

Solutions for trade facilitation and electronic business

The IEC/ISO/ITU/UNECE MoU
on e-Business Standards



The Business Requirement

- Global supply networks are increasingly dependent on electronic transfer, sharing and archiving of information
- Full benefits for consumers, industry and government demand a coherent set of Information and Communication Technology capabilities
 - open
 - interoperable
 - internationally accepted
 - secure



The Role of Standards

Standards required to:

- support dynamic development of electronic capabilities
 - across the manufacturing and service industries
 - along the global supply chain from supplier to consumer
 - throughout the lifecycle of products ~ may be decades
- provide effective services to the citizen
- avoid the costs of point-to-point solutions



The big challenge

“The great thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from”

- More than 140 organizations addressing part s of the problem



The MoU Vision

Our vision is to offer the environment
in which all key international organizations
can cooperate and contribute to the delivery and
promotion of the evolving set of interoperability standards,
and maximize their contribution to global commerce

Launched 1995, updated 1998



The MoU Objective

- The objective of the MoU is to encourage interoperability by:
 - Recognizing the risk of divergent or conflicting approaches to standardization
 - Avoiding duplication of efforts
 - Providing a clear roadmap for users
 - Ensuring intersectoral coherence



Stakeholders ~ The four global de jure bodies

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

- <http://www.iec.ch>



The International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

- <http://www.iso.org>



The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- <http://www.itu.int>



The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

- <http://www.unece.org/cefact>



Stakeholders ~Participating International User Groups

OASIS

- <http://www.oasis-open.org>

CEN/ISSS – European IT standards

- <http://www.cen.eu/iss>

GS1 (formerly EAN.UCC)

- <http://www.gs1.org>

OAGI – Open Applications Group

- <http://www.openapplications.org>

SWIFT – Financial sector

- <http://www.swift.com>

UPU – Universal Postal Union

- <http://www.upu.int>

IMO – International Maritime Organization

- <http://www.imo.org>



The Principles

- Information on work programmes will be shared openly
- The cooperation will focus on action, not discussion
- The process shall not represent an additional layer of bureaucracy in the standardization process
- Recommendations will be agreed by consensus among the participants
- Each organization will retain its own decision making process
- Annex A recommends allocation of leadership roles to most appropriate organizations



