

ALADIN 19th General Assembly

2nd December 2014

Reading, UK

8:30 am – 12:15 am UK time



Draft Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

The General Assembly (GA) Chair underlined the importance of the collaborative work on ALADIN that allows developing countries to benefit from state-of-the-art Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models and thus, to provide good forecast and help save lives and goods (like for instance during the flooding in Morocco the previous days). He acknowledged the first joint meeting between the ALADIN GA and the HIRLAM Council as a major step for ALADIN.

The GA Chair welcomed the participants at the 19th ALADIN GA and thanked ECMWF for hosting this meeting. Due to visa problems, Algeria and Tunisia were excused from this meeting and Bulgaria too, as the new Bulgarian Director had just been appointed. The HIRLAM PM was unavailable and replaced by the HIRLAM Advisory Committee (HAC) Chair.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

In order to give more attention to the very important point on governance issues, the GA Chair asked the Assembly to be quick on the other points (preliminary documents had been distributed).

The proposed agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 18th GA

The GA chair reminded the important message from the last GA concerning the cooperation between ALADIN and HIRLAM: “The GA agreed on going toward a common governance, but not for the next MoUs. The GA agreed on common meetings (HAC/PAC, Council/GA).

The GA unanimously approved the minutes of the 18th GA.

4. Report from the 11th PAC meeting and the 2nd joint HAC/PAC meeting

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) chair reported on the last PAC and joint HAC/PAC meetings. Main recommendations were about the convergence with HIRLAM and the data policy (see ^(*) the provisional minutes of the 11th PAC and of the 2nd joint HAC/PAC meetings and point 7.1 below). The GA Chair proposed to gather the data policy Task Force in Vienna in January 2015. Various solutions are being considered so far : (1) free data policy (2) no convergence (3) free publication of graphics files - no GRIB files- outside its own country (4) free publication only on its own country.

^(*) *A copy of the presentations of the 19th GA and some preparatory documents are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article271>*

5. Reports

5.1. Tour d'ALADIN

The ALADIN PM presented^(*) his “tour d'ALADIN”, i. e. how things are evolving in the consortium, seen from the highlights sent by ALADIN Local Team Managers (LTM) :

- Algeria : important step forward (preparation for a new machine) and invitation for the next GA,
- Austria : very active in setting up an ambitious AROME system,
- Belgium : ALARO runs at many scales (NWP and climate) : some “seamlessness”,
- Bulgaria : limited resources but participation to an FP7 project,
- Croatia : participation in an EU funded project (wind energy) : increasing the resolution improves wind prediction and our models add value on top of ECMWF or global models,
- Czech Rep. : ALARO-1 baseline in e-suite, with improved scores against observations,
- France: ahead in radar data assimilation and resolution (AROME at 1.3km in e-suite),
- Hungary: a bilateral French-Hungarian project to improve fog prediction with AROME physics, an important issue also for HIRLAM (the proposed solution works in Hungary but doesn't work in Finland and vice versa with the Finish solution),
- Morocco: an exception of 3dVar data assimilation set up by an alone country,
- Poland : operational implementation of new configurations on a new machine,
- Portugal: e-suite on a new HPC machine and activities in data assimilation,
- Romania: within the context of OPLace, validation of precipitation forecasts,
- Slovenia: assimilation of Mode-S data (data from airplane, assimilated by very few countries), with a large impact on local data analysis,
- Slovakia: organization of the HARMONIE system working week (a step to make the ALADIN and HIRLAM consortia working better together), with the help of the Slovakian ACNA,
- Turkey: organization of the 1st forecasters meeting; a very young team with an increasing expertise in computing,
- Tunisia: very dynamic young experts who installed AROME at 1.3km in e-suite.

The ALADIN PM concluded that the evolution in the consortium shows that, while every partner but one is too small to set up a complete NWP system, being part of a consortium allows them to run state-of-the-art systems and to be prepared for high-resolution.

