

ALADIN 20th General Assembly

from 9th at 14:00 until 10th noon
February 2016, Budapest



Draft Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

The General Assembly (GA) Chair (Abdalah Mokksit) opened the meeting and thanked the OMSZ for their kind welcome. On this first GA meeting after his passing, the GA members turned their thoughts to Jean-François Geleyn, a great man and, for ALADIN, a father.

Due to travel setback, the Director of the Tunisian NMS was excused to the GA meeting. Because of other commitments, the GA Chair only attended the first part of the GA (on February 9) and left the floor to the GA vice-Chair (Martin Benko) on February 10 in the morning. The MoU signing process had to be adapted (see point 8).

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

In order to give more attention to the very important point on the MoU, the GA Chair asked the Assembly to be quick on the other points (preliminary documents had been distributed) and proposed to change the order of the points on the agenda.

The re-scheduled agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 19th GA

The GA unanimously approved the minutes^(*) of the 19th GA.

4. Report from the 12th PAC meeting, the 3rd joint HAC/PAC meeting and the Toulouse extraordinary PAC meeting

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) vice-Chair (Fatih Büyükkasabbaşı) reported on the 12th PAC, the extraordinary PAC and the joint HAC/PAC meetings (see ^(*) the provisional minutes of these meetings) :

- The 12th PAC meeting (Helsinki, May 21) mainly discussed the redaction of the MoU, the budget and the Code Architect (CA) position : PAC supported the funded position for the CA and the increase of the flat-rate ceiling to 11000 euros.
- Main policy issues tackled during the 3rd HAC/PAC meeting (Helsinki, May 21) were about the data policy and the guidance about the redaction of the ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement.

^(*) A copy of the presentations of the 20th GA, some preparatory documents and some photos are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article298> .

- The extraordinary PAC meeting (Toulouse, September 21) analyzed the Swedish comments to the agreement proposed after the HAC/PAC meeting and prepared an ALADIN answer. The agreement and the MoU were reviewed; it was proposed to have the ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement as a stand-alone document (with a signing decoupled from the MoUs' signature). The PAC also expressed some concerns about the HARMONIE terminology, widely used by HIRLAM community without the clear mention that HARMONIE is based on the shared ALADIN-HIRLAM codes (as stated in the current agreement).

5. Reports

5.1. Scalability and new IFS cycle

The ECMWF Director General (Florence Rabier) presented(*) the latest developments at ECMWF concerning :

- the scalability programme (a big collaborative programme in Europe to be more efficient on future computers, with 6 self-funded projects and 4 projects externally funded by H2020) : major progress has been made in setting up the externally funded projects (the funding is all settled, all people are recruited); the ALADIN and HIRLAM PMs participate to the governance of this programme as members of the scalability board and there are already some promising results;
- the cycle 41R2 : the horizontal resolution is increased by changing from linear to cubic spectral truncation and introducing an octahedral reduced gaussian grid; the ensemble will be run with a twice resolution and to 15 days ahead; monthly ensemble has also been improved; lots of changes (more energy, improvement in the use of observations, ...) and coordinated efforts in numerics, physics, data assimilation, HPC, evaluation, diagnostics, software developments and scalability efficiency gains lead to significant progress in terms of forecast skill (upper-air, surface and tropical cyclone position); these major achievements took, however, longer than expected.

Abdallah congratulated Florence for her new position and recalled that many ALADINers are working in the ECMWF teams. He explained that the increase of global models resolution is a challenge for his NMS who should work on also increasing the resolution of its LAM models.

The ALADIN PM (Piet Termonia) expressed his appreciation for the involvement of the LAM community in the ESCAPE project and the excellent coordination of this project by the ECMWF.

