

Minutes of the 7th Assembly of the ALADIN Partners

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Opening of the Assembly

The 7th Assembly of the ALADIN Partners held in Bucharest, Romania on 28th of October 2002, 2002 was opened by M. Arinel Ioana OANA, General Director of National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology who welcomed the participants. Participants from 14 countries and the ECMWF observer attended the meeting ([Annex 1](#)). Tunisia apologized for the absence of its representative due to budget shortage.

Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda ([Annex 2](#)) was discussed and a new item was introduced under the AOB topic. It concerned the potential use of the ALADIN model in climate mode for scientific purposes, by the International Arctic Research Center (IARC) of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.

General and Technical overview of the ALADIN Project

J.-F. Geleyn and E. Legrand, from Meteo-France, made the general overview of the ALADIN project from Meteo-France. There were presented global manpower estimates also in connection with ALATNET project, the configurations of the operational ALADIN implementation together with the expected changes for 2003 and also problems related to the observation processing and telecommunications.

The total effort was stabilized around 600 persons*month per year but with a too high ALATNET contribution and to much dependency of EU funding.

The discussions around the presentations raised underlined the problems of using ODB due to the (lack of documentation). H. Bötger, the ECMWF representative, underlined the fact that ODB is internal software of ECMWF and pieces of it were offered to be used externally. The migration problems to other computing platform led to some delay in generating a stable ODB documentation. However the available ODB documentation is expected for the next spring. Another discussed problem concerned the use and of the CYCORA package, which should involve a more homogenous level of the model cycle and less homogenous namelists.. All the participants were interested about the connection between the AROME and ALADIN project.

Verification issues

After a short presentation (by D. Banciu for O. Diaconu) about the ALADIN verification procedure in Romania, Jure Jerman from Slovenia presented the main challenges in the verification field and the “Prototype for a common objective verification at synoptic scales” (following the proposal of the Budapest verification meeting, March, 2002).

The round table discussion, moderated by D.ijana Klaric (Croatia the LACE project leader) showed a large dispersion of the participants’ opinions. It was proposed to create a “forum” to document the extreme meteorological events. There was risen the question of the financial support and human efforts. Slovenia showed its availability to host the procedure and countries like Belgium, Croatia, theCzech Republic, France, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Romania were ready to contribute to its development and use. Both Directors of NMS of Hungary and Austria expressed the need of more details for making a decision.

It was suggested (I. Obrusnik and D. Klaric) to continue the prototype development and to present the results and a detailed documentation including the past and foreseen economical efforts to the next Assembly of Ppartners, which will decide on this matter.

I. Mersich announced the offer of a Hungarian scholarship for a research stay in Budapest for the year 2003.

Research Plan

“*The report on CSSI (Coordinators for Scientific and Strategic Issues) activities*” was given by D.ominique Giard (Meteo-France), following the list of duties assigned by the Directors. It was underlined that an efficient decentralized research cannot work without a minimum of means. A few recommendations for improving the efficiency of the researchactions were also expressed, being debated during the round–table discussions upon the means of research.

J.ean-F.rancois Geleyn made the introduction to the next topic, “**networking**”. He showed that within the EWGLAM meeting in De Bilt (October, 2002), the ALADINladin model was considered the best concerning the high-resolution details for the Central Europe floods in this summer. The ALATNETlatnet project was also positively appreciated appreciated at the mid-term review and Meteo –France took into consideration the possibility to use the ALADINladin non-hydrostatic dynamics inside the AROMErone project. The problems of interfacing with AROMErone, the need of some centralized efforts and financial support were underlined as well.

D.ominique Giard presented “*The progress in the Aladin research along the first 10 months of 2002*”, accordingly with the main domains of activities pointed out in the “3rd Medium-term ALADINladin Research Plan”: coupling, dynamics, physics, data assimilation and predictability.

J.-F. Geleyn pointed out the research problems linked to the AROME project.

The main problems raised during the “*round-table discussions on means of research*” were linked to the sub-critical size of some of the ALADINladin teams, the decentralization of research, training, maintenance, the level of participation to the meetings, the data exchange.

We need more training and communication! Speaking about training, J.ean-F.rancois Geleyn pointed out the existence of a psychological barrier of the researchers that could have a tuition activity at medium level. The necessity of more publications, documentations and waysmeans to motivate the people to publish **more** was also underlined.

The participation to meetings was improved during last year but it did not reach the desired level. D.ominique Giard proposed to the Partners to establish the participation of each country to at least the one ALADINladin workshop.

Visit to the Central Operation Facility of SIMIN (National Meteorological Integrated System of Romania)

The participants paid a visit to the new location of the National Weather Forecast Centre, recently inaugurated in October 2002.

Training issues

J.ure Jerman presented the “*ALADINladin training actions during the year 2002*”. There were mainly three types of training: a) advanced training along seminars (3rd ALATNET Seminar on Numerical Methods and NWP Applications, LACE training course on Physics, LACE Training course on Maintenance), b) basic and advanced training in Toulouse and Prague, c) basic local training.

