

Objectives and priorities for 2006/2007. Position paper by the Programme Manager.

Readers of the document should keep in mind (i) that nothing of this type can be perfect at once, (ii) that it is the first 'open' exercise of this kind in the ALADIN history () and (iii) that some (partly arbitrary) hierarchising is necessary, in front of so many challenges.
(* earlier it was rather the outcome of brainstorming gatherings*

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Strategy

Maximum priority:

- A) To try and get a better view of what role ALADIN can already have in AROME and of the likely keys for a smooth and efficient convergence, which one must start anticipating, monitoring or preparing, appropriately to each domain of interest.
- B) To pursue the successful collaboration with HIRLAM with a view of more and more integration.

Medium priority:

- C) To contribute to a successful evolution (and not revolution) of the "Euromed NWP model of cooperation".

Lower priority:

- D) To harmoniously welcome new acceding Members willing to join the ALADIN Consortium mainly for its basic balance of rights and duties.

Operational

Maximum priority:

- E) To launch an important transversal action which:
 - tries and extends to 'operational-support' topics the success of the ALADIN 'R&D + maintenance' model of collaboration;
 - revises the current system of operational evolutions (too much based on the consequences of the paradigm ALADIN-France \equiv ARPEGE-LAM), while getting the ALADIN Partners of Météo-France more involved in the related topics which must become really transversal issues;
 - improves the circulation of information on all related items.

Medium priority:

- F) To increase the efforts for preparing a wide use of the high-resolution data assimilation tools and of verification tools at meso-scale. Note that the first bullet of point E above already covers several data assimilation or verification aspects which are currently judged of even higher priority than longer term objectives (the topic of this point F) which shall not be fully forgotten but will receive increased attention when (and if) there is already success on, for instance, mastering the differences between the various operational suites, data assimilation

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oriented verification, observations feeding procedures, ... Indeed there are so many things to be treated that one has to make some choices, sometimes even a bit arbitrarily.

Lower priority:

- G) To survey and coordinate the technical side of the evolution towards more prognostic variables (non-hydrostatic vertical divergence and pressure departure, turbulent kinetic energy, various hydrometeors, convective mass fluxes, ...) and towards the new interfacing rules (barycentric system, projection of the heat source also on pressure when NH, ...). The same remark as in the previous item applies here, *mutatis mutandis*, i.e. there is a calendar-oriented link with point E above.

Research

Maximum priority:

- H) To maintain the scientific momentum on a few key questions (VFE and NH, 3MT as 'grey zone' component of ALARO, 3D-Var \Leftrightarrow 4D-Var link, basic meso-scale predictability questions, etc.), taking into account the specialisation in the different fields of NWP of the members of the ALADIN Consortium in the last decade.

Medium priority:

- I) To further revise scientific priorities in light of points A, B & E above.

Lower priority:

- J) To pre-identify scientific topics likely to be of interest from 2009 onwards and to start progressively prioritising them.

Governance

Maximum priority:

- K) To successfully find the best balance between the new governance and the ALADIN traditions.
- L) To get closer to the 'impossible' balance between the interests of part-time involved scientists and of topics' timely achievements.

Medium priority:

- M) To find good 'annual cycles' at the same time:
- for the handling of the decision process;
 - for the adequation between manpower resources and distributed challenges;
 - for the adequation between budgetary resources and increased mobility needs.
- N) To obtain an ALADIN 'corporate thinking' in all Partners' services. Indeed, since 2001, it seems that the pride in political, scientific and operational achievements in ALADIN have

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generally become more and more dissociated from each-other, something which poses a long-term threat to our existence.

Lower priority:

- O) To get a more uniform and more stable way of collaborating with non-NMS institutions.
- P) To increase the scientific and political ‘visibility’ of the Programme.