

European, Nordic or
national – what are we
aiming at?



Strategy of the Finnish NAS

- Analysis of environment
- Core tasks and activities
- Nordic cooperation given priority
- Good Nordic level is the aim
- Nordic benchmarking of sectors



Institutionalized Nordic cooperation

- Nordic Archival Gatherings every 3rd year
- Expert meetings
- Institutionalized ICT-meetings
- General Directors' meetings
- Provincial Archivists' meetings
- Nordic Archival Academy



Institutionalized Nordic cooperation

- The Journal Nordisk Arkivnyt, produced as a common project, containing:
 - a) comparative presentations,
 - b) annual Nordic archival statistics
 - c) articles from five countries
- The Nordic archival terminology
- The Nordic Archival Day
- Benchmarkings of various fields



Institutionalized Nordic cooperation

- NUAS (Nordic university administration)
- Nordic local archives
- others (probably numerous)



Some critical remarks...

- Where are the reports and minutes from Nordic Archival Gatherings?
- Where are the benchmarking-reports?
- Do we really follow what our Nordic neighbours do? (case: archives creation plan as concept)
- Are reforms always Anglo-Saxon?



Going to Brussels? – hardly...

- European decisions on administration and culture are not necessarily obligatory
- Effects of EU-legislation are indirect
- The DLM-network (Document Lifecycle management)
- The MoReq (Model Requirements for the Management of Electronic Records)

Going to Brussels? – hardly...

- The Europeana project in the shadows of Google and others
- Europeana Heraldica
- European Board of General Directors (EBNA), European Archives Group (EAG)
- The Nordic countries have adopted a variety of standpoints: EU-member/not?, EMU-member/not? – no common line



A less fortunate aspect of membership in the EMU: cutbacks of Finnish NAS

- staff reduced from 266 (2008) to 168 (2019) or 179 (2019)
- archival transfers OK, deeds and copies for judicial purposes OK, digitisation is given priority
- everything else reduced or terminated: no developing of electronic systems

A less fortunate aspect of membership in the EMU: Cutbacks of Finnish NAS

- no private archives are sorted without external funding
- consulting of authorities is discontinued
- further staff cutbacks?
- reduced service in Swedish



Finnish NAS in a difficult crack

- Costs for staff and premises (buildings) a heavy burden, leaves little funding for other tasks
- Ministry of Finance will eventually take over developing of electronic services?
- The NAS is not represented in spheres where decisions on IT are made.



Outdated Archival Law from 1994

- does not recognize IT-related terms
- District organization lingers on while other authorities have disbanded theirs
- turning the NAS to an integrated service is hampered by the status (protected by law) of Provincial Archives



Rising costs for premises

- The NAS was deprived of ownership of premises
- rents to State company demanding 7% annual profit
- authorities do not pay rent for material transferred to the NAS
- rising costs for premises are not fully compensated in state budget funding

Adapting to funding cuts and introducing new operative solutions

- archival inspections were abolished in 2012 and replaced by self-evaluations (forms on the webpage of the NAS)
- other electronic services (electronic plans for creation of archives)
- digitisation in order to provide material on the web, reducing search room use



Uncertain future

- work on a new Archival Law starting
- will there be an independent NAS in the future?
- will there be transfer of functions from the NAS to the Ministry of Finance (e.g. developing of administration, including the lifespan of electronic records?)



Thank you



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