Jean-Francois Geleyn, coordinator of the *ALATNET* project, presented figures from a *mid-term review*, showing that the targets for the second year of the project were achieved by with at least 80-85% in all its aspects (training, science, manpower, finances). The young researchers' activity was considered very satisfactory but the publication density and the ALATNET relevance have to be increased. The project was very well appreciated in Brussels ("impressive, well targeted and diversified, very high quality presentations, « corporate identity » well apparent, networking aspects well running and correctly oriented towards training of «stagiaires» as well as towards the scientific future of our branch ...")!

Jean-Francois Geleyn made the introduction to the topic "*Opportunities within the 6th PCRD*".

The EUMETNET/SRNW Short Range Numerical Weather Prediction Members (ALADIN, -LACE, COSMO, HIRLAM Consortia and NWS of the United Kingdom of Great Britain) submitted/presented, within the frame of Network of Excellence of the Sixth Framework Programme, the following proposal an Expression of Interest for a Network of Excellence: "*Improvement of Weather Forecasting and Risk Assessment in Europe by Very High Resolutions Simulations, Ensemble Forecasting and Modelling/Modeling System Developments*".

It seems that it is necessary to increase the interest and knowledge about meteorology in Brussels (feeling expressed by Dr. Obrusnik) and to encourage our association to bigger projects linked to the hydrological problems: rain forecast and downstream floods or risk management (of course, not overlapping the SRNWP proposal), oriented towards the regional aspects (i.e. floods over small basins). Jean-Francois Geleyn proposed, if appropriate within the new targets of the 6th FP to, to send a letter to all Partners in order to evaluate the interest for such topics and D. Giard underlined the problems of the coordination of such the big and diversified projects, which in the frame of the network of excellence could be done by a dedicated manager. She also mentioned the alternative possibility to concentrate (like now in ALATNET) on the training opportunities for NWP, but at an enlarged SRNWP-type level this time.

Report of the working group for cooperation between the ALADIN consortium and non-Member African NMSs

Jean-Francois Geleyn presented the report of the working group on the cooperation between the ALADIN consortium and non-Member African NMSs, underlying the efforts made by the concerned bodies: ACMAD, DMN-Morocco, Participants, participants to the Pretoria meeting and the WG itself. Related documents were available for the Participants to the Assembly: 1) the official report of the WG's meeting in Ston-Dubrovnik (Croatia) on 19/04/02; 2) the common document from ACMAD and DMN-Morocco (in French + courtesy translation of a draft version); 3) document produced after the Pretoria meeting on response to a WG's wish; 4) a synthesis by the rapporteur of the interactions between these two documents and of the opinions exchanged between the WG's Members following the Ston-Dubrovnik meeting.

The ALADINladin community felt proud of the African interest in its work and results and emphasized genuine interest of the Partners in the numerical weather prediction progress in Africa.

The recommendations of the working group were discussed and approved by the Partners. There were many discussions around the area limitation of the ALADIN implication in Africa. It was asked to enlarge the list of countries initially proposed by the WG (limited to the north by a specific border line encompassing, from West to East, the following countries: Guinea, Mali, Burkina-Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea) with Djibouti and Ethiopia that fall under the same geographical criteria. Morocco suggested that all the Arabic countries could be considered as “target countries” and Portugal asked the former Portuguese colonies to be considered as well. It was agreed that these last two demands, in contradiction with some of the guidelines of the WG, could in any case be treated via the standard mechanisms of the MoU and that the Partners interested in such co-operations should initiate an appropriate process as future potential “contact Members”.

The ALADINladin Partners agreed unanimously (5 votes for, 3 against contra and 6 abstentions) to offer to the National Meteorological Services of the North African countries proposed by the WG (situated in the northern part of the south boundary of Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti) the status of “non-paying Users”, pursuant to the present ALADINladin Memorandum of Understanding. The also agreed (5 votes for, 3 against and 6 abstentions) to enlarge the initial list with Ethiopia and Djibouti.

In particular, only the Members with a right to full-membership (A-zone of the MoU, i.e. in the African case, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt) should be able to play a role in the ACMAD strategy for sub-continental NWP roles, should the latter be based on ALADIN. In the short term, this obviously means that only Morocco and Tunisia could play a specific role in an agreement involving the use of ALADIN and made on the basis of the discussion of the Casablanca Assembly about the ACMAD letter.

It was decided that the common ACMAD-DMN document, presented within the Assembly, would be the basis of the minimum necessary modifications of the ALADINladin Memorandum of Understanding, which empowers the countries of the unchangeable list to reach this status, without endangering the principles ensuring the ALADINladin project success so far. The strategy will be to integrate the ALADIN – NORAF model in Casablanca and to disseminate the results to the above-mentioned countries.

