

Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

Marianne (Chair) opened the 2nd ACCORD Assembly meeting and welcomed the delegations (see Appendix I) and the ECMWF observer, Andy Brown.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

Marianne suggested to present the outcome of the selection process for the new logo at the beginning of the Assembly meeting, and then let the Members vote for the final choice during the meeting until item 5 is reached. This proposal was accepted.

The agenda was otherwise adopted.

3. PM progress report

Claude briefly presented the set up of the consortium since the last Assembly meeting early March:

- Working environment settled ([mailing lists](#), [website](#), domain name) and provisional solution for wiki; pending decision on logo (see item 5)
- Working practices agreed with MG: <http://www.accord-nwp.org/?MG-meetings>
- MG: video-meetings organized by AL with their teams, on-going redaction of RWP2022
- LTM: 3 meetings: <http://www.accord-nwp.org/?LTM-meetings>
- Detailed Action Plan 2021: discussed with MG and LTM, costed by CSS and soon to be distributed (with only 25 members as AEMET has not signed the ACCORD MoU yet).
- Financial agreements are on-going, 6 OK / MF-KNMI ready / MF-TSMS in administration loop / MF-ZAMG expected to be signed by ZAMG very soon.
- Common Manpower Register: new tool developed according to the ACCORD MoU rules and already used by the LTMs. The MG will follow the registering and the realization of the RWP2021.
- All Staff Workshop: for the second time, the ASW was organised as full video-conference with 250 participants over the week (150-180 participants per session), about 100 documents produced and uploaded, all talks recorded (31 hours); a specific closing session dedicated to the introductory talks by the new ACCORD Area Leaders
- Organization of the 1st PAC ([minutes](#)) and the 1st STAC meeting ([minutes](#)).
- Work done in preparation for DestinE (see the item 4 on the agenda)

Many Members expressed their appreciation for the impressive work done by the PM, the MG and the LTM and their efficiency for setting up the whole organisation.

4. DestinE Initiative and ACCORD

The preparatory document listed the 4 main questions asked by the Assembly in its meeting on 8 March:

- 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 8 March Assembly convened PAC, which met on 31 March, followed by STAC on 4 May. The preparatory document summarized the recommendations and major outcomes from the two Committees:

- PAC considered that preparing an offer to the forthcoming Call for Application for the on-demand Limited Area Model capability in DestinE is of strategic importance to ACCORD.
- PAC advised to form a partnership of volunteering Members and prepare a bid under the responsibility of one Member.
- PAC recommended that the ACCORD PM organize the next steps of the preparation for the bid and a WG prepared an outline note as input to STAC.
- STAC found significant benefits for ACCORD from the DestinE project and recommended that the ACCORD members should consider participating in the project.
- STAC recommended that the benefits of the DestinE project should be shared among the ACCORD members irrespective of their participation in the project.
- In order to enhance the uptake of benefits arising from DestinE and to mitigate related risks, STAC recommended that the *DE bidding partnership* considers forming a *Project Advisory Board*, involving ACCORD consortium representatives.
- STAC proposed that a Drafting Team (STAC-WG) be formed to prepare an augmented content note on DestinE-LAM (this note had been distributed in the preparatory document for item 4).

The STAC-WG augmented note was appended to the preparatory documents for this Assembly meeting.

Marianne proposed the Assembly Members to first express their views on the relevance for ACCORD Members to engage in DestinE (DE) and confirm the positive recommendations by PAC and STAC. She also proposed the Assembly to discuss how to set up an organization for preparing the *bidding partnership* with the involvement of ACCORD Members. Daniel underlined the huge work carried by all the persons implicated since the last Assembly meeting. Saji pointed the very tight calendar (3-4 very intense weeks for the STAC-WG to prepare the augmented note).

Based on the augmented note, Claude exchanged with the ACCORD MG and a specific meeting with the LTMs took place. The main comments from LTMs were on:

- who will lead the DestinE-LAM consortium ?
- the need for more information exchange with all partners (transparency)
- the eligibility & membership issues
- risk analysis: issue of ACCORD teams not in DestinE, yet having to chip in for work or support to DestinE teams (risk of frustration)

Marianne underlined that the *DE bidding partners* should make sure to address these very relevant comments. As mitigation, Claude suggested that the *DE bidding partners* should carefully evaluate whether they might need an ACCORD expertise from outside the DE-partnering teams, and consider ways how to organize collaboration (and inform the ACCORD MG).

