

ALADIN 22nd General Assembly

21st November 2017
Krakow, Poland



Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

The IMGW-PIB vice-Director for Meteorology and Aviation Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ welcomed the participants to the General Assembly (GA) meeting. The IMGW-PIB Director for Krakow Branch Zbigniew USTRNUL expressed his honor to host this meeting. As an early member of ALADIN, back in the 1990s, he has seen the positive impact of the collaboration on the Polish Institute operational activities and he remains confident that the strong ALADIN collaboration, together with HIRLAM consortium, will lead to other very positive achievements in the future.

The GA Chair Martin BENKO opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (see Annex 1), specially those attending for the first time (M. Mark RIEDER, the new Director of the Czech NMS, M. Hédi Agrebi JAOUEDI, the new Director of the Tunisian NMS and our hosts for IMGW-PIB) and the observers (Mrs. Jeanette ONVLEE for HIRLAM, Mrs. Florence RABIER for ECMWF and M. Milan DACIC, WMO representative for Europe).

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

Piet TERMONIA proposed to move his Tour d'ALADIN at the end of the meeting, to leave room for further discussion on the other points. **The agenda was unanimously adopted, with this change.**

3. Approval of the minutes of the 21st GA

The GA unanimously approved the minutes (*) of the 21st GA, without comments nor modifications.

As already discussed at the GA preparatory meeting, Martin proposed to officially approve the minutes of the GA meetings by email, not waiting for the next year meeting. **Patricia POTTIER will distribute the draft minutes shortly after the meeting for comments and the minutes should be approved by the GA through email exchanges before the end of January.**

(*) A copy of the presentations of the 22nd GA, some preparatory documents and some photos are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article313>.

4. Report from previous meetings

1. Report from the 14th PAC meeting

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) vice-Chair (Radmila BROZKOVA) shortly reported on the 14th PAC and the 5th joint HAC/PAC meetings held in Copenhagen in May 2017 (see (*) the provisional minutes of these meeting). Among the PAC and HAC/PAC discussions, some have evolved since May and the final outcomes are presented in the preparatory document of item 6 on the agenda and will be presented under item 6 of this General Assembly. Radmila highlighted the follow points::

- the definition of the common codes was debated but the proposed approach proved unusable during the summer (and should be re-discussed);
- the new format of the Rolling Work Plan (according the template proposed by HMG/CSSI) was also discussed but further discussions should go on, see point 5.5);
- the research and benchmark licenses templates were scrutinized by HAC-PAC who recommended to approve them;
- it was decided to move the annual session of the PAC (and thus the joint HAC/PAC) to the autumn to better prepare the GA and Radmila confirmed the CHMI invitation to host these meeting in October 2018.

2. Report from the 5th joint HAC/PAC meeting

This item was presented together with the previous item.

The GA took note without comment on items 4.1&2.

5. Activity reports and plans

Piet announced that the ALADIN System paper (altogether an historical review, a scientific description of the ALADIN system and a technical description of its implementation in the 16 ALADIN countries) was accepted in the international scientific journal GMD (Geoscientific Model Development). This publication represents an important milestone in the convergence roadmap (see item 6), as it clarifies in technical details a few notions (CMCs, code development and design) that form the basis for the structure of the Rolling Work Plan 2018 (RWP2018).

Piet reported on the basic Data Assimilation core program that was settled to help the Partners who don't have an operational DA (mostly non-LACE NMSs): the ALADIN DA basic kit Working Days took place on 22-23 March 2017 in Lisbon where all attending countries expressed their commitment to dedicate 1 Full Time Equivalent (F.T.E.) to DA; some web-meetings were then organized and a Work Package was written in the RWP2018, with the help of the LACE data manager (Alena Trojakova). The need for an additional ALADIN position to improve the coordination for DA arose (see item 7.3 on 2018 budget).

