

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 34, 2024

Date: August 26, 2024

Time: 13.00 - 16.00

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/61326044778>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, §1 - 4)

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

Other participants:

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

Siv Andersson (KAW representative)

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

Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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 unit Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Agenda 2024-08-26

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

<https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/JHfY2mLynf3JndF>

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The agenda was rearranged and item §7 and §8 were presented together directly after §5 and before §6.</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, 24-04-25</p>
2	<p>Director's update (See presentation "August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 3 – 28 for details) ----- <i>Director's update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 out of 20 DDLS Fellows in recruitment phase 2 have accepted offers for positions. At least three positions are likely to be re-announced and remaining four positions are still pending. • Second call for academy and industry PhD projects will open this fall • Call for DDLS Research School Courses, Deadline Sept 2 (https://www.scilifelab.se/data-driven/ddls-research-school/call-for-ddls-research-school-courses) • Call for Joint WASP and DDLS NESTs, Deadline Oct 30 (https://www.scilifelab.se/data-driven/call-for-joint-wasp-and-ddls-nests) • Research initiation grants for data-driven life sciences and society (DDLS/WASP-HS), Deadline Nov 4 (https://www.scilifelab.se/data-driven/research-initiation-grants-for-data-driven-life-sciences-and-society) • WABI Bioinformatic support, 7 omics + 4 cryo-EM projects granted • Applications for DDLS Bioinformatics Long-term Support, Deadline Oct 10 (https://nbis.se/services/bioinformatics/peerreview/apply) <p><i>The open educational resources are growing and a process to make courses nationally available has been developed. A DDLS training and education catalogue, for the fall 2024 season has been prepared and can be found in the SciLifeLab Training Portal: SciLifeLab Training Portal</i></p> <p><u><i>Upcoming meetings and events</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDLS & SciLifeLab Fellow retreat, Hesselby slott, 28-29 aug • Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness Retreat, Aronsborg, 29 aug • CS Science Talks, Life City 12 sept. • Planetary Biology 2024 Conference, Gbg, 17-18 sept. • Joint WASP-WASP-HS- DDLS conference, The Disruptive Role of Data and AI in the Life Sciences Gbg, 24-25 sept. • Science Summit 2024, Spatial biology, Uppsala (UKK), 1 oct • DDLS research area EBI symposium, Navet Uppsala 7–8 oct 	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SciLifeLab Day in Uppsala, Universitetshuset, 17 oct.</i> • <i>SciLifeLab PULSE consortium meeting & information webinars October-November.</i> • <i>DDLS Annual Conference 2024, Hilton Slussen, Stockholm 13-14 nov.</i> • <i>Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists, 8-13 dec. Stockholm Symposium & Bankett, 12 dec.</i> <p>2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DDLS Evolution and Biodiversity, Linköping, 13-15 jan.</i> • <i>EMBL-SciLifeLab-DDLS Infection Biology workshop 2025, 3-4 feb.</i> • <i>Hfp Leadership course, 5-7 feb.</i> • <i>DDLS Cell and Molecular Biology symposia, march/april</i> • <i>PALS annual network meeting, 2-4 june</i> • <i>SciLifeLab Group Leader retreat, Skogsheim & Wijk, 18-19 sept.</i> • <i>Science Summit, Oct 1, (DDD+biomarkers) Aula Medica</i> • <i>DDLS Annual Conference 12-13 nov. (Wednesday-Thursday)</i> <p><i>The DDLS director attended a meeting in June with other KAW funded programs to discuss what we can learn from each other and how KAW best can support the programs. The DDLS Director was also invited to WASP IAB meeting on August 28 to present and discuss. Sara Mazur, KAW and Anders Ynnerman, WASP/KAW are interested to meet DDLS for continued discussions.</i></p>	
3	<p>Follow up from DDLS SG strategy day, June 12 (See presentation “August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 29 – 36 for details)</p> <p><i>Highlights of some of the main topics of the Strategy Day discussions. The google sheet summarizes the overall discussions and suggest actions. The AI and ELSI aspects must be carefully considered in the strategy.</i></p> <p>Link to google sheet with notes and actions from the DDLS SG strategy day, June 12: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CM8MMObUmNCU92CS1MNdMbZU3GLsJGo5QVduLer52e0/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p><i>Interaction is key for the AI strategy and the role as AI lead will be multifunctional covering all aspects of SciLifeLab and the DDLS program.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>
4	<p>DDLS budget - Phase I surplus allocation discussion (See presentation “August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 37 – 59 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of analysis and allocation process for the 61,3 MSEK surplus remaining after Phase 1. A list of strategic, emergent, and other unforeseen activities with suggested funding are being prepared that after approval from the SciLifeLab board (Sept 17) will be sent to KAW for final approval.</i></p> <p><i>A large portion of the surplus arose from the Data support and database area and is due to delayed recruitments and a planned hardware investment that</i></p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>Jenny Alfredsson,</i> <i>Elvan Helander</i></p> <p>Appendices: 4a.PH1 funding follow-up 4b. Detailed unforeseen</p>

