

It would be no exaggeration to say that the Consortium for Small-Scale Modelling finds itself at a crossroad. The limited-area model COSMO will be abandoned in a few years' time in favour of ICON-LAM, the Limited Area Mode of the comprehensive modelling framework ICON (ICOsahedral Nonhydrostatic).

A change of the basic modelling tool is not an easy step. It causes many problems of technical, scientific and organizational character, and the Consortium works hard to solve them. In order to ensure a smooth transition from the COSMO model to ICON-LAM, the priority project C2I was launched in 2017 (<http://www.cosmo-model.org/content/tasks/priorityProjects/c2i/default.htm>). As a result of the project implementation, all Consortium members should be able to perform deterministic forecast with ICON-LAM. The target date is the first quarter of 2022.

In-depth discussions of recent results, ongoing work and challenging issues, of both scientific and management nature, took place during the last COSMO General Meetings. Since July 2017, when previous COSMO Newsletter (No. 17) was issued, two meetings took place. The 19th meeting was held in Jerusalem, Israel, 11-14 September 2017, and the 20th meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, 3-5 September 2018. Some information, including the meeting agendas and the presentations made at the plenary and parallel sessions, is available at the COSMO web page, see <http://www.cosmo-model.org/content/consortium/generalMeetings/default.htm>.

I would like to thank all researchers who contributed to the current issue (No. 18) of the COSMO Newsletter. It is worth noting, however, that the current issue contains four contributions only, less than any other Newsletter published so far. The interest to publish in the COSMO Newsletter is clearly decreasing, and this trend may well continue in the future. A number of remedial measures have been proposed, and steps are being taken in an attempt to improve the situation. The future of COSMO Newsletter remains largely unclear, necessitating further discussions of the COSMO publication policy.

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Participants of the 19th COSMO General Meeting in Jerusalem