“An environment for sustainable research software in Germany and beyond”

An update on de-RSE

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Remote RSE Leaders Meeting, 19 June 2020
A very brief history of de-RSE

2016:
- post-RSE conf. chapter launch

Nov 2018:
- National assoc. founded

Jun 2019:
- deRSE19 (200 int'l. delegates)

May 2020:
- Position paper 001

Aug 2020:
- Charitable status
- Generic board structure
- 4 regional chapters
- ~50 members
- Mailing list
- Rocket Chat
Soc. f. Res. Soft.! Now what?

1) Call and work phase
2) Review phase
3) Decision phase
4) Publication

See next slide …
Position paper 001

Aims:
1) Highlight the **importance** of research software
2) Stress the importance of software **sustainability**
3) Identify challenges (partly specific to Germany)
4) Address decision-makers to increase **awareness**
5) Recommend strategies & measures

**Topic areas:**
- Motivation (for sustainable software)
- Selection processes
- RSEs
- Funding
- Infrastructure
- Legal aspects

001: Motivation for sustainability

Claims:
1) All stakeholders benefit
2) Motivations differ

- General public
- Domain researchers
- RSEs
- Research leaders & organizations
- Funders
- Geopolitical units
- Infrastructure providers
- Industry
- OS developers
001: Selection processes

Hypothesis: Not all software can be funded

Q: Criteria for selection?

1. Usage and impact (5 criteria)
2. Software quality (10 criteria)
3. Maturity (5 criteria)

Recommendations:

1. Screening (software/scientific quality)
2. Open review
3. Funding based on iterative evaluation
001: Sustainment

Q: Whoyougonnacall?  
A: Codecollapsebusters! RSEs!

- RSEs make software sustainable, but

1. No (little?) awareness/recognition  
2. No career options  
3. Lack of formal training

Recommendations:

1. RSE role & career structures  
2. Education & training  
3. Resources for community-building
001: Funding

Four pillars:
1. Education and training
2. RSEs
3. Infrastructure
4. Community management and events

Challenges: e.g., fixed-term contracts & legal restrictions ($); dynamic hardware evolution; expertise; community funding

Recommendations:
New funding schemes for
- Longer-term software funding
- Dedicated sust. resources (CC/HPC)
- OERs, documentation, community care
001: Infrastructure

- Project management tools
- Training, knowledge exchange
- Software publication & discovery
- Archiving
001: Legal aspects

Challenges:
- Knowledge and awareness
- Chain of rights
- Identification of right holders
- (Liability)

Recommendations:
- Document chain of rights
- Use FLOSS licenses
- Institutional research software task forces
Meet Kim, who is currently a post-grad PhD student in researchonomy at the University of Arcadia (UofA). We will follow Kim’s fictional career in order to understand different aspects of research software sustainability.
In other news ...

Surveying the German RSE landscape

- 15 self-identified groups
- Different funding models (mostly underwritten + project grants)
- 3 university groups
- Rocket Science .. Romano-Germanic Archaeology
In other news …

**Working Groups (forthcoming)**

1. Job description & vacancy templates
2. de-RSE Leaders Meeting
3. Training & Carpentries in Germany via de-RSE
4. NFDI
5. Conference

**Qs:** Are these good topics to start with? What do we need to know?
Thanks!

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Talk to me on the UK RSE Slack 😊

Sources:

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