

# ALADIN 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
video-conference



## Minutes

### 1. Opening and welcome

Martin (GA Chair) opened the meeting and greeted the participants (see Annex 1). Although the extraordinary conditions, the GA had important documents to discuss and to agree on their formulation before discussing jointly with the HIRLAM Council. Martin underlined the important work and progress done since the last GA (work of the High Level group HL-g and the Convergence Working Group CWG).

All ALADIN Partners were represented.

### 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted

### 3. Report from previous meetings

#### 3.1. Report for 19<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting & 3.2 Minutes of the 3 meetings of the High Level group

Daniel (Policy Advisory Committee PAC Chair) reported on the 19<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting, the 10<sup>th</sup> joint PAC-HAC meeting and the three meetings of the HL-g.

The HL-g had fruitful discussions, mostly on IPR and voting rights and procedures, and reached agreements that were implemented by the CWG in the MoU (content clarified, definitions of IP, types of code, the common manpower register, legacy methods, position of the consortium on open source, voting system, termination scenario, settlement of disputes, possibility to attend remotely the meetings, etc...). **The HL-g agreed at their last meeting to not open new issues and expects that all ALADIN-HIRLAM Members can approve the new MoU document.**

An important step for the convergence was also the Strategy meeting organized by the CWG in February, where most experts and scientists agreed on common key objectives and priority goals for the five next years. The CWG has worked on a Strategy document based on the conclusions of this meeting and has defined accordingly the composition of the Management Group. **The PAC and PAC-HAC examined and gave guidance to finalize the strategy document, the ToR of the Management Group, the call for applications and the roadmap and risk analysis document,** also improved the formulation for Quality Assurance in the draft MoU and introduced some minor modifications relating to the communication, capacity building.

During, the PAC meeting, Daniel offered RMI help to manage the possible money transfer from the 2020 flat-rate budget non-realized actions (due to Covid-19) to the 2021 budget and PAC recommended to minimize the money transfers and the penalties (see item 5.1 at the agenda of the

GA meeting). PAC also recommended the use of CeCILL-C licence for the *harp* software. Radmila (Czech rep.) added that PAC recommended CeCILL-C licence for the particular case of *harp* but no specific licence is imposed in the draft MoU, in order to leave the authors of the pieces of code more freedom, as long as they choose a non-contaminating licence.

**Martin thanked Daniel for his extensive report and the GA took note without questions.**

## **4. Governance issues: convergence**

For this important point at the agenda, many documents had been prepared by the CWG and previously scrutinized by the PAC. Piet (ALADIN PM) gave a comprehensive introduction to these documents ([see Piet's presentation](#)).

### **4.1. Strategy document & management group**

Piet summarized the Strategy document and its genesis (the Strategy was based on the outcomes of the ALH Strategy Meeting that took place on 3-4 February 2020). A prime strategic objective was defined, together with high level strategic objectives. The Rolling Work Plan for 2021 was adapted to these objectives. Piet also introduced the Management Group proposed to carry out this Strategy and fill these objectives (the management follows the structure of the R&D areas as discussed in the Strategy document). The inquiry launched among the ALADIN LTMs and HIRLAM HoRs in the risk analysis framework, showed that all strategic objectives could be covered. This indicates that the scientists gave their support to the proposed Strategy, as it had been also the case for the PAC. Piet concluded that the proposed management represented a significant strengthening of centralized coordination and simplification with respect to the existing interaction between the different management groups of the three consortia ALADIN, LACE and HIRLAM.

Martin opened the floor for discussions.

Many representatives (from Turkey, Czech Rep., France, Belgium, Morocco) expressed their support to the Strategy and the proposed Management.

Yong expressed the concern of Austria that the Strategy was working on interoperability between the 3 CSCs rather than on convergence towards one single configuration, thus risking individual divergent developments. Yong wanted a clear aim toward a single configuration to be written in the Strategy or in the MoU. Yong also judged the Management too complicated.

