



1st Assembly of ACCORD Partners

8 March 2021 09:00-12:00

video-conference

Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

Marianne (Chair) opened the 1st ACCORD Assembly meeting and welcomed the delegations (see [Appendix I](#)) and the ECMWF observer.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The [agenda](#) was unanimously adopted.

3. Nomination of the Management Group (MG)

Claude recalled [the selection process](#). The selection panel consisted of the PM, the 3 CSC Leaders, the chairs of STAC and PAC. They had a preparatory meeting on the 20th of January, where they were assisted by an external adviser (Jens Alfs, head of Human Resources at ECMWF). The selection panel interviewed all the 11 candidates who applied on the calls issued [on 10 November 2020](#) and [29 January 2021](#) and proposed relevant good candidates for 7 Area Leaders positions (all AL positions but physics, as nobody applied for) and the Coordinator for Networking Activities.

Taking into account the conclusions of the selection panel, the Meteo-France proposal for the positions of Integration Leader and Consortium Scientific Secretary and the IPMA proposal for the DAsKIT Coordinator, the PM invited the Assembly to approve the proposed names in the management and coordination structure, for official nomination:

- Integration Leader: A. Mary
- Area Leaders: P. Termonia & D. Degrauwe (Transversal Issues), L. Auger (Dynamics), R. Randriamampianina (Data Assimilation), P. Samuelsson (Surface), H. Feddersen (EPS), C. Fortelius (Meteorological Quality Assurance), D. Santos (System)
- Coordinator for Networking Activities: M. Derkova
- Consortium Scientific Secretary: P. Pottier
- DasKIT Coordinator: M. Monteiro

As proposed by the MoU in order to attract senior scientists who might not be able to dedicate half of their time to the AL position, a couple of persons from the same Partner Institute (RMI) will share the Transversal Issues AL position: Piet will take responsibility of the management tasks of the relevant Work Packages and will be the contact point (0.1 F.T.E.) while most of the scientific and technical coordination will be done by Daan (0.4 F.T.E.).

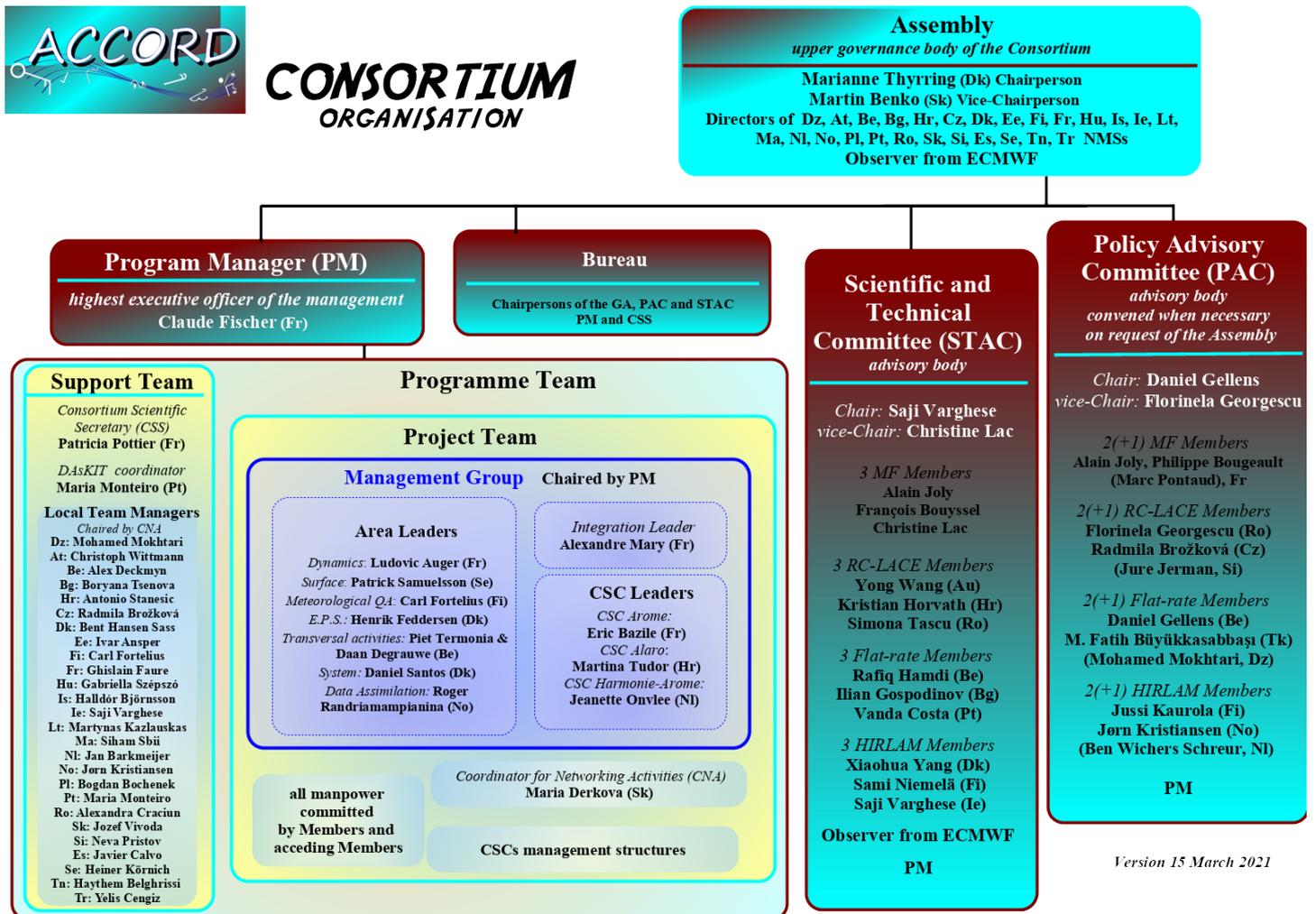
Yong commented that the former ALADIN non-MF Partners, especially LACE, are under represented in the MG. Without questioning the quality of the selected AL, Yong was concerned about how the needs of the ALADIN non-MF Partners will be taken into account in the conduction of the Research Plans and the future vision of the strategy.

