination meeting, ...) to anticipate possible technical conflicts with respect to the proposed scientific contributions and the technical changes. Claude pointed out that the code contributions by HIRLAM had significantly decreased over the recent cycles.

Piet reported on the CA (Daan Degrauwe) activities : the CA helped to best implement new pieces of code, to prepare for the HARMONIE-AROME Canonical Model Configuration (CMC) and developed an efficient scalable non-spectral solver for the non-hydrostatic dynamics (ESCAPE project).

The ALADIN Coordinator for Networking Activities (Maria Derkova, ACNA) chaired the LTM meetings and supervised the local installation of code releases in the partners countries.

The DA coord (Maria Monteiro) coordinated the DAsKIT (Data Assimilation starters KIT) strategic program and helped the ALADIN DA starter countries with their DA activities (the first step was the construction of a cycle based on surface data assimilation). Most of these countries have the expertise to run DA but now need a software for data handling (two tools could be used, SAPP from ECMWF and OPLACE from LACE, the choice depending on political or financial constraints).

Martin acknowledged all the efforts and highlights that had been presented.

3. LACE

The LACE PM (Martina Tudor) presented(*) the status and main plans for the two main LACE common operations:

- OPLACE (common Observation Pre-processing for LACE): this system offers processed and quality checked observations in an appropriate format for DA and insures exchange of dense national surface synoptic measurements, data from various satellites, wind profiler data and high-resolution aircraft data in real-time; main developments aim at handling additional data and redesigning the scripts.
- ALADIN-LAEF (meso-scale ensemble system based on ALADIN model, developed in frame of LACE consortium): it focuses on short range probabilistic forecasts, profiting from multi-scale ALARO physics; the version on development will be based on a more recent cycle, will benefit from increased horizontal and vertical resolutions; it runs on ECMWF computer, pooling the resources of LACE members that are also ECMWF members together with a big contribution from Turkey (Turkey resources at ECMWF will contribute to 50% of the SBUs needed for this new version of ALADIN-LAEF).

The GA took note of this report without question.

4. Approval of Rolling Work Plan 2019

The draft RWP2019 was distributed as preparatory document for the GA, after PAC had recommended its approval.

The GA unanimously approved the RWP2019².

4. ALADIN-HIRLAM declaration : follow-up

As presented by the PAC chair (see point 3), the scope document was discussed during the PAC and PAC-HAC meetings in May, then distributed by e-mail to the GA representatives in June, then discussed again at the PAC and PAC-HAC meetings in October. PAC recommended its adoption. Martin opened the floor for discussion on the convergence process and for further comments on the scope document.

Radmila raised two issues (quality assurance definition and interoperability between the CSCs) that

² *The approved version could be [consulted on the ALADIN website](#)*

Czech Republic considered as not clear enough and would like to be further discussed at the next PAC meeting, with a possibility to amend the scope document on these points.

A tour de table was held to seek the view of the Partners on the scope document : **all Partners but Czech Republic had no objection or approved of the vision of the merging presented in the scope document.**

Providing the two points raised by Radmila are solved during the next PAC (and PAC-HAC) meeting and the scope document could be modified then accordingly, the GA agreed to support the scope document.

(editor's note : this point was discussed again during the joint GA-C. It was agreed that the Scope Document itself will no longer evolve, and that the WG will rather proceed to write a draft MoU of the future consortium. Radmila's points will be taken into account by the WG when writing the draft MoU and the PAC-HAC will meet in May to review it. It will have the possibility to check that Radmila's comments have been taken into account.)

5. Possibility to provide the shared ALADIN-HIRLAM codes to NHMS from non-European emerging countries

Anne presented MF proposal to open a discussion within ALADIN/HIRLAM/LACE Partners on the possibility to provide the shared ALADIN-HIRLAM codes to NHMS from non-European emerging countries.

Daniel summarized the PAC-HAC recommendations : **agreement on this proposal as long as** (1) this would not put an extra stress (manpower, money) on the consortia (2) the decision would be taken on a case-by-case basis by the GA-C and ECMWF Council (3) the resources necessary to train and support these NMSs would be carefully estimated and billed.

Jeanette added that the HAC also fully supported MF initiative.

Radmila underlined the necessity of respecting the IPR of the codes that should remained ALADIN.

Radmila underlined that, even if there is a commercial income, it would be hard to find additional sufficiently skilled people to provide a meaningful support.

