PREFORMA (PREservation FORMAts for culture information/e-archives)
- Introduction to the PCP Procedure

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PREFORMA project

- PREFORMA is a Pre-Commercial Procurement project co-funded by the European Commission under its FP7-ICT Programme.

- Start: 1 January 2014

- Duration: 48 month (end 31 December 2017)

Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)

- Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) is a competition-like procurement method, which enables public sector bodies to engage with innovative businesses and other interested parties in development projects to arrive at innovative solutions that address specific public sector challenges and needs. These innovative solutions are created through a phased procurement of development contracts to reduce risk.

- Pre-Commercial Procurement is becoming more and more common within the public sectors of the European Union. In Sweden, pre-commercial procurements are not just carried out by government agencies but also by municipalities, usually within innovation centered networks, and by municipal associations.

Project Partners in PREFORMA

- RIKSARKIVET (National Archives), Sweden   **Coordinator**
- PACKED EXPERTISECENTRUM DIGITAAL ERFGOED VZW, Belgium
- PROMOTER SRL , Italy   **Technical Coordinator**
- FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V, Germany
- HOGSKOLAN I SKOVDE (University of Skovde), Sweden
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA, Italy
- STICHTING NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR BEELD EN GELUID, Netherlands
- Koninklijk Instituut voor het Kunstpatrimonium, Belgium
- GREEK FILM CENTRE AE, Greece
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY-AN GHNIOMHAIREACHT BAINISTIOCHTA RIALTAIS AITIUIL, Ireland
- STIFTUNG PREUSSISCHER KULTURBESITZ, Germany
- AYUNTAMIENTO DE GIRONA, Spain
- Eesti Vabariigi Kultuuriministeerium, Estonia
- KUNGLIGA BIBLIOTEKET (National Library), Sweden

Project Concept

- Memory institutions are facing increasing transfers of electronic documents and other media content for long term preservation. This is one effect of the rapidly growing amount of digital information world wide. All these institutions have, as a consequence, to approach a number of challenges when assessing the quality of the electronic documents or media content to figure out if it is good enough to ensure long-term accessibility and usability.

- Preservation models are often inspired by ISO 14721:2003, known as "the OAIS model", where transfers and preservation are built on information packages containing both data and metadata. Metadata is normally stored in XML and specified in different schemas controlled by the community of professional curators through international organisations. Data content is normally stored in specific file formats for documents, images, sound, video etc., usually produced by software from different vendors.

Project Concept

- Even if the transferred files are in standard formats, the implementation of standards cannot be guaranteed:
  - The software used for implementing standards for the production of the electronic files is not in control neither by the institutions that produces them nor by the memory institutions.
  - Conformance tests of transfers are done by memory institutions, but are not totally reliable; different software for testing could end up in different results.
- This poses problems in long-term preservation. Data objects meant for preservation, passing through an uncontrolled generative process, can jeopardise the whole preservation exercise.

Project Aim and Objectives

- **The aim:** to address the challenge of implementing various good quality standardised file formats for preserving data content long term.

- **The main objective:** to give memory institutions full control of the process of conformity tests of files to be ingested into archives.

- **The main objective of the PCP launched by PREFORMA:** to develop and deploy an open source software licensed reference implementation for various file format standards, aimed for any memory institution (or other organisation with a preservation task) that wish to check conformance with a specific standard.

Project Aim and Objectives

- **Specific objectives**
  - Develop a set of tools that support a *reference implementation*
  - Set up a sustainable *network of common interest* with representatives from memory institutions, researchers and developers who are interested in contributing to the definition of the requirements and taking part in the assessment and the exploitation of the results produced by the suppliers

- Improve the quality of *standards implementation*

- Carry through *dissemination activities*

Project Status

- Kick off in January 2014
- Submitted an Overall Roadmap for the preparation of the request for tender and the selection of the technology suppliers that will be invited to take part in the research and development phase
- Web site is up and running (www.preforma-project.eu)
- Mail address: info@preforma-project.eu
- Events
  - EC Concertation meeting in February 2014
  - PREFORMA requirements workshop for memory institutions in March 2014
  - Call for tender
    - Pre-announcement in March 2014
    - PREFORMA Information Day in Brussels, 4 April 2014
    - Published by the end of May 2014

Thank you!

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