1. Common activities

The CSSI chair (Claude FISCHER) presented (*) an overview of the evolution of the versions (cycles) of the Météo-France (MF), ECMWF and ALADIN-HIRLAM Partners integrated codes. During the last 12 months, 4 common cycles were jointly built and tested with shared sanity check tools and data. These modifications represent thousands of touched files and hundred of thousands of modified lines in the code. Claude gave some specific examples of these recent code developments.

The new cycles are discussed in ad-hoc committees (HMG-CSSI, ARPEGE-IFS coordination meeting, ...) to anticipate possible technical conflicts with respect to the proposed scientific contributions and the technical changes (OOPS, ...). Claude pointed that the code contributions by HIRLAM were increasing over the last cycles.

Then Claude reported on the Code Architect activities : developments to support LAM grids in Atlas (the framework for parallel data structures, under development at ECMWF); proposal for consistent transformation conversion formulas (that were implemented) between the coupling data provided by the global model and the LAM coupled models, when the LAM versions use a different surface scheme than the global model.

Claude also acknowledged the ACNA activities on preparing and chairing the LTM meetings, supervising the installation of code releases in the partners countries, supervising the studies on the impact of the coupling files provided by ARPEGE with its new surface scheme, ... and presented the overview of the code implementation in the ALADIN countries.

2. Core programs : dynamics, DA

This point was presented during Piet's introduction to item 5.

3. LACE

The LACE PM (Yong WANG) reminded(*) the principal objectives of LACE and gave some examples of LACE common operations such as OPLACE (the common Observation Pre-processing for LACE DA and verification and exchange of national surface data within LACE Partners) and ALADIN-LAEF (the ensemble run at ECMWF by LACE). DA is implemented operationally in almost all LACE countries (with AROME or ALARO). For nowcasting, AROME-RUC was developed in Austria and performs better than the traditional INCA nowcasting. Some model developments are on-going, both on AROME and ALARO. The developments on EPS concerns both LAEF with ALARO and convection permitting EPS with AROME.

Martin thanked Piet, Claude and Yong for their presentations and acknowledged all the technical efforts and scientific highlights that had been presented.

4. Tour d'ALADIN

The point had initially been postponed to the end of the meeting but due to lack of time it could not be presented. The **“tour d'ALADIN” presentation is on-line(*)**, and shows how **things are evolving in the consortium, seen from the highlights sent by the LTMs**. More detailed information will be available in the ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletter¹ n°10 where the LTMs will publish articles on these very highlights.

