

Meeting of the original infrastructure group plus access points to working groups

Attendant: Estrid Sørensen, Tanja Bogusz, Martina Schlünder, Sabine Biedermann, Anja Klein, Ingmar Lippert, Jörg Niewöhner, Jakob Roschka, Veit Braun, Kathrin Eitel, Simon Egbert, Stefan Laser, Endre Danyi

- 1) Thanks to Anja for organizing the conference call equipment, the room and for chairing the session.
- 2) There is consensus about four key issues:
 - a) The spirit of Kassel, the enthusiasm, the bottom-up drive, and the willingness to engage need to be preserved.
 - b) The most appropriate organisational form is the Verein in the long run, because it supports the democratic structure and offers organisational flexibility without affording particular thematic positions or emphases.
 - c) STSinGermany needs to carefully engage with and relate to the politicised institutional environment within which it is embedded in order to preserve degrees of freedom internally while at the same time maximising institutional visibility and credibility. The two aspects are interdependent.
 - d) Collaboration/ discussion/ writing/ events around thematic questions and content is needed to make explicit and visible what kind of research/ agenda STSinGermany as an organization would stand for.
- 3) The working groups set up in Kassel continue their work.
- 4) The infrastructure group is herewith disbanded. Its two main functions are taken up by
 - a) the coordination between the access points to the working groups;
 - b) A new working group on organisational form.
- 5) When and how any organisational form is pursued depends heavily on its potential role and purpose within the German institutional landscape. The new group on organisational form currently comprises Estrid, Martina, Ingmar and Jörg. Others are welcome. Provisional Access Points is Ingmar Lippert. Its purpose is twofold:
 - a) The group will develop suggestions for institutional forms that will be helpful for reaching different aims, and likely to be variants of the Verein. Stefan suggested to consult with professional advisors on how to best institutionalize a network like STSinG as a Verein.
 - b) In order to reach the suggestions mentioned in a. members will enter into informal conversations with the surrounding scientific associations in order to find out about possible cooperation and practical commitments. Also, the possibility of a meeting in 2020 on collaboration in the dual sense of collaboration with research fields and across organisations will be elicited.
- 6) The event group will coordinate and help to develop specific formats within its resource capabilities. It was agreed that the key is to support as many efforts as possible for generative and interesting formats. The network itself in the long run can only be funded through membership fees for a basic infrastructure of organisation and regular member meeting.
- 7) A first full members meeting should not necessarily be a 'founding meeting' until the politics of the current situation are resolved one way or another. Instead, a first large meeting or workshop could be focused thematically without making institutional claims. The Access Points of all working groups will discuss the possibility of a bigger meeting in

2020. A continuation of the Kassel Workshop focusing on content (see 2.d) was suggested, also the possibility of meeting together with neighbouring scientific associations around the theme of “collaboration” (see also 5b).

- 8) Internet support will take the form of a basic website (either the one that was set up for the workshop or the one set up on the HU-server by Ingmar and Tahani before the workshop) likely supported by a wiki-like structure and/ or mailing list supporting discussion in and between the working groups visible for all members of the network to be further specified by the working group on web platform and communication devices (APs: Stefan Laser, Tomás Criado). Ingmar and Stefan will coordinate the efforts made to set up a basic website.
- 9) The Email-address used for the Kassel workshop will continue to serve as a contact point for people interested in joining and will be maintained by Stefan Laser for now. The main purpose is to point people to the Working Groups and their Access Points, eventually the wiki to get involved. The issue of how to keep track of and reach all interested people/ members (via a new mailing list for, a forum or website announcements, for example) has not been decided. The Web-Platform and Communication Devices group is expected to deal with this.
- 10) Estrid will set up a mailing list for the communication between Access Points. A coordinating (skype) meeting soon is encouraged. The Access Points have to decide themselves whether this is still part of the minimal requirements they originally agreed to or how they will distribute the additional responsibility.
- 11) The group working on the DFG-proposal will continue working together on that as an official working group that will possibly work on other proposals in the future. Access Points will be Simon Egbert and Kathrin Eitel. Others are invited to join.