

ALADIN 24th General Assembly

16th December 2019
Istanbul, Turkey



Minutes

1 Opening and welcome

The GA Chair, M. Martin Benko, opened the meeting and greeted the participants (see Annex 1), specially those attending for the first time (M. Christoph Wittmann from ZAMG, M. Nuno Lopez from IPMA, M. Murat Altinyollar and Mrs. Yelis Cengiz from TSMS).

M. Volkan Mutlu Coşkun, Director General of Turkish State Meteorological Service welcomed the participants for this second ALADIN General Assembly (GA) meeting hosted by TSMS in Istanbul. M. Coşkun underlined the significant steps taken since this first GA 10 years ago and the excellent example of collaboration in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) given by ALADIN.

All ALADIN Partners were represented but Croatia (Mrs. Branka Ivancan-Picek and M. Antonio Stenesic could not join due to flight cancellation).

2 Adoption of the draft agenda

Mrs. Radmila Brozkova proposed to discuss the 4.1.e point (on the draft MoU) at the beginning of 4 item (Convergence). The GA agreed this proposal and **the agenda was unanimously adopted, with this reordering.**

3 Report from previous meetings (PAC and PAC-HAC)

In order to prepare for the convergence, the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the joint PAC-HAC (HIRLAM Advisory Committee) met twice in 2019, with spring meetings in Norrköping (17th PAC and the 8th joint PAC-HAC) and autumn meetings in Toulouse (18th PAC and the 8th joint PAC-HAC). The minutes (*) of these meetings are available on-line.

The Convergence Working Group (HAC and PAC chairs, PMs of ALADIN, HIRLAM and LACE, CSSI chair, Philippe Bougeault as MF representative, Patricia Pottier as scientific secretary) also met twice in 2019 and held numerous web-conferences. The documents produced by the CWG were scrutinized by HAC and PAC.

The PAC Chair (M. Daniel Gellens) proposed to report more precisely the CWG actions and on PAC recommendations on the convergence items when they would be discussed during this meeting (item 4). As a short summary, Daniel highlighted the following points:

- among the scenarios for the financial organization of the future single consortium, PAC and

(*) A copy of the presentations of the 24th GA, some preparatory documents and some photos are available on the ALADIN website : <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/aladin/spip.php?article339>.

- PAC-HAC are supporting scenario A;
- the draft MoU was scrutinized by PAC and PAC-HAC: it still contains questions marks and remarks, to be discussed and solved during these Istanbul meetings;
- the CWG has written to all Directors to signal some issues needing legal advice ahead of the Istanbul meeting;
- a lot of attention was paid to the roadmoap for the next months, included the procedure to hire the Program Manager and the Area Leaders.

Some points were discussed by the PAC as ALADIN alone points: the PAC had no concern about the realization of the 2019 Rolling Work Plan (RWP2019) and expressed full agreement on the next Rolling Work Plan (RWP2020); the 2019 ALADIN budget was not raising any comment and PAC recommended to approve the 2020 ALADIN budget, with a the flat-rate contribution at 12215 Euro per member, as proposed by the PM.

The GA took note about the report of the PAC chair.

4 Convergence

For this important point at the agenda, many documents had been prepared by the CWG and previously scrutinized by PAC.

1 From scope document to MoU

e. draft MoU

The ALADIN PM (M. Piet Termonia) took the floor and explained the process that led to the version of the draft MoU sent as preparatory document to this 24th GA. The GA reviewed this draft version, paying special attention to the changes proposed by the CWG after the comments received on the first draft version distributed before the summer.

The GA debated and agreed to propose to the Joint Assembly some modifications to the draft MoU aiming at:

- better referring to the ALADIN legacy in the preamble,
- better describing the purpose of the Consortium,
- better defining the concept of Common Codes and of Canonical System Configurations (CSC), and the PM role (to take care that the activities are performed in line with the Rolling Work Plan RWP),
- pointing that Each Member should insure that they own the IPR of the codes developed by their employees.

Following CHMI proposal, the GA proposed to change the GA quorum from two thirds to three quarters, to estimate the voting rights based on the effort during the last 10 years (instead of 5) with a starting point in 2018 when the joint ALADIN-HIRLAM manpower reporting begun, and to consider that decisions will require a majority of three quarters (instead two thirds) of the weighted votes.