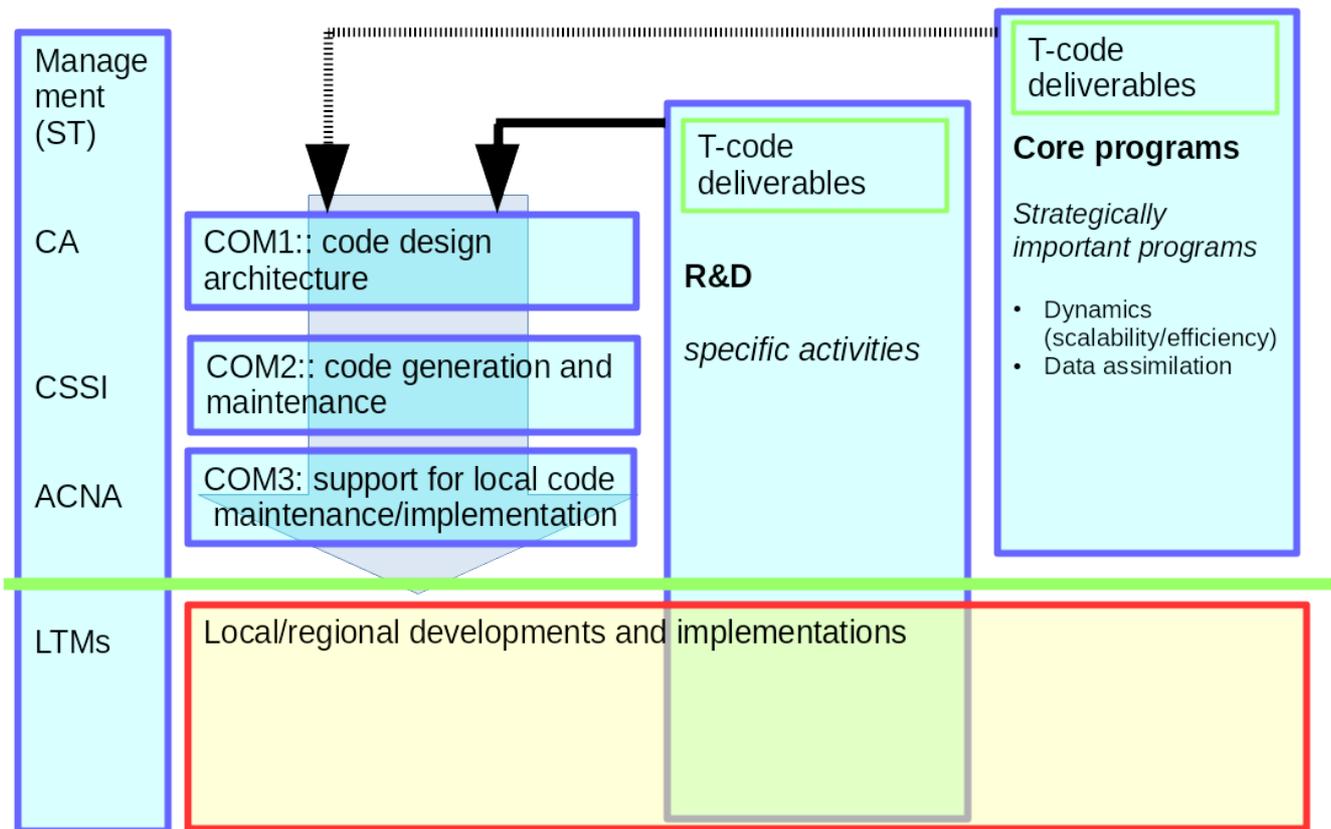
5. ALADIN Rolling Work Plan

Piet presented the RWP2018: the definition of the activities (as approved by the 21st GA meeting) were set forth in the detailed RWP2018, organized in Work Packages grouped by areas (see below):

- Core programs,
- R&D activities,
- other Work Packages that give a new visibility to the actions that guaranty that the consortium works at technical level (COM1 for the Code Architect, COM2 for the code generation and maintenance, COM3 for the support to local implementations and ACNA work) and at a managerial level (Management Work Packages),
- some Work Packages for local/regional developments and implementations.

¹ See the ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletters : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article260>

The new RWP has also been technically re-written to be able to calculate statistics on the committed manpower. This RWP is a new tool, still under construction, and its scope should be agreed (for instance, should it describe in detail the work on local implementation and test suites).



Martin opened the floor for discussions.

Radmila commented that the RWP did not contain all the manpower that is reported (see item 7.1). At first, some Partners had understood the RWP as R&D only and had not put into the Work Packages their effort on e-suite, operational configurations, while some other Partners had done it. Radmila also questioned whether MF commitments on ARPEGE should be part of the RWP and how ARPEGE work should be reported. Radmila proposed these questions to be scrutinized by PAC.

Philippe BOUGEAULT explained that, in the manpower reporting, MF only declares what is useful for LAM models (the work done only for ARPEGE doesn't count, the developments done on parts of the code useful for both ARPEGE and AROME are pondered by 1/2 and the developments on AROME are fully accounted for).

About the commitments, Patricia reminded the GA that, according to the MoU, each NMS should commit at least 2 F.T.E., including the work on local operational suites. If the consortium no longer document that type of work, it would be necessary to waive or reduce the requirement to keep on board the smallest Partners.