Marianne added that she would have expected a wider spread of candidates (there was no candidates from LACE Members on the AL positions). Nevertheless, the selection panel has

considered the proposed ALs relevant for the job and they are expected to only represent and work for ACCORD: they should develop ACCORD in the interest of all Members.

Claude explained that he had been fairly pro-active and tried to trigger some LACE applications, especially for MQA and physics AL positions. Several reasons explain the situation, like the impossibility for the NMS to provide the support, the lack of experience in management/leading teams, the lack of self-confidence and strong personal constraints.

The Assembly approved the proposal by PM for the management and coordination structure.
The organisational chart of ACCORD is now completed (besides from the physics AL position).



Claude developed his proposal for the physics area:

- The position of the Physics AL will be closed until end of 2022 and may be reopened in 2023, with updated ToRs, upon proposal by the PM.
- For 2021-2022, a WG (PM, 3 CSC Leaders, P. Termonia, D. Degrauwe, S. Malardel) will study the main issues of interoperability in the physics codes and propose a roadmap for addressing them. It is assumed that none of the members of the WG will be able to commit more than 5-10% maximum of their working time to the WG. The WG will take its decisions in a consensual manner. The CSC Leaders will ensure coordination and feedback with their CSC teams. The WG may invite experts to its meetings if required.
- The PM will report the progress of the WG to STAC, PAC (if required) and the Assembly.

The Assembly supported this proposal and gave mandate to the PM for continuing with the WG.

Marianne encouraged the Assembly to help find relevant candidates for the physics AL position in the next 2 years.

Marianne tasked Claude to thank and congratulate all AL for their new position. She wished the MG a good start and assured the MG of the Assembly support.

4. Final versions of MoU Annexes VII & VIII

According to the ACCORD MoU as signed in November 2020, the Annex VIII “*ALADIN and HIRLAM legacy codes and repartition of their IP*” contains provisional data for the scale of IP for ALADIN Legacy codes based on the ALADIN manpower registered at the end of June 2020. The definitive figures from March 1991 until December 2020 should be proposed for approval at the first Assembly following the signature of the MoU.

According to the ACCORD MoU as signed in November 2020, the Annex VII “*Manpower provided by Members since the creation of the Common Manpower Register*” contains provisional data based on the Common Manpower Register at the end of June 2020. The definitive figures from January 2018 until December 2020 should be proposed for approval at the first Assembly following the signature of the MoU.