The GA also removed the possibility for Members to have on a given management position, two staff totaling a 0.5 F.T.E. commitment.

The Austrian representative (M. Yong Wang) insisted on the necessity to be more ambitious on the convergence, with clear deadline and responsibility for the convergence towards a single system.

Considering that the variety of the options in the Common Codes is a richness that allows to explore

scientific issues and to find adapted solutions for each Partner, while also providing components for the Ensemble Prevision Systems, but taking into account the cost of maintaining this variety, the current 3 CSCs could be considered as an intermediate step. The Strategy Meeting will have to clarify what the system will look in the future and assess the needed manpower for this evolution.

A new version of the draft MoU was prepared on session and agreed on, to be proposed to the HIRLAM Council and discussed during the joint meeting with the HIRLAM Council the following day.

As the GA will have to vote for the final version of MoU of the future consortium at their next meeting in June 2020, Martin proposed a Tour de table where Members say if they would vote positively for a document based on this latter version of the MoU.

All Members expressed their satisfaction and congratulated the CWG. They supported this new version of the MoU, subject to further analysis of the missing annexes (specially annex II on Quality Assurance, for Czech Rep.) and of the Strategy Meeting conclusions (typically for Austria, on the goals of the future consortium and its aim for a real convergence).

Martin acknowledged this approval that gave an optimistic signal for a positive vote of the MoU in June.

- a. short and long term goals and organization of the future single consortium, inc. strategy meeting

Piet summarized(*) the mechanism proposed by the CWG to work out what we wish to achieve as a joint consortium, both on the short and the longer term : a Strategy Meeting will be held early February to agree on common key objectives. Seven task teams with experts of the different scientific areas are already working on the formulation of scientific and technical objectives for the joint consortium. After the meeting, and based on its outcomes, the CWG will draft a Strategy document and propose an organization of the management group, in particular the role and tasks of the Area Leaders.

The GA supported the CWG in this process.

- b. budget principles and scenarios for financial organization

Piet explained that the Members were invited to consider the three scenarios proposed by the CWG (these scenarios only differ by the number of compensated positions). Daniel reported that the PAC recommended the scenario A as it minimizes the membership fee and the number of compensated positions, and the compensation mechanism enters in conflict with financial rules prevailing by some ALADIN Members. Jeanette explained that the HAC favored the scenario C but, as they realized that this scenario C was a problem for some ALADIN Members, the HAC concluded that scenario A was acceptable.

The GA gave their support to the scenario A.

- c. quality assurance

This point was already discussed at 4.1.e.

- d. legal aspects (IPR, disputes)

IPR point was already discussed at 4.1.e. The main comments came from CHMI, who stressed that

these IPR rules had to apply to something well defined, and proposed that it would apply to the T-Codes (codes developed as part of the RWP and delivered by Members to the Toulouse repository). This was agreed by the GA. CHMI also asked that future decisions related to IPR of new codes produced by the consortium should be taken at $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of weighted votes. The GA agreed to convey these proposals to the Joint Assembly. CHMI also explained that in order to pursue the merge with HIRLAM, which means a change in the IPR rules, all current ALADIN Members have to agree.

For settlement for disputes, Philippe explained that the CWG received a proposal from Sweden to use the “mediation” option of the ICC procedure instead of the “arbitration” one in case that a dispute cannot be settled amicably. Météo-France had also analyzed this option and could agree to the proposal of Sweden.

Radmila explained that Czech Partner could not react on this proposal before having it analyzed by their lawyer.

e. draft MoU

This point was moved as the first point under 4.1.

f. Procedure for management positions selection

The GA agreed with the proposed procedure.

g. roadmap

The GA agreed with the roadmap for the new consortium.

2 Open source

For information, Philippe introduced the document exploring open source licensing for the ALADIN-HIRLAM common codes : he summarized the arguments in favor (legal obligation for some Members; increase of the visibility and the use by academy; benefit from the contributions of the licensees; it encourages the private sector to use our codes to make new products) and against (it generates additional costs to help the users; need to protect our IP with a risk of contestation of these IP, an increased risk of robbery of the IP; risk of aggressive competition by the private sector; the choice of a specific license should be agreed by ECMWF and can be complex).

Philippe concluded that not a single European NWP code is currently distributed under classical open source licenses.

