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DDLS Steering group

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 41, 2025

Date: June 10, 2025
Time: 13.00 - 16.00
Room: "Earth" at Campus Solna, Stockholm
Zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/65946183529?from=addon

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, §1 - §5)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM. National SciLifeLab Committee chair, §1 - §8)

Other participants:

Olli Kallioniemi (Director of the DDLS research program, (§5 partly), Chair of the meeting

Jan Ellenberg (Director SciLifeLab)

Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director)

Lukas Käll (DDLS Research school director, postdoc program)

Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre, §3- §12)

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

Titti Ekegren (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab, §6 - §12)

Björn Nystedt (Head of unit Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)

Wojtek Potrzebowski (Data Science Coordinator, SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Members not attending:

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

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Agenda 2025-06-10

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/eTgDDNqY8TzcTnz

1	**Meeting formalities**	*Presenter:*
		Olli Kallioniemi
	Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson was chosen to attend the minutes from §1 - §8, and Carolina Wählby was chosen to attend the minutes from §9 - §12.	***Appendix:***
		1. Previous minutes, 25-04-25
	*The DDLS Steering group **approved** the previous minutes.*	
2	**Director's update**	*Presenter:*
	(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 3 - 26 for details)	*Olli Kallioniemi*
	It's been 4 years, 4 months and 22 days since our very first DDLS Steering Group meeting!	
	During this meeting, a presentation was given on DDLS-related topics discussed at the most recent SciLifeLab board meeting, including the decision regarding the RDCP applications.	
	Following a request made at the latest NRG meeting, we have now compiled an almost complete list of local contacts for DDLS Fellows:	
	• *Carsten Daub – KI*	
	• *Lukas Käll – KTH*	
	• *David Engblom – LiU*	
	• *Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson – LU*	
	• *Sebastian Kvist – NRM*	
	• *Catarina Rydin – SU*	
	• *Pär Ingvarsson – SLU*	
	• *Johan Zelano – GU*	
	• *Aristidis Moustakas – UU*	
	The pool of international DDLS evaluators needs to be expanded, and their current reimbursement model should be revised to ensure long-term quality and reliability. Ulrika Wallenquist will coordinate this effort, and members of the DDLS Steering Group will be invited to nominate candidates.	
3	***DDLS Fellow recruitment 3.0***	*Presenters:*
		Olli Kallioniemi,
		Titti Ekegren
	A presentation was given outlining the proposed recruitment process and timeline. The current plan is to conduct the first round of recruitment in autumn 2025, with a potential second round to follow in 2026, if necessary.	***Appendix:***
		3. DDLS recruitment texts
	Information was shared regarding the upcoming recruitment, including	

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	updated generic text templates and a guideline detailing recruitment expectations. This guideline covers the following areas: 1) *Strategic Alignment and University Responsibilities* 2) *Expectations and Responsibilities for Departments Hosting DDLS Fellows (Round 3.0)* 3) *Special Considerations for Recruiting DDLS Fellows (Round 3.0) – AI/ML Focus* 4) *Exploring Your Opportunity as a DDLS Fellow in Sweden.* *Following discussion within the DDLS Steering Group, it was agreed that the joint advertising campaign, initially scheduled to launch in mid-October, will now start in mid-September. This adjustment is intended to better align with the recruitment cycle in the United States.*	
4	**Strategic considerations for phase 3 - discussion priorities forward** *Open discussions about strategies for AI and compute and storage. How can AI-tools be made more accessible for SciLifeLab group leaders and the Data-Driven research community? Discussions are ongoing with NAISS and Sunet. A new initiative with WASP-AI for Life Science is also underway and DDLS should synergize and start collaborations.*	*Presenters:* *Olli Kallioniemi,* *Jan Ellenberg*

5	**DDLS financial update and phase 3 activities**
	(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 32 - 44 for details)
	
	Presentation of financial status and a 10-year forecast (2025 – 2035) was provided. The preparation and planning of the phase 3 application and budget for phase 3 were reviewed. The following strategic considerations for phase 3 were presented for further discussion:
	
	• *Extend Research area activities*
	• *Ensure AI resources and activities*
	• *Need for compute and storage*
	• *WABI-AI initiative*
	• *DDLS content support (provide structured) data and functionality => aid future scientific insights*
	• *3-year postdoc positions*
	    • *Set up as 2+1, where final year could be co-funded by PI*
	    • *Or reduce no of positions*
	• *Training – coordination and additional resources*
	• *Travel grants to fellows and their group members*
		Presenters:
		Jenny Alfredsson,
		Heidi T. Persson

