



Minutes
8th Joint PAC-HAC meeting
Tuesday May 14, 2019
Norrköping, Sweden



Minutes

HAC Participants: Halldór BJÖRNSSPON (IC rep.), Javier CALVO (SP rep.), Ben WICHERS.SCHREUR (NL rep.), Heiner KORNICH (HAC Chair and SE rep.), Xiaohua YANG (DK rep.), Sami NIEMELA (FI rep.), Jeanette ONVLEE (HIRLAM PM), Saji VARGHESE (IE rep.)

PAC Participants: Philippe BOUGEAULT (MF rep.), Jure CEDILNIK (LACE rep.), Claude FISCHER (CSSI Chair), Daniel GELLENS (PAC Chair), Branka IVANVAN-PICEK (LACE rep.), Maria MONTEIRO (non-MF non-LACE rep.), Patricia POTTIER (Secretary), Piet TERMONIA (ALADIN PM), Martina TUDOR (LACE PM)

Excused: Jørn KRISTIANSEN (NO rep.), Radmila BROZKOVA (PAC Vice-Chair), Alain JOLY (MF rep.), Mohamed MOKHTARI (non-MF non-LACE rep.), No rep. From Estonia, Gintautas STANKUNAVICIUS (LT rep.), Michael SLEIGH (ECMWF obs.)

1. Opening and welcome

The Deputy Director of SMHI welcomed the HAC-PAC members. She underlined the importance of their discussions for the evolution of ALADIN and HIRLAM groups in the upcoming years. Daniel (PAC chair) opened the meeting and thanked SMHI for their warm welcome and nice dinner.

2. The agenda below was adopted

Agenda	Introduced by	Documents
1. Opening and welcome	PAC chair	
2. Adoption of the agenda	PAC chair	2_agenda_HAC_PAC_2019
3. Policy issues: convergence		
3.1. from scope document to MoU	PMs & chairs	3.1_preliminary_draft_MoU_V2
3.1.1. management and organizational bodies		
3.1.2. quality assurance		
3.1.3. financial organization		
3.1.4. draft MoU		
3.2. Open code	PAC MF rep.	3.2_open-code-exploration
3.3. Emerging countries	PAC MF rep.	3.3_emerging_countries
3.4. Realization of Rolling Work Plan 2018	PMs	3.4_RWP2018_realization
3.5. Preparation of GA-C agenda	PMs & chairs	
4. A.O.B	PAC chair	
5. Date of the next meetings	PAC chair	
6. Closing	PAC chair	

3. Policy issues: convergence

The points on this Section 3 were also on the agenda of the separate HAC and PAC meetings held in parallel, the previous day. Claude (who had replaced the PAC chair at this PAC meeting) and Heiner (HAC chair) summarised briefly these discussions, reporting mainly on the points that would not be discussed again during this joint HAC-PAC meeting:

- PAC: main discussions were on trying to solve the convergence and MoU redaction issues raised by the ALADIN community; Martina also gave a summary of the LACE strategy meeting held on April 15, 2019; Branka gave the status of the SEE-MHEWS project; the invitation by HIRLAM Council (C) chair to ALADIN General Assembly (GA) to join their next meeting in Lisbon was discussed.
- HAC: besides the convergence actions, a specific point on human resources strategy was discussed: the PM had sent a questionnaire to the HIRLAM NMSs in order to get a HIRLAM-wide overview of the expected evolution of both the needs and availability of competences within the consortium in the coming years. The enquiry shows that it cannot be expected that the total amount of human resources committed to the HIRLAM programme will increase in the coming years. Views on how available competences within the HIRLAM team should develop were discussed. This exercise was judged very useful and it could be interesting to get a similar overview over the 26 ALADIN-HIRLAM NMSs.

1. From scope document to MoU

The PAC-HAC reviewed the text of the draft MoU and discussed some changes. When modifications were agreed during the meeting, the MoU text was either modified accordingly on the spot, or the exact phrasing was left to the Convergence WG. The result is the draft MoU (version of 20 May 2019) sent to the Directors. Below are some complementary information:

- Article 2 item 31:
 - Philippe explained that MF do not want OLIVE and VORTEX tools to be considered as Consortium common tools and cannot commit manpower to contribute to a new common scripting system, but MF is willing to provide training and expertise.
 - Heiner added that the new scripting system to be developed is expected to be close to MF scripting system and the proposal for training and expertise sharing is welcome.
 - Xiaohua commented that, while HIRLAM community supports definition of common code and repository, the HAC recognise that efforts are needed in order to ensure that T codes reflect developments throughout the consortia. Xiaohua also proposed that, as many research and development are made in form of system script such as ensemble forecasting, system script shall be treated as part of source.
 - Saji suggested to consider additional resources in the beginning to speed up convergence, e.g. building the common scripting system, possibly at the cost of reducing R&D for a time.
- Article 3: Membership: if the procedure for emerging countries is agreed (see point 3.3), the article should be modified accordingly.
- Article 5: Governance
 - Items 69-70: One PAC member proposed to raise the positive weighted votes from two thirds to three quarters; the 2/3 majority or the double 2/3 majority being widely used, the PAC-HAC proposed to leave 2/3 in the draft MoU, waiting for GA-C decision.
 - PAC and STAC: the PAC-HAC recommended to keep these two bodies, their roles being different; the PAC will only meet when requested by the Assembly.
- Article 6: Management

