

3rd Meeting of ALADIN Local Team Managers

Dubrovnik (Croatia), 11 October 2007

Minutes edited by Martin Janousek

1. Opening

M. Janousek welcomed the participants to the third LTM meeting, taking place in frame of EWGLAM and SRNWP Workshops, and opened the meeting. He welcomed Ersin Kucukkaraca, the LTM of Turkey, a new ALADIN Partner.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

J.-F. Geleyn proposed to add a review of actions to be taken by LTMs following the SRNWP Meeting outcomes to AOB.

3. Review of events since the last LTM meeting

No LTM-relevant has been recorded since the last LTM Meeting in Oslo.

4. Organizational and management issues

4.1. Financial matters

J.-F. Geleyn presented the current difficult situation in the budget and work plan execution. Several stays had to be cancelled from reasons on visitors' sides. It was showing that the work on-demand is not enough strongly established. Cancelling of stays has bad consequences, namely in the lost of credibility of the project execution and in the threat of losing funds if they are not spent. Moreover next year money for stays will be less because ALADIN party will organize the common ALADIN-HIRLAM workshop.

J.-F. Geleyn urged LTMs to take their personal responsibility to execute the planned actions. He laid out the proposal for modified procedure: CSSI members will be in charge of identifying the understaffed critical tasks which should be assigned (in an auction-type process) to host countries in order to invite scientists and pay them via the flat-rate budget. Therefore the financing of a stay dealing with a critical task should in general be shifted from the guest's country to the hosting country. This would give a freedom to the hosting country to invite somebody else in case the invited scientist has to cancel his/her visit.

The ensuing discussion pointed out several threats and issues. It might happen that some countries will stop sending anybody and will become sole software users. LTMs must avoid such situation in their teams. Further, for some institutes it might be difficult to finance a visiting scientist in a proper way (e.g. advancing money for flight ticket). Hence, for 2008, the procedure will likely be a mixed one, with both offer of stays and of potential visiting scientists, both financed via the flat-rate budget.

LACE countries can only propose 4 stays with dedicated flat rate money. Otherwise they might be chosen a host of stays financed by non-LACE, non-Météo-France Partners on their flat rate contribution. The same applies for Météo-France.

LTMs having been asked which missions to finance in case of the budget cuts, ALADIN or EWGLAM workshop, expressed their preference to ALADIN workshop.

4.2. Notes on information exchange

M. Janousek presented the information from the Newsletter editors that number of missing national status presentations increased. He urged LTMs to take care of regular reporting to Newsletter even if in a very concise form. Further, technical difficulties for authors of scientific papers to comply with the prescribed OpenOffice template were discussed. It was proposed that the editorial team would explore an option to allow Latex-based scientific articles. C. Fischer will discuss this proposal with the Newsletter editors but he recalled very limited manpower of the editorial team.

LTMs are reminded to maintain their operational model and domain characteristics at ALADIN portal (at <http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/oper/oper.htm>).

M. Janousek recalled the existence of the operational namelists comparison table which is currently available on the RC LACE web page at <http://www.rclace.eu/dynamic/extra/namelcomp/>. He proposed that more namelists and updates should be sent to him or O. Spaniel who would update the table. M. Janousek will also prepare an export version of the software and distribute it to the interested institutes.

F. Vana noticed inconsistency in the ALADIN domain size reporting for the SRNWP European Operational Models Matrix (maintained by D. Majewski, DWD): the reported domain size should be the one excluding the E-zone, namely the parameters NDLUXxNDGUX should be used (and not NDLOXxNDGL) for the purposes of the table.

4.3. Discussion on the practical execution of LTM's responsibilities

It was requested LTM ToRs to be available at ALADIN website. M. Janousek will contact Patricia Pottier to arrange the document publishing.

5. Scientific and technical issues

5.1 Phasing news

C. Fischer informed about the current state of ALADIN and ARPEGE phasing actions. A detailed overview of the current state and plan for future cycles can be found in the attachment. Phasing activity is in general well established and stable. Care must be given to a balanced composition of the phasing teams which may contain newcomers but they must be always complemented by more experienced phasers. Still the documentation is a weak point, some documentation is missing and some is not regularly updated.

5.2 ARPEGE operational switches

Switch of Météo-France operations to NEC supercomputer in May was finally smooth in spite of several postponements. Next change in ARPEGE in September was completely transparent to ALADIN operations.

M. Janousek asked if there was any experience of a new kind of difficulties in new cycles installations after Météo-France switched to NEC. A. Horanyi replied the installation was usually easy but the difficult point was a new code validation. For example, they installed many cycles but far not all of them being completely validated, especially the data assimilation part being often untested.

