DDLS Steering group

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 43, 2025

Date: October 2, 2025
Time: 9.00 - 12.00
Zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64264924487?from=addon

Attending members:

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Other participants:

Siv Andersson (KAW representative)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology, §6 - §11)

Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director, §6 - §11)

Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director, §3 - §11)

Lukas Käll ((DDLS Research School director)

Sandra Falk (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)

Elvan Helander (DDLS Controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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

Hanna Kultima (vice Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Wojtek Potrzebowski (Data Science Coordinator, SciLifeLab Data Centre, §1 - §10)

Jessica Lindvall (Head of SciLifeLab Training Hub)

Disa Larsson Hammarlöf (Research coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab, §10)

Members not attending:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

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

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Agenda 2025-10-02

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/5JLCMW5cZ9DwdxM

1	**Meeting formalities**	*Presenter: Carolina Wählby*
	Janne Lehtiö was chosen to attend the minutes.	**Appendix:**
	Unfortunately, DDLS Director Jan Ellenberg was unable to attend this meeting due to travelling so the meeting was chaired by co-Director Carolina Wählby	*1. Previous minutes, 25-08-27*
	*The DDLS Steering group **approved of** the previous minutes.*	
	Note: Item §5 was presented prior to §3 to enable better discussions about data services.	
2	**Update from the co-Director** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 3-7 for details)*	*Presenter: Carolina Wählby*
	Information about the newly released call for DDLS Research School PhD projects was presented. The expansion of the international evaluators pool is on-going, and nominations of suitable evaluators are still welcome (ddls@scilifelab.se).	
5	**Update and discussion about Integrated Data Services** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 8-19 for details)*	*Presenters: Björn Nystedt, Hanna Kultima*
	A presentation was given outlining a major project of implementing an improved integration of SciLifeLab infrastructure services (Integrated Data Services, IDS). An Infrastructure Strategy Group has been meeting monthly since February to plan and analyze for the implementation of IDS and other strategic topics. This group is working closely with the IDS Project Management Team that will define, structure and follow-up on concrete IDS activities based on decisions in the Infrastructure Strategy Group. Recruitment has started for 15 new positions across 7 platforms (+ 5 AI technical staff). Part-time funding will also be available to a few existing staff already working on the infrastructures.	
	User meetings giving the users the possibility to discuss multimodal projects with several platforms will be arranged and coordinated by NBIS monthly, read more here: User meeting for your multi-modal research projects - SciLifeLab	
	The DDLS Steering Group reflected that multimodal projects are hard to	

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	find and can be problematic regarding different structures for data storage depending on the sort of data produced. This is a big question where SciLifeLab needs to improve. *The call for Technology Development Projects (TDPs) 2025 is now open. (Call open: Technology Development Projects 2025 - SciLifeLab) This year the call has been extended to also include personnel from the IDS to generate larger projects.*	
3	**Update about Data Services** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 20-36 for details)* *An update about the Data Services was provided and needs assessments were discussed.* *Comments from the DDLS Steering Group:* • *The scale and complexity of multimodal projects make them difficult to define clearly. To demonstrate proof-of-concept, these projects should be broken down into smaller pieces.* • *We should prioritize engaging in larger, well-defined projects where SciLifeLab has already played a role, using these as strategic drivers.* • *A structured model, like those used in the TDP and RDCP initiatives, could be valuable for identifying and framing such larger projects. Could this approach be applied to the IDS projects?* *The matter of access to Berzelius has been under recent discussion. After post-meeting consultations with NAISS and KAW, the Data Centre has compiled the following key points to clarify process and eligibility criteria:* • ***SciLifeLab Group Leaders** and **KAW funded researchers** are eligible for Berzelius allocations. That includes DDLS funded PIs, their postdocs and PhD students, but not other DDLS postdocs and students without a DDLS/KAW-funded or SciLifeLab Group Leader PI. (This to keep the current requirement that PIs for allocated projects must be "At least as academically senior as an assistant professor").* • ***Purpose of allocation must be research intended for publication, not infrastructure operations** (see https://www.nsc.liu.se/support/systems/berzelius-resource-allocation/).* • ***DC will maintain an updated list of these individuals**, and share with NAISS for allocation purposes. OO will support the curation of the list, with transparency for KAW to confirm/reject if needed.* • ***DC will act as primary contact for NAISS** in questions regarding e-infrastructure and allocations for SciLifeLab / DDLS. Related issues or support questions at SciLifeLab should be coordinated through DC.*	*Presenter:* *Johan Rung*