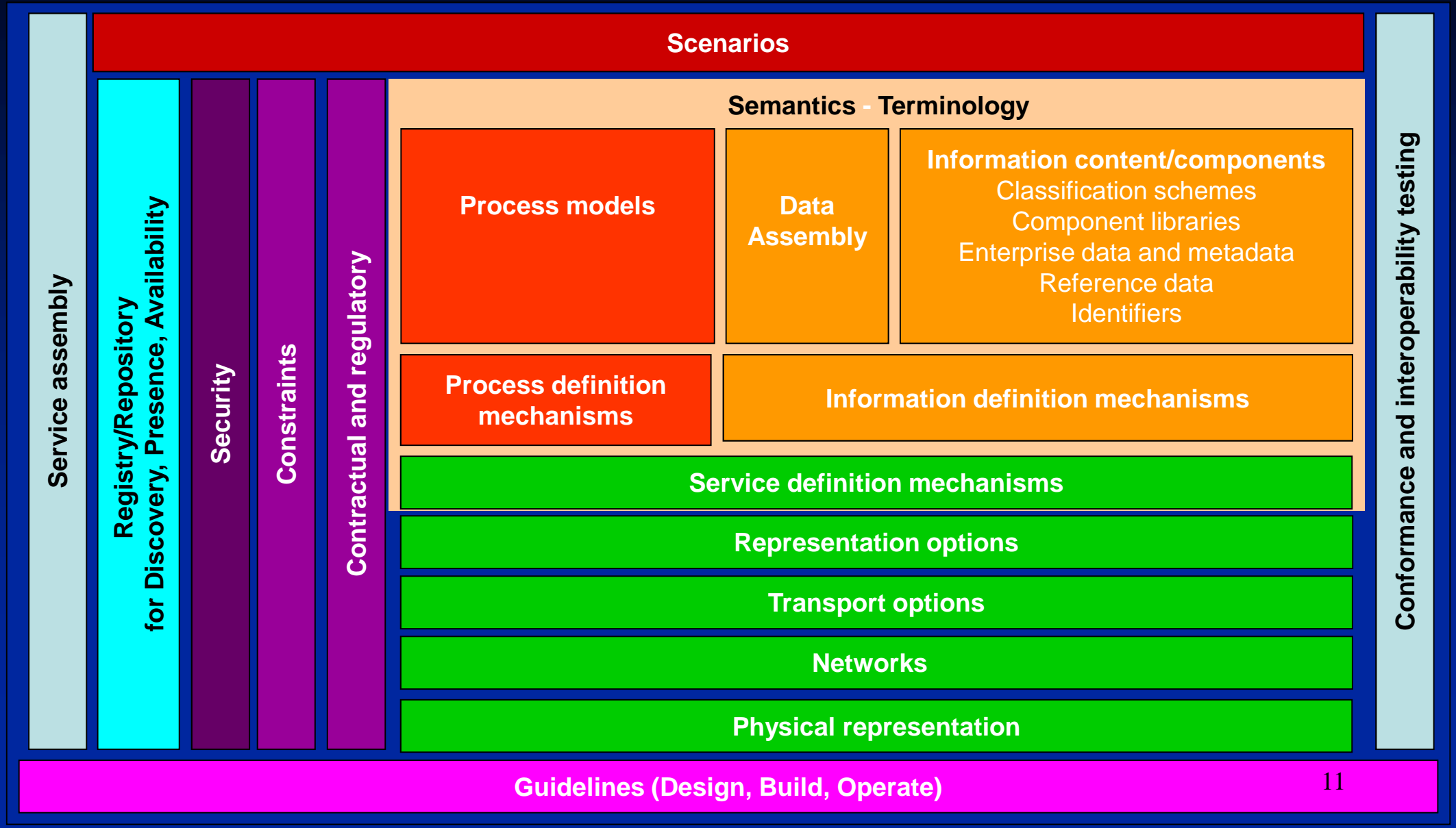
Operations

Management Group of representatives:

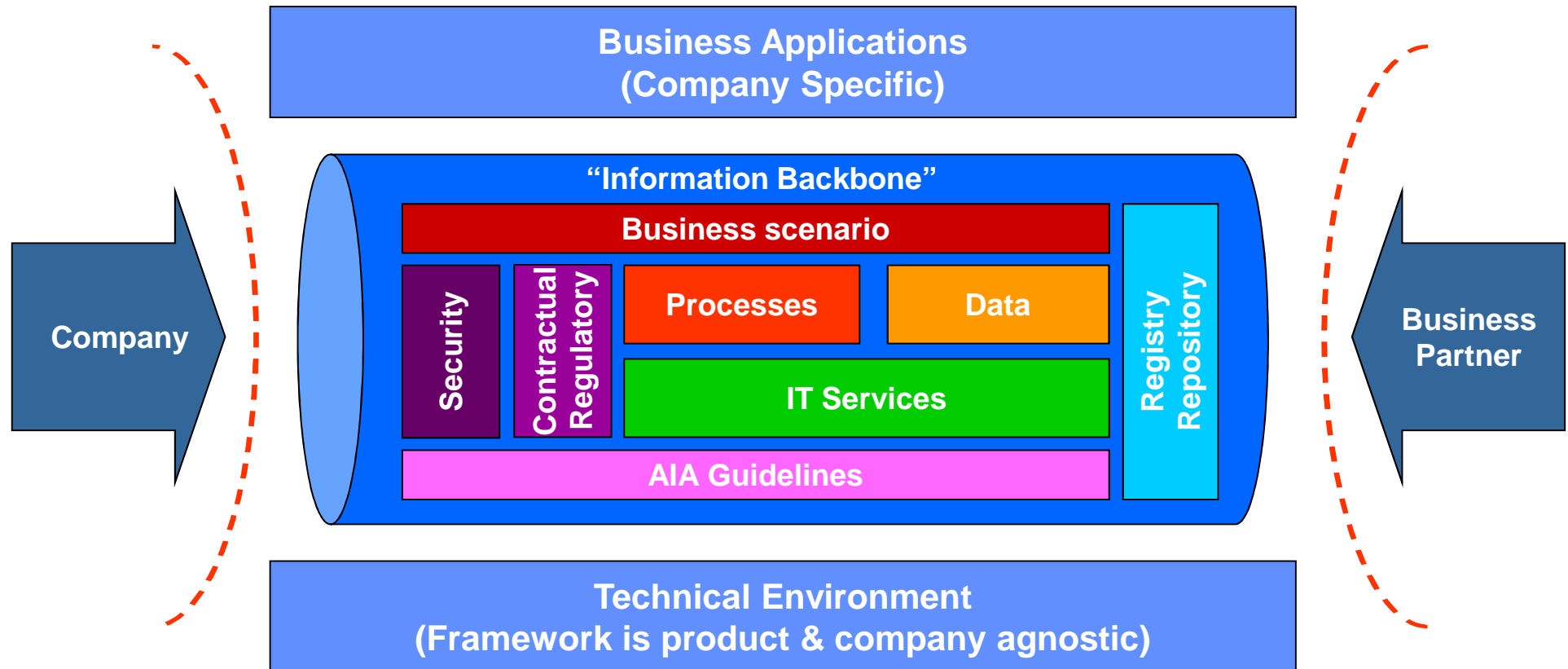
- Monitors new initiatives
- Identifies topics of mutual interest and potential overlaps/conflicts
- Makes recommendations for action to resolve issues and harmonise activities
- Monitors progress
- Facilitates expert participation in the most appropriate development programmes
- Promotes role of the MoU to external organisations