Philippe agreed with Radmila that further guidelines on what should enter the RWP (thus the commitments) and what should enter the manpower reporting are needed and that the PAC and the HAC should address the issue.

The GA congratulated the PMs for the huge work on the RWP and considered it as a good working tool for the PMs (to help monitoring the common work in ALADIN/HIRLAM). The GA asked the PAC and the HAC to discuss what should be in or out of the RWP . The GA unanimously approved the RWP2018, with the above comments and questions to PAC and HAC.

6. ALADIN-HIRLAM declaration : follow-up

Piet presented the convergence road map (see below) and summarized the concrete actions already taken to answer the declaration of intention of the 1st ALADIN GA/HIRLAM Council meeting : the signature of the ALADIN-HIRLAM agreement, the publication of the ALADIN paper (and the HARMONIE-AROME paper on HIRLAM side), the identification of common/specific activities and the restructuring of the RWP, ... Piet also asked for guidance on the PMs (Jeanette and himself) proposals for the next steps.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
5th ALADIN MoU & HIRLAM-C MoU : 2016 -2020							
Joint decla.	MoUs redaction CA, 2 CMCs AROME & ALARO	A-H Coop. agree.	▼ 2. data policy				COMMON GOVERNANCE
	legacy ▲	2 Papers: ALADIN system HARMONIE-AROME	Proof of concept of a 3rd CMC for physics				
	4. identification of common activities and specific activities (possibility of core and optional programs)	Core progr.	1. Dynamics (scalability/efficiency) 2. Data assimilation basic kit			CMCs for DA ?	
		Comm /Specif activ.	Restructuration of the common A-H Work plan			3. global picture of annual contribution of countries to the various types of activities	
		List of the common codes		ALADIN-HIRLAM System documentation			
	1. code ownership & IPR			Estimation of a starting ownership Evolution according to the future manpower contributions to the Common codes (manpower reporting to be defined)			
		5. branding		Working Group to propose needed ToR for the governance of the common activities => then, seek a manageable governance, to achieve these goals at reasonable costs			

The PMs proposed to test a reporting mechanism of the ALADIN-HIRLAM manpower, to produce some numbers on which discussions on voting rights and IPR could be based : **the GA agreed to propose the joint GA/C to ask the PMs and Patricia to work on a joint manpower reporting, to be presented to the HAC/PAC and to ask the HAC/PAC to make proposals for voting rights and IPR. Exceptionally, 2 joint meetings of the HAC and the PAC will also be proposed.**

Before working on the governance, the PMs need general guidelines regarding the missions and the scope of the joint ALADIN-HIRLAM consortium. The possibilities regarding how local implementations should be considered in the future consortium roughly extend from :

- a very ambitious collaboration with consortium-wide resources dedicated to quality control of each local implementation,
- an intermediate approach with a quality assessment of each code configuration (CMC),
- a light version, leaving the local implementations under the responsibility of smaller consortia or regional cooperation.

Martin opened a round table : the light version was unanimously preferred, as a first step, letting opened the possibility of discussions on a more ambitious collaboration, once the governance of the single big consortium is settled and this single big consortium proves to function well.

7. Budget issues and manpower

1. Manpower figures

Each quarter, the LTMs register the work done in their NMS by their local staff or their visitors during scientific and technical visits or training courses. The reporting distinguishes 3 types of work (direct work potentially beneficial to all Partners, maintenance of local applications, development of interfaces to other applications or for the forecasters with expected/reported feedback) and different types of activities : training, development, validation, maintenance, operational, administration&networking and tuition.

The manpower database maintained by Patricia keeps these data since 1991 and extensive statistics² are available on the aladin website. Piet pointed a few highlights :

- the accumulated manpower investment between 1991 and 2015 (see the Annex I of MoU5³) is equivalent to 51.4 F.T.E. per year in average ; it reaches 90 F.T.E. per year since 2016;
- most of the reported work (around 80%) concerns R&D activities and direct work;
- the split of the accumulated manpower gives a roughly balanced share between the three components of ALADIN (1/3 LACE, 1/3 MF, 1/3 flat-rate Partners).

