

Stewarding National User Groups to Strengthen International OSS Communities

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Open Repositories 2019 Hamburg



DURASPACE™



Once upon a time...

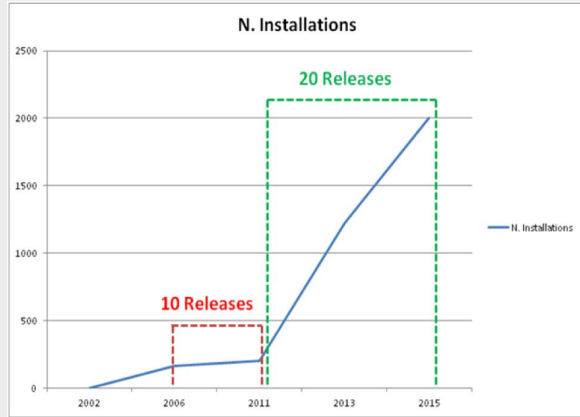
... MIT and Hewlett Packard started to develop a solution to publish MIT's research results on the internet

They published it Open Source

18 years later it is the software most widely adopted for repositories

(accordingly to opendoar.org)

The DSpace Commmitter Group



- Most decisions were run by the DSpace Commmitter Group
- Release were done using the “bring us what you have” principle
- Who contributed regularly was invited to join the DSpace Commmitter Group

Until 2014

2014

2016

2017

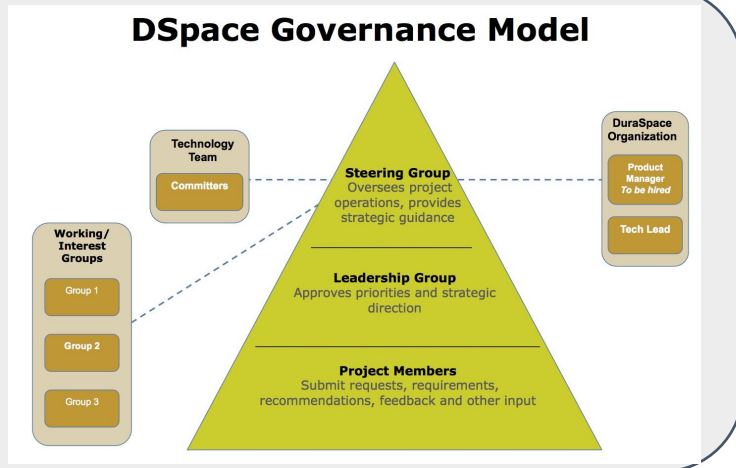
2018

2019

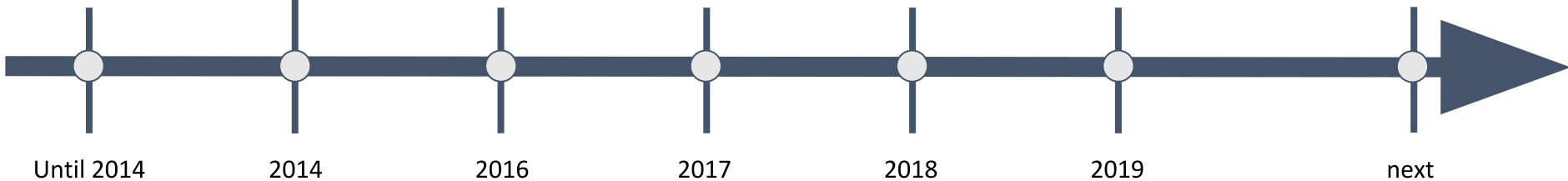
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Project governance

- DuraSpace collected money to run servers for DSpace, hire a technical lead, steward the Open Source project
- And the Governance?

