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FOREWORD BY ALADIN PROGRAM MANAGER

Predgovor voditelja programa ALADIN

It is a real pleasure to witness the twentieth anniversary of NWP in the Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia (DHMZ).

The NWP activities of DMHZ started in April 1995, when DHMZ joined the ALADIN consortium. Their participation was formalized in November 1996, in Paris, during the 1st Assembly of ALADIN Partners, by the Directors of the ALADIN partner NMSs who signed the first ALADIN Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In that same year the LACE (Limited Area modelling in Central Europe) project was started by the National Meteorological Services of Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia. This project intensified the NWP activities in Central Europe by creating an operational ALADIN/LACE system to provide a daily dissemination of NWP products to the LACE member institutes. The first ALADIN/LACE operations were run in Météo France, Toulouse, but were then transferred to Prague in June, 1998. Later, the acquired expertise by LACE formed the basis for the national operational applications in the participating Services, allowing Croatia to run its own ALADIN NWP system since 2000.

The Croatian ALADIN team has been a very active and enthusiastic contributor to the ALADIN consortium, both by their technical competences and by their dedication to the common research and development program. Croatia has actively contributed to the research activities in the ALADIN consortium, even with key developments such as, for instance, Martina Tudor's co-authorship of the paper on the so-called flux-conservative physics-dynamics interfaces. This is a scientific formulation of the model computations that currently forms the basis for the main model configurations of our commonly shared code.

But science is there to serve our missions as meteorological services. DHMZ is now finalizing an EU funded project, called WILL4WIND, to better address end user needs of wind energy applications. It is an example of activities that are driven by a national demand, relying on the scientific expertise of an international collaboration. Excellent scientific work has been delivered in this project. Such projects are the cornerstones of our activities and their results are not only important for DHMZ, but are important for all the other ALADIN partners.

Cooperation need to be based on a certain degree of wisdom. The progress within the ALADIN consortium has frequently benefited by many valuable inputs from our Croatian colleagues in several circumstances when decisions were needed, during many meetings, ranging from the technical LTM meetings, the Policy Advisory Committee and the ALADIN General Assembly. I enjoyed very much working together with Dijana Klarić when she was the LACE Program Manager. She understood in a unique way what it means to enter into the world of NWP as a small service and she knows how important it is to capitalize on an international collaboration to both strengthen the activities of the national service and the international partners and has put that into practice with a strong drive.

It has always been a pleasure to exchange expertise and knowledge with our Croatian colleagues during the many stays and workshops we organized. I have the most pleasant memories of the meetings organized by DHMZ themselves. The ALADIN workshop in Medulin 2002, the SNWRP meeting in Dubrovnik in 2007 particularly come to my mind. I retain the best memories of the BRAC-HR strategy meeting in 2010 on the beautiful Island of Brač. This meeting was pivotal in the scientific planning of the consortium and its outcomes are, as of today, still steering our ideas on how to proceed with the developments of the future dynamical core.

DHMZ has been able to convert their membership of the ALADIN consortium into a national strength and helps the consortium to demonstrate its value. I am confident of a good future for the Croatian NWP team and I congratulate them with their twentieth anniversary.

Piet Termonia
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