Introduction to the APARSEN Project
Sharon McMeekin, DPC
sharon@dpconline.org
@SharonMcMeekin
Trust & Digital Preservation, Dublin, 4th-5th June 2013
What is APARSEN?

• A Network of Excellence in digital preservation
• Funded by European Commission
  - 7th Framework Programme — Digital Libraries and Digital Preservation
• January 2011 to December 2014 (4 years)
• Coordinated by Science and Technology Facilities Council (UK)
• 31 renowned partners from 13 countries (10 EU countries + Israel, Russia, Switzerland)
APARSEN – Project vision

APARSEN is a Network of Excellence that aims to

• Unify a diverse set of practitioner organisations and researchers in digital preservation (DP)

• Bring coherence, cohesion and continuity to research into barriers to the long-term accessibility and usability of digital information and data through a common vision

• Build a long-lived Virtual Centre of Digital Preservation Excellence (VCoE)

• Take DP to a higher level of recognition within the EU and beyond.
The APARSEN partners represent a wide range of backgrounds in DP:
- Content holders and researchers, libraries and scientific data, many previous projects, …

… and will formulate a Common Vision of the present and future of DP
- Establishes a common framework for discussing DP
- Defines the DP research agenda
- Underpins the Virtual Centre of Excellence
APARSEN defines four topics of DP in which it undertakes research of state of the art and gap analysis:

- Trust
- Sustainability
- Usability
- Access

APARSEN outcomes feed successively into the common vision in the course of the project.
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APARSEN Approach

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APARSEN Common Vision
Virtual Center of DP Excellence
Trust – Activities

- Authenticity and provenance
- Annotation, reputation & data quality
- Peer review/3rd party certification of repositories
- Common test environments
Sustainability – Activities

• Cost/benefit data collection and modelling
• Business Cases
• Preservation services
• Storage solutions
Usability – Activities

• Common standards
• Common tools, software repository and market place
• Interoperability and intelligibility
• Scalability
Access – Activities

• Identifiers and citability
• Data policies and governance
• Digital Rights and Access Management
Spreading Excellence – Activities

- Liaison with Stakeholders
- Visualisation of Expert Centres in DP – Interactive Map of Stakeholders
- Formal Qualifications
- Training Courses
- Internal workshops, symposia and events
- External workshops, symposia and events
- External communications and awareness raising
Spreading Excellence - Objectives

• **Raise awareness** of the issue of digital preservation (DP)
• **Identify relevant stakeholders and multipliers**
• **Initiate collaboration and exchange with stakeholders**
• **Contribute to defragmentation in DP**
• **Identify gaps in formal qualification and professional training and initiates development of DP education**
Communication channels used:

- Conferences and workshops
- Webinars - Next 13th June 2013
- Website
- Social media
  - Twitter @APARSENProject, LinkedIn, Facebook
- Publications
  - Reports, Brochures, Newsletter
- Surveys done in several fields e.g. DP education/business cases
- Communication collaboration
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aparsen.eu

#APARSEN

Co-funded by the European Union under FP7-ICT-2009-6

Visualisation of Expert Centres in DP – Interactive Map of Stakeholders
Training Courses – Outcomes

- Report on Survey of Training Material/ Assessment of Digital Curation Requirements published (Jan 2013)
  - Gap analysis of provision vs training needs
  - Recommendations include more advanced, practical training
  - Contains topics not covered and participant requirements

- Training courses
  - 6 training events planned based around report conclusions (2013/2014)
  - Developing online training resource centre (Dec 2013)
Virtual Centre of Excellence - VCoE

Who will benefit from the VCoE?

- Researchers in DP
- Research data producers
- Information curators
- Decision makers
- Suppliers of products/services for preservation
Virtual Centre of Excellence - VCoE

The process of building the VCoE
- Reduce risk by building on the existing APA
- Series of workshops to address particular questions
- Capitalising on the experience of others who have done something similar
- Creating a “blueprint”
  - What are the offerings?
  - What is the membership model?
  - …

• Launch in 2014