5.2. Latest developments and plans at Météo-France

The CSSI Chair (Claude Fischer) presented(*) the latest developments at Météo-France, this same information about the changes in ARPEGE and AROME operational suites in MF being shared with the Local Team Managers (LTMs) twice a year :

- an higher resolution for ARPEGE and AROME-France models : a coordinated effort with the ALADIN Coordinator for networking Activities (ACNA), MF and the teams in the NMSs resulted in the implementation of coupling files at an increased resolution;
- the cycle 41T1 (counter-part of cycle 41R1 at ECMWF) : many changes (additional observations used in ARPEGE, code optimizations, subgrid orography effects, ...) on top of the higher resolution led to better scores (new WMO scores, composite scores for AROME-France) and showed a continuous progress and an added value of the high-resolution model (AROME) versus ARPEGE and ECMWF;
- the new systems based on AROME installed in Météo-France : Arome-nowcasting (based on 6 hour forecast, launched every hour, with an early delivery system); AROME-overseas versions to replace ALADIN-overseas systems (very good comparison of the satellite reflectivities with respect to the reflectivities computed from AROME model forecasts in

tropical cyclone situation); these new systems are a good opportunity to promote and evaluate AROME performances on different meteorology.

The next steps for 2016 consist in an upgrade of the BULL computer, the operational implementation of a first version of AROME-EPS at 2.5km with 90 levels. In 2017-2018, ARPEGE resolution will be increased again, AROME-EPS will be extended, an AROME Ensemble data assimilation will be implemented, new satellites will be considered, ... Météo-France teams are also involved in ESCAPE.

5.3. Developments within the HIRLAM consortium

The HIRLAM PM (Jeanette Onvlee) reported(*) on the recommendations of the external review of HIRLAM-B. The review mainly focused on relation with ALADIN and steps required for process of forming a joint consortium. The review :

- support regular joint meetings,
- recommend to truly unify the scientific and work plans on common R&D activities while defining consortium-specific activities as optional projects (separate from the common core activities),
- recommend to improve practice of code maintenance (towards one single repository and a more distributed phasing).

The HIRLAM Council met on 9 December in Reading : HIRLAM-C MoU was signed, a new HIRLAM Management Group (HMG) was selected and strategic objectives were set with the aim of formulating a joint HIRLAM-ALADIN scientific strategy and common activities for 2016-2020, with fully common ALADIN-HIRLAM work teams. HIRLAM will participate to the joint HIRLAM-ALADIN strategy meeting in Toulouse at the end of April 2016.

5.4. Tour d'ALADIN

The ALADIN PM (Piet Termonia) first reminded(*) his roadmap for the ALADIN strategy 2008-2017 and the role of the ALADIN bodies as regards the scientific strategy : the CSSI will prepare an input for the joint strategy meeting and the PAC will analyze its output. A new strategy document should be ready by 2017 and this year strategy meeting should focus on main issues such as data assimilation or new activities (chemistry, fog, ...).

Piet presented the summary table of the geographical coverage of the ALADIN domains, with some domains covering many Partners, and with a growing interdependence of the systems that use regional data assimilation.

Piet gave his “**tour d'ALADIN**”, i. e. how **things are evolving in the consortium, seen from the highlights sent by the LTMs**. More detailed information is available in the [ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletter n°6](#) where the LTMs published articles on these very highlights.

5.5. Draft leaflet

Piet reminded the purpose of the ALADIN leaflet : a brochure that would be used by the NMSs for providing information to their end users and policy makers about their NWP activities within the ALADIN consortium. Piet proposed to prepare two pages leaflets with one and a half common page and half a page that would be customizable by each NMS with its own examples/illustrations.

A draft will be proposed to the LTMs for validation of the common part. The LTMs should also prepare input for their customized part.

The GA agreed on the LTMs deciding on the final versions to be printed.

Ivan Čačić (Director of the NMS of Croatia) underlined the importance of promoting the aspect of the broad international collaboration in the ALADIN consortium (within Europe and North-Africa).

6. MoU5 & ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement

6.1. Relation with HIRLAM

Piet reminded the framework of the joint declaration and reported of the actions undertaken since the last GA meeting in Reading:

- in the 5th MoU : Canonical Model Configurations (CMC) and Code Architect (CA) are proposed as a first necessary step to better define and maintain the common code;
- different papers have been issued by PAC and MF to address the issues of the code ownership and the data policy;
- waiting for internal discussions within ALADIN GA and HIRLAM Council, the ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement was removed from the 5th ALADIN MoU and the HIRLAM-C MoU, and became a stand-alone document, still to be discussed and approved.

The GA was invited to comment on this short summary of the documents distributed before the meeting (draft 5th MoU, ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement, PAC position paper, MF proposals for commerce, ...).

