

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 36, 2024

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: 12.00 - 16.00 (lunch from 12.00 – 13.00 outside of the meeting room)

Room: Air & Fire, Campus Solna Stockholm

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/65252789588>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director, §1 - §9)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University, §4 - §8)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet, §1 - §8)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

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

Other participants:

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

Siv Andersson (KAW representative)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology, §1 - §6)

Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director, §1 - §6)

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 unit Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WAB)

Wojtek Potrzebowski (Data Science Coordinator, SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Members not attending:

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)







Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Agenda 2024-11-12

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
<https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/ck96H3FefS9dxZb>

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Fredrik Ronquist was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved the previous minutes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p>Appendix: 1. Previous minutes, 24-10-02</p>
2	<p>Director's update (see 'November 12_DDLS SG presentations', page 3 – 30 for details)</p> <p><i>The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation allocates an additional SEK 600 million to data-driven life science at SciLifeLab in an initiative to strengthen AI and life science for increased national competence. The investment will cover two parts, an additional investment into the DDLS Program (200 MSEK) with 11 new DDLS Fellows positions and an investment into a pilot program for a large AI driven project, Alpha Cell (400 MSEK). The recruitment process for new DDLS fellows is still to be planned but all fellows will probably be jointly recruited during 2025 in order to be ready for a start in the beginning of Phase III (April 2026).</i></p> <p><i>The joint conference between DDLS, WASP and WASP-HS on "The Disruptive Role of Data and AI in the Life Sciences" attracted 176 participants and was well received. The focus of the ongoing DDLS/WASP-HS projects on the conference might have contributed to the new call for DDLS/WASP-HS yielding 26 applications.</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of DC DSN teams and some of the services they provide, such as the Pathogens Portal, the Swedish reference genome portal and OMERO. Several services with a Precision Medicine Portal will be launched in 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Dates for DDLS SG meetings 2025 have been scheduled and outlook invitations sent to all participants.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>
3	<p>Update from DDLS research school</p> <p><i>The second call for PhD projects has deadline, Nov 15. The pre-screening of applications will be made by the DDLS director together with 2-3 RA representatives. Nine international DAC members have been appointed for the full evaluation of the proposals.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olof Emanuelsson</i></p>

	<p><u>Discussions about how to handle Conflict of Interest:</u> The Research school directors suggests to assign a designated external person to be responsible for the process of recruiting DACs and pre-screensers. The DDLS Steering group sees no reason why RS-directors cannot handle the pre-screening of applications where they do not have a COI. Applications where RS-directors have COI will be sorted out and handled separately by others. RS-directors will not be part of the meeting by the external international DDLS advisory committee when they discuss applications where RS-directors have a COI A clear process for handling COI should be stated that follows usual procedures.</p> <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 DDLS Research school courses in the final stages of being contracted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Open Science in the Swedish Context 1 hp ◦ Deep Neural Networks in Life Science Applications 5 hp ◦ Principles and Tools for FAIR Research Practices 3 hp • DDLS Research School Annual meeting 18 – 21 March 2025 • Number of recruited PhDs in the 2023 call: 25/27 	
4	<p>Operational plan 2025</p> <p>The Operational plan is important to ensure that investments are made according to the management's strategy and with overall objectives in mind.</p> <p>DDLS Strategic objectives</p> <div>  Attract Scientific Excellence in Data-Driven Life Science to Sweden </div> <div>  Train the Next Generation of Data-Driven Life Scientists </div> <div>  Provide Data Science & Bioinformatics expertise & services </div> <div>  Bridge the Gap Between the Life Science & Data Science Communities </div> <div>  Create Partnerships & Impact on Society at large </div> <div>  Engage in Policy Actions </div> <p>For activities currently planned for 2025, see the presentation on Nextcloud, picture 35 – 36. The DDLS strategies will align with the SciLifeLab strategy and the National Life Science strategy.</p>	<p>Presenter: Heidi T. Persson</p>