The GA chair underlined the opportunity offered by ALADIN to every countries to drive and exchange experiences. He proposed that a future strategy meeting should focus not only on high resolution but also on how to use ALADIN in more suitable and fruitful possibilities .

5.2. LACE report

The LACE PM gave a brief report^(*) on the highlights in the four LACE common R&D actions : data assimilation (how to use radar data in ALARO or AROME models ?), dynamics (design for non-hydrostatic models), physics (ALARO-1 ready for per-operation), EPS (stochastic surface physics perturbation in ALADIN-LAEF; comparison with AROME-EPS).

He also presented the LACE common operations : OPLace (common observation pre-processing for LACE DA and verification), ALADIN-LAEF (one single EPS system for the 7 countries, running at ECMWF), long-term verification (performance of LACE forecasts in each country) and the actions to promote the ALADIN climate modelling in LACE (unsuccessful submission to H2020).

He gave the plans for 2015 : an ALADIN dynamical kernel for operational use at very high horizontal resolutions, an ALARO physics for operational use at resolutions from 2 to 5 km,

implementation and further development of ALADIN DA in LACE countries, best possible EPS forecast for LACE countries.

5.3. Verification activities

The ALADIN PM reminded^(*) the GA of the progresses made in the three aspects of verification : quality monitoring (monthly reports sent to the LTM), scientific verification (ALADIN/HIRLAM common tools developed) and validation of export cycles (system working weeks).

He presented the outcome of the flat-rate funded forecasters meeting (Ankara, September 2014) : identification of convincing cases where our high-resolution models add value with respect to the global models and example of a folder prepared for an illustrative case in Belgium. The ALADIN PM proposed to use some flat-rate money to produce similar folders for other cases in order to improve ALADIN visibility.

This 1st Forecasters meeting was also the opportunity to assess the forecast quality problem from the point of view of the needs of the forecasters in the weather offices of the ALADIN consortium. The main identified problem is that the forecasters cannot interpret high-resolution maps in a probabilistic sense. Thus, the ALADIN PM proposed to report the need to put high-priority on the development of convection-permitting EPS system to the modelers at the next ALADIN/HIRLAM workshop. He also proposed to organize a 2nd Forecasters meeting focused on that topic next year.

Olivier Gupta (Fr rep.) suggested to start the communication together with HIRLAM, as a group of 26 NMSs. He proposed to develop the folders and to organize the forecasters meeting together. The HIRLAM observer agreed, HIRLAM having experience with forecasters meetings (the HIRLAM Management Group visits the members regularly and meets the forecasters). Radmila Brozkova (Cz Rep.) insisted on the necessity to clarify the words employed in a possible common portfolio (HARMONIE versus ALADIN).

The GA encouraged to carry on with the portfolio (folders) with a special attention paid to the target public (ministry or end-users), the visibility of the message (the added value of ALADIN), in collaboration with HIRLAM with a well-defined ALADIN-HIRLAM glossary.

The PAC Chair proposed to also address during the Forecasters meeting the (different from the past) needed support to the forecasters from the modelers. Petro Viterbo (Pt Rep.) added that modelers should better explain the impact of resolution increase and the use of probabilistic NWP products to the forecasters.

The GA supported the organization of a 2nd Forecasters meeting to help with the portfolio and with a wider scope : the probabilistic nature of high-resolution forecasts and how modelers can help forecasters to make the best use of new forecasts and to meet the downstream needs.

6. Budget issues and manpower (+issues in the NMSs)

6.1. Manpower figures

For information, the ALADIN PM gave^(*) an update of the manpower registration and accounting. He presented the standard tables with the accumulated contribution of each NMS to the program: 85 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) nowadays, work mainly (90%) done by permanent staff in their NMS (a long-term decrease in mobility) and with more "key" people (working mostly full time on ALADIN). He underlined the importance of increasing the manpower dedicated to the code design (only 3% of the reported manpower).

6.2. Report of the execution of the ongoing budget

The ALADIN PM reported^(*) on the execution of the 2014 budget. The GA took note without comment.

