

# Establishing central RSE units in German research institutions

## The potentially next position paper of de-RSE e.V.

Frank Löffler (speaker)

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Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

2025-02-27

Yet another position paper on RSEs?

# An Environment for Sustainable Research Software in Germany and Beyond: Current State, Open Challenges, and Call for Action



(2020)

# Foundational Competencies and Responsibilities of a Research Software Engineer



(2024)



## GI- und de-RSE Muster-Leitlinie zur Effizienten Entwicklung von Forschungssoftware



(2024)

## Establishing central RSE units in German research institutions



(2024)

# Why should we have central RSE units?



## What is the structure of an RSE unit?



## How can we/you get there?

Why should we have central RSE units?



What is the structure of an RSE unit?



How can we/you get there?

What does an RSE unit look like?

# What does an RSE unit look like?



By Bernard Gagnon — Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

# What does an RSE unit look like?



By Charles J. Sharp - Own work, from Sharp Photography, [sharpphotography.co.uk](http://sharpphotography.co.uk), CC BY-SA 4.0

# What does an RSE unit look like?



By Christopher Raxworthy - National Science Foundation, Gemeinfrei



# What does an RSE unit look like?

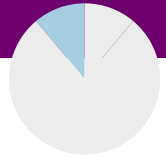
A model



# What does an RSE unit look like?

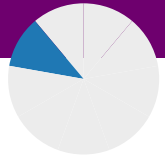
A model built from 9 modules:





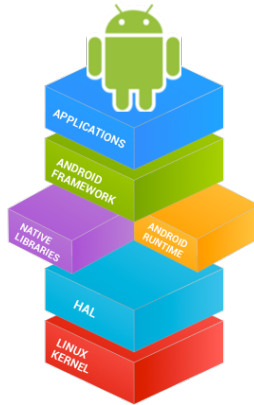
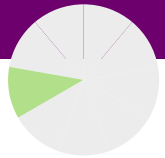
CC0

- coordinator of RSE activities within the institution
- together with the embedded RSEs: a hub and spokes network



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- from walk-ins to regular meetings
- from proposal to post-project



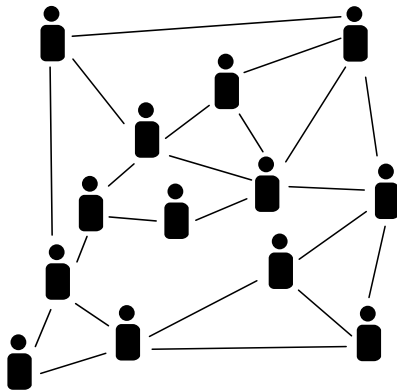
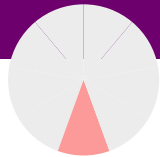
Google, CC BY 2.5, via Wikimedia Commons

- tailored to specific research needs
- great opportunity for pooling of expertise: HPC, UX/UI, mobile



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- from general training “for the masses”
- to training specific for project requirements



CC0

- part of “research support” network
- examples: IT unit, library, HPC, ...

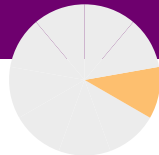


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- own provisioning, e.g., HPC solutions
- link between central IT unit and research (avoid duplication)



# Module 7: Research Software Engineering Research



## Session

RSE research



🕒 27 Feb 2025, 09:00

📍 Audimax A (Building 30.95)

## Conveners

RSE research

👤 Anna-Lena Lamprecht (Universität Potsdam, Institut für Informatik und Computational Science)

## 📎 Presentation materials

There are no materials yet.

☰ Contribution list

🕒 Timetable

< Thu 27/02

>

🖨 Print

PDF

Full screen

Detailed view

Filter

09:00

**Quality Characteristics for Software in HPC Environments: A Systematic Literature Review**

*Ms Camilla Lummerzheim*

**Towards Services to Enable FAIR Research Software in a Typical Research Project Cycle**

*Stephan Alexander Ferenz*

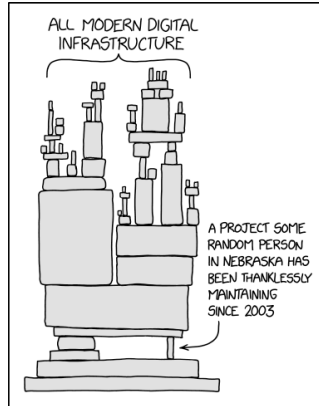
**Research software versus mundane software: The gap between software usage and software mentioning**

*Judith Hartstein*

10:00

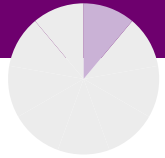
**What researchers need vs what they ask for**

*Liam Roger George Keegan*



xkcd, CC-BY-NC 2.5

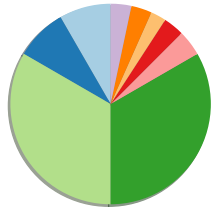
- DFG “Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice”: require long-term preservation in an adequate way; for software requires active maintenance



Gregor Cresnar@WikiMedia, CC BY 3.0

- RSEs and other entities within the institution
- regional, national and international initiatives

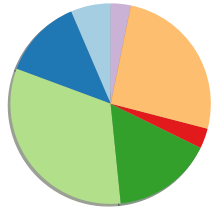
# Group composition examples



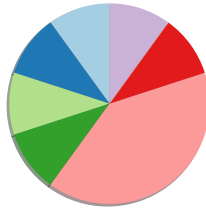
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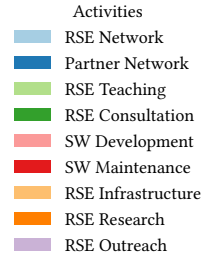
b



c



d



# Next steps?

potentially new  position paper

**“Establishing central RSE units in German research institutions”**

your comments: <https://github.com/DE-RSE/projekte/issues/20>



deadline: 2025-03-23

# How can we/you get there?



# Funding Possibilities

- ① ordinary institutional budget positions
- ② the overhead of externally funded projects
- ③ explicitly requested person-months in externally funded projects
- ④ dedicated RSE calls



# How can we/you get good staff?





# How can we/you get good staff?



How can we/you get **and hold** good staff?

Substantiv • feminin • regelmäßig • Synonym von Jackpot

Festanstellung, die

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Fest|an|stel|lung

Festanstellungenen