6.2. Discussion and approval of the draft MoU5

Ivan reminded that the ALADIN Partners have very eclectic positions relatively to the EU rules (PSI does not apply to all Partners and, even when it does, it is not always understood nor applied the same way). He proposed to find a flexible formulation of the ARTICLE 11 of 5th MoU, in order to respect the practice and the legislation of the members.

Abdalah agreed to make a proposal for ARTICLE 11 that everybody is comfortable with.

Jeanette commented that, also in HIRLAM, not everybody has the same position (some with, some without commercial activities) and there are differences in which way PSI is implemented; some NMSs are really scrutinized nationally.

Philippe Bougeault (Météo-France PAC representative) stated that all Partners agree that there should be full freedom for them to decide, according to their own national laws, which product is public or commercial. Whatever the content of the MoU, the NMSs submitted to PSI have to make their public data, public, without geographical limitation.

Jure Jerman (Representative of the Slovenian Environment Agency) approved MF position and explained that small services are not in position to have any commercial activities at the EU sense. His Ministry considers that all data they produce are public data without any distinction between data over Slovenia and data over other territories.

Abdalah proposed to start ARTICLE 11 by “according to national legislation ...” and to forbid that the NMSs sell or give products over other NMS territory. Philippe commented that EU imposes the competition and would consider as illegal an agreement that imposes to the partners not to compete with each others.

Ivan feared negative feedback for everybody if the NMSs who need to make money from commercial activities cannot any longer and have to cut in observations system for instance.

Andrey Bogatchev (Bulgarian representative) explained that, in Bulgaria, private companies are already providing products using the Norwegian public data. The Bulgarian NMS cannot do anything but producing better products.

Nuno Moreira (Portuguese representative) also considered that the solution to the current competition is to produce better products.

Eszter Lábó (Hungarian representative) underlined that the OMSZ is only funded at 30% by their Ministry and must rely on selling data.

Rafal Bakowski (Polish representative) explained that, according to Polish laws, ALADIN data are currently not public but the laws are changing.

Radmila Brožková (CHMI PAC representative) took note of the free competition imposed by the EU but insisted on avoiding unfair competition, especially as ALADIN-based products are an important income for some NMSs.

Václav Dvořák (CHMI Director) proposed to write a short text, carefully worded, to express that we understand each other positions and try not to do something to hurt the others, without breaking the EU rules.

Olivier Gupta (Météo-France Deputy Director-General) considered that not all competitions issues have to be solve in ARTICLE 11; he gave the example of ECMWF cooperation where no legal provisions provide the Members to use the IFS code to compete with each other, which they do not do. No written agreement against competition is possible but we could keep a fair cooperation within ALADIN Partners.

Václav proposed to express our willingness to cooperate fairly, using positive terms that do not break the free competition principle, as it is expressed in other international agreements. Daniel Gellens (RMI Director) fully supported this position and also gave the example of the redesign of the EUMETNET cooperation. Yong Wang (Austrian representative) supported these proposals to keep the ARTICLE 11 as simple as possible, the main point is to enforce our cooperation to develop the best models to make the best forecasts.

Philippe asked whether the royalty system should be kept in the 5th MoU. Nuno confirmed that IPMA prefers the royalty system to be discontinued. Jure approved for Slovenia. The royalty system is not a big issue in term of amount (each Partner will receive 418 Euro for 2015).

Abdalah summed up the general consensus on “taking account national and legal sovereignty, keeping in mind the deep ALADIN collaboration spirit, public distribution and commercial activities can be handled in spirit to preserve ALADIN members interest both individually and collectively”. He proposed to write the ARTICLE 11 accordingly and asked Philippe to prepare a first draft. The setting was suspended.

The GA participated to the final formulation and the text of the ARTICLE 11 was adopted (as it is formulated in the 5th MoU, ARTICLE 11, items 81 to 85). As no other modifications to the draft 5th MoU were proposed, the GA unanimously adopted the 5th ALADIN MoU.

Invited presentation from the host : ALADIN/AROME at OMSZ

Balázs SZINTAI gave (*) an overview of the history, the governance and the main activities of the OMSZ. On their IBM computer, the Hungarian ALADIN team operationally run an AROME and an ALADIN deterministic models, together with ALADIN regional Ensemble. The team collaborate on many R&D activities with ALADIN/HIRLAM NMSs and closely with LACE partners; they have developed their own system for model output visualization. Olivier commented that such tools developments could be shared, whereas in a different framework than ALADIN consortium. Daniel Gellens approved and encouraged the NMSs to collaborate within different cooperation forums (EUMETNET for instance).

