Minutes of several ALADIN evening meetings, Oslo, 4 - 7 October 2004

This is a tentative summary of the discussions along the informal ALADIN meetings held during the 2004 EWGLAM/SRNWP workshop. It follows the list of topics designed for the Tuesday's meeting. Ordering is more or less random. Let's first recall that : "This was a difficult year for ALADIN".

ALARO-10KM -> COORDINATION

The first results of the ALARO-10 prototype and a possible reorientation of work for the present operational scales were presented by Dominique Giard on Monday morning, during the ALADIN group presentation. With not enough question marks maybe (the author apologizes for this). The position from Mto-France was explained once again on Monday evening. It was underlined that :

- Mto-France has a strong interest in improving the model at scales around 10 km (10 km is not a strict limit ! just a "round up" number between 6 and 30),
- The Toulouse team has no longer the leadership of such developments now (since Meso-NH physics is not longer fully imposed and the already started developments, under the supervision of Jean-Franois Geleyn, involved many partners).
- Gwenalle Hello will still work on physics at such scales, in parallel with further work on the AROME prototype.
- The Toulouse physics team cannot involve itself more for the while, because of the required convergence with the physics of the climate version of ARPEGE, and the temporary leave of Jean-Marcel Piriou; the situation is likely to improve however. That's also the reason why ALADIN-France still follows ARPEGE as concerns operational model changes.
- The "divergence" between ARPEGE and ALADIN is not as severe as it may look, since the climate physics is or will be for some aspects closer to the LAM ones than the present configuration (externalized surface, no enveloppe, TKE).

This led to reactions of the ALADIN representatives on several aspects :

- Why stopping the work on the prototype now, without performing some more investigations in order to better understand the failure ? Yann Seity explained that the tools required for an in-depth analysis won't be ready within 6 months at least. However the partners feel useful to at least check the behaviour of the Meso-NH physics as resolution decreases (e.g. from 10 to 5 km). If Mto-France is not willing to do this (nothing could be promised by the French representatives, because of the standing position of Mto-France on the grey zone), some partners are ready to implement the prototype at home and do the job themselves. Worries about the stays of Tomislav Kovacic and Jure Cedilnik were also expressed. It was also proposed to freeze the sub-project and restart investigations later, once tools available. This of course not preventing work on physics as proposed by Mto-France in the meanwhile. And let's recall that ALADIN partners are ready to contribute to the development of diagnostic tools. PS : the two stays should be devoted to such studies (information received on Friday, 8th)
- The communication policy of Mto-France was questioned (smoothly speaking). The proposal was considered by some as a unilateral decision, without any concertation with partners. There were also remarks on discrepancies between what was told by the different contact points. The bad dissemination of information (in time and among partners) in this case was underlined.
- The privileged status of LACE partners was also discussed. Why should they be first informed ? Why not having a non-LACE representative at LSC to limit such problems ? etc...
- It was emphasized that the coordination of the ALADIN project should be discussed at the next Assembly of Partners. It was also underlined that there must not be any "breaking news" in Split (to which directors should have to answer within a very short lapse of time) : the

presentation of the proposal to stop/redirect the ALARO-10 sub-project shall be carefully prepared (politically). - The ALADIN work-plan should be discussed (within scientists) and updated in Split (the next meeting), at least to introduce this new feature and help LACE preparing its own annual work plan.

TRAINING IN 2005 + WORKSHOPS

The following topics of interest for training were identified :

- NH dynamics (how to run it)
- Meso-NH physics (useful anyway)
- maintenance-1 (Claude Fischer's idea) : how to run the prototype
- maintenance-2 : same content as the previous training course

The following partners are ready to organize a training course:

- Cz (NH)
- Ro
- Si (physics)
- Fr if necessary

Some informations on workshops in 2005 (to be completed by the SRNWP list) :

- Hu is willing to organize a workshop on data assimilation and LEPS, rather than a training course on maintenance.
- HIRLAM will organize a workshop on mesoscale modelling

The following points were also mentioned :

- the scientific NH documentation should be put on the ALADIN web site (or its location more clearly indicated if already available)
  -> Dominique Giard to check it with Patricia Pottier and Pierre Bnard
- the access to the documentation on the ALADIN vs GMAP web site will be reorganized (next priority for the web sites)
- there is some Meso-NH documentation on physics already available
  -> Dominique Giard to find the location and send it to ALADIN partners
- LA (Laboratoire d'Arologie) is a priori ready to help to training courses on Meso-NH physics
- more concertation between LACE and the other partners (and maybe also within LACE) would be welcome in this domain.