Radmila and Martina (LACE PM) pointed that “a single configuration” was not currently defined in the MoU as it would be too technical for a MoU text and would induce confusion (the ALH configurations are the same system with different options, and different options are needed for instance for EPS, nowcasting, ...).

Klemen (Slovenia rep.) underlined his approval of the Strategy but also wished that the Management Group works on convergence, not only on interoperability. As Yong, he would favored a quicker convergence.

Anne explained that the HL-g discussed this point and the proposed Management was both ambitious and realistic. Philippe added that the CWG had built a structure that can lead to real convergence, although with small steps, in order to be acceptable by the scientists.

Klemen proposed to make clearer in the MoU test, the GA goal/vision for a full convergence, so that the scientists know the Directors ambition. Klemen proposed to also add that the Consortium should strive to optimize its resources.

Radmila proposed a minor correction for the Management document: DAsKIT coordinator is mentioned on page 6, but not in the Management Group summary on page 3.

During a break, Martin, Klemen, Yong, Anne and Philippe worked out a proposal for a modification in the preamble of the MoU (see item 4.2 below). Additionally, Martin and Anne proposed that, for the signature, the MoU could be accompanied by a declaration of intention towards more convergence.

**With this addition in the MoU preamble, the Strategy document was unanimously approved by the GA; Austria would have preferred that the clear goal to work on one single system were written in the MoU, but could understand the difficulty and the scientist's preference for small steps.**

**With this addition in the MoU preamble and the minor correction proposed by Radmila, the Management document was unanimously approved by the GA, although Austria (Yong) judged the management acceptable, but too complex.**

## 4.2. Draft MoU

Following the decisions of the Assembly in Istanbul, the discussions of the High-Level group and the recommendations by PAC-HAC, the CWG prepared a new version of the draft MoU. Martin opened the floor for discussions on the new draft version:

- **the GA agreed on a modification in a sentence in the preamble in order to answer Austria's concerns** that keeping three CSCs could be seen as a lack of ambition and a waste of capacity (see item 4.1): the modified sentence reads: "STRESSING their continuous commitment to the joint strategic objective of enabling their respective countries to get the best possible operational forecasting system optimizing their common available resources, minimizing the duplication of efforts and to access the most advanced mesoscale modeling capabilities for research purposes;

In the header of the draft MoU document, the CWG had pointed out three pending questions:

- the amount of the initial flat-rate contribution (item 124): **the ALADIN GA concluded that the initial flat-rate contribution should not be indicated in the MoU**; Andrey (Bulgaria rep.) pointed that Bulgaria could not sign a document without having the financial parameters, thus the GA proposed **to indicate the initial flat-rate contribution in an accompanying decision with the first budget**;
- the minimum share of IP in item 139: **the ALADIN GA concluded that the item 139 should remain unchanged**;
- item 59 and the initial list of countries, if any, in Annex III: the discussion was postponed to the discussion during GA-C.

The GA also discussed:

- item 122: the GA decided to leave it unchanged;
- item 126, second bullet: instead of "LTM meetings" explicitly mention "travels of LTMs and CNA to the LTM meetings";
- ToR of CNA in Annex VI: instead of "Preparation of the LTM meeting", "Preparation and chairmanship of the LTM meeting"

**With these modifications, the GA unanimously approved the draft MoU.**

Klemen explained that the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked that the legal MoU language be used in the MoU rather than the treaty language (the differences can be found here: <https://www.euclidtreaty.org/difference-between-treaty-and-mou/>).

Anne underlined that each Member should check with their legal advisers that the MoU text

complied with the local laws.

The GA proposed that Martin raises these two questions during the joint GA-C meeting.

### 4.3. Procedure for selection of PM and other managers

Piet presented the selection process and the call for applications documents. The procedure for the selection of the CSC leaders is based on recommendations from a jury composed, for each CSC, by the Partners who run operationally the configuration. Piet presented the list of these Partners for AROME and ALARO CSCs.