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

7.1. Manpower figures

Piet presented(*) the consolidated figures for the accumulated manpower investment since the start of the ALADIN Project in 1991 and during MoU4. The accumulated manpower investment since 1991 is in Annex I of the 5th MoU and is equivalent to 51.4 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) persons per year (about 86 FTE during the MoU4 years). All partners have significantly contributed to the manpower, even if the accumulated data since 1991 may give a distorted view for last countries to join ALADIN. 82% of the total work was realized by the local permanent staffs in their NMSs, the mobility showing a long-term decrease, the emphasis being lately put on “virtual mobility” (web- or video-conferencing). The mean partial time (the quotient when dividing the number of active participants by the FTE) increased during MoU4 with more work being done by “key” persons (working mostly full-time on the Project). Most reported activities are on developments but the manpower dedicated to the code design should be increased (first step with the new CA position).

The GA thanked Piet for these comprehensive statistics and took note without question.

7.2. Report of the execution of the ongoing budget

Piet reported(*) on the execution of the 2015 budget and gave some statistics over the 3rd and 4th MoU periods : the so-called “flat-rate budget” whereas rather complicated and rigid, did its job by funding scientific visits and mobility within the partners; it even emphasized the traditionally less frequent exchanges between the non-LACE and non-MF partners. Besides the administrative complexity of this flat-rate budget, 90% of the planned flat-rate actions are realized on-time (plans established in January for the whole year, for scientific visits and missions, at a time when not all events, especially working weeks, are fully known).

The GA took note without comment.

7.3. Adoption of the 2016 budget

The GA approved the budget proposed for 2016, based on a flat-rate contribution of 11000€ per country and the new funded position for the CA.

7.4. Royalty-linked issues

For information of the GA, the ALADIN PM gave some budgetary aspects of the ALADIN royalties concerning actions performed by Météo-France International (MFI) in 2015 : **for the last time in 2016 (as the royalties mechanism stops with the 5th MoU), LACE should claim 5561€ to MFI and each non-LACE non-MF country should claim 418€.**

8. MoU5 signing

The GA approved the 5th MoU document (draft version V10 modified according to discussion during point 6.2). **The delegates of the 15 partners present at this 20th GA signed the 16 copies of the 5th MoU. The INM (Tunisia) agreed to sign these 16 copies on 22nd of February 2016,** besides a bilateral meeting with Météo-France.

9. Governance issues

9.1. New membership (if any)

None.

9.2. Election of new GA Chair and vice-Chair

The GA members re-elected their Chair (Abdalah Mokssit) and vice-Chair (Martin Benko) for a two year period.

9.3. Election of new PAC Chair and vice-Chair, PAC composition

Michael Staudinger resigned as PAC chair. Václav Dvořák proposed Radmila Brozkova as PAC vice-Chair, Branka Ivančan-Picek to replace Radmila as LACE representative and Jure Celdinik as LACE substitute.

The GA unanimously elected Fatih Büyükkasabbasi and Radmila Brozkova respectively as Chair and vice-Chair of PAC for a 2 year period.

9.4. Procedure for CA appointment

Piet explained the Code Architect (CA) position, as approved by PAC and introduced in the 5th MoU (ToR of CA in Annex VI): the Code Architect shall technically assist the ALADIN PM in supervising the definition of the ALADIN System (to assess one of the five bullets in the joint declaration); the CA will de facto be part of the CSSI and will work in close collaboration with the ACNA and the CSSI Chair; the ALADIN PM will regularly report about the activity of the CA to PAC.

Piet presented the special skills asked to candidates applying for this position : to have a strong experience in code development in the ALADIN system, in particular in code design issues; to be familiar with running and code developments in both the two CMCs (AROME and ALARO); to have experience with OOPS related issues, such as FORTRAN refactoring, will be considered as a distinctive plus. The position is open for applicants that are employed in one of the ALADIN NMSs.

