Archives in today’s ever changing society are constantly faced with challenges of emerging new communication channels. Through such changes adopted by data producers in their business practices, new types of data and information exchange inevitably result in new record types. This requires the continual evolvement of core archival services in the field of appraisal, long-term preservation and access of archival records.

So far the EU has funded several projects that have brought encouraging results (such as PLANETS, APenet, APEx, E-ARK) in the field of archiving, preservation and accessibility of archived records. These projects could be used as a basis for further work. Firstly, we need to reflect on the results of these projects and how they can best be sustained and disseminated. Secondly, we should review whether there are linkages between different projects that could provide added value. Thirdly, we should harness the experience that we have gained from these projects, e.g. finding partners, submitting funding requests, maintaining and exploiting contacts with the funding departments at the Commission, etc.. Finally we should define areas for future collaboration in funded projects. Close collaboration with the other subgroups, especially eArchiving, may be useful to achieve this. To be extended by NL, EE and others.

Areas where cooperation in future projects could be useful:

- **The amended PSI directive calls for archival services.** Common Pan-European approach on the development of dissemination services, i.e. extension of metadata sets with technical information and common dissemination package formats for specific content data type, could be an initiative supported by the EC.

- **In the digital world, there is a gap of at least five years between the creation of data in business, science and government processes and the archival appraisal of new data types.** The absence of a pro-active involvement of archives at the beginning of this process can pose a serious threat to the availability, accessibility and sustainability of the whole digital ecosystem (data, application, infrastructure, knowledge) in the long term. If we fail to take proper action today we will be faced in the future with a serious need to put a much greater effort in the long-term preservation of information and may even risk losing it completely. To avoid this, we should analyse the status of archival institutions throughout the EU, their services and competences, to define possible challenges, threats, gaps, opportunities, as well as best practices, and by doing so to define ways and vehicles to make archiving better and more efficient.

The significance of archives stretches beyond the framework of cultural heritage preservation. It mirrors and touches society as a whole. By carrying out long-term maintenance of documents and information, archives are important not only for our understanding of social processes within society, but also for further development of numerous fields of science and for legal certainty of citizens and legal entities, which all has a direct impact on the level of democracy as well as on the stability of business environment.

Therefore, the EAG should propose the addition of relevant archiving topic to the EU funded Work Programmes for 2018-2020.