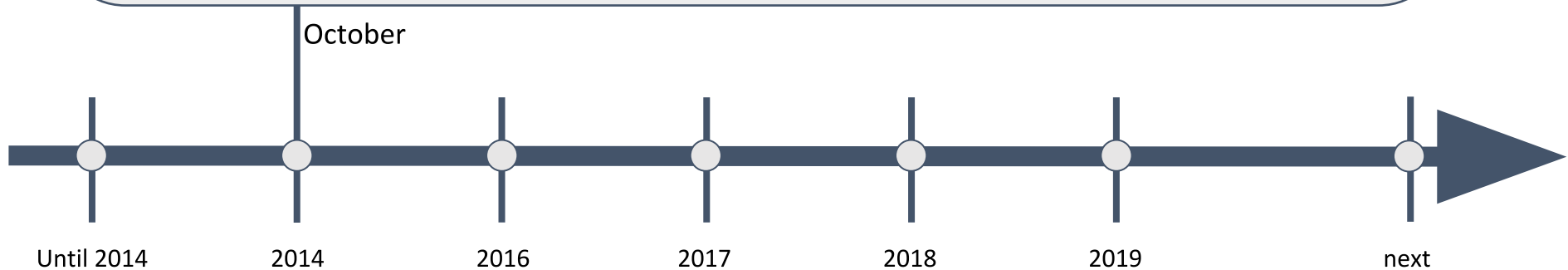


Open Repositories



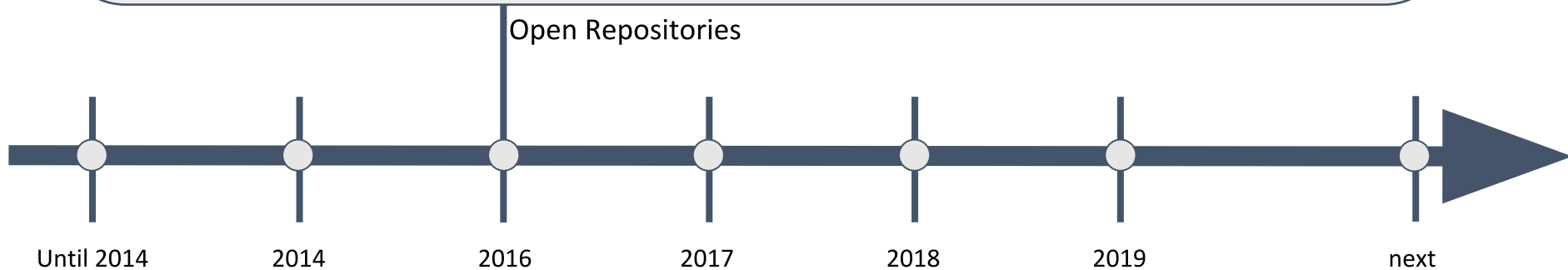
Repositories in Germany

- Until 2010 OPUS was the dominating software for repositories in Germany
- DSpace and EPrints were used in Germany, but not very often
- DSpace got a major thrive from 2014 onwards
- First German DSpace User Group meeting in 2014
 - “informal exchange about typical topics of DSpace ... in Germany”
 - approx. 25 attendees



Why Germany's UG wanted to become a consortium...

- Being a growing group caring for DSpace (2014: 25, 2019: >100 participants)
- German user group was existing but missing a voice in project governance
- Wanting to participate on determining the future of the software we need
- Membership fees oriented towards US-based universities
- But, if a single institution cannot afford a membership, can we finance it together?



Why DuraSpace was open to the idea of the Consortium

- Internationalization strategy
- New governance structure
- New membership model
- Global users but not global governance
- Getting closer to the users (Listening mode: on)
- Understanding what local users needs

Supporter



Platinum - 1 seat per member
Gold - 1 seat per member
Silver - 1 seats for every 4 members
Bronze - 1 seat for every 8 members

2 community at large representatives
Certified Partner Providers
Ex-officio and/or emeritus members

