



**6th Joint ALADIN General
Assembly / HIRLAM Council
26 June 2020
video-conference
14:00-16:00**



Minutes

1 Opening and welcome

The ALADIN GA Chair (Martin) and the HIRLAM Council Chair (Marianne) welcomed the participants to this 6th joint meeting; as usual, they shared the chairmanship of the meeting, although it was not simple in the video-conference format.

Both reported on very successful separate meetings (ALADIN GA and HIRLAM C) and thanked the Convergence Working Group (CWG) for their huge preparatory work. Following its designation at the 5th joint meeting, the High Level group (HL-g) had fruitful discussions, mostly on IPR and voting rights and procedures, and reached agreements that the CWG has implemented in the draft MoU. An important step for the convergence was also the Strategy meeting organized by the CWG in February, where most experts and scientists agreed on common key objectives and priority goals for the five next years. The CWG has worked on a Strategy document based on the conclusions of this meeting and has defined accordingly the composition of the Management Group.

Martin and Marianne expressed their confidence that this meeting would support the proposed documents and the signature of the ALH MoU in November.

2 Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

3 Report from previous meetings

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) chair and the HIRLAM Advisory Committee (HAC) chair had already reported in detail on these meetings in the separate GA and C meetings. Thus, the PAC chair (Daniel) proposed not to present them again.

The GA-C agreed and Marianne opened the floor for questions.

3.1 Report for PAC-HAC meeting

Radmila (CZ representative) noted that only the report on the PAC-HAC meeting was not on the agenda of the GA. Daniel answered that he had reported on both PAC and PAC-HAC during the GA, although the PAC-HAC was not mentioned in the GA agenda.

The minutes of these meetings are available on-line ([10th PAC-HAC meeting](#), [19th PAC meeting](#)).

The GA-C had no further comments nor questions.

3.2 Minutes of the 3 meetings of the High Level group

Daniel only reminded the final conclusion of the HL-g at their last meeting: all HL-g support the approval of the proposed version of the ALH MoU.

4 Governance issues: convergence

For this main point at the agenda, relevant documents (*) had been prepared by the CWG, scrutinized by the PAC-HAC, then introduced and discussed in detail by the separate ALADIN GA and HIRLAM Council meetings.

4.1 Strategy document & management group

Strategy document:

Martin reported that the ALADIN GA unanimously approved the strategy document, but the Austrian representative (Yong) regretted that the strategy was not ambitious enough towards more convergence (one single system is not explicitly mentioned in the Strategy, nor in the MoU).

Marianne reported that the HIRLAM C liked the level of ambitions and supported the document, then left the floor to Sarah (Irish representative) who presented a couple of small suggestions in the text (and to move the table of contents at the beginning of the document).

Florence (ECMWF DG) underlined that the document circulated in ECMWF and was very much appreciated; its alignment with ECMWF strategy ensures that ECMWF and the new ALH Consortium can work successfully together.

The Strategy document (*) was adopted with the above modifications.

Management document:

Martin reported that the ALADIN GA proposed a minor correction: DAsKIT coordinator should be added on page 3 in the MG summary page (as it appears in the management on page 6). The document was unanimously approved, but Yong noted that the management was too complex.

Marianne reported on the support from the HIRLAM C to the Management document: as Austria, HIRLAM C hoped for more convergence, but the proposed management was considered as needed in the transition phase during five next years.

The Management document (*) was adopted with the above modification.

4.2 Draft MoU

Martin explained that the ALADIN GA proposed to slightly modify a sentence in the preamble in order to answer Austria concerns that keeping three CSCs could be seen as a lack of ambition and a waste of capacity. Yong explained that Austria would have preferred that the clear goal to work on one single system were written in the MoU, but could understand the difficulty and the scientist's preference for small steps.

Marianne commented that the modified sentence was in-line with HIRLAM C discussions.

In the header of the draft MoU document, the CWG had pointed out three pending questions the GA-C answered:

- the amount of the initial flat-rate contribution (item 124): **both the ALADIN GA and the HIRLAM C concluded that the initial flat-rate contribution should not be indicated in the MoU**, but will be written in an accompanying decision with the first budget;
- the minimum share of IP in item 139: **both the ALADIN GA and the HIRLAM C concluded that the item 139 should remained unchanged;**

(*) *The approved documents and some photos are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article357>.*

- item 59 and the initial list of countries, if any, in Annex III: Marianne announced that during the HIRLAM Council, 3 HIRLAM NMSs had asked to be on the list in Annex III (Estonia, Iceland and Lithuania); for ALADIN, Piet (ALADIN PM) will check with the ALADIN members and propose a list to PAC; it was reminded that being part of the Annex III should be a transitional status and the NMSs should seek for not needing this status; **the PMs were tasked to work on an initial list, to be proposed to PAC-HAC then to the next joint GA-C.**

Additionally, some minor changes (better wording, inconsistency removal, addition of details) were agreed on:

- item 102 (remove the end of the sentence, that is no longer needed after the choice of the budget scenario);
- item 126, second bullet: explicitly indicate the travels of LTMs and CNA to the LTM meetings (and indicate the chairmanship of the LTM meeting in the ToR of the CNA).