The transmission of the unique expertise existing within the ALADINladin community, upon the link between shared development of tools and their efficiency, should be the main axes of collaboration with the SAPREM project of ACMAD, leading to the foreseen official ALADIN-ACMAD agreement.

The Assembly decided the setting up of a “rotating foreign bureau” hosted by the last organizer of the Assembly of Partners, starting with Romania. This committee will monitor, among other tasks, the MoU modifications required by the Cooperation of the ALADINladin Consortium with ACMAD.

Assessment of the 2002 commitments and presentation of the 2003 commitments (including maintenance efforts)

(round-table)

As for the year 2001, in 2002 the ALADIN total effort was stabilized around 600 persons*.month as it was presented in the technical overview of the project. The new commitments for 2003 are the following:

Austria	30 persons*/month
Belgium	stationary
Bulgaria	a stationary
Croatia	stationary
Czech Republic	60 persons*/month
France	122 persons*/month
Hungary	48 persons*/month
Moldavia	1 person*/year
Morocco	84 persons*/month
Poland	37 persons*/month
Portugal	27 persons*/month
Romania	47 24 persons*/month

Slovakia: 56 persons*month

Slovenia 24 persons*month

Tunisia:

Any other business

The Assembly took into consideration the demand of the International Arctic Research Center (IARC) of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA expressed in the letter of Mr. Syun Akasofu, Director of the Center, for the potential use of the ALADIN model for research purposes, with a particular scientific interest.

The discussions reached the conclusion that the only way in which IARC could use the ALADIN model is that USA should become an associate member, which was judged very unpractical. Hence it was judged preferable and to slightly modify the MoU in order to allow some this non-standard use of the ALADIN model and to leave such cases to individual and unanimous decisions of the Assembly. In the present case such unanimity was reached and steps with the IARC can thus start.

The Assembly exceptionally approved the use of the ALADIN model only for climate simulations for research purposes at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and not for being used in any real time forecasting purpose, under the non-dissemination, non-disclosure restrictions. The Assembly established an additional condition, requiring information feedback towards the ALADIN community, in terms of reports to the ALADIN workshops and to the Assembly of the ALADIN Partners, concerning the results of using the ALADIN model.

Regarding the common part of the ARPEGE/IFS code, the European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), by his representative Dr. Horst Böttger, agreed, in principle, with this demand, of course under the restrictions mentioned above.

The ALADIN Memorandum of Understanding will be slightly amended for authorizing this unanimous and exceptional procedure.

Location of the 2003 ALADIN workshop (proposals expected from Members)

After the failure in finding any candidacy for the organization of the 2003 ALADIN Workshop, it was decided to compile a table of the past ALADIN (or related to ALADIN) important organizational activities in each country. This table was prepared by J.-F. Geleyn, after the Assembly.

Date of the 2003 and location of the 2004 Assembly of Partners

Poland reconfirmed its invitation for the next Assembly of the ALADIN Partners to be held in Krakow at the end of October 2003. The period 27 –31 was proposed, the date is to be harmonized with the other meetings calendar.

Croatia kindly presented its offer to host the Assembly of the ALADIN Partners in 2004.

Closure

Closing the assembly, M. Ioana thanked the participants for attending it and for their contribution to a successful meeting.

ANNEX 1

List of Participants

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ANNEX 2

Draft Agenda of the

7th Assembly of ALADIN Partners

Bucharest, 28th of October 2002 (starting at 09:00)

- 1. Opening** (M. Ioana)
- 2. Adoption of the agenda** (V. Ivanovici)
- 3. General and Technical overview of the ALADIN Project**(J.-F. Geleyn and E. Legrand)
- 4. Verification issues**
 - **ALADIN verification procedure in Romania** (D. Banciu)
 - **Presentation of the prototype for common objective verification at synoptic scales**
(J. Jerman)
 - **Long term issues** (round-table discussion, moderator D. Klaric)

Coffee break (about 10:30)

5. Research Plan

- **CSSI's activities** (D.Giard)
- **networking** (J.-F. Geleyn)
- **progress in the research plan** (D. Giard)
- **means for research** (round-table discussion, moderator D. Banciu)

6. Visit to the Central Operation Facility of SIMIN (National Meteorological Integrated System of Romania)

Lunch break (about 12:30)

7. Training issues

- **Actions along 2002** (J. Jerman)
- **ALATNET mid-term review** (J.-F. Geleyn)
- **Opportunities within the 6th PCRD** (J.-F. Geleyn)

8. Report of the working group for cooperation between the ALADIN consortium and non-Member African NMSs (J.-F. Geleyn)

Coffee break (about 15:00)

9. Assessment of the 2002 commitments and presentation of the 2003 commitments (including maintenance efforts) (round-table)

10. AOB (M. Ioana)

11. Location of the 2003 ALADIN workshop (proposals expected from Members)

12. Date of the 2003 and location of the 2004 Assembly of Partners

13. Closure (M. Ioana)