DDLS Steering group

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 24, 2023

Date: *May 10, 2023*
Time: *13:00 – 16:00*
Zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/67881480833

Attending members:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Other participants:

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

Siv Andersson (KAW representative, §5 - 10)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre, §6 - 10)

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)

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

Heidi Howard (SciLifeLab and DDLS ELSI advisor)

Marija Cvijovic (DDLS Research School Director)

Members not attending:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

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

Next meeting: June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023

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Agenda 2023-05-10

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

1	**Meeting formalities**	*Presenter:*
		Olli Kallioniemi
	Erik Lindahl was chosen to attend the minutes.	
		Appendix:
	*The DDLS Steering group **approved** the previous minutes.*	***1.*** *Previous*
		minutes, 230411
	<u>*Changes in the preliminary agenda:*</u>	
	Item 8. Strategy and organization for the research area and DSN Precision medicine & Diagnostics will be postponed to a later meeting.	
2	**Directors update**	*Presenter:*
	(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 3 -23 for details)	*Olli Kallioniemi*
	All DDLS fellows in recruitment phase 1.5 have now approved their positions. A fellow at Göteborg university has resigned. DDLS needs to follow up on this and discuss how we hopefully can assist in the aftermath and in transitioning to a new recruitment in phase 2. Also important to try to prevent similar situations in the future.	
	The NMMP conference held in Saltsjöbaden in April was well received and nine DDLS fellows attended. As the NMMP program now also includes DDLS (renamed to PALS, Program for Academic Leaders in Life Science) the DDLS program director and the DDLS Research school director will be included in the PALS steering group.	
	<u>*SciLifeLab-KAW Proof of Concept grant for Life Science*</u>	
	A new grant to bridge the gap between basic research and utilization or commercialization of research results in life science will be launched. All KAW affiliated researchers, or those who are part of the Data Driven Life Science program or SciLifeLab (including Fellows, group leaders, and infrastructure platform personnel) can apply. The projects will be evaluated by experts appointed by SciLifeLab through the Wallenberg Launchpad (WALP)-tool. The call will be open from June to August.	
	Upcoming meetings and events	
	• *EMBL-SciLifeLab Data Science workshop - May 15-16, 2023*	
	• *DDLS advisory committee (DAC) meeting - June 21, 2023*	
	• *SciLifeLab and DDLS fellow retreat - August 24 - 25, 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)*	

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	• *DDLS Annual Conference - November 15-16, 2023 (lunch to lunch)*	
3	**WASP-HS DDLS Seed money** *(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 24 -30 for details)* *The call for seed money (max 500 kSEK) is now closed and all applications have been evaluated by a panel with 2 members from WASP-HS, 2 members from DDLS and one member with perspective from both parts. Seven eligible applications were evaluated and out of them three projects are suggested for funding.* <u>*Comments from the DDLS steering group:*</u> *- The community that applies to these calls is quite small, but could the number of applications be increased with larger funding?* *- important to showcase the funded projects, invite them to DDLS events* *- stress the importance of FAIR and shared data.* **ACTION:** *The DDLS Steering group agree to send the list of suggested projects to SciLifeLab board for a decision on funding.*	*Presenter:* *Erik Kristiansson*
4	**WASP DDLS joint research projects** *(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 31 - 39 for details)* *This call, with a maximum available funding for each project of 1 MSEK/year/partner (i.e., a total budget of 4 MSEK for two years) resulted in 57 eligible applications. After evaluation a list of 10 top-ranked ("green") projects and 5 additional high-ranked projects ("yellow") was prepared. After their assessment meeting, the DDLS-WASP working group presented a list of 9 top-ranked "green projects" and 4 high-ranked "yellow projects" suggested for funding. Approved funding is suggested in accordance to each project's budget up to a maximum of 2 MSEK. The "green" applications sukm up to about 18 MSEK, and approximately 26 MSEK for both yellow and green.* *The initial suggested DDLS budget for this call was 20 MSEK and the total suggested funding hence exceeds that amount. As informed previously, due to experiences from the 2021 call, the start date for some of the projects in the 2023 call are likely to be delayed until the spring of 2024. This means that projects granted funding in the 2023 call will then receive funding from either the phase 1 or phase 2 KAW support cycle depending on their starting date. The funding of projects from one call from two different funding phases has been discussed and approved by KAW.* <u>*Comments from the DDLS steering group:*</u> *- All applications are highly focused on a specific life science problem investigated with advanced machine learning methods. How do we also find general high impact projects that have global significance and work with uniuque large-scale data sets?*	*Presenter:* *Erik Kristiansson*