Martin thanked Philippe for this summary and the very enlightening document.

3 Associated Member

Philippe reminded that the 4th joint GA-C had approved the proposal by Meteo-France to create a status of Associate Member in the future Consortium in order to distribute to non-European NMSs a simplified version of the common codes (only the forecast model, dynamical adaptation) and give them a perspective to become acceding Members, then Member.

The CWG was tasked to write a detailed proposal to describe this new status, its rights and obligations, and the procedure to accept an Associate Member. The PAC-HAC approved this document and Météo-France, as Member State of ECMWF, was mandated to formally propose it to ECMWF Council. The December 2019 ECMWF Council has just approved it.

Although Météo-France, at the incentive of WMO who aims at providing solutions for developing countries, is prepared to support Associate Members alone if necessary, Philippe invited all Members to declare their interest to participate in this new activity at their earliest convenience.

The GA approved to include in the next version of the draft MoU this new status of Associate Member.

1. Activity reports and plans

1. Tour d'ALADIN

Piet gave an extensive “tour d'ALADIN” (see the on-line^(*) presentation), **how things are evolving in the consortium, seen from the highlights sent by the LTMs**. Detailed information will be available in the ALADIN-HIRLAM Newsletter¹ n°14 (due in January 2020) where the LTMs will publish articles on these very highlights.

Martin congratulated all Members for the achievements on the local or regional developments and implementations that make the forecast more and more accurate and reliable.

2. Common activities, DA coordinator, Code Architect, ACNA

The CSSI chair (M. Claude Fischer) reported on the ALADIN common activities, including the work on the positions funded at the consortium level. See the document “[Synthesis Report ALADIN activities by PM, December 2019](#)” for details on the common activities, including CSSI, ACNA, Code Architect (Maria Derkova asked for getting more report on the work of the CA on the physics-dynamics interface, as this is directly listed in his ToR; Piet answered that the CA shall revitalize this work, also by the means of leading the Task Team for Physics to draft the document for the forthcoming Strategy meeting in Toulouse) and Data Assimilation coordinator.

Claude presented^(*) an overview of the evolution of the versions (cycles) of the Météo-France (MF), ECMWF and ALADIN-HIRLAM Partners shared codes. Some cycles are prepared jointly with ECMWF, others are prepared with the LAM Partners only. At each new cycle, about 10% of the “core” system is modified (representing thousands of touched files and hundred of thousands of modified lines in the code) and are technically validated. New tools to run tests, both for forecast and data assimilation parts, are begin developed. As the teams felt it necessary, a code training week on these new practices and the technical changes due to OOPS was organised in Toulouse in September, with lectures and practical exercises.

Claude also summarized^(*) the 2020 perspectives: new computer at Météo-France, next cycles with ECMWF and with partners; progress on the new testing tool and on working practices changes. Discussion with ECMWF about next steps of the IFS/ARPEGE code will continue, driven by the specific re-coding of IFS in preparation for porting to new architectures.

Martin acknowledged all the efforts and highlights that had been presented.

3. LACE

The LACE PM (Mrs. Martina Tudor) presented^(*) the status and main plans for the two main LACE common operations: OPLACE (common Observation Pre-processing for LACE) and ALADIN-LAEF (EPS), and the activities of the LACE Management Group.

Following the LACE Council held that morning, Martina announced that Poland will join the

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

LACE Consortium from 1st of January 2020.

The GA took note of this report without question.

4. Approval of Rolling Work Plan 2020

The draft RWP2020 was distributed as preparatory document for the GA and the GA-C, after PAC and PAC-HAC had recommended its approval. Daniel reported that PAC had appreciated this well structured RWP2020 and Piet added that the LTMs were part of the process to write it.

As the importance of the RWP was pointed during the discussion on the future MoU, M. Klemen Bergant (Slovenia) asked that, for the future, the PMs should be prepared to give a brief presentation of the RWP during the GA, stressing the points of attention, pointing possible concerns, ... That would ease the decision making of the GA on this very technical and detailed document.

The GA unanimously approved the RWP2020².

