

# LibreOffice

The Document Foundation

## On sessions, statutes and software A glimpse behind the scenes at TDF

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- ▼ openSUSE + LibreOffice Virtual Conference  
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# Who's waking me up?!

- **free software enthusiast**  
for over sixteen years
- founding member and executive director  
of **The Document Foundation**
- also active in infrastructure and marketing





# Terminology

# Double meaning

- **LibreOffice** is
  - 1. the leading free **office productivity suite**  
*installed by millions of users worldwide*
  - 2. a wonderful worldwide **community** (“project”)  
*with ecosystem and volunteer contributors from around the globe*
- **The Document Foundation (TDF)** as legal entity is
  - a nonprofit **”Stiftung”** (foundation) based in Berlin  
*”The objective of the foundation is the **promotion**  
and **development** of **office software** available for use by **anyone**”*
  - does **not contain a product name** on purpose

# Our philosophy

- ▶ supporting the **development** of both the software **and** the community  
*events, knowledge sharing, mentoring, infrastructure*
- ▶ built on the community's **values** and **ideals**  
*through statutes that vouch for openness and transparency*
- ▶ **independent** from one **single** sponsor  
*thanks to the support of many*
- ▶ **ecosystem** for contributors and commercial stakeholders  
*certification, joint development efforts*
- ▶ lower **entry barriers**: *Easy Hacks, Hackfests, mentoring, workshops*
- ▶ **cooperations** with other entities: e.g. *OASIS, OSI, KDE, GNOME, FSFE, FSF*

# Working as a community

- ▶ we enjoy **working together**
- ▶ we are a **community** with **shared interests**
- ▶ we have adventurous **interest and excitement**
- ▶ we **learn** from our mistakes and **share knowledge**
- ▶ everyone contributes **what they're best at**
- ▶ we **motivate** others to contribute
- ▶ **coordination is key...** but a bit chaotic :-)
- ▶ **everyone benefits** from the result
- ▶ like in any human interaction, tensions are normal and solvable

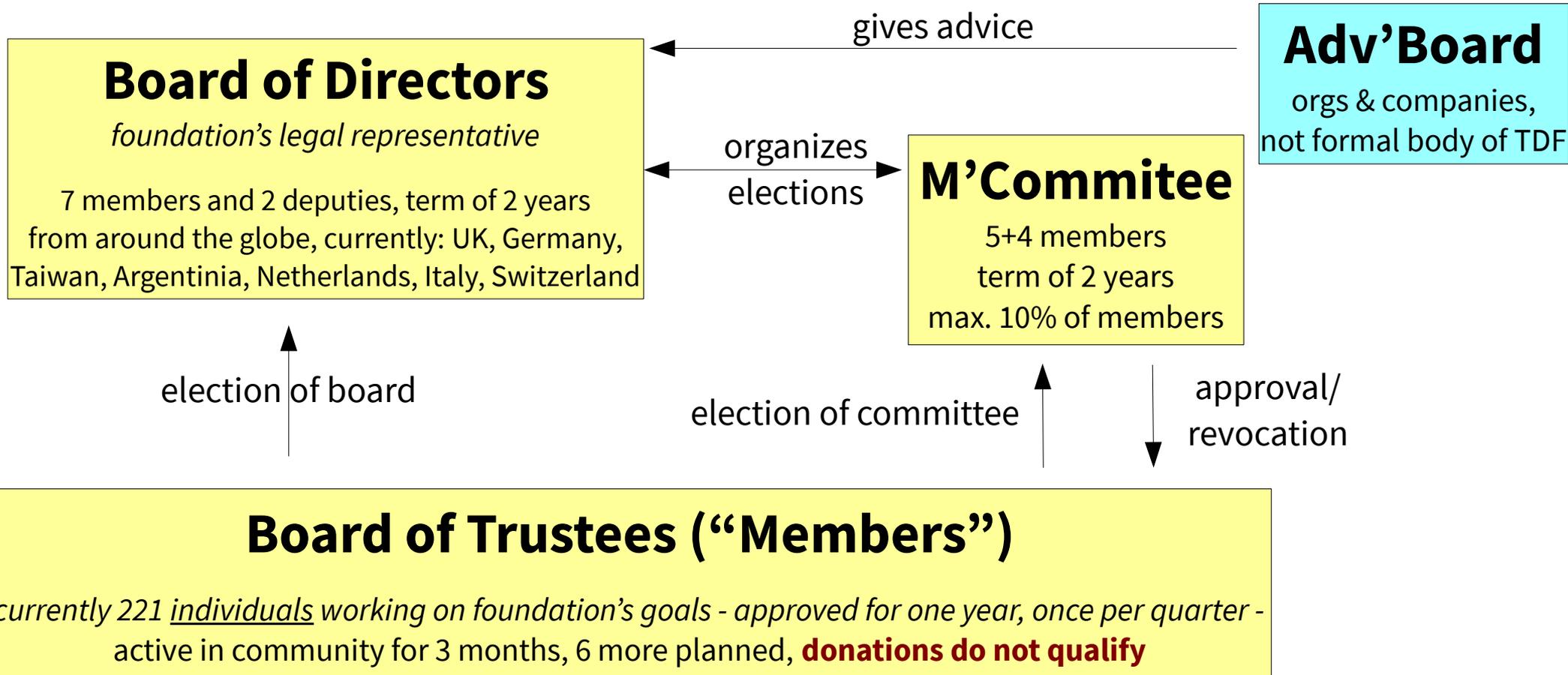
The background features a repeating pattern of light gray rounded triangles pointing downwards. A horizontal purple gradient bar spans the width of the page, with a darker purple border on its top and bottom edges. The text 'The Foundation' is centered within this bar. The corners of the page are decorated with a grid of small, semi-transparent purple squares.

