

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 9

Date: December 1, 2021

Time: 13:00 – 16:00

Location: zoom (<https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/2128041769>) – **Passcode:** 147721

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University, NSC super-computer and HPC resources director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Emma Lundberg (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Museum of Natural History)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University, §1 - 6)

Other participants:

Olli Kallioniemi (Director SciLifeLab, Director of the DDLS research program), Chair of the meeting

Siv Andersson (independent KAW observer)

Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Titti Ekegren (Coordinator DDLS steering group, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Alexandra Patriksson (External relations office, SciLifeLab, § 1-2)

Björn Nystedt (Head of facility WABI, § 5-9)

Ylva Engström (Chair of the SciLifeLab board, § 7-9)

Members not attending:

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM, National SciLifeLab Committee chair)

Agenda 2021-12-01

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
<https://nextcloud.dckube.scilifelab.se/s/QiaYqWt4d54QQNi>

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Oliver Billker was chosen to attend the minutes. The agenda was rearranged due to illness and §5 was postponed until next meeting and the order of §6 and §7 reversed.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved the previous minutes.</i></p> <p>Update from the Director <i>(See presentation: “1-Dec_DDLS Steering group slides”, page 4 - 17 for details)</i></p> <p>Update from SciLifeLab Board meeting, Nov 11 (no 53) <i>DDLS items from the SciLifeLab board agenda:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reimbursement for DDLS steering group special assignments policy</i> • <i>DDLS budget 2022</i> • <i>WASP-DDLS call distribution of funding</i> • <i>Launch of call for EoI for DDLS data area nodes and WABI staff</i> <p><i>All DDLS items were approved.</i></p> <p>DDLS national reference group <i>Dates for meetings 2022:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>February 7, at 13:00 – 15:00</i> • <i>May 10, at 13:00 – 15:00</i> • <i>September 5, at 13:00 – 15:00</i> • <i>November 21, at 13:00 – 15:00</i> <p><i>On the Feb 7 meeting all the partners will be invited to give short presentations about how they will organize their local DDLS engagement (i.e. plans and progress for DDLS Fellows recruitment, DDLS training activities, Data handling and support (DAN/WABI nodes and beyond).</i></p> <p>Upcoming events and meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DDLS Research area conference, March 22</i> • <i>WASP-HS DDLS, half-day conference, Uppsala or Stockholm</i> • <i>Mini-symposia within each RA during Spring 2022</i> • <i>EMBL planetary biology collaboration symposium (Disa)</i> • <i>FAIR for planetary science (DC co-organizing with AGU, GOFAIR, SDSC) May 9, 2022</i> 	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p>Appendix: <i>1. Previous minutes, 211103</i></p>
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2	<p>DDLS Industry Collaboration - Preliminary plans for the Industry PhD and postdoc programs (See presentation: “§2. Industry collaboration for details)</p> <p><i>There are two tracks for industry collaboration; 1) Industry PhDs and postdocs and 2) Other collaborative initiatives. The track for PhDs and postdocs is pre-defined by KAW and have earmarked money, and is planned for phase 2-6. Although planned for phase 2 the work to design the PhD- and postdoc program should start as soon as possible and will run all 2022 as a pre-project. The pre-project needs a dedicated project leader working in close coordination with the External Relations Office at OO, Training, and DDLS research school. The plan is to do a benchmarking of existing industry PhD- and postdoc programmes to develop a draft DDLS model. After a hearing with the industry the model could be finalized and finally, after approval from the SciLifeLab board, implemented.</i></p> <p><i>The Steering group agrees to this plan and believes a hearing is a very good way to interact with the industry. Moreover, the steering group thinks a dedicated project leader is needed to drive the pre-project and coordinate DDLS as a platform for industrial collaborations. The Steering Group emphasised the need to define the ambitions and goal of the industry PhD and postdoc programmes separately. The steering group gave lots of input on possible models to consider, such as twinning positions etc.</i></p> <p>ACTION: The Steering group is asked to send suggestions on interesting PhD programs, both national and international to Alexandra to support the benchmarking. (alexandra.patriksson@scilifelab.se)</p>	<p><i>Presenter: Alexandra Patriksson</i></p>
3	<p>The KAW-report</p> <p><i>The draft is found here: https://nextcloud.dckube.scilifelab.se/s/7WZrAskpJb7yZoF</i></p> <p><i>The steering group is invited to give input on the report until Dec 9.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Ulrika Wallenquist</i></p>
4	<p>Process to replace members in DDLS steering group and RA expert groups</p> <p><i>As Emma is leaving the steering group a replacement member needs to be suggested. The new steering group member will be appointed by a SciLifeLab directors’ decision.</i></p> <p><i>The Steering group members indicated that finding a good candidate with the appropriate scientific expertise is more important than finding a representative from a specific partner.</i></p> <p><i>Suggested candidates will be discussed at the next steering group meeting, Dec 20, and after agreement a suggested candidate will be sent to the SciLifeLab board / chair of the board for final decision.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<p>ACTION: the steering group is welcome to propose names of candidates before Dec. 12. Suggestions should be sent to ddls@scilifelab.se.</p> <p>Status for RA experts RA experts for Data driven Evolution and biodiversity have been decided and Fredrik has been in contact to initiate a first meeting. Since Emma is leaving the steering group we don't have a chair for the Data driven Cell and molecular biology RA experts' group. Erik L volunteered to take on that role. Therefore, we can now finish the director's decision on that RA expert group and notify the assigned members. The RA-leads for the Epidemiology and infection- and the Precision medicine and diagnostics groups are still awaiting response from some nominees.</p>	
5	<p>DDLS Operational plan 2022</p> <p>Postponed until the DDLS Steering group meeting no. 10, Dec 20 2021</p>	<p>Presenter: Heidi Törmänen Persson</p>
7	<p>Update about DDLS Fellow recruitments</p> <p>Presentations and discussion about the process for evaluation and ranking of DDLS Fellow candidates. Partners are at very different stages in the recruitment process. Some partners have finished the interviews, some have done the ranking process, and some are still waiting for reviewer statements. Hence many are likely to undertake the interviews in Jan – Feb 2022. There has also been a big difference in how much involvement of the DDLS representatives the partners have allowed. Some very openly invite the DDLS representative into the discussions while others do not wish any interaction. In the latter case, it will be hard to make an objective assessment about the eligibility of the candidates for the DDLS funding. The DDLS steering group agrees that decisions based on only written material are very difficult and that approval should be based on interviews.</p> <p>Thus, the DDLS SG suggest that the approval of each DDLS fellow should be based on a CV, research plan, comments from the international reviewers and a personal interview that can be realized by having the DDLS SG representative present at the interviews arranged by the partner. If the latter cannot be organized, there should be a possibility for DDLS SG representative(s) to talk to the candidate separately, such as via a video link.</p> <p>Therefore, the DDLS SG suggests that the SciLifeLab board decision about the process for approval of candidates for DDLS funding should be revised (See attached appendix Excerpt Board meeting no 52.). This will need to be discussed with the chair of the board and/or a new board decision will be made, such as per capsulam. After the board decision is modified, updated instructions will be provided to the DDLS partners.</p>	<p>Presenters: DDLS recruitments working group</p>