6.3. Adoption of the 2015 budget

The GA approved the proposed budget for 2015, based on a flat-rate contribution of 8890€ per country. The GA also approved the use of the budget for the forecaster's meeting, the exchanges with HIRLAM and the Global Lake Data Base maintenance.

6.4. Royalty-linked issues

For information of the GA, the ALADIN PM gave some budgetary aspects of the ALADIN royalties concerning actions performed by Meteo-France International (MFI) : **LACE should claim 8990€ to MFI in 2015 and each non-LACE non-MF country should claim 676€.**

7. Governance issues

7.1. Discussion for the common meeting

As requested by the last GA and according to PAC recommendations, the ALADIN PM presented^(*) the analysis of the collaboration with HIRLAM in view of a future common governance and the proposed steps for the renewal of the ALADIN MoU, considering still two separate ALADIN and HIRLAM MoUs.

Three graphics can summarize the situation :

- the synthetic view of **the “seamless” applications in the code shared with ECMWF** (one code is used for all activities ranging from global modelling to regional NWP and climate),
- the synthetic overview of the ALADIN work practice related to the scope of the collaboration, with **a clear definition of the chain of science to applications** and a proposal **to strengthen the goals of the two future MoUs on common code collaboration**, the common code being under the responsibility of the consortium, the members or subgroups (i.e. LACE) sharing tools and experiences but having full responsibility and control of their implemented model configurations.
- the **road-map to define the ALADIN-HIRLAM system** and to provide the necessary seamless basis for NWP across 26 countries,

The ALADIN PM proposed no major overhaul of the present ALADIN MoU but :

- a small modification in the governance of the ALADIN MoU with a first funded position (**Code Architect**), being part of the Committee for Scientific and System/maintenance Issues (CSSI) and in charge of (1) a better definition and the monitoring of the definition of the **common code**, (2) carrying out the scientific and technical part of the **road-map**,
- a **reformulation of the role of the CSSI** to better highlight the monitoring of the definition of the ALADIN system and the Common ALADIN-HIRLAM system,
- a **clarification of the rights** : what business model do we want ? which data policy ?
- a **clarification of the ownership** of the common code : remove the sentence on ALADIN-HIRLAM common code (article 7.1 in the Agreement with HIRLAM, in annex of the ALADIN MoU),
- the introduction of some flexibility in the new MoU duration in order not to stick to 5 years but to offer the possibility to merge quicker if wished by both consortia,
- the following **calendar and procedure** for the redaction was proposed: proposed modifications in the MoU will be sent to PAC in March, LTM will be consulted in April if needed (during the already planned LTM meeting), the first draft version of the new MoU will be discussed in May during the PAC meeting. Rather than prolonging the Task Force, the ALADIN PM proposed to have the discussion and the consolidation of the MoU during the PAC meeting.

The GA Chair thanked the PM for his very clear presentation and appreciated the common vision

and the willingness to go toward a common governance in his proposal. He approved the removal of the sentence (article 7.1 of the Agreement) and the clear definition of the mandatory common parts that leaves the window open for some additional collaborations.

Olivier Gupta (Fr rep.) congratulated the PM for his huge work on a very difficult topic. He proposed **to have in both ALADIN and HIRLAM MoUs half-a-page introduction which would be the same in both MoUs and which would explain in simple terms : what are our objectives ? what is the object we are working jointly on ? which are the common activities that we intent to perform together during the next years ? which are the specific activities (done by sub-consortia) ?** He underlined the importance of communicating with the same words about what we are doing, as we need to join our effort and compete world-wide and against WRF.

Pedro Viterbo (Pt rep.) strongly supported this comment and also agreed with the PM proposals for the preparation of the draft new MoU. He proposed to consider also the strategic goals, the GA Chair supporting the declination of the common vision into strategic goals : the strategy plan should be renewed and a strategic meeting is planned for 2016.

The ECWMF observer underlined the continuity between ARPEGE/IFS and its LAM versions and proposed to slightly modify the “seamless” table to make this point more clear.