The Assembly approved [the proposed figures](#) for the final versions of the tables 1 and 2 (see the tables in [Appendix II](#), with updated figures underlined in yellow).

5. Information on DestinE

[Andrew presented the Destination Earth initiative](#) (DestinE) and explained its main aim and goals. The purpose of DestinE is to create digital twins of the Earth that will make it possible to interactively explore various natural processes and the impact of human activities. The aim is to support the EU’s green transition by providing a new Earth system simulation and observation capability. DestinE will use artificial intelligence and draw on advances made in NWP. A partnership is built (still to be approved by their Councils) between ESA (responsible for the core service platform), EUMETSAT (responsible for the data lake) and ECMWF (responsible for the digital twins). During the phase I (mid 2021- end 2023), 2 digital twins (DT) should be developed: an extreme phenomena DT (1km at global scale, downscaled using hectometric LAM, with on-demand -user or event driven- productions) and a climate change DT. At the next Member States Workshop (the 16th of March), more details will be given on the procurements.

The whole program is organized in three phases. Phase 1, which will aim for building proof-of-concept systems using the first versions of the DT, will be followed by phase 2 (2023-2025: extending and porting the DT to next generation exascale HPC platforms, with some early services for the public sector users) and phase 3 (2025-2027+: fully integrated systems).

Andy explained that DestinE is a real opportunity to face challenges together (getting ready for future HPC, run at hectometric scales, use of machine learning, data simulation, visualisation, ...). The spirit is to complement rather than to compete between ECMWF and the NMSs.

Marianne thanked Andy for his very clear presentation on this high ambition of the Commission.

Sarah mentioned that UWC has begun exploring DestinE at a working group level and is beginning the development of a concept in the LAM area. UWC would very much like to expand this discussion with their colleagues across ACCORD with a view to developing a collaboration in the

context of DestinE. If other interested members would like to get in touch, UWC would like to set up some preliminary meetings in the coming weeks. UWC thinks the operational implementation focus of UWC coupled with the LAM research expertise in ACCORD is strongly relevant to the aims of DestinE and it should be very possible to design a project to meet the strategic goals of ACCORD, UWC and DestinE.

Jørn added that ACCORD should answer the calls together, not as single opportunities by Members. Roar pointed out that we need to discuss how DestinE can become useful to us, ACCORD members.

Anne pointed the need to assess how the first digital twin (extreme phenomena) could articulate with the official duties of the NMSs and their relationship with their national public authorities.

The Assembly concluded that DestinE could be a huge opportunity to strategically position ACCORD in the accelerated changes that may arise from it. ACCORD should make it an opportunity and find a balance with the public role of the ACCORD NMSs. Guidance is expected from PAC and STAC (see items 6 and 7).

6. Proposal for a PAC meeting in spring

Marianne [explained](#) that during its meeting on the 2nd of March, the Bureau considered that DestinE was an important new element in the strategic landscape of ACCORD. The Assembly agreed.

The Assembly tasked Claude (PM) and Saji (STAC chair) to attend the Destination Earth initiative Member States Workshop on the 16th of March 2021. Andrew will pass this information to Peter Bauer.

The Assembly decided to convene a PAC meeting in order to discuss the DestinE programme and tasked the PAC to address the following questions:

- **What are the potential benefits of DestinE for ACCORD ? What could be the risks or drawbacks ?**
- **What is the potential impact of DestinE on the ACCORD strategy ?**
- **What are the consequences of DestinE on the ACCORD work plans ?**
- **How can ACCORD contribute ? How can DestinE become relevant for Accord ?**

The Assembly agreed to invite Peter Bauer to attend the first part of the next PAC meeting and provide the PAC Members with updated information on DestinE. Then, the PAC meeting will go on with an in-camera session dealing with the above questions. As the procurements/calls will be launched by ECMWF very quickly after DestinE is approved by the ECMWF Council (June 2021), the ACCORD positioning with respect to DestinE should be discussed quickly in order to prepare for possible answers to the calls during the summer. Taking into account this tight schedule, **the PAC meeting should be held preferably before the end of March.** Then, the STAC will be involved (see item 7).

7. Dates of 2021 Consortium events, including next Assemblies

For information by the Assembly, Claude presented [a list of recent ACCORD meetings, along with the main planned scientific and management meetings](#) (see the details in [Appendix III](#)).

