DDLS Steering group

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 23, 2023

Date: April 11, 2023
Time: 13:00 – 16:00
Zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/69396478668

Attending members:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet, §2)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

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

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University, §1 - 6)

Other participants:

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

Siv Andersson (KAW representative, §6 - 9)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Heidi Törmänen Persson (DDLS collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Titti Ekegren (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Ulrika Wallenquist (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Björn Nystedt (Head of facility for the Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)

Heidi Howard (SciLifeLab and DDLS ELSI advisor, §1, 5-11)

Marija Cvijovic (DDLS Research School Director)

Laura Carroll (DDLS Fellow, Umeå University, §3)

Members not attending:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

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Agenda 2023-04-11

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
https://nextcloud.dckube.scilifelab.se/s/pz7Cpn9xApRy72w

1	**Meeting formalities**	*Presenter:* *Olli Kallioniemi*
	Tuuli Lappalainen was chosen to attend the minutes.	
	The DDLS Steering group **approved** *the previous minutes.*	***Appendix:*** *1. Previous minutes, 230308*
	<u>*Changes in the preliminary agenda:*</u> *Item 7. Update SciLifeLab Training Hub (including DDLS education and training) will be postponed to a later meeting.*	
2	**WABI/Data Working Group update** *(see presentation, "April 11_Steering group slides" page 4-15 for details)*	*Presenter:* *Björn Nystedt*
	Presentation of the WABI/Data WG and the assignment to investigate and propose new or adjusted frameworks for DDLS WABI and DDLS Databases and data support regarding: - *resource priority processes* - *scope and criteria* - *possible cross-program efforts* - *funding and reporting of a team vs a function*	***Appendices:*** *2a. WABI Adj. Op.-draft 230215* *2b. WABI Rules of Process -draft 230215*
	Proposal handling and evaluation have been discussed and a suggestion for the composition of the proposal evaluation committee (PEC) was presented. The committee will be composed of four RA-expert group members (one from each RA) and one representative from the DDLS/WASP WG. Two PEC's will be appointed to a rotating scheme with 3 rounds per year (PEC1/PEC2 alternating) max 4 years (6 rounds).	
	<u>*Reflections from Steering group:*</u> *The role of data handling is well defined in the DDLS program, and so is the handling of individual projects based on calls by WABI. But how can WABI take part synergistically in the overall DDLS program? DDLS should be more than a funding source to continue what it has done over the past 10 years. Such as participating in major strategic initiatives, making use of the capabilities created by the DDLS fellows, propagating the data-driven utilization of public datasets, the use of AI etc.* • *A challenge to balance the collaboration between WABI and Data center, is there a need to allocate funding to support WABI/Data center collaborations*	

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	The next step is to prepare final documents and formal decisions for rules of process and handling of proposals (classification, prioritizing and evaluation) as well as discuss the strategic role and synergy of WABI for the DDLS program.	
3	***Directors update*** *(see presentation, "April 11_Steering group slides" page 16-37 for details)* <u>*DDLS Advisory committee meeting*</u> *The DAC meeting is scheduled as a half day zoom meeting on June 21.* *Draft agenda (short discussion and questions after each topic)*	*Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi*

min	Agenda	Name
5	KAW view point	Siv Andersson
15	Overall program	Olli Kallioniemi
20	Present fellows research (short 5 min presentations of some fellows)	Who?
20	DDLS fellows recruitments	Carolina Wählby, Erik Lindahl and Oliver Billker
10	BREAK	
30	Research school	Marija Cvijovic, Ulrika Wallenquist and Mojgan Seraji
15	Training	Jessica Lindvall
30	Data platform and data science nodes	Johan Rung and Björn Nystedt
35	Overall discussion, questions and initial feedback from DAC	

<u>*Status of DAC members:*</u>
- *Jan Ellenberg, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany (accepted)*
- *Sören Brunak, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark (accepted)*
- *Florian Jug, Human Technopole Milan (accepted)*