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6	**Update from Data Centre (DC)** *(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 45 – 62 for details)* *An update was provided on the ongoing work with the Data Science Nodes and the implementation of the Integrated Data Service (IDS) across all infrastructures at SciLifeLab. DC has been assigned to coordinate and lead two projects: the development of a User and Project Portal (in collaboration with OO) and a Sample Tracking System. In addition, DC will coordinate the dialogue with NAISS and other national e-infrastructures in Sweden and will organize internal communication and planning within SciLifeLab regarding IT and e-infrastructure needs.* *DC currently meets with all new DDLS Fellows to present the available data services after they have started their positions. The DDLS Steering Group discussed the potential benefits of offering prospective fellow candidates the opportunity to meet with DC prior to accepting their positions. This would allow candidates to gain insight into the broader data services available beyond their host universities. It was suggested that this offer could be extended to the recruitment committees for consideration.*	*Presenter:* *Johan Rung*
7	**Update from WABI** *(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 63 – 88 for details)* *Presentation of WABI support, the support teams, WABI staff and publications from PI's connected to WABI. For the Phase 3 planning WABI wants to:* *Continue to decrease volume of staff (target ~20 FTE at start of phase 4: SU grant ending)* *Improve mechanisms to leverage WABI-supported projects into tools and data services in collaborative efforts by utilizing resources across the DDLS program and the SciLifeLab platforms Integrated Data Services initiative.* *Scale up mentoring efforts?* *Guidelines on competence profiles for WABI replacement positions at two Data Science Nodes (EBI + EB) are needed. While advertisements for the new recruitments are prepared, there is a question as to whether these should be postponed until the roles of the Data Science Nodes have been redefined.* *It was suggested that the recruitment strategy might instead focus on addressing existing gaps in data services, regardless of the specific research focus of each node. This matter will be further discussed in upcoming meetings.*	*Presenter:* *Björn Nystedt*

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8	**Research School - Update Postdoc Program** *(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 89 – 95 for details)* *The newly appointed Research school Director for the postdoc program, Lukas Käll shared his visions and ideas of the process and design of the postdoc program. Some main questions are:* • *Who do we want to recruit?* • *Project- or person-centered recruitment?* • *Training/education packages?* • *What is the unique selling point of this program?* • *How do we ensure broad visibility and a diverse pool of applicants?* *The duration of the positions was discussed. A 3-year position could be possible by combining a 2-year DDLS funding and additional support by the PI. Also, it was discussed that a person-centered recruitment could mean that the postdocs could formulate their project together with a PI (before projects are finally selected). However, long-term previous work in the same group or transition from a PhD role in the same group to a postdoc is not appropriate.* *Could industrial postdocs be connected to start-ups?*	*Presenter:* *Lukas Käll*
9	**Research School - Update PhD Program** *(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 96 – 104 for details)* • *Presentation of new members in the Research school management group (RSMG). There is a need for a new member representing RA CMB and replacing Lukas Käll who is now assigned to a Research school director role for the postdoc program.* • *The DDLS Research school curriculum structure that was discussed at SG meeting no. 40, 250424 has now been decided by the RSMG.* • *The recruitment of PhDs granted in the DDLS PhD project call 2024 is ongoing and a total of 7 positions out of 26 have been filled.* • *The call for DDLS RS courses in 2025 received 12 proposals and the decisions will be made by RSMG in August.* • *The next annual PhD school meeting will be held 17-20 March 2026*	*Presenters:* *Olof Emanuelsson,* *Peetra Magnusson*
10	**Research School - PhD Project Calls & SG Agreement** *(See presentation "June 10_DDLS SG", page 105 – 113 for details)* *Proposed updates to the call texts in appendices 10a. and 10b. were presented.* *The Steering Group discussed strategies to promote an increase in the number of applications in the industrial track. It was suggested that the same company may submit multiple applications, provided that each*	Presenter: *Mojgan Seraji* ***Appendices:*** ***10a.*** *Call for DDLS Academic PhD Projects 2025* ***10b.*** *Call for DDLS Industrial PhD*

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	application involves a different academic co-PI from separate departments. This approach aims to promote diversity and broader academic collaboration. **Action:** The DDLS Steering Group approved the presented call texts with the clarification in the call for DDLS industrial PhD projects that the same company can send multiple applications but with different academic PIs from different departments. The final wording of the eligibility section in the academic call to be presented to the SciLifeLab board is left to the Research School directors and the DDLS director.	*Projects 2025*
11	**Update about RDCP processes and the role of RDCPs** *The applicants for the four RDCP Expression of Interest applications approved by the SciLifeLab Board (Meeting No. 78, 2021-05-25) have been informed of the expected revisions to their proposals. Final project applications will be approved by the Chair of the SciLifeLab Board.* *The Steering Group discussed the formal reporting structure for the RDCPs, including whether they should report to the Research Area Leads. Given that some RDCPs are relevant to more than one specific DDLS research area, the DDLS Steering Group discussed that it might be more appropriate for the RDCPs to report directly to the DDLS Steering Group, but keep the RAs informed about their plans and progress.* *All RDCPs will be required to submit an annual report to the DDLS Steering Group and to present their progress at the DDLS Annual Conference.*	*Presenter:* *Olli Kallioniemi*
12	**Other issues** *No further issues.* *The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!*	*Presenter:* *Olli Kallioniemi*

Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting

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Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (§1 - §8)   *Carolina Wählby (§9 - §12)*

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