C. Fischer presented the current state of the preparation of ARPEGE to increased resolution. The switch is postponed due to problems in the technical set-up of the suite and still unfinished discussion on the contents of PEARP (ARPEGE EPS system). The new anticipated date for switch is end of January or February 2008. After the e-suite starts it will produce also the coupling files for LACE and Belgium domains.

Following some remarks of Andras Horanyi about the apparent disconnection between PEARP and LAM-EPS plans within HARMONIE, C. Fischer noted the interest of Partners to be informed on the plans and changes in the PEARP system. He however noted that Météo-France was not ready to test impact of planned changes on Partners' applications. Andras Horanyi reprecised that at that stage the interest was really on advanced information about scientific evolutions and their "how and why".

A vivid discussion was carried on the synchronization of the ARPEGE switch with the corresponding increase of resolution in the telecomm coupling files. C. Fischer stated that the change of coupling files cannot occur on the same day like ARPEGE. R. Brozkova stressed that for ALADIN operations using cycling (3DVAR or blending) it is important to avoid cold starts and therefore she proposed to have home "warm-up" e-suites using higher resolution telecomm coupling files of the ARPEGE e-suite. This automatically implies the simultaneous operational switch. Such "warm-up" e-suites are however possible for LACE and Belgium only because Météo-France still does not generate e-suite coupling files for other domains. On the other hand, due to the known benefit from resolution increase other partners should increase their telecomm coupling files resolution shortly after ARPEGE switch. J.-F. Geleyn proposed that all partners should switch at latest 6 months after ARPEGE but preferably earlier.

M. Janousek will offer assistance to Partners with set up of their increased resolution coupling (and climate) files. The first test on the LACE domain shows that increasing the telecomm coupling file resolution from 23 km and 46 levels to 15 km and 60 levels increases the file size by the factor of 2.

5.3 Future changes of the coupling files

M. Janousek presented the conclusions of his study of influence of different orography options in the telecomm coupling files on the final ALADIN results. He proposed that since no impact had been found the orography options in the telecomm files would be unified to mean type / Bouteloup cost function on the occasion of the telecomm files resolution increase.

In the light of the telecomm file resolution increase options for file size reduction were further discussed. Using second order GRIB packing brings some file size reduction but under too high computing cost – more tests will be necessary. Optimization of the unused or redundant surface fields will be revisited and explored. Further, dissemination of frames instead of full coupling fields will be explored as well but its implications on transparent LBCs and use of the coupling index will have to be taken into account.

6. ALADIN/ALARO/AROME work plan

As discussed in the item 4.1, in order to extract the level of risk of non-executed tasks from the plan the CSSI members in liaison with LTMs are in charge of identifying the most urgent tasks. LTMs are requested to assist CSSI members in the critical tasks identification and to propose candidates to responsible country for each task.

7. Projects

N. Pristov informed about the progress in the ALADIN verification project. New HW was installed. ALADIN/France will be added soon. Unfortunately, ALADIN/Tunisia stopped to send the data.

A. Horanyi informed about the situation in the EPS projects. Situation has improved slightly.

E. Hagel will visit INM to install the scripts. But in general the ALADIN participation to GLAMEPS is still understaffed.

C. Fischer informed about the ALADIN LBC optional project at ECMWF. The project is well advanced. The computing resources are used mainly for ERA40 downscaling. A. Horanyi noted that at the end the Project was unfortunately not as attractive as it was originally anticipated,

partially due to problems with usage of IFS surface data. J.-F. Geleyn remarked that the situation could improve after SURFEX is used in ALADIN.

8.AOB

J.-F. Geleyn asked LTMs to think of potential candidates for newly established SRNWP Expert Teams. He further stressed that due to the new structure of SRNWP programme it was desirable that all European ALADIN countries would really join SRNWP and pay the annual contribution. LTMs are therefore asked to check the situation at home, if their institute is a SRNWP member and if not then to consult their management to become a contributing member.

C. Fischer informed about second AROME training planned for beginning of March 2008 (probably 4 days). The training should focus more on practical work with the model.

And finally A. Horanyi informed that due to his new position of SRNWP Programme Manager he will leave all formal functions related to ALADIN and LACE.

List of participants

Yong Wang	Austria
Josette Vanderborght	Belgium
Alica Bajic	Croatia
Tomislav Kovacic	Croatia
Radmila Brozkova	Czech Republic
Filip Vana	Czech Republic
Claude Fischer	France
Andras Horanyi	Hungary
Marek Jerczynski	Poland
Doina Banciu	Romania
Jan Masek	Slovakia
Neva Pristov	Slovenia
Ersin Kucukkaraca	Turkey
Jean-Francois Geleyn	ALADIN Programme Manager
Martin Janousek	ALADIN-2 Officer for Networking Aspects