	<p><i>was not realized. Funding for the recruitments will be available also in Phase 2.</i></p> <p><i>The collaboration with WASP has a budget of 210 MSEK over a 12-year period from the DDLS program budget. We now plan to use 31,15 MSEK from the Phase 1 surplus + the Phase 3 budget allocated for collaboration with WASP to finance the 3 NESTs (total funding required 45 MSEK).</i></p> <p><i>The question that was discussed as to should half of the surplus from Phase 1 be used for the WASP collaborations in NESTs or what alternatives there are?</i></p> <p><i>The prepared guidelines for transfer of remaining funds after a completed Phase period have been prepared (appendix 4c.) are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Strategic initiatives and Emergencies</i> <i>2. Transfer limits; following a board approval a max. of 10% of the individual operative area phase budget can be transferred to the next Phase.</i> <i>3. Allocation of remaining surplus; If there is still a remaining balance after addressing strategic initiatives, emergencies, and the operational area limits, the surplus will be allocated to other prioritized activities.</i> <p><i>All allocations, whether for strategic initiatives, emergencies, or tiered funding, must be presented to and approved by the board.</i></p> <p><i>A report on Phase 1 surplus usage will be submitted to KAW by the end of September for final approval.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: After the Steering Group meeting this deadline was extended to Q4, 2024 The final list of activities with Phase 1 surplus funding will be presented to the SciLifeLab Board for approval on November 7, 2024, followed by submission to KAW for final approval in Q4, whereas a report of the total Phase 1 surplus will be sent to KAW at the end of Q3 as agreed.</i></p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> <i>The DDLS Steering Group supports the “Transfer Guidelines for Remaining Funds Following a Completed Phase Period” document, and agrees the “Detailed unforeseen activity list with proposed funding” to be revised and finalized by the DDLS management and DDLS Program Office.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS steering group agree to send the reviewed and finalized “Detailed unforeseen activity list with proposed funding” to the SciLifeLab board for approval.</i></p>	<p><i>activity list ...</i></p> <p><i>4c. Transfer Guidelines for Remaining Funds</i></p> <p><i>...</i></p>
5	<p>Update from DDLS research school <i>(See presentation “August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 60 – 67 for details)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of statistics from the recruitment of PhD positions. Eleven positions (out of 27 in total) are ready for approval, and seven positions (5 from academia and 2 from industry) are already approved. Gender balance looks fine.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>DDLS RS Directors</i></p>

	<p>The call for DDLS research school courses is out and closes Sep 2nd. The required topics for the courses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data handling in data-driven life science research • Algorithms in data-driven life science / Machine learning algorithms • Study design for data-driven life science research • Deep learning • ELSI <p>Suggested timeline for PhD recruitments and RS activities</p>	
<p>7 8</p>	<p>New call for academic PhD projects and New call for industrial PhD projects (See presentation “August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 68 – 86 for details)</p> <p>Discussion about the new calls for academic and industrial PhD projects. Some reflections from the Steering group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main PI from an accepted academic PhD project should not be allowed to apply in the next call, a 1-year quarantine will be applied to give more people opportunity to be granted. • The timeline for the call should be adjusted to avoid the review work to be focused during the Christmas weeks. • Could the time for project applications be reduced to 6 weeks? • The DAC should be informed as soon as possible about the upcoming task of reviewing the PhD project applications <p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering group agree to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • send the Call for DDLS Academic PhD Projects 2025 to SciLifeLab board for approval. SG delegates to Research School directors and DDLS director to finalize the call text and timeline • send the Call for DDLS Industrial PhD Projects 2025 to SciLifeLab board for approval. SG delegates to Research School directors and DDLS director to finalize the call text and timeline. 	<p>Presenters: DDLS RS Directors</p> <p>Appendix: 7. Call for DDLS Academic PhD Projects 2025</p> <p>Appendix: 8. Call for DDLS Industrial PhD Projects 2025</p>

