PREservation FORMAts for culture information/e-archives

PREFORMA
Background and Context

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Coordinator, PREFORMA project

Project Identity Card

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

❑ **Start date**: 1 January 2014

❑ **Duration**: 48 month (end date: 31 December 2017)

❑ **Total budget for the procurement**: 2.805.000 EUR

❑ **Website**: www.preforma-project.eu

❑ **Contacts**

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  – Technical Coordinator: Antonella Fresa, Promoter Srl, fresa@promoter.it

  – Communication Coordinator: Claudio Prandoni, Promoter Srl, prandoni@promoter.it

Project Partners

- RIKSARKIVET, Sweden **Project Coordinator and memory institution**
- PROMOTER SRL, Italy **Technical and Communication Coordinator**

- **Technical partners**
  - PACKED EXPERTISECENTRUM DIGITAAL ERFGOED VZW, Belgium
  - FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V, Germany
  - HOGSKOLAN I SKOVDE (University of Skovde), Sweden
  - UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA, Italy

- **Memory institutions**
  - 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.

❑ Data content are normally stored in specific **file formats** for documents, images, sound, video etc., and these files are usually produced by software from different vendors.

❑ Even if the transferred files are in standard formats, the correct **implementation of standards** cannot be guaranteed:
  – The software used 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 digital preservation**. Data objects meant for preservation, passing through an uncontrolled generative process, can jeopardise the whole preservation exercise.

The Layers of a Digital Object
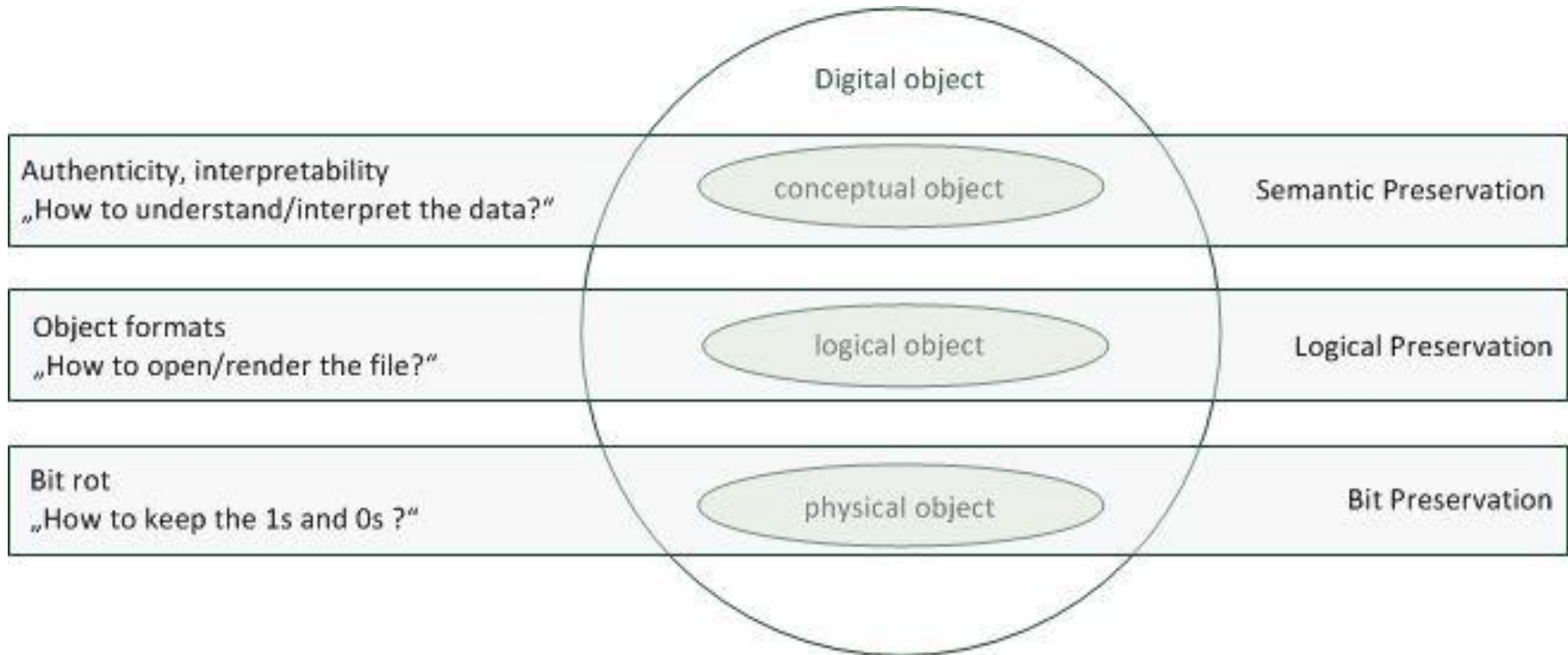
Project Aim and Objectives

❑ **The aim:** to implement good quality files in various standard formats for preserving digital 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 an open source software for the management of the whole conformance test process, supporting a range of standards, addressing the needs of any memory institution or other organization with a preservation task.

Open Source approach

❑ PREFORMA is following an **open source approach**, with the aim to establish a sustainable research and development community comprising a wide range of contributors and users from different stakeholder groups.

❑ The open source nature **ensures long-term availability of the software**, beyond the memory institutions and suppliers involved in PREFORMA.

❑ Licenses
  – All **software** developed during the PREFORMA project will be provided under two specific open source licenses: "GPLv3 or later" and "MPLv2 or later".
  – All **digital assets** developed during the PREFORMA project will be provided under Creative Commons CC-BY v4.0, and in open file formats.

Target users and stakeholders

- ❑ **Memory institutions** and cultural heritage organisations, which are involved in (or planning) digital culture initiatives.
- ❑ **Developers** contributing code for the PREFORMA open source tools.
- ❑ **Research organisations** providing technical advice to cultural stakeholders.
- ❑ **Standardisation bodies** maintaining the technical specifications of the preservation formats covered in PREFORMA.
- ❑ **Funding agencies**, such as Ministries of Culture and national/regional administrations, that own and manage digitisation programmes and may endorse the use of the PREFORMA tools in the digitisation process.
- ❑ Other **projects** in the digital cultural heritage domain.

Thank you!