The GA asked for a very transparent selection and approved the below procedure for CA appointment :

- the ALADIN PM will send the call for applications (deadline for application : March 25),
- the Applicants should send a short C.V. together with their publication list to Piet and Patricia,
- **a selection committee is created** among the PAC : Piet (ALADIN PM), Radmila (LACE), Claude (MF) and Fatih (non-LACE non-MF),
- **the selection committee will review and rank the candidatures** after (WebEx) interviews,
- the ranking will be proposed to **the GA who will decide on the successful candidate** (by email consultation).

9.5. CSSI Chair

Piet expressed his appreciation of the excellent work of Claude over the past five years and proposed that he continues the job. **The GA approved.**

10. Date and place of the next General Assembly

Olivier proposed to hold the joint ALADIN GA and HIRLAM Council at the end of the year, with an intermediate point with HIRLAM before summer (some ALADIN representatives may join the next HIRLAM Council on the 1st of July in Reading, i. e. PM, PAC and/or GA Chair).

Jeanette Onvlee proposed to check with Alain Ratier (EUMETSAT Director-General) the possibility for EUMETSAT to host our meetings (LACE and HIRLAM Councils, ALADIN GA, joint meeting) **during the second week of December (besides the EUMETSAT Council in Darmstadt on 6-7 December 2016).**

11. A.O.B

Final version of the 5th MoU : Patricia explained that a sentence that explicitly mentioned the royalties (article 4.1, item 19 about GA duties) was removed from the text of the 5th MoU, consistently with the GA decision to end the royalties system in this MoU. Thus, the final version of the 5th MoU only differs from the V10 draft version that was distributed as preparatory document by: the new ARTICLE 11 (as approved by the GA, see point 6.2), the sentence about royalties removed in article 4.1 item 19 and the name of the OMSZ representative at MoU signing. **The GA approved.** A copy of the 5th MoU was printed and given to each delegation.

Place of the HAC/PAC meetings : Fatih raised the question of the possibility for the participants to travel to Ankara. So far, no strict limitations were issued by the governments of the ALADIN nor HIRLAM countries.

More generally, **the GA considers that the decision to cancel/maintain a meeting is the responsibility of the chairs of the meeting and the host.** Any cancellation should be decided at least one week before the meeting. HAC and PAC chairs will keep-in-touch about the May meeting.

12. Closing

Piet thanked the ALADIN Support Team stressing the importance of the efforts that Claude Fischer and Maria Derkova make for the ALADIN consortium. He especially thanked Patricia for her uniquely skilled support in the preparation of this meeting and of the 5th MoU document.

The GA vice-Chair thanked again the OMSZ for their excellent preparation of the meeting and all the Assembly for their active participation. He closed the meeting at 10:45.

Annex 1 : Participants

Country/position	NAME Firstname
ALGERIA	BENAMARA Mohamed
AUSTRIA & LACE PM	WANG Yong
BELGIUM	GELLENS Daniel
BELGIUM/ALADIN PM	TERMONIA Piet
BULGARIA	BOGATCHEV Andrey
CROATIA	ČAČIĆ Ivan
CROATIA	IVANČAN-PICEK Branka
CZECH REP	BROZKOVA Radmila
CZECH REP	DVOŘÁK Václav
FRANCE	GUPTA Olivier
FRANCE	BOUGEAULT Philippe
FRANCE/CSSI Chair	FISCHER Claude
FRANCE/GA Secretary	POTTIER Patricia
HUNGARY	RADICS Kornélia
HUNGARY	LÁBÓ Eszter
HUNGARY	BONTA Imre
HUNGARY	MILE Máté
HUNGARY	SZINTAI Balázs
MOROCCO/GA Chair	MOKSSIT Abdalah
MOROCCO	HADDOUCH Hassan
POLAND	BAKOWSKI Rafal
POLAND	KASEJA Romuald
POLAND	NIEDBALA Jezry
PORTUGAL	MOREIRA Nuno
ROMANIA	MATEESCU Elena
ROMANIA	TASCU Simona
SLOVAKIA/GA vice-Chair	BENKO Martin
SLOVENIA	JERMAN Jure
SLOVENIA	CEDILNIK Jure
TURKEY	BÜYÜKKASABBAŞI Fatih
ECMWF observer (DG)	RABIER Florence
HIRLAM observer (PM)	ONVLEE Jeanette