5	<p>Update from DDLS Program Office</p> <p><i>The annual DDLS Fellow reporting will bring in information to the yearly report to KTH. This year questions have been added about (international) recruitment, ongoing collaborations and interactions. Not all answers will be included into the report but will give the program office insight into issues that Fellows might have.</i></p> <p><i>An idea about a survey to partner organizations was presented. The survey will cover questions about local organization and coordination of the DDLS program, what challenges and opportunities partners see with the DDLS program and suggestions for future development.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering Group supports the idea to give our partner organizations a voice, but asks who will be the receiver of the survey? Partners with different levels of organization around DDLS will probably handle the survey in different ways. The DDLS Steering Group also wants to see the survey more strategic and wants to include a question about how partners with DSNs feel about the nodes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Heidi T. Persson</i></p>
6	<p>Update from WABI</p> <p><i>WABI met with KAW representatives on October 2nd and presented the WABI support model, the team and project and community impact. The response from KAW was positive although they were not in favour of a user fee model.</i></p> <p><i>Members of the new proposals evaluation committee was presented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pär Ingvarsson, SLU</i> <i>Rebecka Jörnsten, Chalmers</i> <i>Sanna Koskiniemi, UU</i> <i>Colm Nestor, LiU</i> <i>Carl Nettelblad, UU</i> <p>ACTION: <i>The DDLS Steering group agree that the presented members of proposals evaluation committee to be approved by a DDLS directors' decision.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Björn Nystedt</i></p>
7	<p>Report from the Data Science Node meeting in Umeå Nov 4-5</p> <p><i>A meeting was held in Umeå with representatives from all DSNs, as well as Data Centre, WABI and DDLS director (part-time only). The meeting discussed experiences, missions, expectations and challenges.</i></p> <p><i>Updates from DSNs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>All DSN DC staff are in place</i> <i>DSN WABI recruitments not fully complete (1 in transit, 1 re-recruitment ongoing)</i> <i>DSN staff involved in ~10 courses in 2024, weekly drop-in and PhD</i> 	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>Björn Nystedt,</i> <i>Wojtek</i> <i>Potrzebowski</i></p>