- The PAC-HAC discussed deeply the working organisation of the future consortium. The Area Leader positions were refined and the Convergence WG was tasked to re-write the item 100 accordingly (and the Annex VI). The list of AL will be defined by the GA-C after the conclusions of the Strategy meeting to be held in January 2020 in Toulouse; this list may evolve in time.
- The suggestion from HAC to have a rotating PM selected among the CSC leaders was debated. After analysis of the pros and the cons, the PAC-HAC agreed on one PM.
- Patricia will prepare a matrix of the Consortium according to the new version of the draft MoU, to be distributed to the Directors with the draft MoU.
- Article 7: Resources: the draft budget offers flexibility, allowing both funded and in-kind positions. Patricia presented some graphics to illustrate the current ALADIN, LACE and HIRLAM budgets and the budget proposed for the future Consortium (the future budget figures are based on similar contributions than those currently paid by Members, although this would have to be adapted to the ambitions of the Consortium). A more accurate budget could be estimated based on a suggested number of officers and the way they will be supported by Members – in-kind or funded). The PAC-HAC asked Patricia to add some figures about the in-kind manpower to illustrate the whole resources of the Consortium (human resources provided in-kind and budget). The document will be distributed to the Directors with the draft MoU.
- Annex II: Radmila had sent remarks to the PAC-HAC members about the Quality Assurance (QA) procedure not being enough precisely described in Annex II); the PAC acknowledged this and proposed that the Convergence WG should prepare a more precise description in a document separate from the MoU. The PAC-HAC agreed and will review this document at their autumn meeting.

2. Open code

At their last joint ALADIN-HIRLAM meeting (Zagreb, 20 November 2018), Members requested that the ALADIN and HIRLAM PMs explore the opportunities and difficulties of Open Source Licensing of NWP codes. A document was prepared by Philippe and reviewed by the Convergence WG.

The PAC-HAC appreciated this very useful information paper (document 3.2) and a few proposals were made to improve it. The PAC-HAC recommended its distribution to the Directors for their joint meeting in December.

During the HAC meeting, Jørn had underlined that a United Nations Initiative could offer funding to prepare the codes to be open source. Jeanette will contact Jørn to get more information.

3. Emerging countries

At their last joint meeting, Members expressed their strong support to the initiative from Météo-France toward the emerging countries. The Convergence WG was tasked to prepare a written detailed proposal that Météo-France, as Member State of ECMWF, will formally propose to ECMWF Council. The PAC-HAC made two main comments on the document 3.3 prepared by the WG:

- Independently from this initiative, there will be a need for the Consortium to have associated membership: those NMSs who have the possibility to provide manpower can be acceding Members, then Members; for the others, the associated Member status will be proposed. The initiative should not refer to *emerging countries* as this is not a clearly defined concept.
- The process described in the proposal seems rather slow compared to the time line of the funding calls but as long as ECMWF requests a case-by-case approval of each associated Member, there is no way to speed up the process.

The document will be proposed to the Directors for approval.

4. Realisation of the Rolling Work Plan 2018

Piet took the floor and explained that, since 2018, the Rolling Work Plan is organised in Work Packages (WP) with deliverables and committed manpower. The new manpower monitoring tool

gives a clear evaluation of the FTE projected and reported by the teams, together with the distribution of the manpower among the WPs (doc. 3.4).

Early 2019, the HMG/CSSI members had reported on the status of each task in the RWP2018 WP sheets and the status of the RWP2018 had been assessed (doc. 3.4). Some WPs needing more attention, the HMG/CSSI had proposed some actions:

- Strategic Program on Dynamics: new results for a solver for the dynamics; a Dynamics day will be organised on 28 May 2019 in Toulouse, with the goal to find more manpower on Dynamics.
- Strategic Program on Data Assimilation (DAsKIT, i.e. Data Assimilation starters KIT): good process; the ALADIN DA coordinator (Maria Monteiro) helped the ALADIN DA starter countries to construct a cycle based on surface data assimilation; they now need a software for data handling (two tools could be used and working days are planned: SAPP¹ from ECMWF and OPLACE² from LACE).
- The list of WPs had been reviewed in order to reduce the number of WPs that are only for one CSC and to homogenize the QA activities.
- Revision of the HARMONIE scripting system (discussed in 3.1).

The PAC-HAC had no comment.

5. Preparation of GA-C agenda

At the Zagreb meeting, the HIRLAM Council had expressed the need for a joint meeting with the ALADIN GA before summer, to closely follow the work with the convergence actions and the development of the MoU of the future single consortium. HIRLAM Council had 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 PAC-HAC recommended the Convergence WG to submit the draft MoU (with the modifications agreed at 3.1) to all ALADIN-HIRLAM Directors to give them the opportunity to provide comments, either by Email (the convergence WG can then digest the written reactions and present them during the HIRLAM Council meeting) or by joining the HIRLAM Council for this item on their agenda.

4. **A.O.B.**

Philippe asked about any feeling about the request from Libya to get access to HARMONIE-AROME. The PAC-HAC recommended to consider their request as an example of associate member and submit it to the joint GA-C.

5. **Date and place of the next meeting**

The PAC-HAC already agreed to meet on 4-5 November 2019 in Toulouse (France):

In 2020, two joint meetings will probably be necessary to prepare for the signature of the MoU at the end of the year. Norway proposed to host the spring PAC-HAC, mid-May.

6. **Closing**

Daniel thanked the participants for the good discussions and the progress in the convergence actions, and closed the meeting at 12:45.

1 SAPP Optional Programme, ECMWF, 13-14 June 2019 at ECMWF

2 RC LACE DA Working Days and ALADIN DAsKIT Working Days, Prague, 18-20 September 2019.