The GA pointed the importance of offering training and support to emerging countries (not only the code as a black box) and **supported MF initiative, under the conditions set by PAC.**

6. Budget issues and manpower

1. Manpower figures(*)

A new manpower monitoring tool is used since the beginning of 2018 : it now includes the HIRLAM Partners manpower and the reported actions referred to the Rolling Work Plan. The backward compatibility of this tool allows to produce the usual ALADIN statistics (accumulated since 1991). The accumulated manpower investment since 1991 is given in Annex I of MoU5 and is equivalent to 51.4 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) persons per year between 1991 and 2015 (98 FTE per year in average during the last 3 years). The distribution of the manpower among the 3 components of the ALADIN Consortium (LACE, MF, flat-rate Partners) evolved during the different MoUs periods but it can be roughly considered that each of them contributed to 1/3 of the accumulated manpower.

The GA took note without comment.

2. Execution of the ongoing budget

Piet first reminded the mechanism of the ALADIN budget and gave some highlights on its three components(*) : the part of the ALADIN budget managed through the so-called “flat-rate” mechanism” for the non-LACE non-MF Partners, the LACE budget and MF part. In 2018, all Partners contributed for 11.822kE, with additional voluntary contribution from RMI (mobility of the PM), from MF (invitations for scientific and maintenance visits in Toulouse) and from LACE (contribution by the LACE partners to the LACE budget on top of the 11.822kE). As for the expenses, besides the visits, the budget funded some networking costs (meeting organization and travels, leaflets, publications, ...), some costs staff (in LACE mainly, and recently also in ALADIN with the ½ F.T.E. funded for the Code Architect - since 2016 - and a 20% F.T.E. funded for the Data Assimilation Coordinator - since 2018 -), and the contribution by MF to HIRLAM. The report about the ongoing execution of the 2018 budget indicated a very good execution of the planned actions (more than 92%).

The GA took note without comment.

3. Adoption of the 2019 budget

Piet reminded that the ceiling of the 2018 contribution should be adjusted with the inflation in 2017 over the Euro zone³. As this inflation is equal to 1.5%, the flat-rate ceiling for 2018 is 12000 Euro.

The GA unanimously approved of the flat-rate contribution at 12000€ per country and of the budget proposed for 2019.

7. Governance issues

1. New membership (if any)

None.

2. Election of GA Chair and vice-Chair

The GA members unanimously re-appointed Martin Benko (SHMU) as the GA Chair for a two year period and re-appointed Anne Debar (Meteo-France) as the GA vice-Chair for a two year period.

3. PAC composition

No change.

4. CSSI & ST composition

Clemens Wastl (from ZAMG) was approved as the new CSSI member for “Predictability and LAM EPS). Since her selection as “Data Assimilation coordinator”, Maria Monteiro (IPMA) has joined the CSSI. Martina Tudor, the new LACE PM, has replaced Yong Wang in the Support Team.

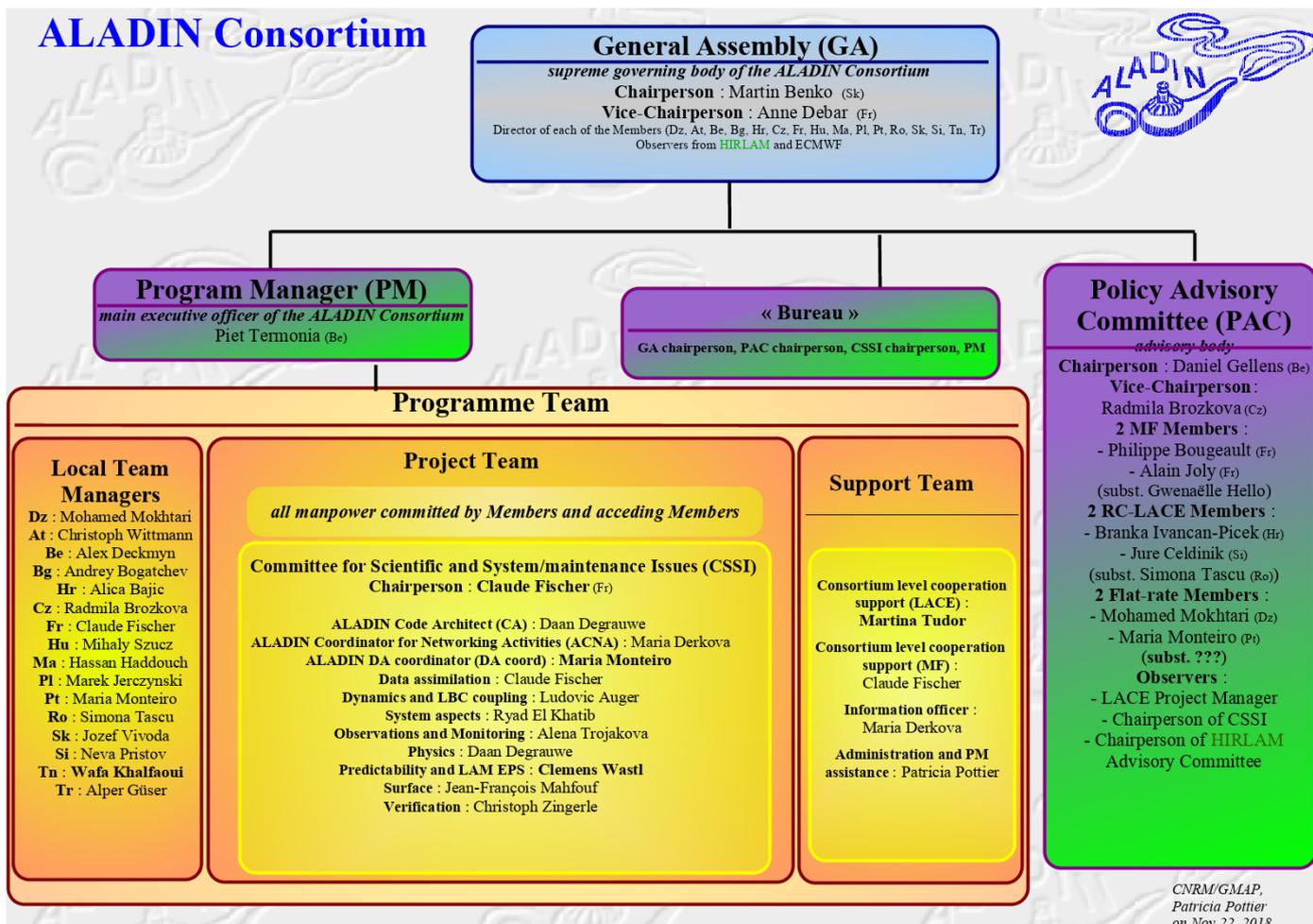
The GA approved the new composition of the CSSI/ST.