Conclusion: A list of all possible training topics will be prepared and send to ALADIN and HIRLAM partners, who should return their priorities. This should be completed by a list of workshops.
-> action Dominique Giard ?

CYCLES 28T1 AND 28T3

Maria Derkova presented the answers to her mail. Dominique Giard gave additional informations on the situation in Tunisia (already on 26T1) and Morocco.Changes in the namelists were also discussed during tea/coffee breaks. Cost problems were encountered for configuration 927 on NEC and Fujitsu (at least). Croatia underlined that a significant extra-cost will prevent them moving to the most recent cycles, since they have already reached the limits of their computer
-> Maria Derkova will prepare and send a report on the status of the implementation of cycles 28T1 or 28T3.
PS : sent on Tuesday, 12th
-> Dominique Giard will contact Francois Bouyssel in order to describe the namelist changes, including changes in default values between cycles 25T1 and 28T1-3),and the required changes in clim files too.

ALADIN AT ECMWF

Some advertising, for some persons missed the information (skipped the paper) in the last Newsletter. Yong Wang is interested in implementing also configuration 901 (for MAP downscaling?). He will contact Ryad El Khatib and do the job in cooperation with him. It was emphasized that only 5 partners (Au, Be, Fr, Pt) can benefit from this opportunity, since the enlargement of EU didn't change the situation of Associated members at ECMWF (no access to computing ressources). A solution could be to propose a project in cooperation with some Full members next year.

COOPERATION WITH HIRLAM

Introduced by Per Unden, who was invited to the Tuesday's meeting. HIRLAM is willing to start a more in-depth cooperation as soon as possible. Some HIRLAM scientists already attended or will attend ALADIN training courses or workshops. On the reverse, ALADIN partners are interested in learning more on some HIRLAM specificities (e.g. 4D-Var). The results of the first experiments at 2.5 km performed with ALADIN by HIRLAM people will be published in the HIRLAM Newsletter. This was felt as a success by ALADIN partners. Some details of the participation of Per Unden and Jeannette Onvlee to the Split assembly were also arranged. More informations afterwards ...

MAP FDP

It was felt necessary to have at least one operational ALADIN model contribute to this last part of the MAP project. Some LACE countries intend to participate, and Yong Wang will be the corresponding LACE coordinator. All the more since ALADIN participated to the campaign, especially with the dissemination of standard and additional ALADIN/LACE products. Hans Volkert, the new MAP project leader, forgot to mention it in his presentation but apologized afterwards. Mto-France considers a participation with AROME.
-> exchanges with Yong for those interested
-> having Franois Bouttier contact Yong Wang (action Dominique Giard)

LEPS LECTURES IN VIENNA

Some more advertising after the mail sent by Yong Wang on September 15th.
PS : Some more information was sent on Monday, 11th.

LAM SURFACE ANALYSIS

There is still a strong interest in having a fine scale surface analysis, especially for snow cover. On the other side, there is no plan for an operational soil/surface assimilation in ALADIN-France : the PROC team lacks of manpower and has already to manage the global one, ALADIN-France 3D-Var will use interpolated surface fields from ARPEGE as in dynamical adaptation one. Thus it was proposed than e.g. Hungary, already running such an assimilation suite, could take over the leadership and organize the work (with still help and advise from Mto-France). An intensive cooperation with HIRLAM, who developed advanced softwares in this domain, is required.

VERIFICATION PROJECT

Still in test phase : 8 partners are contributed, whereas a minimum of 5 was required. So it is ok for the while.
PS : Jean Quiby is willing to launch a similar project at the SRNWP scale.

ALADIN AND REGIONAL CLIMATE MODELLING

Delayed since of less importance ...
A mail on this subject will be send to all partners and to the GMGEC group at Mto-France, to get a better view of all ongoing actions.
-> to be done by GMAP/COOPE ?

ALATNET-2

Delayed to the dedicated SRNWP session.
PS : It was decided (vote) to answer the first call (deadline early December 2004), then the second one (deadline September 2005) in case of failure. Italy, Norway, and Germany are likely to join the project. A formal mail should be sent soon to all SRNWP teams.

AOB

A second announcement of the physics-dynamics workshop in Prague, mentioning practical details, would be welcome.
-> Filip Vana to prepare it