# The Foundation

# What the Foundation is about

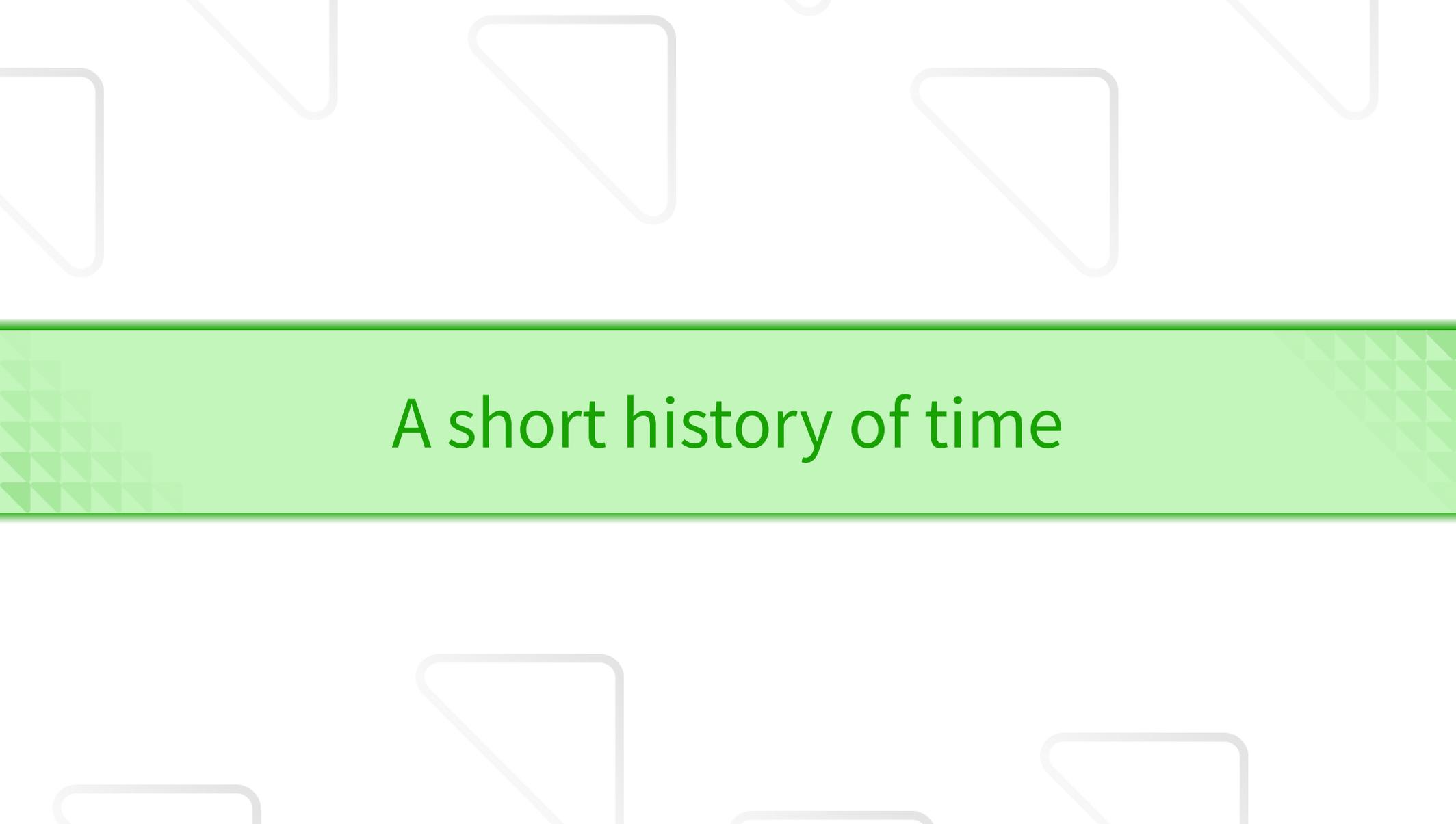
- **enduring** and **stable**
- **foundation's objective** can **not be changed**
- **safety** for community, end-users and the ecosystem
- acts as "**trustee**" for trademarks and domains
- handles **donations** and manages budgets
- is not part of the commercial ecosystem itself
- **guarantees rights** for all participants