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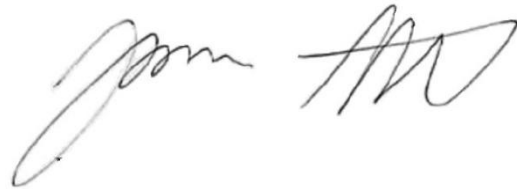
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4	**WABI support of RDCPs** *Four Research Data Community Projects have been approved. They are four strong, potentially large projects with good prospects of becoming large community projects.* *To enable WABI staff to support the RDCP's an addition to the regulatory WABI policy document is suggested, to allow for the DDLS director to decide on a total of 500 h WABI support per year outside of the regular support calls, after consultation with the DDLS Steering Group. A comment from the KAW representative and the Steering Group is that it is very important to stress that such asssignments are based on open calls within the DDLS program, discussed with the DDLS Steering Group, and subjected to scientific ranking by external peer review.* *In line with the above, it is suggested that the DDLS Director initially assigns 100 h WABI support to each of the four granted Research Data Community Programs.*	*Presenter:* Björn Nystedt
6	**DDLS phase 3 application and budget** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 40-46 and appendices for details)* *Brief update about the status of the DDLS Phase 3 application and the adjustments in the budget previously discussed with the DDLS Steering Group. The Steering Group is welcome to give comments and feedback on the application until midnight, October 2nd. After that the final revisions must be made prior to sending the application to the SciLifeLab board for decision.* *The DDLS steering group commented that it is important to include the number of postdocs budgeted for in Phase 3.* **ACTION:** *The DDLS Steering Group agrees to submit the DDLS Phase 3 application and budget to the SciLifeLab Board for decision. The DDLS Steering group also agrees that the Director and DDLS program office can revise the final documents according to comments.*	*Presenters:* Heidi T. Persson, Elvan Helander ***6.DDLS Phase 3 application - Next-to-final.*** ***6A. Achievements and impact from Phase 1-2 status Aug 2025.*** ***6B. DDLS-Fellows_recruitment Guidelines 2025.*** ***6D. DDLS List of members in organizational groups.***
7	**DDLS Postdoc program – feedback on texts** *An overview of the call process was presented and some key questions discussed regarding the postdoc program;* • *It was agreed that leaving positions unfilled in the first year is acceptable if no sufficiently strong candidates are identified. In such cases, it is preferable to re-advertise the positions to attract qualified applicants.* • *The DDLS Fellows' postdocs are intended to be part of the Research School.*	*Presenter:* Lukas Käll ***7a. Applicant_guide*** ***7b.Evaluators_guide***

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	• *Regarding the awarding of a third-year grant, it was discussed that principal investigators (PIs) and heads of units should provide motivation explaining why they want a specific postdoc to be funded for a third year.* • *The idea of establishing "Industrial Postdoc positions" at academic institutions, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), was discussed. KAW is in favour of employment within industry during the start-up phase of the program. At a later stage, the concept of "industrial" postdoc positions at SMEs may be considered.* • *It is crucial to come to a joint understanding regarding the recruitment process for approved postdoc projects when a postdoc candidate is involved in the project proposal.* *Comments to the call texts:* *To be PI for a postdoc project should not be restricted to SciLifeLab Group Leaders but open to all researchers at all Swedish Universities.* *The part mentioning previous collaborations needs clarification. If collaborations have occurred, i.e. in a European consortium or larger network, is that acceptable?* *A timeframe should be put on the time the candidate has spent in the lab prior to the application.*	
8	**Update from Research Area (RA) - status of applications of nominations** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 52-79 for details)* *Cell & Molecular biology:* *Thirteen expressions of interest to join the RA expert group were received, ranging from postdocs to platform directors with a span from pure research to technology skills. The CMB RA expert group will discuss the nominees and prepare a short-list for the DDLS Steering group.* *Upcoming symposia: "Data Driven Systems Biology: Harnessing Big Data and Systems Approaches to Decode Complex Biology" - March 24 - 25, 2026, Stockholm ([Read more here](#)).* *Evolution & Biodiversity:* *Four expressions of interest to join the RA expert group were received. One applicant is international, and the steering group discussed that we should keep the RA expert groups national but instead maybe suggest this applicant to be part of the evaluator pool.* *The DDLS EB RA is organizing a network event in Umeå, lunch-to-lunch on October 6-7, 2025.* *Upcoming symposia:* *An event associated with the BIOSYST EU (European scientists dealing with topics of systematic biology) conference August 17-19, 2026.*	*Presenters: Research area leads*

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	Precision Medicine & Diagnostics: *A joint initiative by the university hospital regions for the future of precision diagnostics was presented. The initiative includes ongoing work to develop a roadmap for implementation starting in 2026 and beyond.* *More information is available here:* *Ökad precision tillsammans – Rapport från USVRS initiativ inom precisionsmedicin (June 2025)* *Jämlikt införande av precisionsmedicin - Regionala cancercentrum i samverkan* *The international Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) studies were also presented.* *Epidemiology & Biology of Infection:* *Updates will be given at the next DDLS Steering group meeting.*	
9	**Update about DDLS Fellow recruitments (2,5 & 3.0)** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 80-84 for details)* *The re-recruitment for DDLS fellows not previously found in phase 2 is going well. In Umeå, one candidate has been offered the position and negotiations are on-going. Top-ranked candidates for the positions at LU and Chalmers are called for interviews.* *In the third phase of recruiting 11 new DDLS Fellows, seven partner organizations are currently advertising positions. The remaining four partners will participate in the second recruitment round, scheduled for February to April 2026.*	*Presenter:* *Sara Hallin*
10	**SciLifeLab training strategy: Impact on DDLS?** *(See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG", page 85-90 for details)* *A presentation was given about the work to prepare a SciLifeLab training strategy to ensure that efforts are connected, sustainable, and aligned with SciLifeLab' mission and scientific priorities.* *The training strategy working group is broad and includes, for example, representatives from SciLifeLab management, the SciLifeLab training hub, infrastructures, DDLS research school, AI & Data and key local training representatives nominated from SciLifeLab sites.* *The work is coordinated by Disa Larsson Hammarlöf and a first draft is planned early in 2026. Implementation of the strategy is planned to begin in spring 2026.*	Presenter: *Disa Larsson Hammarlöf*

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| 11 | **Other issues**

The Steering group members were friendly reminded to register for the upcoming DDLS annual conference and specifically those who want help with booking of travel and accommodation must do so before October 7.

Heidi Howard, previously assigned as ELSI expert, will be re-assigned for the task from October on a 60% assignment.

No further issues.
The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting! | *Presenter:*
Carolina Wählby |

Carolina Wählby, chair of the meeting

Janne Lehtiö, Attending minutes

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