

4th Meeting of ALADIN Local Team Managers

Brussels (Belgium), 9 April 2008

Minutes edited by Martin Janoušek

1. Opening

M. Janoušek welcomed the participants to the fourth LTM meeting, taking place in the frame of ALADIN-HIRLAM Workshop, and opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

3. Review of events since the last LTM meeting

Turkey a new full member

E. Kucukkaraca presented the success of the Turkish State Meteorological Service's effort to become a regular member of ALADIN Consortium in the perspective of the process of Turkey joining European collaborations. They are now ready for running ALADIN operationally starting from 1 July 2008.

J.-F. Geleyn noted that in spite of certain scepticism of the ALADIN General Assembly on the rather ambitious time plan of the Turkish adhesion to full ALADIN membership the process had gone in a record short time and he again welcomed Turkish LTM to be a full member of the LTM fellowship. D. Banciu also congratulated Turkey and pointed out Romania was welcoming a new ALADIN member in the Black Sea area.

General Assembly: "New Deal for LTMs"

J.-F. Geleyn presented the recognition of GA of non-optimal distribution of the manpower and the associated new task to chase redundancies. He explained a staged approach would be applied, mainly on the level of detailed planning. Past rechanneling of flat rate was taken as a good example when the on-demand approach overtook previous on-offer basis helping the better redistribution of funds and jobs to get done.

J.-F. Geleyn explained LTM were going to play an important role in the tasks and manpower redistribution charged by GA. He said LTM would need more power for their new deal and he would be requesting GA to recognize it. LTM will need more power on the local management level in the Partner's institutions, more information and freedom. He encouraged LTMs to make comments which he would forward to PAC.

The ensuing discussion reflected very different position of LTMs with respect to the local management of their institutes.

J. Vanderborcht said she had no problem of internal recognition of her LTM role. J.-F. Geleyn acknowledged that and said the good position of Belgian LTM corresponded to a very flexible approach of Belgium in the Consortium.

R. Brožková noted that not every LTM had the same power. She pointed out weak communication between CSSI and LTMs. She said she was saved only by LACE providing her via LACE structures a real access to management processes of ALADIN.

M. Monteiro said she as LTM was also in a rather loose position without a real management power. She expressed feeling LTMs needed more recognition of their role in their home institutes.

J.-F. Geleyn recalled the fact the ALADIN Memorandum of Understanding did not enough characterise the LTM role. LTMs thus were in a position where they had sometimes difficulties to force local managers to obey the decisions taken at GA.

J.-F. Geleyn said that in order to improve the information flow LTMs could ask for PAC documents and conclusions if they wish.

Along the communication between CSSI and LTM P. Termonia (Chair of CSSI) said CSSI should be consulting LTMs in specific topics which the Local Teams were in charge of. J.-F. Geleyn noted CSSI members were supposed to well anticipate during the planning whether the assigned tasks were feasible for Local Teams. R. Brožková noted that LTM clearly needed better overview over all topics like CSSI members.

D. Klaric proposed to make a link between LTMs and PAC to create a more upstream communication system. The proposal was supported by H. Haddouch and also by B. Hamadache who also informed about his difficulties to explain rather complicated ALADIN governance to his new Director General. J.-F. Geleyn said he would discuss the proposal to establish communication between LTMs and PAC, possibly via CSSI, at the next PAC meeting.

4. Organizational and management issues

4.1. Financial matters

J.-F. Geleyn stressed the rather good situation in the financial state and rules. He recalled the issue of royalties for non-LACE non-MF Partners: the royalties are held by Météo-France International (MFI) and non-LACE Partners have to send their invoices to MFI to get their share (460 € for 2007 paid in 2008). Those who cannot do that because of administrative hurdles should find another Partner to help them. D. Klaric said LACE could even help spending royalties through the LACE Verification Project (money used for hardware, software and services) which could be beneficial for the whole consortium.

B. Hamadache noted their past difficulties with flat-rate action would be solved by sending a fellow to Budapest. D. Klaric promised she would help with the arrangements.

4.2. Notes on information exchange (ALADIN website, Newsletter, etc.)

M. Janousek urged LTM sending their National Status Report (even a short text) to the Newsletter. Number of missing national contributions had been further increasing. In the response to the presentation of J.-A. Maziejewski (prior to LTM meeting) he asked for keeping the National Status Reports section in the Newsletter. C. Fischer however explained the operational status report section was not intended to be cancelled and it would stay in the Newsletter.

Several LTMs claimed problems to find appropriate scientific contributions for the Newsletter and technical difficulties with the prescribed Newsletter templates – OpenOffice is still felt cumbersome to use, Latex being more preferred. It was proposed to submit paper abstracts to the Newsletter (in Latex). Stay reports should be always submitted to the Newsletter (either one page summary or an extended abstract).