# How we are structured



# There's so much to do!

- ▶ publish and update **wiki articles**
- ▶ help users via internet relay chat (**IRC**)
- ▶ **develop** and work on the code
- ▶ support our **social media** channels
- ▶ organize **events, conferences** and trade shows
- ▶ **share knowledge** on Hackfests
- ▶ participate in **Bug Hunting Sessions**
- ▶ publish **templates and extensions**
- ▶ help the **security team**
- ▶ run a **mirror server**
- ▶ get engage on the **mailing lists**
- ▶ write **documentation** for both developers and users
- ▶ update and edit the **online help**
- ▶ contribute on **Ask LibreOffice**
- ▶ support the **infrastructure team**
- ▶ organize **community meetings**
- ▶ publish entries on our **blog**
- ▶ organize a **LibreOffice Conference**
- ▶ moderate **forums and mailing lists**
- ▶ **interview** community members
- ▶ engage in **standard's bodies**
- ▶ participate in the **Engineering Steering Committee**
- ▶ help to improve **QA**
- ▶ **donations do not qualify**



# A short history of time

# Good things take time

- **LibreOffice project** founded September 2010
- **The Document Foundation** established February 2012 → *statutes and approval*
- evaluated **several countries** (UK, France, Italy, Germany etc.)
- → ***stability and guarantees, plus people working on the setup as rationale for Germany***

# Founded by many

- ▶ we needed **funding**, but didn't have money
  - ▶ in the end: **50.000 € capital** + 40.000 € on top
  - ▶ as well as **trademarks**
- ▶ public **fundraising** scheduled for a month
  - capital **eight (!)** days later, thanks to small donations from around the globe
- ▶ reflects today's average donation: ~14 €



Public by default

# In the statutes

- ▼ “**one-third rule**” to prevent conflict of interest
- ▼ **openness** and **transparency**
  - ▼ all **board meetings** are public  
[https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/BoD\\_Meetings](https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/BoD_Meetings)
  - ▼ all **decisions** of the bodies are public  
[https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/BoD\\_Decisions](https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/BoD_Decisions)
  - ▼ the **accounting** is public  
<https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/Ledgers>
  - ▼ the **board’s mailing list** is public  
*private decisions are made public as soon  
as the confidentiality is resolved*

# Our annual report

- ▶ **jointly written** with the community in EN+DE
- ▶ turned our legal obligation into a benefit
- ▶ overview on foundation, community, project, software, events, budget
- ▶ English version:  
<https://tdf.io/ar2019low>
- ▶ German version:  
<https://tdf.io/bericht2019>





A wonderful community of friends

# Join us, it's fun!



▀ *LibOCon 2016 in Brno (picture by Jiří Eischmann)*

# Thank you very much!

## Getting in touch

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