Klemen (Slovenia representative) explained that the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked that the legal MoU language be used in the MoU rather than the treaty language (the differences can be found here: <https://www.euclidtreaty.org/difference-between-treaty-and-mou/>). **The CWG was tasked to investigate this change and to propose a solution** (possibly implementing it, if the change is easy).

Anne (France representative) underlined that each Member should check with their legal advisers that the MoU text complied with the local laws. **The GA-C tasked the PMs to send an inquiry to the Directors, with a deadline on 15th of September for signaling any legal non-compliance of the MoU text.**

Martin proposed to approve the current version of the draft MoU^(*), with the above modifications. The GA-C approved. Marianne thanked again the CWG and the GA-C.

4.3 Procedure for selection of PM and other managers

Selection procedure:

As previously discussed during the GA and the C meeting, **the Selection process documents^(*) was approved**; Anne and MF will organize a jury for the selection of the AROME CSC leader, LACE for ALARO CSC leader and HIRLAM for HARMONIE-AROME CSC leader. Florence agreed on the participation of ECMWF representatives in the selection panels for these four positions.

Call for applications:

The CWG was tasked to finalize the four (PM and 3 CSC leaders) calls for application (the Assembly asked to remove the mention of the two kinds of Areal Leaders and to add the deadlines).

Patricia (Secretary) will issue the call to the ALADIN-HIRLAM community early July. The Council and Assembly Members took the responsibility to distribute the call widely within their country.

The GA-C decided the deadline for applications on 15th of September. The selection panels should send their recommendations before 15th of October, for electronic decision of the GA-C.

The document Call for application^(*) was approved.

4.4 Roadmap & risk analysis

Marianne appreciated the Covid-19 crisis being taken into account in the risk analysis and its mitigation plan; Martin congratulated for the first two risks already eliminated.

Patricia was asked to add the above (applications) deadlines to the roadmap.

The Roadmap & Risk analysis document(*) was adopted.

5 Date and place of the next General Assembly- Council

The next meetings will take place in Toulouse, after the EUMETNET & ECOMET Councils, according to the following schedule:

- Thursday 26 November morning: 26th ALADIN GA in parallel with the UWC C
- Thursday 26 November afternoon: LACE and HIRLAM Councils in parallel
- Friday 27 November morning: 7th joint ALADIN GA – HIRLAM C meeting
- signature of the MoU of the new ALH Consortium
- Friday 27 November afternoon: first Assembly of the Consortium.

The GA-C hoped to meet in Toulouse for these meetings (and ceremony) in person.

But, as learned from the Covid-19 crisis, virtual meetings are possible and, at the beginning of the MoU period, when governance bodies meetings are organized twice a year, probably not these two meetings would be in person.

A.O.B

None.

6 Closing

Marianne thanked all participants for the constructive meeting, the good remarks and their support to the draft MoU and the other governance documents. Martin concluded that the creation of the single Consortium in November was on right tracks and closed the meeting at 16:00.

Annex 1: Participants

COUNTRY	NMS	Participants
ALGERIA	ONM	Bachir HAMADACHE, Mohamed MOKHTARI, Abdenour AMBAR
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong WANG
BELGIUM	RMI	Daniel GELLENS (PAC chair)
BULGARIA	NIMH	Andrey BOGATCHEV, Boryana TSENOVA
CROATIA	DHMZ	Branka IVANCAN-PICEK
CZECH REP	CHMI	Libor CERNIKOVSKY, Radmila BROZKOVA
DENMARK	DMI	Marianne THYRRING (C chair)
ESTONIA	EEA	Taimar ALA
FINLAND	FMI	Jussi KAUROLA, Sami NIEMELA
FRANCE	MF	Anne DEBAR, Philippe BOUGEAULT
HUNGARY	HMS	Mihaly SZUCS
ICELAND	VI	Arni SNORRASON
IRELAND	Met Eireann	Eoin MORAN, Sarah O'REILLY
LITHUANIA	LHMS	Saulius BALYS
MOROCCO	DMN	Omar CHAFKI, Hassan HADDOUCH
NETHERLANDS	KNMI	Gerard van der STEENHOVEN
NORWAY	Met.no	Roar SKALIN, Jørn KRISTIANSEN
POLAND	IMGW	Przemyslaw LIGENZA, Mariusz FIGURSKI, Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	IPMA	Nuno LOPEZ, Maria MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	NMA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Simona TASCU, Alexandra CRACIUN
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	BENKO Martin (GA chair)
SLOVENIA	EARS	BERGANT Klemen
SPAIN	AEMET	
SWEDEN	SMHI	Stefan NILSSON, Bodil AARHUS ANDRAE, Heiner KÖRNICH (HAC)
TUNISIA	INM	Hatem BACCOUR, Haythem BELGHRISSE, Rahma BENROMDHANE, Wafa KHALFAOUI
TURKEY	TSMS	Volkan Mutlu COŞKUN, Murat ALTINYOLLAR, Ersin KÜÇÜKKARACA, Yelis CENGİZ
ALADIN / PM		Piet TERMONIA
HIRLAM / PM		Jeanette ONVLEE
LACE / PM		Martina TUDOR
CSSI CHAIR		Claude FISCHER
ALADIN / ST	GA sec.	Patricia POTTIER
ECMWF obs.	ECMWF DG	Florence RABIER