

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 44, 2025

Date: November 11, 2025

Time: 10.00 - 14.00

On-site at Navet, BMC Uppsala. Room: E10:1307

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, §3 - §10)

Jan Ellenberg (Uppsala University)

Other participants:

Jan Ellenberg (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-§4)

Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director, §4 - §10)

Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director, §4- §10)

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)

Jessica Lindvall (Head of SciLifeLab Training Hub)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

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

Next meeting: December 15, 2025

Agenda 2025-11-11

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Erik Kristiansson was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved of the previous minutes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Jan Ellenberg</p> <p>Appendix: 1. Previous minutes, 25-10-02</p>
2	<p>Update from the Director (See presentation "November 11_DDLS SG", page 3-37 for details)</p> <p>Presentation from the DDLS Director about ongoing activities at SciLifeLab and DDLS. The implementation of the Integrated Data Services (IDS) continues and the question about how to build in the AI strategy into the IDS is being considered.</p> <p>The DDLS Phase 3 application has been submitted to KAW and a response from KAW is expected by March 2026.</p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Jan Ellenberg</p>
3	<p>Update from Research Areas (See presentation "November 11_DDLS SG", page 38-47 for details)</p> <p><u>Epidemiology & Biology of Infection:</u> Updates of recent and upcoming events and new members of the RA experts' group were presented. The EBI RA experts' group has been involved in an SFO application named: "Controlling Infection through AI-driven approaches" together with UMU, KI and LiU. If approved, the project might be coordinated by DDLS as a flagship project.</p> <p><u>Cell & Molecular biology:</u> Thirteen expressions of interest to join the RA experts' group were received and two candidates shortlisted. The candidates Ian Hoffecker (KTH) and Johan Henriksson (Umeå Univ) are both Docents from partners not previously in the CMB RA experts' group and younger than current members.</p> <p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering group approve of the nominees I. Hoffecker and J. Henriksson to be part of the CMB RA experts' group.</p> <p>NOTE: The Steering Group emphasize that the gender balance is uneven in both the CMB- and the EBI RA experts' group with a vast majority of men. The DDLS Steering group encourage the RA leads to actively work to get more women into these experts' groups.</p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> Research area leads</p>

	<p>Upcoming symposia: "Data Driven Systems Biology: Harnessing Big Data and Systems Approaches to Decode Complex Biology" - March 24 - 25, 2026, Stockholm (Read more here).</p> <p><u>Evolution & Biodiversity:</u></p> <p>Four expressions of interest to join the RA experts' group were received. But none of the applicants were found suitable to be part of the EB RA experts' group and therefore the RA experts' group will continue to search for additional members.</p> <p>The DDLS Evolution and Biodiversity research area organized a well-received network event in Umeå in October 2025 with DDLS Fellows, RA experts and researchers in the field. Also, planning is ongoing for a DDLS E&B event in 2026 associated with the BIOSYST EU (European scientists dealing with topics of systematic biology) conference August 17-19.</p>	
4	<p>Data services/DSN/ SciLifeLab sites/nationally distributed data services <i>(See presentation "November 11_DDLS SG", page 48-58 for details)</i></p> <p>An overview of data services and the transition from a fragmented platform approach to a more centralized model was presented. Discussions covered data usage and repositories for harvesting diverse data types, along with access to multimodal sources and the creation of interoperability through AI. It was emphasized that SciLifeLab must have the capacity to support the community in navigating data management.</p>	<i>Presenters:</i> <i>Björn Nystedt,</i> <i>Hanna Kultima</i>
5	<p>How to prioritize service projects - Needs and Governance <i>(See presentation "November 11_DDLS SG", page 59-61 for details)</i></p> <p>There is a need to harmonize and organize all calls initiated by SciLifeLab/DDLS and prepare a structure and process on how to handle them in the most synergistic and effective way. The engagement of the DDLS Steering Group to evaluate and run priority processes is needed.</p>	<i>Presenters:</i> <i>Björn Nystedt,</i> <i>Hanna Kultima</i>
6	<p>DDLS Postdoc program (Agreement on model) <i>(See presentation "November 11_DDLS SG", page 63-66 for details)</i></p> <p>The timeline and alternative models for the postdoc program were presented. Discussions addressed how to manage a potential third year and the total number of postdoctoral positions. The importance of ensuring independence so that postdoctoral candidates move away from their PhD laboratories was emphasized. While this cannot be formally stated as a criterion in the application, a lack of demonstrated independence may be considered a strong disadvantage in the evaluation.</p>	<i>Presenter:</i> <i>Lukas Käll</i> <p>6a. applicant_guide 6b. evaluators_guide 6c. time_line</p>

	<p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering Group supports the program model with two-year-positions and the possibility to apply for a third year with a small, scientifically reviewed application. The DDLS Steering group also agrees that the research school director of the postdoc program may revise the final documents according to comments.</p>	
7	<p>Effective DDLS governance (NRG/ local contacts/ site directors) <i>(See presentation "November 11_DDLS SG", page 67-76 for details)</i></p> <p>A big national community with several organizations creates challenges in communication. Therefore, the SciLifeLab/DDLS coordination needs a more harmonized structure. There is a need to identify functions of DDLS representation locally and strengthen the connection with the partner organizations through a few people.</p> <p>Roles and expectations for DDLS representatives need to be clarified.</p>	<i>Presenter:</i> <i>Jan Ellenberg</i>
8	<p>Where are we going - what's the impact of DDLS?</p> <p><i>Item postponed to next DDLS Steering group meeting, Dec 15.</i></p>	<i>Presenters:</i> <i>Jan Ellenberg,</i> <i>Carolina Wählby</i>
9	<p>Instruments to promote excellence in DDLS</p> <p><i>Item postponed to next DDLS Steering group meeting, Dec 15.</i></p>	<i>Presenters:</i> <i>Jan Ellenberg,</i> <i>Erik Kristiansson</i>
10	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>No further issues.</i></p> <p><i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<i>Presenter:</i> <i>Jan Ellenberg</i>

Jan Ellenberg, chair of the meeting


Erik Kristiansson, Attending minutes

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