DDI Scientific Plan - Submission of priorities

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As the first year already started and it does not make too much sense to cover only April 2021 – December 2021 I propose the Scientific Plan should cover the range from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2022 which is also the term of some of the members.

1. Scientific Board internally
2. The Scientific Board as new entity will clarify its internal proceedings and housekeeping
   1. Physical and virtual meetings of the Scientific Board
   2. Engaging the Scientific Community
   3. Modes of voting for Chair and Vice-Chair
   4. Modes of voting on decisions (e.g. possibility of remote votes between meetings)
   5. Collaboration between SB members between the meetings
3. The Scientific Board will clarify its status quo with all working groups including the Technical Committee as a permanent group
4. The Scientific Board will clarify its working relationship with the Executive Board
5. The Scientific Board will promote the establishment of new temporary or long-term working groups if necessary for extending the products or improving Alliance structures.
6. DDI Products

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is a suite of products that describes metadata about both quantitative and qualitative research data in the social, behavioral, economic, and health sciences. The DDI suite is a set of free standards that document and manage different stages of the research data lifecycle, including conceptualization, collection, process, distribution, discovery, and archiving.

There are currently the following DDI products published or in development:

Published:

* DDI Codebook
* DDI Lifecycle
* Controlled Vocabularies
* XKOS
* SDTL
* DISCO (?)

In Development

* DDI-CDI
* DDI Moving Forward or DDI4 (?)

This list is not comprehensive and does not necessarily include all developments. Also, the status of some of the developments seems to be unclear (e.g. is DISCO still used or should it be considered not supported anymore due to being obsolete or outdated). The product canon of the DDI Alliance also contains half-finished products. As development work was spent from volunteers to define those products it seems necessary to analyse what of these previous developments can be salvaged to be used in modules or products of the DDI Alliance.

This leads to the following strategic goals:

1. The Scientific Board will clarify which DDI products currently exist in which versions and which will be further developed, outdated or salvaged.
2. The Scientific Board will support mechanisms to improve interoperability between the different versions, e.g. by pushing for a more modular design or interfaces between products.
3. The Scientific Board will support the development of mappings and linkage between DDI products or modules and other external metadata standards.
4. The Scientific Board will survey the ongoing maintenance of the different products or modules.
5. The Scientific Board will promote interoperability and collaboration with other metadata standards or standardization groups.
6. The Scientific Board will support alignment with the FAIR principles and the FAIR organization.
7. The Scientific Board will support improvement of the overall documentation of the different products.
8. The Scientific Board will engage software developers and software architects within the DDI member communities to participate in DDI-based tool and software platform development.
9. The Scientific Board will support publishing DDI-related content in peer-reviewed journals to improve visibility of products and modules within the scientific community.
10. The Scientific Board will support DDI member organizations seeking research funding to improve DDI products or modules conceptually or by developing DDI-related software.
11. The Scientific Board will support the development of test cases, implementation examples or frameworks to be re-used in software packages.
12. The Scientific Board will re-ignite the discussion of certifying one of the DDI products as an official standard (e.g. ISO, IEEE).
13. Working Groups

… to be split up into teams within the SB ….