Marianne gave the floor to Sarah, Sami and Marc for them to explain the status of the work going on at the moment (an email was sent to the Assembly Members prior to the meeting):

- Sarah explained that, since the last Assembly, Météo-France and UWC have had tentative discussions on the formation of a bid consortium to respond to the expected ECMWF DestinE-LAM Call. All ACCORD members, or groupings of ACCORD members, are invited to express their interest in joining the bid consortium. UWC are proposing to provide a Scientific and Technical Lead resource. Other potential *bidding partners* are also encouraged to make proposals for a Scientific and Technical co-lead and for Work Package co-lead roles.
- Anne added that Météo-France are proposing to help preparing the bidding, and provide an administrative support (Project Coordinator resource, as Prime Contractor). Météo-France are ready to participate to the Work Packages, even to co-lead if necessary but have already engaged many resources in the ACCORD management.

Marianne proposed Andy to give update information on the schedule and the content of the tender. Andy confirmed that the DestinE timetable has been shifted by 3 months, with the tender now planned after approval by the ECMWF and EUMETSAT Councils late October.

Nuno commented that DestinE puts another challenge while ACCORD is only 6 month old: some teams might already have difficulties to provide resources for the demand of the ACCORD MoU, thus it will be difficult to ask them more. Sarah proposed to address this question in the *Project Advisory Board*. Marianne agreed that it would have been easier with DestinE coming later, at a more comfortable time for ACCORD, but it might be worse if ACCORD misses the DestinE opportunity.

Andy explained that ECMWF have considered DestinE not as a stand-alone project but making sense in terms of their 10 year strategy and with a long term vision benefiting from DestinE resources. DestinE could add on to ECMWF resources, and there are opportunities via Horizon Europe, therefore DestinE can be considered as a subset of bigger ambitions. ECMWF have challenged themselves with the same questions than ACCORD addressed in the augmented note and came to similar conclusions.

Radmila raised the questions of the deliverables at the end of phase I which is a very short time scale. Andy answered that it is important to demonstrate in phase I our progress in the use of new technology (for high resolution, 1km simulation, high impact cases, ...). Roar added that DestinE should help EU demonstrate that the investment they made on huge computers can be useful. The NMSs should prove the EU Commission that it can get good value for its investment in HPC.

Sarah noted Radmila's concern and proposed that small problems to be solved quickly should be identified and proposed for phase I, while longer term issues should be proposed for phase II.

Stefan recalled that DG CNECT¹ has recently informed that they are extending the period of application for the call of members for the DestinE Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) to 2nd August 2021. The SAB shall provide technical and scientific advice to the Commission for the implementation and further development of DestinE. Interested high-level experts are invited [to submit their application](#) (just be aware of one evaluation criteria when assessing applications: absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest).

Gerard, Gerhard and Daniel proposed an opportunistic approach and to identify subjects where the ACCORD teams are going to work anyhow and propose them as DestinE deliverables (HPC and code adaptation, physical processes improvement, surface and urban modelling, ...). Gerard stressed that long term goals of DestinE could still be chosen to match those of ACCORD. Gerhard

1 [DG CNET](#): Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

underlined that many DestinE challenges have to be followed anyway and if the Members do not engage, others might do so. Gerhard confirmed that ZAMG is ready to join the *bidding partners*.

Eoin proposed to stress our role in the value chain for all natural disasters and keep the LAM-developing community in a central role. Arni strongly supported this proposal.

Claude explained that DestinE-LAM will have specific goals, technological and infrastructure challenges especially in phase I. Claude proposed a focus on a few recommendations from the STAC-WG augmented content note, with a risk and mitigation analysis:

- Risk & mitigation:
 - Integration within the Common ACCORD Codes (of DestinE code changes): DE teams should be aware of ACCORD work practices
 - ACCORD core staff & expertise “taken away” by DestinE duties: DE staff should develop user-oriented expertise
 - Avoid that DestinE and ACCORD long-term goals diverge: DE and ACCORD NWP strategies should stay well aligned; DE would steer its own user-oriented goals (& link with infrastructure)
 - *Project Advisory Board* with ACCORD representatives
- Link with RWP & Strategy:
 - Good relationship of DE-teams with ACCORD management; reporting ACCORD-relevant tasks in RWP (via MG & LTMs) => important for R2O transfer
 - Where could DE help accelerate ACCORD goals: hyper-resolution modelling, code adaptation to new HPC architectures, use of new SURFEX options, use of high density observations
 - The absence of reference to Ensemble-based approaches was noted (at least for phase 1)
 - In the long run, access to large amount of data in Data Lakes could trigger R&D on Machine Learning
- O2R:DE-teams could organize specific meetings inviting ACCORD MG & experts

Marianne insisted that every time a risk is identified, a mitigation must be proposed, as the STAC-WG did. She asked PM to continue to monitor such risks from the ACCORD perspective.