	ACTION: the DDLS recruitment working group shall prepare some bullet points about this updated process. This will be edited to create a per capsulam decision for the board.	
	Break	
6	<p>Update about Eol call to host DANs and WABI staff (See presentation: "1-Dec_DDLS Steering group slides", page 27 - 29 for details)</p> <p>The deadline has been postponed until March 2022 which gives more time for a dialogue and coordinating joint applications. In addition, those positions that were pre-allocated can be filled by the data center and WABI (2 WABI staff at the NBIS Long-term Support team located at SciLifeLab Solna (will ask DBB at SU to host), and 2 DAN staff located at DC) according to previously approved budget.</p> <p>A question has been raised related to the eligibility for partners to apply for DANs and WABI staff in all Research areas. Initially it was stated that partners only can apply if they have a DDLS Fellow in that research area in phase one. This assumption turned out to exclude some partners in an unfavorable and unnecessary manner. The Steering group suggested that the DAN needs to be linked to a strong research environment and that this is more important than whether the DDLS Fellows position is provided at phase 1 or 2.</p> <p><u>Consensus decision:</u> DDLS SG suggest a revised definition for eligibility: DDLS partners with DDLS Fellow positions allocated in either phase of the program can apply to host DAN and WABI staff for the corresponding scientific fields.</p> <p>Furthermore, Johan and Björn should discuss with RA-leads before the one-to-one meetings with partners and preferably RA-leads could participate in these discussions with partners in the first or later phases of the process.</p>	Presenters: Johan Rung, Björn Nystedt
8	<p>Presentation of new chair of the SciLifeLab board</p> <p>The new chair of the SciLifeLab board, Ylva Engström was presented to the DDLS steering group and the steering group members briefly introduced themselves and their role in the DDLS program and steering group.</p>	Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi
9	<p>SciLifeLab as coordinator of larger funding initiatives? (See presentation: "1-Dec_DDLS Steering group slides", page 33 – 34 for details)</p> <p>The Digital Europe program in European health data space will in Q4 2021 – Q3 2022 launch calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure for Genomics data • Infrastructure for Cancer Imaging • Testing and Experimentation Facility (TEF) – Health and Care 	Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi

	<p><i>There is an expectation from the Swedish Government that SciLifeLab will participate in all these initiatives. A strong national partner is preferred from the commission with a well-established regional network. These European Health Data Space programs link well with DDLS, such as the data handling, and the precision medicine/diagnostics research area. The opportunities to collaborate with European partners also provide incentives for applying.</i></p> <p><i>ELIXIR is planning to coordinate the Genomics initiative and welcomes a collaboration with SciLifeLab, where NBIS is preparing the application in close collaboration with Nordic partners. Coordination of the Cancer Imaging initiative is now being discussed, and the Swedish government is expecting that Sweden will play a major role here. The TEF initiative will be announced late February. The government would also like to see coordination and synergies across the three programs.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will continue on e.g. coordination and co-funding of these initiatives.</i></p>	
10	<p>Other issues <i>No further issues.</i></p> <p><i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



Oliver Billker, Attending minutes