5. LTM changes

For information of the GA, Martin announced that INM has designated Wafa Khalfoui as the new Tunisian LTM.

³ <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&language=fr&pcode=tec00118&tableSelection=1&footnotes=yes&labeling=labels&plugin=1>

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



8. Date and place of the next General Assembly

This point was discussed later during the 4th joint ALADIN General Assembly and HIRLAM Council meeting. The next meetings will be held in Istanbul, according to the following schedule :

- 16 December 2019 afternoon : ALADIN GA,
- 17 December 2019 morning : LACE and HIRLAM Councils in parallel,
- 17 December 2019 afternoon : joint ALADIN-HIRLAM meeting,
- Joint dinner on 17 December evening.

At the joint GA&C, the HIRLAM Council also expressed the need for a joint meeting before summer to closely follow the work with the convergence actions and the development of the MoU of the future single consortium. HIRLAM Council invited ALADIN General Assembly to join the (first half of) their next meeting in Lisbon on the afternoon of Friday 28 of June after the ECMWF Council. The GA will decide on this additional joint meeting via email consultation.

9. A.O.B

None.

10. Closing

The GA chair thanked all the participants for the fruitful discussions and closed the meeting at 17:30.



Participants of the 23rd ALADIN General Assembly

Annex 1 : Participants

COUNTRY	NMS	Participants
ALGERIA	ONM	Bachir HAMADACHE Mohamed MOKHTARI
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong WANG
BELGIUM	RMI	Daniel GELLENS
BULGARIA	NIMH	Andrey BOGATCHEV
CROATIA	DHMZ	Branka IVANCAN-PICEK, Alica BAJIC, Kristian HORVATH, Antonio STENESIC
CZECH REP	CHMI	Mark RIEDER, Libor CERNIKOVSKY, Radmila BROZKOVA
FRANCE	MF	Anne DEBAR, Philippe BOUGEAULT, Claude FISCHER
HUNGARY	HMS	Mihaly SZUCS
MOROCCO	DMN	
POLAND	IMGW	Zbigniew USTRNUL
PORTUGAL	IPMA	
ROMANIA	NMA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Mirela PIETRISI
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	Martin BENKO
SLOVENIA	EARS	Klemen BERGANT, Jure CEDILNIK, Jure JERMAN
TUNISIA	INM	Hatem BACCOUR
TURKEY	TSMS	Volkan Mutlu COSKUN, Aude TURKYILMAZ, Tayfun DALKILIC
ALADIN / PM		Piet TERMONIA
ALADIN / ST		Patricia POTTIER
ECMWF observer		Florence RABIER
HIRLAM observer		Jeanette ONVLEE
LACE / PM		Martina TUDOR