The Assembly then discussed the next steps and their organisation.

Daniel suggested to still wait a little before deciding on the scientific and technical leadership as the scientific and technical expertise exists in different teams and the ad hoc consortium is not yet built up. He supported the idea of an advisory board. Sarah suggested to start forming an early drafting team with provisional participants however not deciding immediately on the full leadership (decide on full leadership later). A tentative deadline for forming the drafting team could be mid-August.

Radmila agreed with these proposals, however she expressed concerns that the DE partnership might bifurcate from ACCORD and insisted on avoiding any risk of opacity. Should then not the ACCORD/PAC become the advisory board for DE? Daniel added that any additional governance level should be avoided. Roar, Jørn and Gerhard however insisted that DE was a bid, and therefore a separate partnership and governance will be necessary. Sarah suggested to start forming the advisory board from participants already involved in the DE informal discussions. She added that one also has to recognize the risk of isolation of those ACCORD Members who might not join the bid, and we should acknowledge this concern. Daniel agreed. Martina suggested that for instance some LACE representative could join the advisory board in order to increase the representation of ACCORD Members.

Marc reminded the tight calendar, even with the 3 month shift, which means that the preparatory discussions need to go on. Marc also recalled specific questions at stake, like IPR, the external

partnerships (DWD, MeteoSwiss, etc.). With all these aspects in mind, we also need to keep the momentum of the DE preparation within ACCORD.

The Assembly eventually considered two specific teams to be formed, in order to discuss the next concrete steps for the preparation of the DE bid and the *bidding partnership*:

- *a provisional drafting team*: since we will have to prepare the content of the DE offer before the Call by ECMWF is officially issued (timing), it is important to discuss this content asap (expected project structure, definition and content of work packages, potential leads, etc.). After the 2nd LTM meeting, Claude shared with the LTMs a document where to indicate the interest of their NMS to participate to DestinE, what their main areas of interest could be and what they could bring in to the DE partnership. This document is also being shared with UWC and MF contacts. It could be extended for the LTMs to indicate if their NMS is interested in participating to the *provisional drafting team* and to provide the name of its representative by the 16th of August. The final *DE bidding partnership* might not be exactly equal to the *provisional drafting team*. Some participants in the *provisional drafting team* might eventually decide not to join the *DE bidding partnership* (because of membership issues in DE or after assessing the shape and content of the work packages etc.), and conversely a few teams outside of ACCORD might join the drafting team and the DE bid partners in the course of the discussions. The drafting team is called “provisional” in view of its possible change of composition over time, until the *DE bidding partnership* is stabilized.
- ACCORD, as organisation, can’t play a role in the *DE bidding partnership*. But its Members can and will do. Although some Members would have preferred the ACCORD PAC to play this role, in order to avoid more governance levels, this is not possible as ACCORD cannot answer the tender (that is only open to NMSs). Furthermore, NMSs outside ACCORD may join (DWD, MeteoSwiss, ...). Thus, it is proposed to create a *Provisional Advisory Board (PAB)*² in order to address the policy issues (IPR, membership, eligibility) and cooperation matters (eg DWD, MeteoSwiss etc.). This PAB could be formed by representatives of the four blood families of ACCORD (ALADIN flat-rate Members, HIRLAM, RC-LACE, Météo-France). Thus, the PAB could be “extended” in order to have at least one representative per family, irrespective of whether this family will have members in the *bidding consortium*. For the start, MF and UWC/HIRLAM could form the PAB, and invite RC-LACE and ALADIN flat-rate Members to nominate one or two representatives.

Marianne summarized and concluded the discussion:

- DestinE is interesting for ACCORD members and the development of ACCORD as consortium.
- There will be an open process in forming the *DE drafting team* and the *DE bidding partnership* and ACCORD members are invited to join this process.
- The *DE provisional drafting team* should be ready to begin the drafting of the proposal not so long time after the summer break (thus the deadline of the 16th of August to nominate representatives in it).
- The final *DE bidding partnership* might not be exactly equal to the *DE provisional drafting team*.
- A lot of diplomacy is needed amongst ACCORD Members to try to engage as many Members as possible.