Until 2014

2014

2016

2017

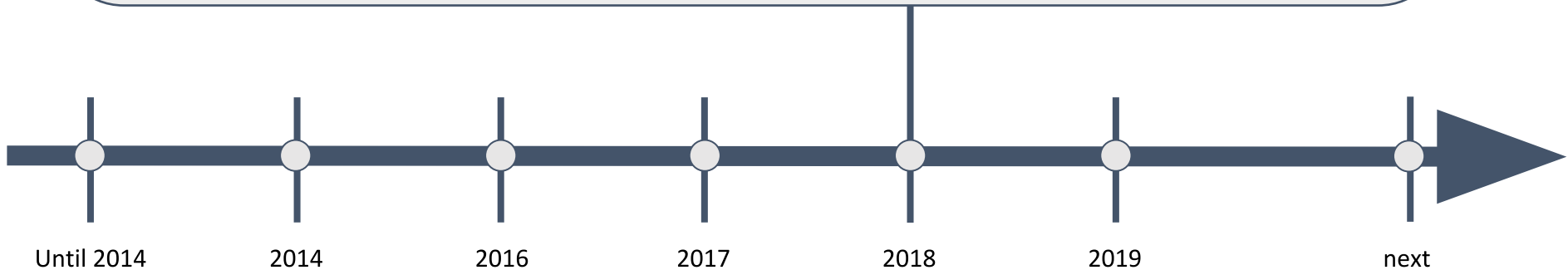
2018

2019

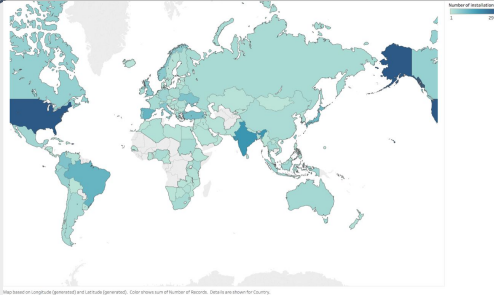
next

Founding a national consortium

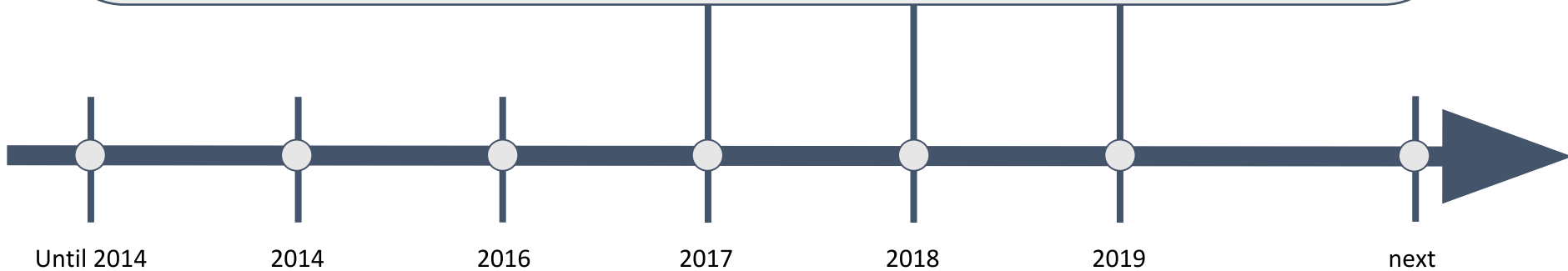
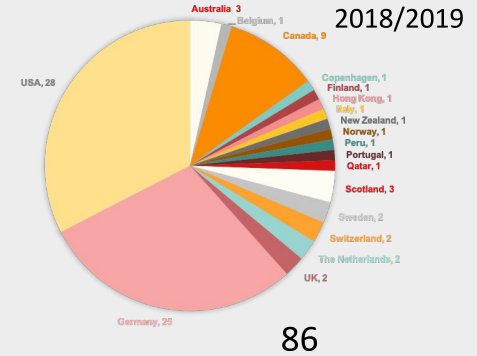
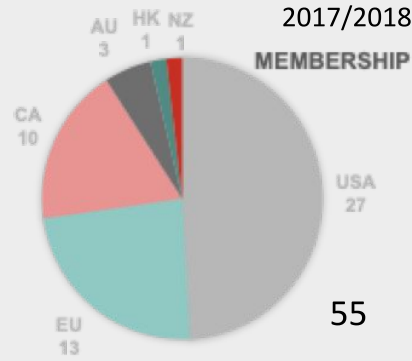
- 25 institutions founded the “DSpace Konsortium Deutschland” in 2018
- Surprisingly huge success:
 - The Consortium ended up with a platinum membership, being able to make a substantial contribution to finance the DSpace project
 - A representative from the Consortium is member of LG
 - One impact: LG started DSpace GDPR Working Group



In the meantime...

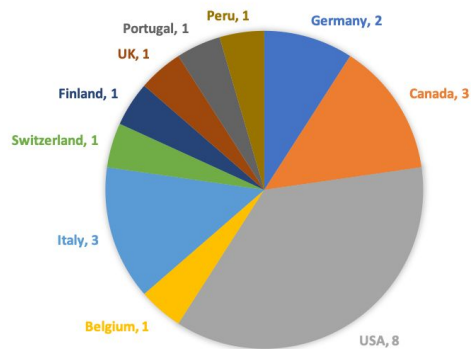


**What we know: 2445
installations in 122
different
countries**

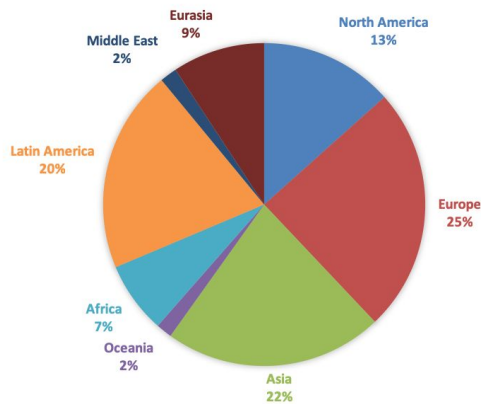


Still lots to do...

