

Scientific Board Report 2023/2024

Hilde Orten, Chair of the DDI Alliance Scientific Board

DDI Alliance Annual Scientific Community Meeting
Virtual meeting 2024-05-21



Members of the Scientific Board

- **Chair (2021- 2025, chair from 2023)**

- Hilde Orten, Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research

- **Vice Chair (2021-2027, vice chair from 2023)**

- Darren Bell, UK Data Service

- **Members**

- Flavio Rizzolo, Statistics Canada, 2021-2025
- Ingo Barkow, University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, 2021-2025
- Simon Hodson, CODATA, 2021-2025
- Wolfgang Zenk-Möltgen, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, 2021-2027
- Jared Lyle, ICPSR, DDI Alliance Executive Director, ex officio, 2021-present
- Wendy Thomas, Minnesota Population Center, Technical Committee Chair, ex officio, 2021-present

- **Past members**

- Carsten Thiel, CESSDA, 2021- 2023
- Joachim Wackerow, GESIS) 2021 -2022 (retired)

The role of the Scientific Board

The scientific and technical body of the Alliance which represents the Scientific Community. The Scientific Board proposes the scientific work plan to the membership for approval and facilitates the scientific and technical work activities.

- The purposes of the Scientific Board according to the [Bylaws](#) are to:
 - Provide direction and coordination in the development of the substantive content of the DDI standards and other work products of the Alliance by its sub-committees and working groups within the context of the Alliance Strategic Plan.
 - Implement the scientific work plan agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community.
 - Oversee the substantive content of DDI standards and other work products.
 - Undertake research and testing concerning proposals for DDI standards and other work products.
 - Develop and promulgate best practices for use of DDI standards and work products.
 - Assess progress and barriers to progress.
 - **Provide a report on progress of the scientific work plan over the previous year, and proposals for the future scientific direction and related activities to the Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community**

The role of the Scientific Community

- The SC consist of scientific representatives.
- **The SB reports to the SC during the annual meeting about proceedings of the past year and presents the Scientific Plan for the next years for feedback.**
- The Scientific Work Plan of each term defines the boundaries in which the SB can act on its own.
- The SC does not approve the Scientific Work Plan. This can only be done by the member representative.
- The member representative can shift the approval right for the Scientific Work Plan to the scientific representative.

Activities of the Scientific Board in the past year

Meetings

- Virtual SB meetings
 - Monthly. Meetings in between those as needed
- EB/SB coordination calls
 - Quarterly. Led by Jared Lyle, DDI Alliance Executive Director
- Physical Scientific Board meeting
 - Bergen 9 – 10 October 2023
- Event with DDI Alliance Executive Director, the EB and SB together at EDDI 2023
 - [*Envisioning the Future of DDI in the Metadata Landscape*](#)

Proceedings and workflows

New Working Groups

- RDF Equivalence Working Group
- Questions and Questionnaires Working Group

Past Groups

- Paradata Working Group

Continuing Working Groups and Committees

- Technical Committee
- Controlled Vocabularies Working Group
- Cross Domain Integration (CDI) Working Group
- DDI Developers Group
- Glossary Working Group
- Structured Data Transformation Language (SDTL) Working Group
- XKOS - Extended Knowledge Organization System Working Group

New Scientific Work Plan

- Structured in terms of the three Strategic Priorities of the **Strategic Plan**
 - 1) ENGAGEMENT
 - 2) EXPANSION
 - 3) ALIGNMENT
- Goal oriented
- Continuous vs. time specific tasks
- Implementation by the Scientific Board, TC and the working Groups

Short-Term Goals (2023 SWP)

SB-1: Define a first draft of a roadmap for portability between versions. This action item has to be further developed as a medium-and long-term goal -> **TC**

SB-2: Promote more collaboration between the Working Groups, e.g. to achieve better documentation. This action item has to be further developed as a medium-and long-term goal -> **Contact persons, WG reporting CONTINUOUS**

SB-3: Plan the creation of a new software development group similar to the DDI Developers group in the past to promote DDI Tool development -> **Done 2023**

SB-4: Provide guidance for the community on which DDI specification and which parts of DDI are the preferred solution for specific use cases -> **TO BE CONTINUED in 2024 - 2026 SWP.**

SB-5: Promote the development of technical DDI services, especially resolution of DDI URNs to the physical location of DDI resources (identified by URLs) -> **Progress has been made and an example will be provided soon. TO BE CONTINUED in 2024 - 2026 SWP.**

Short-Term Goals (end of 2023)

SB-6: Explore a base architecture for existing and growing DDI metadata repositories -> **TO BE CONTINUED in 2024 - 2026 SWP.**

SB-7: To initiate establishing of organization-level relationships with external standards bodies where needed/appropriate. This action item has to be further developed as a medium-and long-term goal -> **W3C liaison active, UNECE/stats community liaison: Arofan Gregory appointed as informal liaison for the SB.**

SB-8: Review DDI Alliance communication on e.g. web pages on current products, the learn pages and development products -> **TO BE CONTINUED in 2024 - 2026 SWP.**

SB-9: Scope requirements for developing a product lifecycle policy, e.g. an outline of preferred methodologies, approaches to testing etc. **TC**

SB-10: Set up temporary WG to act as exploratory committee for DDI ISO certification. **To be approved soon. Chair: Dan Gillman**

SB-12: Identify candidates for advisory members to the Scientific Board. **Ongoing discussions if this should be on a permanent or case to case basis**

Upcoming activities

- Physical meeting in Chur, December 2024 - in connection with EDDI
- Main tasks
 - Follow - up on tasks from the Scientific Work Plan 2024 - 2026
 - Quarterly WG reporting
 - Meeting structure: Focus each meeting on one of the Strategic Priorities topics