Lessons learned:
Moving a digital preservation network from project organization to sustainability

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German National Library
iPres, 5th October 2009
nestor is the German network of expertise in long-term storage of digital resources

2003-2009: Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research

June 2009: nestor transforms to a sustainable partner consortium

→ Review of transformation
Vision

- Be THE national contact point for digital preservation issues
- Integrated into a network with national and international organizations and alliances
- Integrate the variety of running (national) activities
- Work towards a national digital preservation policy
- Foster research and innovation
Mission

- **Project Phase**
  - “to secure the preservation of digital resources in Germany and to work with others internationally to secure our global digital memory and knowledge base“
  - Prepare a sustainable organization for the network

- **Sustainability**
  - “nestor bundles the existing know how, the forces, and the competencies with regard to digital preservation – thus, it is the starting point for an Alliance for Germany’s digital memory“
  - Sustain and enlarge the network
Organizational model

• Evaluation of several organizational models
  – “Eingetragener Verein” (registered association; membership corporation)
  – Joining of an existing organization
  – National committee
  – Cooperation Agreement
Cooperation Agreement

• Planning reliability: Partners have agreed on a work plan for the next three years and committed to tasks and responsibilities.
• Flexibility: New partners can enter the cooperation at any time.
• Board of directors makes strategic decisions and approves new members.
• A coordinator, based at the nestor office at the German National Library, is in charge of the day-to-day management of the network.
• Handicap: no legal competency: nestor cannot contract, hire people, or administer funds.
## Coordination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Phase</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project coordinator</td>
<td>nestor office at the German National Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Execution of project plan</td>
<td>DoW as part of the Cooperation Agreement</td>
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<td>4 annual project meetings</td>
<td>2 annual meetings</td>
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<td>Duty to report to the project funder</td>
<td>Informal consortium reports</td>
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Focus on core services

- Information and Communication Platform
  - Must be maintained with less resources
- Networking
  - National and International
  - Partners have committed to offer (at least) 4 WGs
- Education
  - MoU with HEIs, joint engagement in development of (international) curriculum
- Standardisation
  - Cooperation with DIN
New partners

- nestor is aspiring a balanced growth of the network
- New partners can be:
  - organizations concerned with all aspects of digital preservation
  - providers of specialized knowledge
- Should contribute:
  - competencies that add value to the network
  - link to other important activities
  - assume responsibility for one or more tasks
Visibility

- nestor is established in the digital preservation community and amongst practitioners
- Less known in the political sphere and among decision makers
- Individual partners outshine the network

→ Necessary to raise the profile of nestor
  - Strengthening the nestor „brand“
  - Make clear that nestor „products“ represent the consensus and the joint expertise of the nestor partners
Future planning

• Consolidate the network and its activities

• Find a way to raise and administer financial means

• Carefully enforce engagement in the strategic area:
  – Work with funders and politics, „lobbying“ for digital preservation
  – Make better use of synergies with other alliances
Thank you!

Questions?