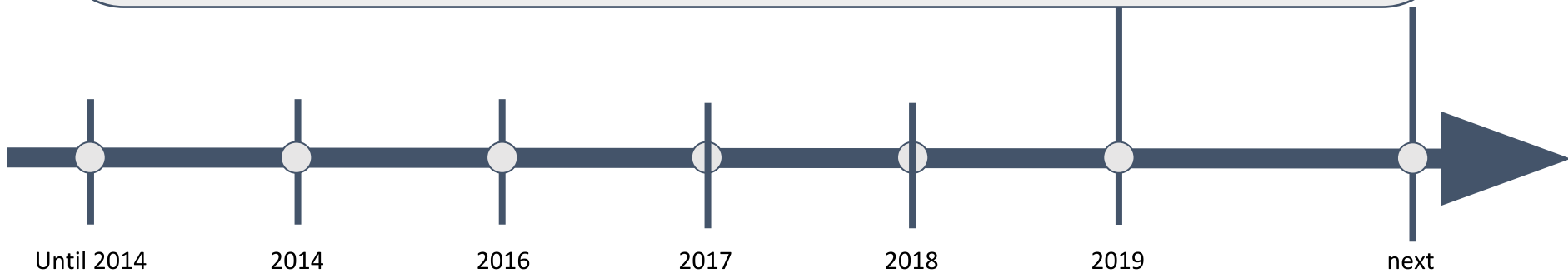
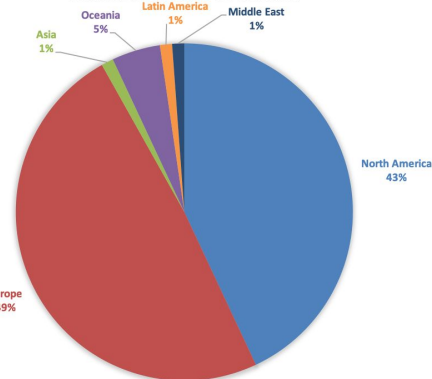
DSPACE LEADERS - COUNTRIES



DSPACE INSTALLATIONS BY REGION



DSPACE MEMBERS BY REGION



... working on building a community of communities

Regional User Groups

Slack channel: #dspace-XX

UG WIKI pages

Mailing list

Country webinars

Partnerships

[Brazilian DSpace UG](#)

[German DSpace UG](#)

[North American UG](#)

[Peruvian DSpace UG](#)

[Mexican DSpace UG](#)

[Argentinian DSpace UG](#)

[UK DSpace UG](#)



Working groups

[DSpace 7 Working Group](#)

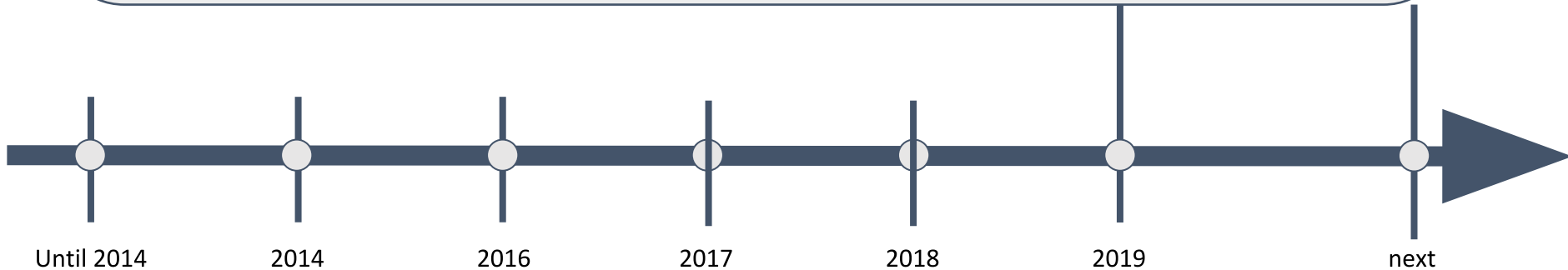
[DSpace 7 Entities Working Group](#)