	<p><i>mentoring programs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work on pilot projects, and/or ranked proposals from the first needs inventory process. • Ongoing work on community portals • Increasing community engagement • DC and WABI management of daily work for DSN staff is well functioning. • All DSNs have performed a first round of community inventories for data service. <p><i>Much work is done to create Data Portals within the different research areas. The DDLs Steering group discussed the importance of positioning these national portals to highlight specific deliverables and impact of the DSNs. DDLs SG also considered the international context, how the portals work as an active layer between local and international research communities and how portals link up with international databases, with the positive example being the pathogens.se portal that is strongly linked to EBI.</i></p> <p><u><i>DSN observations/challenges discussed at the Umeå meeting:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different nodes are currently being managed, organized and run differently. • Some aspects of the scope and the governance model of DSNs still seem to be unclear, even though the role of the DSNs has been defined in general terms at the time of the original call. • The DSNs requested a direct representation/communication with the DDLs steering group, in addition to existing representation from DC and WABI. • Research Area surveys conducted at each node resulted in mixed results, using a few different approaches and models. Lessons-learned so far can be used to further improve and clarify processes. of the relationships of DSNs with the RA communities was discussed. • The integration between WABI and DC staff at the DSNs is limited so far. • Opportunities to further strengthen the connections between i) the four DSNs, ii) between the RA lead/expert groups and DSNs, iii) between the DC and WABI aspects of each DSN, need to be explored to best deliver on the DDLs goals. The research data community program pilot call will hopefully clarify the future opportunities with DSNs. <p><i>A DSN concept needs to be formulated and written down to further define the role, governance and structure of the DSNs</i></p>	
8	<p>RDCP call and process</p> <p><i>The idea of a Research data community program (RDCP) is to create a pilot program with specific research communities of about 3-30 PIs in each of the DDLs specific research areas. The call is not well funded (1 MSEK/each RDCP) but focus more on the community building. The RDCP would be supported by WABI and SciLifeLab Data Centre and connected to each DSN as a flagship program.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<p><u>The RDCP would:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate data production and sharing (e.g., materials, methods, consents, sharing across the PIs and globally) • Explore efficient data sharing tools and technologies and federated models • Leverage synergy and resources in a scientific community, promote FAIR data sharing, with a focus on • Collaborate towards raising grand challenge research funding for sustainability of the collaboration/resource <p>A draft call text is being prepared, possibly in an expression of interest form to make the evaluation process less demanding and to be able to modify and upgrade the goals with the community.</p>	
9	<p>Update from DDLs Research Areas</p> <p>Evolution and biodiversity (See 'November 12_DDLs SG presentations', page 68 - 69 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th mini-symposium, November 18-19, 2024 (In conjunction with systematics association mtg in Gothenburg) • 6th mini-symposium, spring 2025 (In conjunction with Evolution in Sweden mtg in Linköping, Jan 13-15) • 7th mini-symposium, fall 2025 (New model: DDLs-specific symposia, first meeting in Umeå) <p>DSN node:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of DSN infrastructure project ideas closed Sept 22 • Five applications received • Winner: Andreas Wallberg (PI), "DivBase (Genetic Diversity Database): A pioneering national data service platform for collection, analysis and sharing of large genetic diversity datasets of non-model species" • External reviewers would improve the quality of the process in the next round • Swedish Reference Genome Portal launched Nov 8 <p>Precision medicine and diagnostics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precision Medicine and Diagnostic symposium, Nov 5, has been postponed and will be arranged in spring 2025 in Linköping. • PMD DSN is about to launch of the precision medicine Data portal. <p>Epidemiology and biology of infection The EBI RA symposia in Uppsala with a focus on environmental epidemiology, Oct 7-8 was well received with high attendance.</p> <p><u>Upcoming meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMBL-SciLifeLab workshop: Infection Biology Across Scales 3-4 February 2025, Umeå • 2 more mini-symposia are planned, one in summer 2025 and one in winter 2025 	<p><i>Presenters:</i> RA-leads</p>

	<p>Cell and molecular biology (See 'November 12_DDLS SG presentations', page 70 for details)</p> <p><i>Focusing on strengthening the dialogue with DSN to understand how to support DSN CMB in spreading information and providing input to the ongoing projects.</i></p> <p><u>Upcoming meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMB RA conference, March 17-18 in Uppsala with topic: Imaging in Life Sciences 	
10	<p>Collaborations with WASP-HS</p> <p><i>A series of strategic workshops DDLS/WASP-HS is planned to identify the most important research areas with a focus on ELSI questions related to the data-driven life science. The workshops aim to build capacity, inspire the research community and promote international collaborations.</i></p> <p><i>The initial workshop will be done over ~2 days in a 'research sandpit' format, gathering 20-40 participants at a remote location, mixing invited international specialists with selected scientists from DDLS and WASP-HS. The output will be strategic research questions + scientific position papers with the aim of setting the agenda in this field.</i></p> <p><i>The follow-up workshops will be focused workshops on specific topics. The aim is that these will be organized by members outside the current DDLS/WASP-HS working group (but funded by DDLS/WASP-HS).</i></p> <p><i>WASP-HS is very interested in this idea and the initial workshop is planned to occur in May 2025. DDLS is asked to co-fund this event, using the money dedicated for WASP-HS collaborations.</i></p> <p>ACTION: DDLS Steering group support this idea to co-fund a series of DDLS/WASP-HS workshops.</p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>
11	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>No further issues.</i></p> <p><i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

Dec 12, 2024



Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



Fredrik Ronquist, Attending minutes