2 Suggested naming by Claude in order to summarize the intentions for this advisory board; the “E” for “extended” was dropped for the minutes, following the suggestion by several Assembly members

5. Choice of ACCORD logo

Claude recalled the selection process:

- 1st Assembly meeting: to go on with the draft logo proposed by Patricia for the time being while opening a call for suggestions on how to simplify it and make it more understandable.
- Taking into account [the number of suggestions \(12\)](#) the Assembly chair tasked the PAC to keep only 3 proposals.
- Each Member was invited to give their order of preference prior to the 2nd Assembly meeting.
- During this 2nd Assembly, the Members were invited to vote for [their preferred version of the winner group](#). The version 1 was chosen.

Patricia will liaise with the authors for a minor correction (capital “O” in consortium and formats) and implement the new logo on the website, documents, templates ...

In the name of the Assembly Members, Marianne congratulated the authors and thanked all teams for their proposals.

	<p>This logo was designed by Peep Jürmann and Piret Pärnpuu from Estonian Environment Agency. The circle with 5 musical lines represents unity, commitment and community. Circle has no beginning or end, it represents life and the cycle of life.</p>
<p>A Consortium for CONvection-scale modelling Research and Development</p>	<p>Two of the lines were converted to cold and warm fronts because every co-operation has its ups and downs and new possibilities that come of it. The 26 ACCORD NMSs are like musicians in a symphony orchestra who practice and rehearse together and the outcome to the ACCORD users is like music to their ears.</p>

6. Dates of 2021 ACCORD events, including next Assembly

A list of recent ACCORD meetings, along with the main planned scientific and management meetings is given in Appendix II).

The Assembly decided on an extraordinary meeting in autumn dedicated to the presentation by the *Provisional Advisory Board* of the DestinE-LAM proposal. Marianne asked Patricia to sort out (with this advisory board) a date for this extraordinary Assembly meeting and the dates for the STAC and for the regular end-of-the-year Assembly meeting.

[editor’s note: the 3rd ACCORD Assembly will take place on Wednesday the 8th of December, whole day, either in Copenhagen before the EUMETNET/ECOMET Councils, or as a video-conference on the same date).

7. A.O.B

None.

8. Closing

Marianne thanked all delegations for participating and for the open discussions during the meeting. Marianne closed the meeting at 17:05.

Appendix I: Participants

Member	Delegation
ALGERIA	Abed Salah SAHABI, Mohamed MOKHTARI
AUSTRIA	Gerhard WOTAWA, Christoph WITTMANN
BELGIUM	Daniel GELLENS, 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, Marc PONTAUD
HUNGARY	Gabriella SZÉPSZÓ
ICELAND	Árni SNORRASON
IRELAND	Eoin MORAN, Sarah O'REILLY, Saji VARGHESE
LITHUANIA	Donatas VALIUKAS, Vida RALIENĖ
MOROCCO	Hassan HADDOUCH
NETHERLANDS	Gerard van der STEENHOVEN
NORWAY	Roar SKÅLIN, Jørn KRISTIANSEN
POLAND	Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	Nuno LOPES, Maria MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Alexandra CRACIUN
SLOVAKIA	Martin BENKO
SLOVENIA	Jure CEDILNIK
SPAIN	Jesús MONTERO GARRIDO
SWEDEN	Bodil AARHUS ANDRÆ, Stefan NILSSON
TUNISIA	Hatem BACCOUR
TURKEY	Ersin KÜÇÜKKARACA, Murat ALTINYOLLAR
ACCORD PM	Claude FISCHER
ECMWF Obs.	Andrew BROWN
HIRLAM PM (obs.)	Jeanette ONVLEE
LACE PM (obs.)	Martina TUDOR
ACCORD CSS	Patricia POTTIER



Appendix II: 2021 ACCORD events

Past events:

- 14 January 2021: **Kick-off LTM meeting**
- 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**
- 25 March - 18 June: 11 **Management Group meetings**
- 30 March: **1st PAC meeting**
- 12-16 April: **All Staff Workshop** fully virtual conference
- 12 April: **1st LTM meeting**
- 4 May: **1st STAC meeting**
- 16 June: **Bureau meeting**
- 17 June: **2nd LTM meeting** (information on DestinE)

2nd ACCORD Assembly meeting: 2nd of July 2021, virtual conference

Planned events:

- regular MG meetings
- 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 the 1st of October if EWGLAM is in-situ meeting
- **STAC in the autumn** to review RWP-2021 status and advice on RWP-2022: 15th of November 2021
- **PAC in autumn** (if requested by the Assembly)
- Extraordinary Assembly meeting on DestinE
- **Bureau meeting**
- End of the year **Assembly**: reporting, preparation for 2022: 8th of December 2021