

Dear COSMO colleagues,

After nearly three years of virtual meetings, we met again in the cradle of modern civilization, Athens. We all enjoyed a very fruitful and joyful General Meeting (thanks, HNMS) and found out that the COSMO spirit was not lost, and a great deal of good work was accomplished.

It is now one year after the last COSMO Version 6.0 has been completed and the PP C2I successfully led by Daniel Rieger (DWD) brought our services to run and use ICON-LAM. We still need to complete the migration of our EPSs (PP PROPHECY) and port the ICON code to GPU (PP IMPACT). TheCOSMO-LEPS, which was initiated 20 years ago, is getting renewed by Ines Cerenzia (ARPAE). ICON-LEPS will run on the new ATOS machine in Bologna and there are plans to upgrade LEPS to convection-permitting resolution in a domain including all of the Mediterranean Sea. With PPCARMENs we hopefully will be able to evaluate all our EPSs and visualise the results as a tool for improving future EPS results.

One of the main challenges of COSMO is to migrate COSMO users around the world to ICON-LAM and to develop a global ICON-LAM user community. Many contributors to PPC2I4LC led by Bogdan Maco (NMA), PP COMFORT led by Dimitra Boucouvala (HNMS) and PP WG6-SPRT led by Massimo Milelli (CIMA) are working to achieve this goal.

The main goal of regional models is to downscale coarse global models. As computer power develops and global models are increasing resolution we need to invest all our scientific efforts to produce sub-Km resolution ICON-LAM. Such a task requires combined forces of COSMO scientists (PP's KENDAScope, CITTA, CAIR, MILEPOST, and include other projects like BRIDGE, TEAMx and GLORI.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank key positions in COSMO:

- Working group coordinators and PP leaders in charge of COSMO's scientific and organizational work.
- Christoph Gebhardt (DWD), for his enthusiasm, devotion and wonderful work as COSMO SPM.
- Panagiotis Skrimizeas (HNMS), who volunteered to serve as COSMO chair of STC for the next two years.

Their success is COSMO's success.

2022 will be remembered by the outburst of the brutal war in Ukraine. As with any other war, all parties seem to be losing much more than they can possibly gain. It seems that this war is yet another example of human irrational decisions. Let's pray and hope that in 2023 the decision-makers will not try to invest more human lives to compensate for those already sacrificed and struggle for a fast, peaceful solution to this human-made crisis so COSMO can work again with all its scientific power.

Yoav Levi IMS

Chair of COSMO steering committee (STC) 2021-2022.