[DSpace 7 Marketing Working Group](#)

[DSpace Community Advisory Team \(DCAT\)](#)

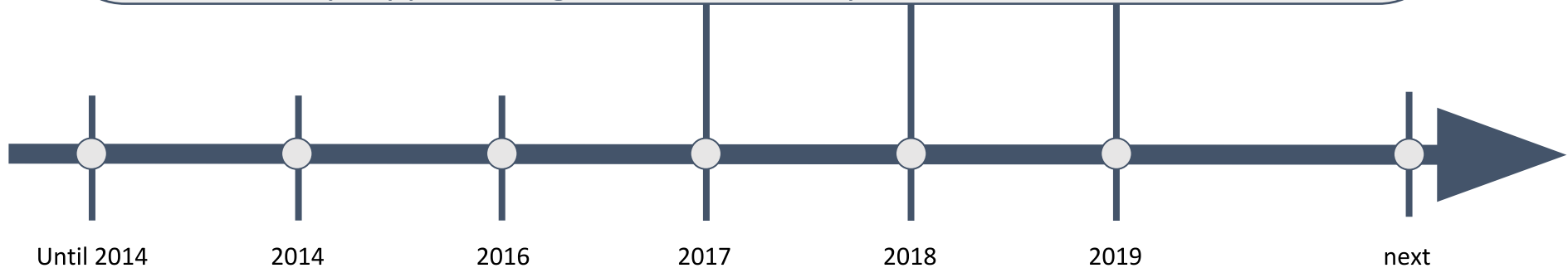


[DSpace Community Annual Report 2017-July 2018](#)



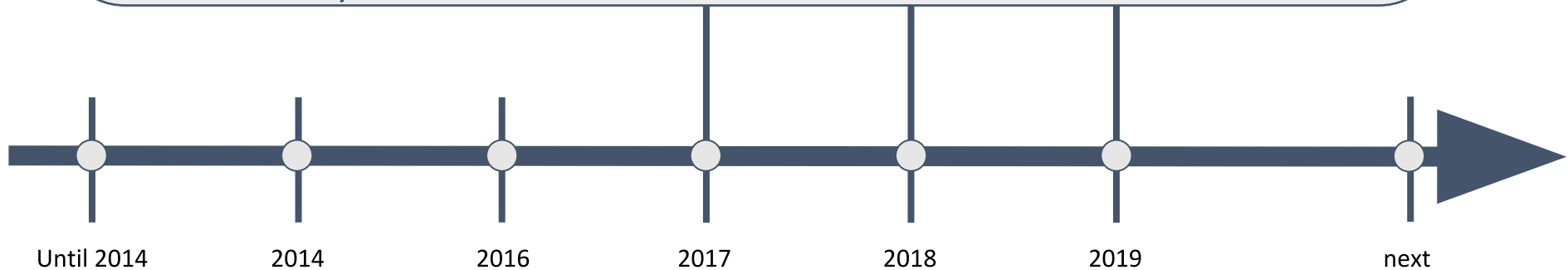
What did the UG find in DuraSpace?

- Always reachable contact person
- Being willing to listen, understand and learn about the local situation of DSpace user groups
- Introduced two new membership levels
- Accepted membership fees also in Euros, not only in US-Dollar
- Came to German User Group meetings
- Was always appreciating work done locally



What DuraSpace find in the German UG?

- One person willing to take responsibility and coordinate
- Community spirit: Learning from each other, helping out each other
- Organized Group: DSpace Anwendertreffen (2019 is the 6th edition)
- Understanding the benefits of contributing to an Open Source software
- The will of being part of a global community representing country's needs
- Were actively asking for possibilities to engage within the existing community



Lesson learned: There is no Community without personal engagement

- The community is not doing anything on its own. It's always individuals that are doing things for the community
- If you want the community to do something, you must help the community to be able to do so
- Don't wait for the community to read your mind, go out and talk to them
- You did great stuff? Sharing your solutions is your best chance to get others to care for them

Lesson learned: There is no Open Source Software without Community engagement

- An Open Source Software without its community won't go anywhere
- Stimulate community engagement
- Know your community: if it's global, you need to think and act accordingly
- Listen to local users and their needs
 - Be reachable
 - Respect differences
 - Be open to changes
- Be open and transparent: with development, meetings, decision making
- Creating bridges and identifying common needs

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!