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	- how can we also ensure and promote data generating capabilities to promote DDLS goals? *- important to include accepted projects, PIs and studentsinto the DDLS community* *maybe arrange a conference with WASP to focus on the joint projects?* ***ACTION***: *The DDLS Steering group agree to send presented list of both the green and yellow projects to SciLifeLab board for a funding decision.*	
5	**Members in Research school management group** *(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 40 - 49 for details)* *The Research school management group will include:* • *Research school director (chair)* • *4 RA-representative* • *1 Industry representative* • *1 Training representative* • *1 DDLS SG-representative* • *1 Ethical Conduct representative* • *1 PhD/post-doc representative* *Members have been recruited through nominations, open invitations and directed e-mails.* *The suggested members are:* *Research school director (chair)* *Research area representatives:* • *Joakim Esbjörnsson- LU (Epidemiology and biology of infection)* • *Lukas Käll- KTH (Cell and molecular biology)* • *Helena Westerdahl- LU (Evolution and biodiversity)* • *Wen Zhong- LiU (Precision Medicine and Diagnostics)* *Industry representatives:* • *Gabriella Rustici- AstraZeneca* • *Maja Neiman- SwedenBIO* *Training representative:* • *Jessica Lindvall* *DDLS SG-representative:* • *TBD* *Ethical Conduct representative:* • *Mojgan Seraji* *PhD/post-doc representative:* • *TBD*	*Presenter:* *Ulrika Wallenquist*

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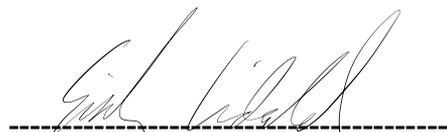
	ACTION: *The DDLS Steering group approves the list of suggested members in the research school management group and agrees to include two Industry representatives. The DDLS Steering group delegates to the DDLS program director to decide on any remaining nominations.*	
6	**PhD models** *(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 50 - 51 for details)* *An alternative model for PhD recruitment was presented with the key difference that the selected PhD students would be allocated funding and the option to choose the preselected PIs and research groups. The PhD student selection could happen either as a joint call among all universities or based on DDLS panel, after which the universities would use their own standard procedures to then re-select and accept the chosen PhD student from the national call.* *Comments from the DDLS steering group:* *- even though this may work for individual PhD students, it is difficult to apply this systematically for >200 PhD students as part of the DDLS program.* *- how can universities open a PhD student position if they do not have guaranteed funding for it? A: they would get the funding from DDLS, if they choose one of the pre-selected candidates.* *- this model makes departments feel that DDLS steers the recruitment and removes their options for selection? A: The idea of the national DDLS selection process is indeed such that the best candidates are preselected. If the universities have all control, it is not really a national system.* *- the alternative option still remains to have only a national announcement for PIs and projects and then let the approved PI's choose from a large pool of students, which could include both the DDLS students chosen centrally by the DDLS research school and any other applicants. In this model, the approved PIs control the funding and the entire recruitment process.* *- maybe the PhD student recruitment model could be similar to the model used for DDLS fellow recruitments, i.e. coordinated announcements but the final steps will take place at the specific partners.*	*Presenter:* *Marija Cvijovic*
7	**Update from data support and DSN** *(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 52 - 58 for details)* *A total of 474 applications have been received in the recruitment of staff to the Data Science Nodes and Cryo-EM. Of these,286 were unique applications. Seven out of 10 positions for DSN WABI/NBIS staff are filled and five out of 12 positions are filled within the DSN DC staff category. Negotiations with candidates are on-going for many of the remaining positions.* *Models for WABI and data support for projects have been discussed in the*	*Presenters:* *Johan Rung,* *Björn Nystedt*

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	DDLS SG data working group and the following is suggested: • *Regarding data services, suggestion is to transparently conduct community consultations, organized and analyzed by Data Science Node management together with DDLS research area lead/expert* • *Major DSN activities to be suggested by node management and research area lead, and presented for DDLS SG* • *How do WABI projects synergize with data platform services?* *Does SG think this is a model to progress with?* *The steering group would like some examples of what kind of resources would contribute to what kind of projects, For example, would resources for image data create an image data repository?*	
8	**Strategy and organization for the research area and DSN Precision medicine & Diagnostics** *This issue was postponed and will be presented and discussed at a later DDLS SG-meeting.*	*Presenters:* *Janne Lehtiö,* *Cecilia M.* *Björkdahl*
9	**Update from DDLS support** *(see presentation, "May 10_Steering group slides" page 60 - 67 for details)* *The phase 2 application to KAW is due Nov 17th and will cover achievements in phase 1, current status and future plans. The ongoing SWOT analysis and the report from the DDLS Advisory committee (DAC) will be used as part of the material for the application.* *The DAC meeting will be held by zoom, 9am unitl 12 noom (CEST) on June 21st. The preliminary agenda is set and three DDLS fellows will be invited to give presentations:* • *Laura Carroll, Umeå University, EBI* • *Clemens Wittenbecher, Chalmers, PMD* • *Tobias Andermann UU, EB* *And as a backup:* 1. *Juliette Griffie, SU, CMB* 2. *Luisa W. Hugerth, UU, EBI* *The short report from DAC should preferably cover general inputs on program progress, input for future strategies and advise on specific parts of the strategy and program deliverables.* *Suggested questions for DAC:* • *How to consider the dramatic progress in AI: e.g. action group to consider DDLS 10 years from now?* • *How do we best prepare data-driven scientists and the life science community at large for the AI-driven life science?*	*Presenter:* *Heidi T. Persson*

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	• *How do we make use of clinical and health care data: Action today?* • *How do we synergize with other parts of SciLifeLab (infra, research)?* • *How do we promote ambition?* ○ *DDLS-WASP projects could play a key role*	
10	**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

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Erik Lindahl, Attending minutes

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