2. Budget issues and manpower

1. Manpower figures^(*)

A new manpower monitoring tool is used since the beginning of 2018 : it includes the HIRLAM Partners manpower and the reported actions referred to the Rolling Work Plan. The backward compatibility of this tool allows to produce the usual ALADIN statistics (accumulated since 1991). The accumulated manpower investment since 1991 is given in Annex I of MoU5 and is equivalent to 51.4 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) persons per year between 1991 and 2015 : it reaches 100 FTE per year in average during the last 4 years (MoU5 period). The distribution of the manpower among the 3 components of the ALADIN Consortium (LACE, MF, flat-rate Partners) evolved during the different MoUs periods but it can be roughly considered that each of them contributed to 1/3 of the accumulated manpower.

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 2019, all Partners contributed for 12k€, 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 12k€). 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 also in ALADIN with the ½ F.T.E. funded for the Code Architect and a 20% F.T.E. funded for the Data Assimilation Coordinator), and the contribution by MF to HIRLAM. The report about the ongoing execution of the 2019 budget indicated a very good execution of the planned actions.

The GA took note without comment.

² **The approved version could be [consulted on the ALADIN website](#)**

3. Adoption of the 2020 budget

Piet reminded that the ceiling of the 2020 contribution should be adjusted with the inflation in 2018 over the Euro zone³. As this inflation is equal to 1.8%, the flat-rate ceiling for 2020 is 12215 Euro. Daniel added that PAC had recommended to ask for a Member contribution in 2020 at the ceiling value.

The GA unanimously approved of the flat-rate contribution at 12215€ per country and of the budget proposed for 2020.

3. Governance issues

1. Election of PAC Chair and vice-Chair

The GA members unanimously re-appointed M. Daniel Gellens (RMI) as the PAC Chair and appointed M. Jure Celdinik (ARSO) as the PAC vice-Chair. These mandates are given for a two year period and might be shorten to one year with the foreseen termination of the ALADIN MoU-5 at the end of 2020.

2. PAC composition

Mrs. Radmila Brozkova (Cz) was designed as the new LACE representative, in replacement of M. Jure Celdinik (Si).

3. CSSI & ST composition

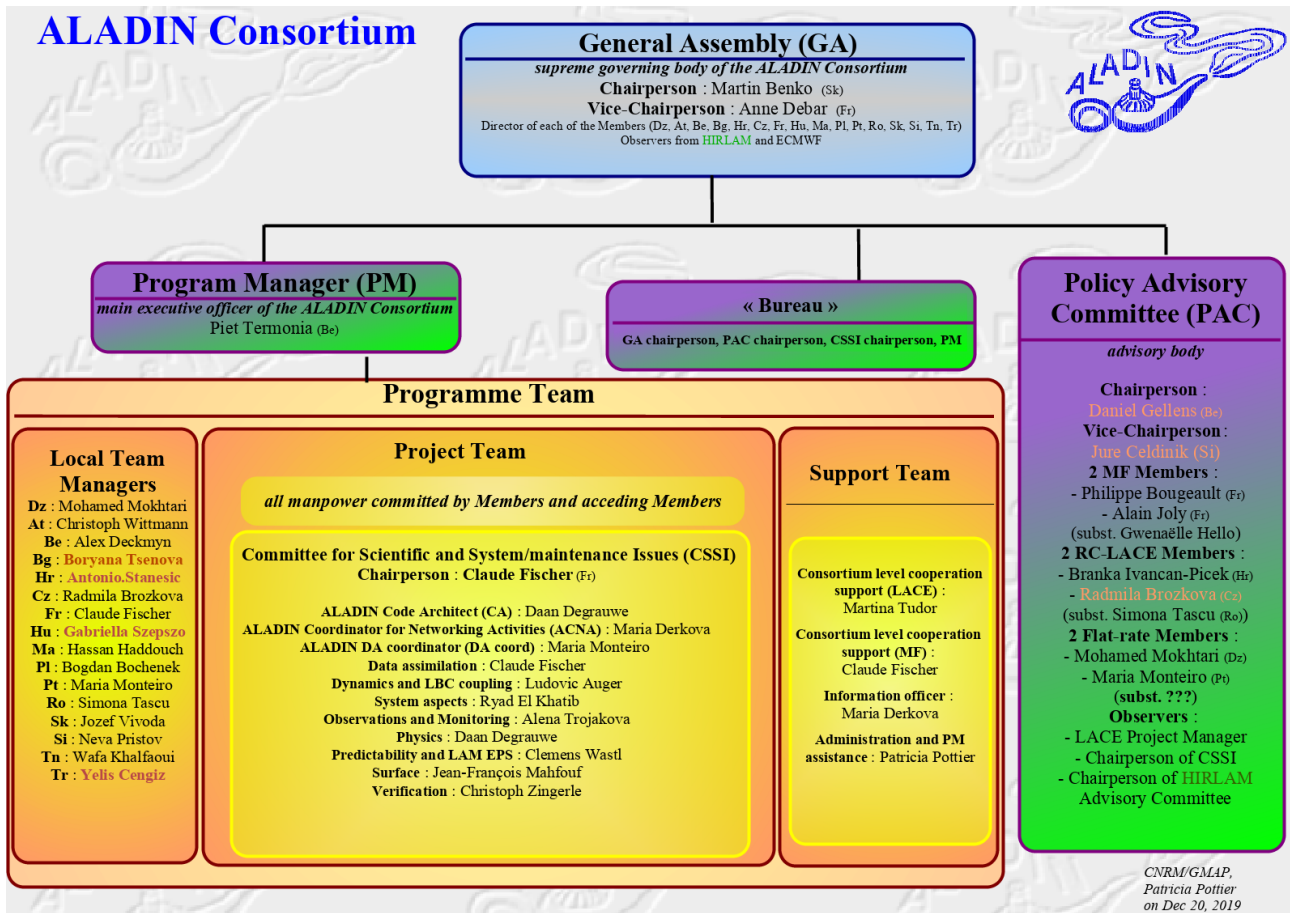
No change.