C. Fischer passed worries of P. Pottier of a long-term maintenance of web pages (outside ALADIN website) containing presentations of past workshops. If sites are moved their replacement must be reported to Patricia to avoid broken links from ALADIN website.

C. Fischer further presented the request of Météo-France Operations Department for generic e-mail addresses for operational messages. Every Partner should set up one local address

locally maintained as a local distribution list where Météo-France will send all operational messages to.

5. Scientific and technical issues

5.1. Phasing news

C. Fischer briefly presented the phasing news. The cycle 33T1 was finished with the help of 2 Aladinists. Cycle 34 will be available in May-June followed by the cleaning Cycle 35 (relocation of subroutines, code cleaning). Call for autumn phasers will be made before summer. Cycle CY35T1 (and possibly CY35T2) is planned before Christmas and CY36 for April 2009, to be specified during 2008 depending on the progress of the NEC computer Phase 2 installation in Météo-France.

The next coordination meeting IFS/ARPEGE will be held in June. M. Janousek represented ALADIN as an observer already on the last IFS/ARPEGE coordination meeting as an observer (report distributed to LTMs in December 2007). ALADIN (together with HIRLAM) observer will continue to be represented in future meetings as well.

C. Fischer said the phasing road map would be prepared for CY34 with aim to help phasers to get prepared and to set up phasing account of changes (the document reporting what was changed, what are the associated changes of norms, etc.)

5.2. On (common) operational switches

M. Janousek said the past switch of ARPEGE to higher resolution was well prepared and went through smoothly. LACE coupling files switched to higher resolution in-line with ARPEGE resolution increase. He recalled LTMs were requested to present their plans for resolution and domain size increase for next 1-2 years in order to help Météo-France to plan their production suite and telecommunication upgrade. All LTMs are requested to send their intentions by the end of April to M. Janousek.

P. Termonia informed they started to consider at IRM to switch coupling of their ALADIN from ALADIN/France to ARPEGE due to the ARPEGE resolution increases.

Y. Wang said they did not use ARPEGE for LAEF because LACE domain was too small for the purpose. C. Fischer noted Météo-France was prepared at some stage to produce LAMEPS coupling files on a bigger domain, but that it did not want to produce numerous data in parallel mode. Météo-France wishes to produce only one set of LBC EPS files for LACE partners (regardless of their use for GLAMEPS or not).

B. Hamadache said they had been running so far at Météo-France but they planned to run ALADIN on their home computer in 2009.

A. Bogatchev said SELAM was ready to switch to higher resolution of their coupling files.

C. Fischer recalled every Partner wishing to change the coupling domain was requested to send their new climate files and namelists well before the change could take place.

6. ALADIN/ALARO/AROME planning

J.-F. Geleyn briefly recalled the current status of the planning: Strategy Document has got approved and distributed; 4-year gliding plan is still under preparation; work plan for 2009 will be prepared after PAC meeting. LTMs will get by end of May all documents and the reminder asking for a first guess on the priorities for 2009. The 2009 Work Plan will then be summarized and completed shortly after summer 2008.

7. Projects update

LAM-EPS project(s)

Y. Wang said they were completely saturated by preparation and running of ALADIN Project for Summer Olympic Games. More news and more involvement in GLAMEPS can be expected only after the Beijing event.

ECMWF special project for LBC

C. Fischer said the project currently under-uses the allocated computing resources. All correspondants will get request for report contribution soon.

LACE Projects

D. Klaric presented the changed strategy of LACE becoming more project-oriented. There were 4 area projects set up focusing on targeted research and tools development.

ALADIN verification projects

J.-F. Geleyn said the project would serve as a pre-requisite for the future SRNWP Verification Project. On the verification topics he further recalled the vacant position of verification expert in CSSI (J. Jerman leaving the position). P. Termonia informed they were going to hire somebody in the ALADIN team for full-time work on the subject of the economic value of weather forecasts within the context of forecast verification.

8. Date and place of next LTM meeting

The next LTM meeting will be held in October 2008 in frame of EWGLAM/SRNWP meeting in Madrid.

List of participants

Bachir Hamadache	Algeria
Yong Wang	Austria
Josette Vanderborght	Belgium
Piet Termonia	Belgium / CSSI
Andrey Bogatchev	Bulgaria
Alica Bajic	Croatia
Dijana Klaric	Croatia / LACE
Radmila Brozkova	Czech Republic
Claude Fischer	France
Laszlo Kullmann	Hungary
Hassan Haddouch	Morocco
Marek Jerczynski	Poland
Maria Monteiro	Portugal
Doina Banciu	Romania
Martin Benko	Slovakia
Neva Pristov	Slovenia
Ersin Kucukkaraca	Turkey
Jean-Francois Geleyn	ALADIN Programme Manager
Martin Janousek	ALADIN-2 Coordinator for Networking Aspects