**The GA agreed that LACE will take the chairmanship of the jury for ALARO CSC leader selection and Anne will organize the jury for the AROME CSC leader selection.**

**The GA unanimously approved the selection process and the call for applications documents.**

### 4.4. Roadmap & risk analysis

Piet explained that, with respect to the roadmap approved by the GA-C in Istanbul, all actions were exactly on time. Some risks (on the convergence process) had already been eliminated but a new one appeared (Covid-19). A risk analysis of the ALH strategy 2021-2025 was added.

**The GA unanimously approved the Roadmap & Risk analysis document.**

## 5. Governance:ALADIN only

### 5.1. Budget

Patricia explained that the flat-rate 2020 document was sent in February to the relevant Partners, together with the letter of exchanges for the money transfers. Those money transfers have already started. With the Covid-19 crisis, only one scientific visit took place before the crisis; the other scientific visits are planned later in the year; the missions to the Workshop have been canceled and those to the two PAC-HAC meetings too; the contributions for the Code Architect and the DA coordinator are realized. The canceled actions currently represent 26kE and 70kE are still pending to the possibility to travel to EWGLAM and to organize scientific visits in the second half of 2020.

**The GA decided that an updated status of the execution of the 2020 flat-rate budget should be presented at the next PAC, when there are less uncertainties on the travel possibilities, for recommendations on the possible solutions (possible reports on 2021 budget for some actions, envisage to consider web-attendance to some meetings as realization of the actions without penalty, ...).**

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

The GA agreed to a half-day meeting for the 26<sup>th</sup> GA (if a longer meeting is needed, a video-conference could be organized in advance).

During the 6<sup>th</sup> joint ALADIN General Assembly and HIRLAM Council meeting, it was agreed that the Assemblies will meet according to the following schedule:

- Thursday 26 November morning: 26<sup>th</sup> ALADIN GA in parallel with the UWC C
- Thursday 26 November afternoon: LACE and HIRLAM Councils in parallel
- Friday 27 November morning: 7<sup>th</sup> joint ALADIN GA – HIRLAM C meeting
- signature of the MoU of the new ALH Consortium
- Friday 27 November afternoon: first Assembly of the Consortium.

## 7. A.O.B

None.

## 8. Closing

Martin thanked the delegations for their active participation and the unanimous agreement reached on all the discussed documents. Martin closed the meeting at 15:00

### Annex 1 : Participants

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NMS</b>	<b>Participants</b>
ALGERIA	ONM	Bachir HAMADACHE, Mohamed MOKHTARI, Abdenour AMBAR
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong WANG
BELGIUM	RMI	Daniel GELLENS (PAC chair)
BULGARIA	NIMH	Andrey BOGATCHEV, Boryana TSENOVA
CROATIA	DHMZ	Branka IVANCAN-PICEK
CZECH REP	CHMI	Libor CERNIKOVSKY, Radmila BROZKOVA
FRANCE	MF	Anne DEBAR, Philippe BOUGEAULT
HUNGARY	HMS	Mihaly SZUCS
MOROCCO	DMN	Omar CHAFKI, Hassan HADDOUCH
NORWAY	Met.no	Roar SKALIN, Jørn KRISTIANSEN
POLAND	IMGW	Przemyslaw LIGENZA, Mariusz FIGURSKI, Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	IPMA	Nuno LOPEZ, Maria MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	NMA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Simona TASCU, Alexandra CRACIUN
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	BENKO Martin (GA chair)
SLOVENIA	EARS	BERGANT Klemen
TUNISIA	INM	Hatem BACCOUR, Haythem BELGHRISSI, Rahma BENROMDHANE, Wafa KHALFAOUI
TURKEY	TSMS	Volkan Mutlu COŞKUN, Murat ALTINYOLLAR, Ersin KÜÇÜKKARACA, Yelis CENGİZ
ALADIN / PM		Piet TERMONIA
LACE / PM		Martina TUDOR
CSSI CHAIR		Claude FISCHER
ALADIN / ST	GA sec.	Patricia POTTIER
HIRLAM obs.	HIRLAM / PM	Jeanette ONVLEE