4. LTM changes

For information of the GA, Martin announced that NIMH has designed Mrs. Boryana Tsenova as the new Bulgarian LTM, DHMZ has designed Antonio Stanesic as the new Croatian LTM, OMSZ has designated Mrs. Gabriella Szepszo as the new Hungarian LTM and TSMS has designed Mrs. Yelis Cengis as the new Turkish LTM .

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

³ <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&language=fr&pcode=tec00118&tableSelection=1&footnotes=yes&labeling=labels&plugin=1>



4. Date and place of the next General Assembly

This point was discussed also during the 5th joint ALADIN General Assembly and HIRLAM Council meeting and it was agreed that the Assemblies will meet twice in 2020 :

- On 25-26 June in Madrid, after the ECMWF Council,
- On 26-27 November 2020 in France (Paris or Toulouse), after the EUMETNET/ECOMET Council.

For the meetings in Madrid, one day will be dedicated to ALADIN GA, half a day (in parallel) to the LACE and HIRLAM Councils and half a day to the joint ALADIN GA &HIRLAM Council meeting.

5. A.O.B

None.

6. Closing

The GA chair thanked all the participants for the fruitful discussions and closed the meeting at 18:40.

Participants of the 24th ALADIN General Assembly

Annex 1 : Participants

COUNTRY	NMS	Participants
ALGERIA	ONM	Bachir HAMADACHE Mohamed MOKHTARI
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong WANG, Christoph WITTMANN
BELGIUM	RMI	Daniel GELLENS
BULGARIA	NIMH	Andrey BOGATCHEV
CROATIA	DHMZ	
CZECH REP	CHMI	Libor CERNIKOVSKY, Radmila BROZKOVA
FRANCE	MF	Anne DEBAR, Philippe BOUGEAULT
HUNGARY	HMS	Kornélia RADICS, Mihaly SZUCS
MOROCCO	DMN	Omar CHAFKI, Hassan HADDOUCH
POLAND	IMGW	Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	IPMA	Nuno LOPEZ, Maria MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	NMA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Simona TASCU
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	Martin BENKO, Jozef VIVODA
SLOVENIA	EARS	Klemen BERGANT, Jure CEDILNIK
TUNISIA	INM	Hatem BACCOUR
TURKEY	TSMS	Volkan Mutlu COŞKUN, Tayfun DALKILIÇ, Murat ALTINYOLLAR, Ersin KÜÇÜKKARACA, Yelis CENGİZ
ALADIN / PM		Piet TERMONIA
ALADIN/ ACNA		Maria DERKOVA
ALADIN/ CSSI		Claude FISCHER
ALADIN / ST		Patricia POTTIER
HIRLAM observer		Jeanette ONVLEE
LACE / PM		Martina TUDOR