About ownership, the PAC chair added that we should find a common ground with HIRLAM, ALADIN investing 85 FTE per year and HIRLAM about 30. We should also be prepared for the strong movement to free data policy in Europe and clarify the data policy within HIRLAM and ALADIN countries. Radmila Brozkova (Cz rep.) insisted on finding a solution to avoid a full free data policy.

The HIRLAM observer commented that the HAC supported the proposal for a code architect, with a joint funding by ALADIN and HIRLAM and confirmed that HIRLAM will participate to the meeting of the data policy Task Force in January 2015. Due to the illness of the HIRLAM PM, no general support was prepared for the joint discussion but the ALADIN PM presentation could be a good introduction to this discussion.

The GA gave mandate to the ALADIN PM to proceed with the renewal of the MoU according to the next steps he proposed and to deliver a draft to PAC according to the proposed calendar. The GA asked the ALADIN PM to give his presentation again during the 1st joint ALADIN/HIRLAM meeting, to introduce the discussion on the future collaboration.

7.2. New membership (if any)

After the letter of intention sent to the GA Chair by Dr. Jugoslav Nikolic, Deputy Director and PR of Serbia with WMO, PAC had recommended to first improve the scientific exchange and the ALADIN PM had proposed a technical meeting to the Serbian service and had got no answer so far. The GA took note.

Lybia had contacted the GA Chair to express their desire to join the ALADIN Consortium. The GA agreed that the Chair will explain and ask them to follow the official steps of the accessing procedure.

7.3. Election of new PAC chair and vice chair

The GA chair proposed to re-elect Michael Staudinger and Fatih Buyükkasabbasi as chair and vice chair of PAC for a further 2 year period. The GA unanimously agreed.

7.4. ACNA, PAC composition, CSSI composition

The ALADIN PM reported no change but underlined the need to reexamine the role of CSSI and the representation of LACE within the CSSI in the next MoU.

7.5. Licences

The Belgium Royal Meteorological Institute asked the authorization of the GA to renew its **license to use the source code at Ghent university**. A report of the work done under the previous license was delivered and a paper will be published. **The GA agreed.**

For and on behalf of ALADIN, after approval by the GA, the GA chair will sign the ECA License with ECMWF about the use of OOPS abstract layer.

8. Date and place of the next General Assembly

The GA chair recalled the invitation of Algeria to host the next General Assembly and the importance of having this meeting in a country moving forward as a NWP group. **The GA agreed to hold its 20th meeting in Algeria during the last week of November 2015.** In case of last-minute difficulties, Météo-France/Toulouse could be considered as a back-up location.

9. A.O.B

None.

10. Closing

The GA chair closed the meeting at 12:15.

Annex 1 : Participants

Country/position	NAME Firstname
AUSTRIA/PAC Chair	STAUDINGER Michael
AUSTRIA/LACE PM	WANG Yong
BELGIUM	GELLENS Daniel
BELGIUM/ALADIN PM	TERMONIA Piet
CROATIA	BAKIC Alica
CROATIA	IVANÈAN PICEK Branka
CZECH REP	BROZKOVA Radmila
CZECH REP	DVOŘÁK Václav
FRANCE	GUPTA Olivier
FRANCE/CSSI Chair	FISCHER Claude
FRANCE/GA Secretary	POTTIER Patricia
HUNGARY	LABO Eszter
MOROCCO/GA Chair	MOKSSIT Abdalah
MOROCCO	HADDOUCH Hassan
POLAND	JERCZYNSKI Marek
POLAND	KASEJA Romuald
PORTUGAL	VITERBO Pedro
ROMANIA	BANCIU Doina
SLOVAKIA	BENKO Martin
SLOVAKIA	VIVODA Jozef
SLOVENIA	JERMAN Jurij
TURKEY	KOCAMAN Fatih
ECMWF observer	RABIER Florence
HIRLAM observer (HAC Chair)	Sylvain JOFFRE