6	<p>Decision Letter / T&C for Industrial PhD projects (See presentation “August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 87 – 90 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of finalized Terms & Conditions for Academic PIs involved in Industrial PhD Projects, along with the Decision Letter for Industrial PIs.</i></p> <p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering group agree to the structure of having both a Terms & Conditions for funding agreement and a decision letter for industrial PhD projects.</p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> DDLS RS Directors</p> <p><i>Appendices:</i> 6a. DDLS Industrial PhD Projects decision letter .. 6b. DDLS PhD Projects terms and conditions for funding _Industrial PhD</p>
9	<p>Update from Data Centre and WABI (See presentation “August 26_DDLS SG presentations, page 91 – 100 for details)</p> <p><u>WABI:</u> <i>A new evaluations committee for proposals is about to be formed.</i> <i>The WABI call from spring 2024 resulted in 25 applications whereof 7 was granted. The next WABI call has deadline October 10.</i></p> <p><i>Two questions related to WABI cryo-EM were addressed to the DDLS Steering group:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Suggest a minor one-time hardware investment according to the approved DDLS WABI Phase 2 budget (1 MSEK) to bridge/complement current and future KAW/NAISS systems</i> <i>2. Suggest for a test period of 6-12 months to set aside up to 20% of the WABI Cryo-EM staff working time for free pre-evaluation support (“rapid-access”) of ~20 h/project to increase the number and quality of the main applications for WABI Cryo-EM projects. Selection will be based on needs assessment by the Cryo-EM main nodes + screening nodes at regular weekly meetings.</i> <p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering group support both suggestions to be implemented by the WABI management as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>One recently accepted WABI project turned out an unusual case, and some non-standard measures may be relevant. WABI EBI staff (Matilda Berkell) has played a key role during the last 6 months in the project and her knowledge is now essential to the operation in the future to curate and handle a nationally valuable dataset. Suggestion is to set up a 2-year 20% FTE effort of Matilda’s time either as a prolonged WABI support or as a paid service.</i></p> <p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering group is in favour of a one-time exception to allow WABI staff to engage for an extended time in a given project. The funding</p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> Johan Rung, Björn Nystedt</p>

	<p><i>models and other practical details will be further discussed and agreed with the EBI RA lead and the DDLS director before the exception is implemented.</i></p> <p><u>Data Centre:</u> <i>A short update that the data platform now has migrated to a new cluster and work on development and operational processes are ongoing, related to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Incident management</i> • <i>Information security</i> • <i>Service deployment</i> • <i>Kubernetes maintenance (a Kubermet expert now recruited to the IT team)</i> <p><i>Presentation of DC staff working with the DSNs.</i></p>	
10	<p>Proposals for national services within DDLS Cell and Molecular Biology Research Area</p> <p><i>Presentation from Sverker and Thomas at the Cell and molecular Data Science Node about the proposal for national services that they have just completed.</i></p> <p><i>First an open survey was launched resulting in both very general and very detailed responses. This led to a new format for the call for proposals with specified questions. Applicants were asked to provide a 3-page description of the proposed national service and it was clearly stated that the proposal should concern a national long-term service and not a project.</i></p> <p><i>Six proposals were received and reviewed for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eligibility (objective DDLS/ objective Data platform)</i> • <i>The fit to the CMB area</i> • <i>Feasibility given resources and expertise</i> <p><i>All proposals were found eligible.</i></p> <p><i>All applicants were also invited to open discussions to provide information not in the application.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals were ranked by members in the CMB RA experts' group.</i></p> <p><i>Two proposals were chosen;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>CMB imaging with cryo-EM</i> - <i>Creations of a national data platform for special biology</i> 	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>Johan Rung,</i> <i>Sverker Holmgren,</i> <i>Thomas Svensson</i></p>
11	<p>Update from DDLS Program Office <i>Postponed to next meeting</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Heidi T. Persson</i></p>
12	<p>Update from DDLS Fellow recruitment 2.0 <i>Postponed to next meeting</i></p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>DDLS recruitments WG</i></p>

13	Other issues <i>No further issues. The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i>	<i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i>
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Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



*Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson,
Attending minutes*