

Dear

- participants of the joint 29th Meeting of the European Working Group on Limited Area Modelling and 14th Meeting of the Short-Range Numerical Weather Prediction Programme from 25 countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom and USA
- representatives of the NWP groups: HIRLAM, COSMO, UK Met Office model, ALADIN and LACE
- Dr. Jean Quiby and Dr. Andras Horanyi, former and the new Project manager of the EUMETNET SRNWP Programme
- WMO working group on mesoscale weather forecasting research

It is my great honour, privilege and pleasure to welcome you here in Dubrovnik - the town of art and science and the site of the first official meteorological measurements in Croatia - more than 150 years ago. We are very proud of the history of Dubrovnik as much as with the history of the Croatian meteorology - which dates as far back to the 12th century – when Herman Dalmatin raised the first meteorological discussions.

No doubt, the heritage of Dubrovnik interacts with the most of the topics of this meeting. The mutual interaction of complex terrains: land, sea, mountains - what you can experience in this part of the world - has also symbolic meaning of the interaction in the complex fields that are of concern of Limited Area Modelling and the Short range Numerical Weather Prediction Programme.

I'm very pleased that Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia has got the opportunity to host this high level meeting and consequently excellent opportunity in proactive participation in the state-of-the-art expertise in the Numerical Weather Prediction which drives, with no doubt, the edges of the utmost human knowledge.

Climate warming, industry and traffic impacts on the atmosphere and water, civilisation hazards make the Earth so vulnerable in the broad range of scales – resulting in more frequent and strong development of weather extremes and menace the environment. Accordingly, this raises the responsibility of science and its practical applicability, particularly in the Limited Area Modelling - as the key element in forecasting and warning.

Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia strongly supports the activities in the Numerical Weather Prediction, particularly through our performance of the ALADIN model as well as the active role in ALADIN Assembly and the RC LACE. We are looking forward to supply the researchers with more data by filling the gaps in our measurement network, particularly the radar network on the eastern coast of Adriatic. Up to our possibilities, we take special care in the improvement of the computer capacity - enabling downscaling of the ALADIN mesoscale model by the implementation of the nonhydrostatic physics.

It is my pleasure to rely with confidence on the Organizing Committee and all of you until the very end of the Workshop. Last but not the least, it is my pleasure to express my gratitude to the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, the town of Dubrovnik and Silicon Graphics Croatia with their financial and in kind support.

Finally, I wish you all fruitful days with many challenging issues, brainstorming, contacts and, finally, a lasting pleasant remembrance of Dubrovnik, the city of artists and scientists, and, as the greatest Croatian 17 century poet Ivan Gundulić said, the bastion of freedom.

Thank you.