The GA took note without comment.

2. Execution of the ongoing budget

Piet first reminded the mechanism of the ALADIN budget and gave some highlights on its three components(*) : the part of the ALADIN budget managed through the so-called “flat-rate” mechanism” for the non-LACE non-MF Partners, the LACE budget and MF part. In 2017, all Partners contributed for 11kE, with additional voluntary contribution from RMI (mobility of the PM), from MF (invitations for scientific and maintenance visits in Toulouse) and from LACE (contribution by the LACE partners to the LACE budget on top of the 11kE). As for the expenses, besides the visits, the budget funded some networking costs (meeting organization and travels, leaflets, publications, ...), some costs staff (in LACE mainly, and since 2016 also in ALADIN with the ½ F.T.E. funded for the Code Architect) and the contribution by MF to HIRLAM.

For the first time, when establishing the 2017 flat-rate plans last January, more scientific visits were proposed than the available funding could pay for. Some visits had to be refused whereas a few visits could benefit from in-kind funding.

The GA took note without comment.

3. Adoption of the 2018 budget

Piet reminded that the ceiling of the 2017 contribution should be adjusted with the inflation in 2016 over the Euro zone⁴. As this inflation is equal to 2%, the flat-rate ceiling for 2018 is 11022 Euro. Additionally, Piet proposed the GA to create a 20% position in ALADIN to assist the ALADIN PM and the CSSI :

- with the coordination of the ALADIN DA starter countries with their DA activities;
- with the coordination of the basic kit DA core program (meetings, inquiries, reporting, follow up of the actions, link with HIRLAM, ...);
- with the elaboration of the ALADIN-HIRLAM common work plan for the DA basic kit core program.

² See the Manpower pages: <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?rubrique68>

³ MoU5 : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article299>

⁴ <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&language=fr&pcode=tec00118&tableSelection=1&footnotes=yes&labeling=labels&plugin=1>

The position will be opened for applicants that are employed in one of the ALADIN NMSs and the selection procedure will be the same as for the Code Architect selection. The NMS who employs the DA Coordinator will receive 12800 Euro through the flat-rate mechanism.

The flat-rate contribution of all Partners should be increased by 800 Euro to fund this 20% position.

Martin reminded that the GA must approved unanimously an amendment to the MoU5 in order to increase the contribution above the ceiling.

Martin informed the GA that the 3 Partners (Bulgaria, Morocco and Portugal) who could not attend the GA meeting had already expressed in writing their support to the creation of the DA coordinator position and to the increase of the ceiling by 800 Euro.

Martin opened the floor for discussion. The importance and the need for more coordination for DA was acknowledged by the GA and, taking into account the amount of the additional funding effort, **the GA unanimously approved the creation of a 20% DA coordinator position.**

The GA unanimously approved the amendment to the article 61 of the MoU5 (see below, the additional adopted text is in bold):

*61. The minimum flat rate financial contribution applicable to all Members shall not exceed the ceiling, unless unanimously agreed by the GA. The value of the ceiling is 11000 Euro in the first year of this MoU and will be automatically adjusted every year to take into account inflation in the Euro zone. **According to the unanimous decision of the 22nd GA meeting in Krakow on November 21, 2017, in 2018 the value of the ceiling is 11822 Euro and will be automatically adjusted every year to take into account inflation in the Euro zone.***

8. Governance issues

1. New membership (if any)

None.

2. Election of PAC Chair and vice-Chair

The GA members unanimously appointed Daniel Gellens (RMI) as the PAC Chair for a two year period and re-appointed Radmila Brozkova (CHMI) as the PAC vice-Chair for a two year period.