The Assembly decided on a PAC meeting at the end of March (item 6). Depending on the PAC recommendations, **the STAC should meet and work on technical guidelines about a LAM configuration for the phase I of DestinE**, if possible before mid-April.

The PAC and STAC chairs will report to the Assembly and **a meeting of the Assembly should be planned at the end of June** after the ECMWF and EUMETSAT Councils.

Marianne asked Patricia and Claude to sort it out dates for the next Assembly, the PAC and STAC meetings.

Dates should also be booked for the STAC meeting in the autumn, the Assembly at the end of the year, and conservatively also for a PAC meeting possibly in autumn.

These meetings will be organised as video-conferences.

8. Proposal for ACCORD logo and website

Patricia [introduced the ACCORD draft logo](#) and the website: <http://www.umn-cnrm.fr/accord/>.

The draft logo is based on the meaning "chord" (accord or close word mean "chord" in many of the languages used in the 26 ACCORD countries). The 5 lines of the musical staff have been converted into waves. Following the proposal by LTMs during the LTM kick-off meeting, the clef and the notes have been replaced by some SYNOP weather symbols. The O was replaced by the SYNOP symbol "calm wind". Altogether, the logo pictures ACCORD navigating in calm winds and riding the waves ... a way to wish "Fair winds and following seas" to ACCORD.

The Assembly decided to go on with this draft logo for the time being while opening a call for suggestions on how to simplify it and make it more understandable (the draft logo was found too complicated by Radmila and Jesus). **Then, a choice among the proposals will be made by the Assembly Members and this choice may be passed to a professional design company for finalisation.**

There were no comments about the website besides the proposal to take away the reference to the ALADIN, LACE and HIRLAM consortia in the header. Patricia proposed to replace it by the acronym of ACCORD.

9. A.O.B

Andy announced that ECMWF will advertise for DestinE positions in the coming week, before the formal approval by the ECMWF Council.

Roar advertised a position opened in Met.no after consultation by Jørn with Nils Wedi and Claude, for an analyst to work on transforming the codes towards portable solutions for the next generation of NWP. Once staffed, this position will help increase the resources on the ACCORD strategic topic of Transversal Issues.

10. Closing

Marianne thanked all delegations for participating, their openness during the discussions that helped find good solutions. Marianne closed the meeting at 11:40.

Appendix I: Participants

Member	Delegation
ALGERIA	Abed Salah SAHABI
AUSTRIA	Yong WANG, Christoph WITTMANN
BELGIUM	Piet TERMONIA
BULGARIA	Ilian GOSPODINOV, Boryana TSENOVA
CROATIA	Branka IVANČAN-PICEK
CZECH REP	Radmila BROZKOVA
DENMARK	Marianne THYRRING (Chair), Rune Carbuhn ANDERSEN
ESTONIA	Taimar ALA, Kai ROSIN
FINLAND	Jussi KAUROLA, Sami NIEMELA
FRANCE	Anne DEBAR, Philippe BOUGEAULT, Marc PONTAUD, Alain JOLY
HUNGARY	Kornélia RADICS, Mihály SZŰCS
ICELAND	Árni SNORRASON
IRELAND	Eoin MORAN, Sarah O'REILLY, Saji VARGHESE
LITHUANIA	Kęstutis ŠETKUS, Donatas VALIUKAS
MOROCCO	
NETHERLANDS	Werenfried SPIT
NORWAY	Roar SKÅLIN, Jørn KRISTIANSEN
POLAND	Jacek TRZOSOWSKI, Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	Nuno LOPES, Maria MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Alexandra CRACIUN
SLOVAKIA	Martin BENKO, Maria DERKOVA, Jozef VIVODA
SLOVENIA	Jurij JERMAN
SPAIN	Jesus MONTERO GARRIDO
SWEDEN	Bodil AARHUS ANDRÆ, Stefan NILSSON, Håkan WIRTÉN
TUNISIA	Hatem BACCOUR
TURKEY	Tayfun DALKILIÇ, Ersin KUCUKKARACA, Duygu USTUNER, Yelis CENGİZ
ACCORD PM	Claude FISCHER
ECMWF Obs.	Andrew BROWN
HIRLAM PM (obs.)	Jeanette ONVLEE
LACE PM (obs.)	Martina TUDOR
ACCORD CSS	Patricia POTTIER