Female candidates for DAC suggested by SG:
- *Helen Parkinson: parkinso@ebi.ac.uk*
- *Susanna Sansone, University Oxford, UK*
- *Helen Byrne, University Oxford, UK*
- *Ursula Kummer, Ruprecht-Karls Universität, Heidelberg, Germany*
- *Ursula Klingmüller, German Cancer Research Center, Germany*
- *Edda Klipp, Humboldt University, Germany*
- *Tanja Stadler, ETH Zurich*

<u>*DDLS SG members – term renewal*</u>
All DDLS SG members have been asked if they have the possibility to continue in the steering group. Nine out of ten current members will continue. A question has been raised whether the DDLS steering group also should invite participants from SLU, Healthcare/industry or a DDLS fellow representative.

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	Upcoming meetings and events • *DDLS national reference group meetings - May 2, Sept 13, Nov 22* • *NMMP (PALS) annual scientific conference - April 26-28, 2023 for SciLifeLab, DDLS and WCMM fellows* • *EMBL-SciLifeLab Data Science workshop - May 15-16, 2023* • *DDLS advisory committee (DAC) meeting - June 21, 2023* • *SciLifeLab and DDLS fellow retreat - August 2023* • *SciLifeLab Science Summit, Genomics of Biodiversity and Evolution - September 20, Aula Magna, Stockholm* • *DDLS fellow meeting - Nov 15, 2023 (in connection with Annual conference)* • *DDLS Annual Conference - November 15-16, 2023 (lunch to lunch)* *The theme for the DDLS Annual conference is AI.* <u>*The scientific committee is:*</u> *Chair: Prof. Ola Spjuth (Prof, AI coordinator, Advisor E-infrastructure, UU)* *Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (DDLS Steering group)* *Laura Carroll (DDLS Fellow)* *Johan Bengtsson- Palme (DDLS Fellow)* *Fredrik Johansson (WASP)*	
4	**DDLS Fellow presentation** *Presentation by Laura Carroll at the Department of Clinical Microbiology, Umeå University. Laura presented her research about bioinformatic approaches to monitor and combat the spread of bacterial pathogens.*	*Presenter: Laura Carroll*
5	**Update from DDLS support** *(see presentation, "April 11_Steering group slides" page 39-43 for details)* *SciLifeLab/DDLS assignments* <u>*Ongoing:*</u> • *Ethical Social and Legal Implications (ELSI) Advisor– **Heidi Howard*** • *National DDLS research school director -**Marija Cvijovic*** • *Coordinator for the Precision Medicine and diagnostics expert group during 2022 and 2023. – **Fulya Taylan*** • *Lead the establishment of the national Training Hub at SciLifeLab - **Jessica Lindvall*** • *Build-up and form the Training Hub at SciLifeLab - **Nina Norgren*** <u>*Not assigned (yet) but approved in budget:*</u> • *Coordination for research areas CMB, EB and EBI* • *Members of DDLS recruitments working group (3)*	*Presenter: Heidi T. Persson*

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6	**DDLS SWOT-analysis**	*Presenter:*
	(see presentation, "April 11_Steering group slides" page 39-43 for details)	*Heidi T. Persson*
	During a planning day for the DDLS support team, a SWOT analysis of the DDLS program was prepared. In addition to this all members of SG have also had the opportunity to contribute with comments for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for the programme.	***Appendices**:* ***6a.*** *DDLS support SWOT* ***6b.*** *Chat-GPT4 SWOT on DDLS program*

	Reflections from DDLS SG:
	 • *AI must be included in the SWOT – hard to see how this rapid AI revolution will influence the DDLS program. Can be both opportunity, weakness and also threat.*
	 • *Many parts in the SWOT, should we focus only one/a few part(s)?*
	      • *Set-up of the program*
	      • *Execution of the program*
	      • *How to fulfil our mission*
	 • *Need to stay focused on program goals*
		6c. *SWOT response SG*