Daniel proposed Mohamed Mokthari (ONM) as PAC representative for non-LACE non-MF members. A substitute for non-LACE non-MF members (besides the representatives : Maria Monteiro and Mohamed Mokthari) should be proposed at the next PAC meeting. Martin informed the GA that Simona Tascu and Jure Celdinik wish to switch their position as LACE representative and substitute.

The GA approved these nominations and changes.

3. CSSI composition

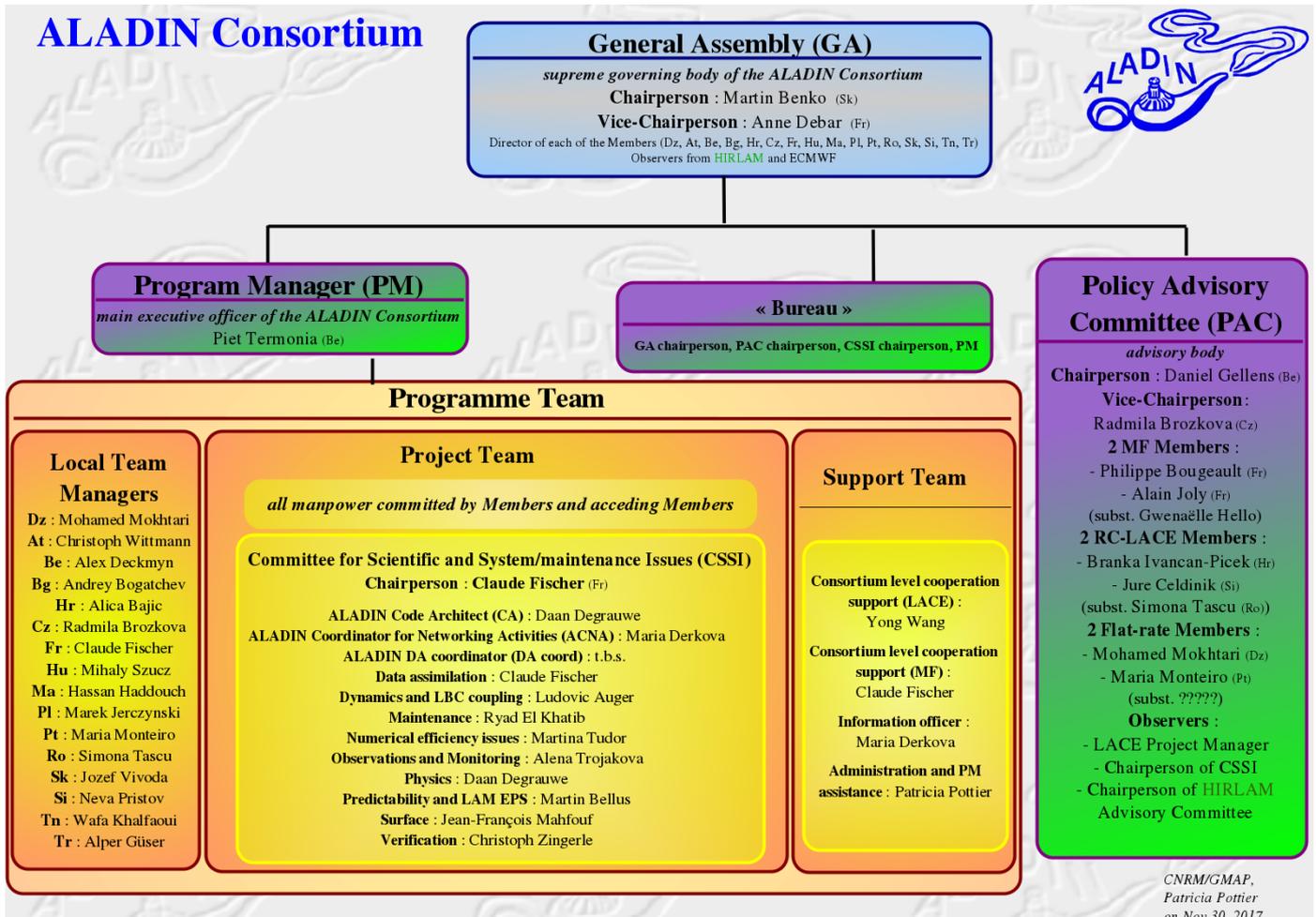
Piet proposed Ludovic Auger (MF) as the CSSI member for “Dynamics and LBC coupling” and Martin Bellus (SHMU, LACE Area Leader for predictability) as the CSSI member for “Predictability and LAM EPS”. Yong pointed that the nomination of LACE Area Leaders as CSSI members had been traditionally avoided so far. Claude answered that the scope of CSSI members work is slightly different from the AL functions, nevertheless this would probably not be an issue and Martin Bellus will be a welcome member of CSSI.

