

Introduction

Per Undén

13 November, 2003

It is now about time for another regular Newsletter to appear. It is after a hectic autumn period, as usual. There have been quite a few of interesting contributions to this Newsletter and I am very grateful for your efforts. There are actually first two of the operational implementation contributions that did not quite make it for the dead-line of the last NL. Remember that there is also the on-line version of the Newsletters on [H_EX N_ET](#), so e.g. these articles were put there when they arrived.

We have in the Project Management attended some other European or international meetings, organised through SRNWP or ECMWF. First of course the regular EWGLAM meeting, this time in Lisbon. It was attended by the Project Leader and representatives from the member institutes. This year it was coupled with a COST-717 Radar meeting, which brought in a different kind of expertise and there was one day of a joint session that contained a lot of interesting stuff and potential. The EWGLAM meeting itself gave a good overview of recent developments, including the ones from ECMWF.

This time of the year the meetings are close together, and there was also a SRNWP meeting on non-hydrostatical modelling in Bad Orb, Germany, with a special topic on parameterisation, and Colin Jones represented Hirlam this time. It is now an established forum for world-wide exchanges in this area. ECMWF organised the regular Operational Systems Workshop in November, and with a special session on data requirements, also for short range forecasting. Harald Schyberg participated as Hirlam representative and gave a presentation.

The Management Group has carried on with its regular visits to member institutes and in May we were at met.no in Oslo and in September at INM in Madrid. Many interesting presentations were given, and very short summaries are available in this volume (and on [H_EX N_ET](#), [hirlam.knmi.nl](#)). From the INM visit, the Powerpoint presentations have actually also been provided and are put in a directory under the Organisation and Meeting Reports.

The Management Group has also had its Management Group Meetings in connection with these visits, as well as intermediate telephone conferences. During this year, we have had quite extensive discussions about the meso-scale and non-hydrostatic modelling in the MG (in January, May and September). We have continued to have insufficient staffing resources within the Project to pursue the hitherto default track, the Tartu NH Hirlam. We have concluded that it is necessary to gain experience and momentum through collaboration and use of an external well working NH dynamical core and with a view

to cooperate on physical parameterisation. The ALADIN/AROME model is of major interest to us as this meso-scale modelling project at Météo-France is dedicated to all of the important aspects that are needed in Hirlam as well. Météo-France is part of the Hirlam cooperation and the ALADIN formulation including the Data Assimilation has a very compatible formulation, using the spectral method.

This has now also been discussed in the HIRLAM Advisory Committee, but not yet, at the time of writing, in the Council. The HAC agreed that there is an urgent need to gain experience in non-hydrostatic modelling and the cooperation with Météo-France is the most realistic alternative. It is envisaged that the ALADIN/AROME non-hydrostatic layer can be imported to the spectral Hirlam model and that an interface layer can be built to call AROME physics or Hirlam physics that have been made compatible (while still being able to use the current interface to call the current Hirlam physics alone). We have proposed that the Area leader for Model dynamics, which is still vacant, should be transformed to on for the Meso-scale modelling, with a number of overlaps, and be upgraded to be a 50% position. A number of staff will be assigned to the area through re-arranging priorities, from synoptic scale activities to meso-scale, as written in the Strategic document from the HAC (appendix to the MoU). Norway is running the Met Office Unified Model at meso-scale resolution in real time and with both interesting results as well as some problems. Norway might serve as a test-bed for intercomparisons of the models.

These are both exciting and difficult developments, but we feel it is necessary to direct our efforts more and more to the areas where ECMWF and other global centres are and cannot be active. The main role of the synoptic Atlantic scale model is to provide boundaries to a meso-scale model, while of course still provide a comprehensive data base of grid-point values for other applications.

Recent Meetings

- Hirlam-6 Visit to met.no, 26-27 May, 2003, Oslo.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Meeting 5, 27 May, 2003, met.no, Oslo.
- Hirlam-6 Council Meeting No. 1, 10 June, 2003, DMI, Copenhagen.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Meeting 6, 27 August, 2003, telephone conference.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Meeting Visit to INM, 25-26 September, 2003, Madrid.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Meeting 7, 26 September, 2003, INM, Madrid.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Meeting 8, 24 October, 2003, telephone conference.
- Hirlam-6 Advisory Committee Meeting, 30-31 October, 2003, DMI, Copenhagen.

Forthcoming Meetings

- BALTIC HIRLAM Workshop, 17-20 November 2003, near St Petersburg.
- Hirlam-6 Council Meeting, 3 December, 2003, ECMWF, Reading.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Visit to KNMI, 11-12 December 2003, De Bilt.
- Hirlam-6 Management Group Meeting 9, 12 December 2003, KNMI, De Bilt.
- Hirlam-6 All Staff Meeting 2004, 1-3 March 2004, INM, Madrid.

Publications

Hirlam Newsletters and other Reports

HIRLAM Newsletter No. 43, June 2003.

HIRLAM-5 Final Report, September 2003.

Hirlam Technical Reports

61. A Feasibility Study of Assimilating European Wind Profiler Data Using the HIRLAM 3D-VAR System. Xiang-Yu Huang and Magnus Lindskog. Norrköping, August, 2003.