Appendix II: Update of ACCORD MoU, pages 96 and 100

Annex VIII: ALADIN and HIRLAM legacy codes and repartition of their IP

1) ALADIN legacy codes

Scale of IP for ALADIN Legacy codes:

Partners	Accumulated manpower since 1991 until 31/12/2020	
	Person.Month	Breakdown
ALGERIA	514.53	2.46%
AUSTRIA	1104.03	5.28%
BELGIUM	1472.03	7.03%
BULGARIA	440.04	2.10%
CROATIA	905.53	4.33%
CZECH REPUBLIC	1764.53	8.43%
FRANCE	8025.53	38.35%
HUNGARY	1269.78	6.07%
MOROCCO	831.53	3.97%
POLAND	662.03	3.16%
PORTUGAL	549.28	2.62%
ROMANIA	813.53	3.89%
SLOVAKIA	974.03	4.65%
SLOVENIA	859.53	4.11%
TUNISIA	476.78	2.28%
TURKEY	266.79	1.27%
TOTAL	20929.50	100.00%

Table 1: Updated data at the end of 2020 for Annex VIII, MoU, page 100

Annex VII: Manpower provided by Members since the creation of the Common Manpower Register

(Manpower reported on the Work Packages of the common Rolling Work Plans only)

Partners	Accumulated manpower 1/1/2018 and 31/12/2020	
	Person.Month	Breakdown
ALGERIA	67.58	1.55%
AUSTRIA	161.83	3.72%
BELGIUM	127.08	2.92%
BULGARIA	53.33	1.23%
CROATIA	107.33	2.47%
CZECH REPUBLIC	228.58	5.26%
DENMARK	112.50	2.59%
ESTONIA	5.82	0.13%
FINLAND	127.00	2.92%
FRANCE	1736.83	39.94%
HUNGARY	120.58	2.77%
ICELAND	18.57	0.43%
IRELAND	107.50	2.47%
LITHUANIA	2.58	0.06%
MOROCCO	64.08	1.47%
NETHERLANDS	144.75	3.33%
NORWAY	202.75	4.66%
POLAND	48.83	1.12%
PORTUGAL	52.83	1.22%
ROMANIA	70.58	1.62%
SLOVAKIA	196.08	4.51%
SLOVENIA	112.08	2.58%
SPAIN	189.00	4.35%
SWEDEN	169.50	3.90%
TUNISIA	57.58	1.32%
TURKEY	63.58	1.46%
TOTAL	4348.75	100.00%

Table 2: Updated data at the end of 2020 for Annex VII, MoU, page 96

Appendix III: 2021 ACCORD events

Past events:

- 14 January 2021: Kick-off LTM meeting (minutes available)
- 20 January, 12-19 February: interviews and meeting of the selection panel for the Area Leaders and CNA positions (report in 3.MG_nomination document)
- 2 March 2021: ACCORD Bureau meeting
- 8 March 2021: 1st ACCORD Assembly

Planned events:

- before end of March: **1st ACCORD PAC meeting**
- March - beginning of April 2021 (exact dates t.b.d.): 2 **Management Group meetings** (kick-off, organizational matters, DAP2021, preparation of the All Staff Workshop, early views about how to organize the work plans and updates to the RWP etc.)
- April: **1st STAC meeting** (date t.b.d.)
- 12-16 April 2021: **All Staff Workshop** fully virtual conference over 5 full days, including the **1st LTM meeting** (date t.b.d.)
- week 19-23 April 2021, date t.b.d.: **Management Group meeting** (final assessment RWP2020, follow-up RWP2021, kick-off RWP2022) March - beginning of April 2021: 2 Management Group meetings
- **Virtual 2nd Assembly meeting** in late June
- **regular MG meetings**, partly t.b.d. according to needs, among which:
 - end of June: MG : first checking of RWP2022 redaction before distribution to LTM
 - end of August; MG: RWP 2022 ready, check before asking the LTM to commit
- 27-30 September 2021: EWGLAM meeting, planned in Brussels, including the **2nd LTM meeting** (date t.b.d. in agreement with the SRNWP PM) and an **MG meeting**, possibly on Friday 1st of October if EWGLAM is in-situ meeting
- **PAC in autumn** (if confirmed by the 2nd Assembly meeting)
- **STAC in the autumn** to review RWP-2021 status and advice on RWP-2022
- **Bureau meeting**
- End of the year **Assembly**: reporting, preparation for 2022