	Material to the DDLS advisory committee *We will prepare a written report with 10 – 12 points from the SWOT with some explaining text to each point. It will be presented as a potential SWOT that will be finished after we have received comments from partners and fellows.*	
	ACTIONS: • *A summarized draft SWOT will be shared with partner organizations (via the DDLS national reference group) and the DDLS fellows for their comments, insights and perspectives of the program* • *The final SWOT analysis report will be approved by SG, May 10 and shared with the DDLS advisory committee*	
	Note: *Should we prepare a joint call with WASP about AI to keep up with the rapid AI revolution, particularly generalized AI and natural language models? Create a white paper? Check how many applications from previous DDLS-WASP joint calls that take advantage and focus on different types of AI.*	
7	**Update SciLifeLab Training Hub (including DDLS education and training)**	*Presenter:* *Jessica Lindvall*
	This issue was postponed and will be presented and discussed at a later DDLS SG-meeting.	***Appendices:*** ***7a.*** *Training Hub WorkProgramme 2023-2028.* ***7b.*** *SciLifeLab Training Hub - Roadmap-3*

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8	**Preparation of DDLS phase 2 application and budget to KAW** *(see presentation, "April 11_Steering group slides" page 65-75 for details)* *Applications for prolongation of the DDLS program should be handed to KAW before each new phase. Deadline for the phase 2 application is Nov 1ˢᵗ 2023. The application must be approved by DDLS SG and SciLifeLab Board before it is sent to KAW.* *Project organization:* *Responsible SG members: Niklas Blomberg and Tuuli Lappalainen* *Project leader: Heidi Törmänen Persson* *Planning team: Heidi, Jenny, Elvan, Titti and Ulrika* *Writers: DDLS Area coordinators and DDLS support* *Management: Olli, Niklas and Tuuli* *Reflections of changes in the budget are important to address in the report. KAW also wants to include ethical and legal aspects of AI in datadriven research.* *The primary goal when preparing the budget for phase 2 must be what is best for the DDLs program. Changes can be discussed with KAW. These discussions should be held prior to sending the application and budget.*	*Presenters:* *Heidi T. Persson,* *Elvan Helander*
9	**PhD recruitment model and Involvement of RA and SG in the research school** *(see presentation, "April 11_Steering group slides" page 77-84 for details)* *A representative from SG is wanted for the research school reference group – if interested, please contact DDLS support (ddls@scilifelab.se)* *Project selection for PhD recruitment* *- Excellence of students is the main criteria, but how can we ensure equal distribution between RA:s and partners?* *- Excellence is more important than exact distribution between partners* *- The composition of evaluation committees is important, we need experts from each RA to assure selection of the best projects for each research area.* *- Everyone can apply for hosting PhD students and postdocs, not restricted to DDLS partners* *- To promote profiling of universities in the DDLS program, should the PhD and postdoc positions be targeted to specific areas at each university, based on the DDLS fellows' research area coverage?* *Timelines for selection of projects (mid-August – beginning of December 2023)* *- Call for potential projects (mid-August – mid October)* *- Evaluation by DDLS SG (mid October – end of November)* *- List of selected projects (beginning of December)*	*Presenter:* *Marija Cvijovic* ***Appendix:*** ***9.*** *DDLS SG Research School*

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	Student-centric model *- a hybrid of a top-down and a bottom-up approach for approaching few universities to check the feasibility of central application open recruitment model* *- after the matchmaking event, both candidates and PIs ranks their preferred choice (candidates list projects/PIs, PIs list candidates). If several PIs wants the same candidate, the students choose* *Timelines for selection of PhD students (January – April 2024)* *- Announcement of the positions (January – February 2024)* *- Evaluation of the applications (March)* *- Interviews (March)* *- List of selected PhD students – offer and acceptance (beginning of April)* *- Start of the individual projects (mid -August - October 1or upon agreement between PI and PhD student, preferably not later than October 1)* *Final approval of the PhD students will be made by the DDLS Program Director.*	
10	**Update from RA-leads** *This issue was postponed until the next DDLS SG-meeting, May 10.*	*Presenters:* *RA-leads*
11	**Other issues** *No further issues.* *The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!*	*Presenter:* *Olli Kallioniemi*

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Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting   *Tuuli Lappalainen, Attending minutes*

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