The GA approved the new composition of the CSSI.

4. LTM changes

For information of the GA, Martin announced that OMSZ has designated Mihaly Szucs as the new Hungary LTM and INM has designated Wafa Khalfoui as the new Tunisian LTM.

Taking into account the above changes, the new matrix of the ALADIN consortium is :



5. SEE-MHEWS

Milan Dacic presented the SEE-MHEWS project(*) and proposed the ALADIN Partners to cooperate on it, preferably as a consortium or as individual NMSs.

Martin reminded the article 6 of the ALADIN MoU5 that governs the co-operations at the consortium level and its rules (establishment of a specific agreement that details conditions, objectives, areas of cooperation, rights and obligations,). Alternatively, there is nothing in the MoU5 that prevents the Partners to participate to the project on behalf of their NMSs.

Martin proposed to distribute Milan's proposal within the consortium and to bring the matter before the PAC if some issues would appear at the consortium level.

9. Date and place of the next General Assembly

This point was discussed later during the 3rd joint ALADIN General Assembly and HIRLAM Council meeting. The next meetings will be held in Zagreb, back-to-back with the EUMETNET/ECOMET meeting, according to the following schedule :

- 19 November 2018 afternoon : ALADIN GA,
- 20 November 2018 morning : LACE and HIRLAM councils in parallel,
- 20 November 2018 afternoon : joint ALADIN-HIRLAM meeting,
- Joint dinner on 20 November evening.

10. A.O.B

Piet stressed the crucial work delivered by the ALADIN support team (Mariska, Patricia and Claude) and cordially thanked them for their help throughout the year and with the preparation of this GA meeting.

11. Closing

The GA chair thanked all the participants for the fruitful discussions and closed the meeting at 12:45.



Participants of the 22nd ALADIN General Assembly

Annex 1 : Participants

COUNTRY	NMS	Participants
ALGERIA	ONM	Bachir HAMADACHE Mohamed MOKHTARI
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong WANG
BELGIUM	RMI	Daniel GELLENS
BULGARIA	NIMH	
CROATIA	DHMZ	Nataša STRELEC MAHOVIĆ Branka IVANCAN-PICEK
CZECH REP	CHMI	Mark RIEDER Václav DVOŘÁK Radmila BROZKOVA
FRANCE	MF	Anne DEBAR Philippe BOUGEAULT Claude FISCHER
HUNGARY	HMS	Kornélia RADICS Mihaly SZUCS
MOROCCO	DMN	
POLAND	IMGW	Zbigniew USTRNUL Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	IPMA	
ROMANIA	NMA	Elena MATEESCU Simona TASCU
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	Martin BENKO
SLOVENIA	EARS	Jurij JERMAN Jure CEDILNIK
TUNISIA	INM	Hédi Agrebi JAOUEDI
TURKEY	TSMS	Tayfun DALKILIC
ALADIN / PM		Piet TERMONIA
ALADIN / ST		Patricia POTTIER
ALADIN/ACNA		Maria DERKOVA
ECMWF observer		Florence RABIER
HIRLAM observer		Jeanette ONVLEE
WMO observer		Milan DACIC