Interoperability Component Framework

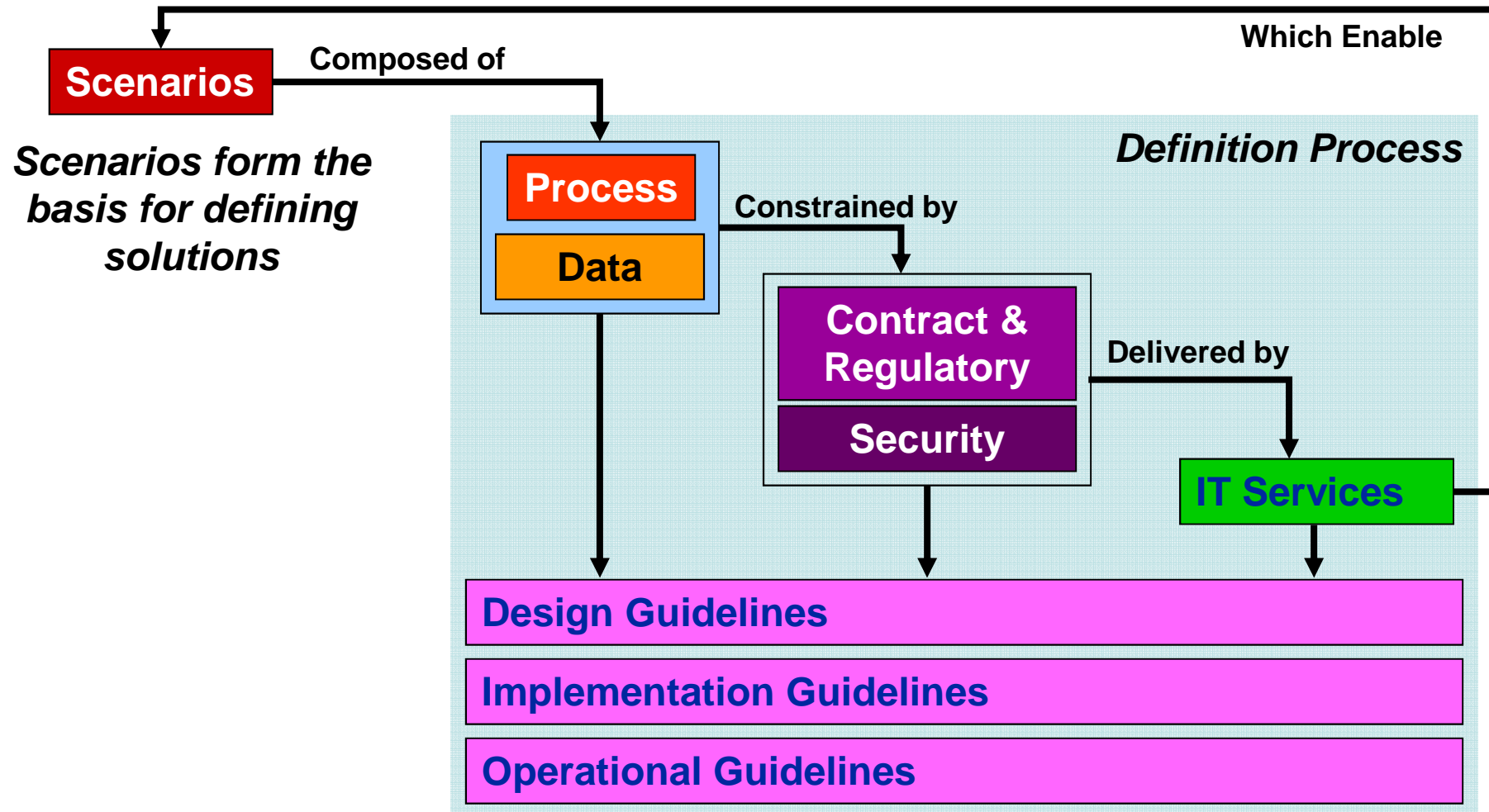


High Level Framework for interoperability



Key Components for Building Interoperability

Delivering Business Solutions



Semantic Interoperability

A federated MoU/MG project

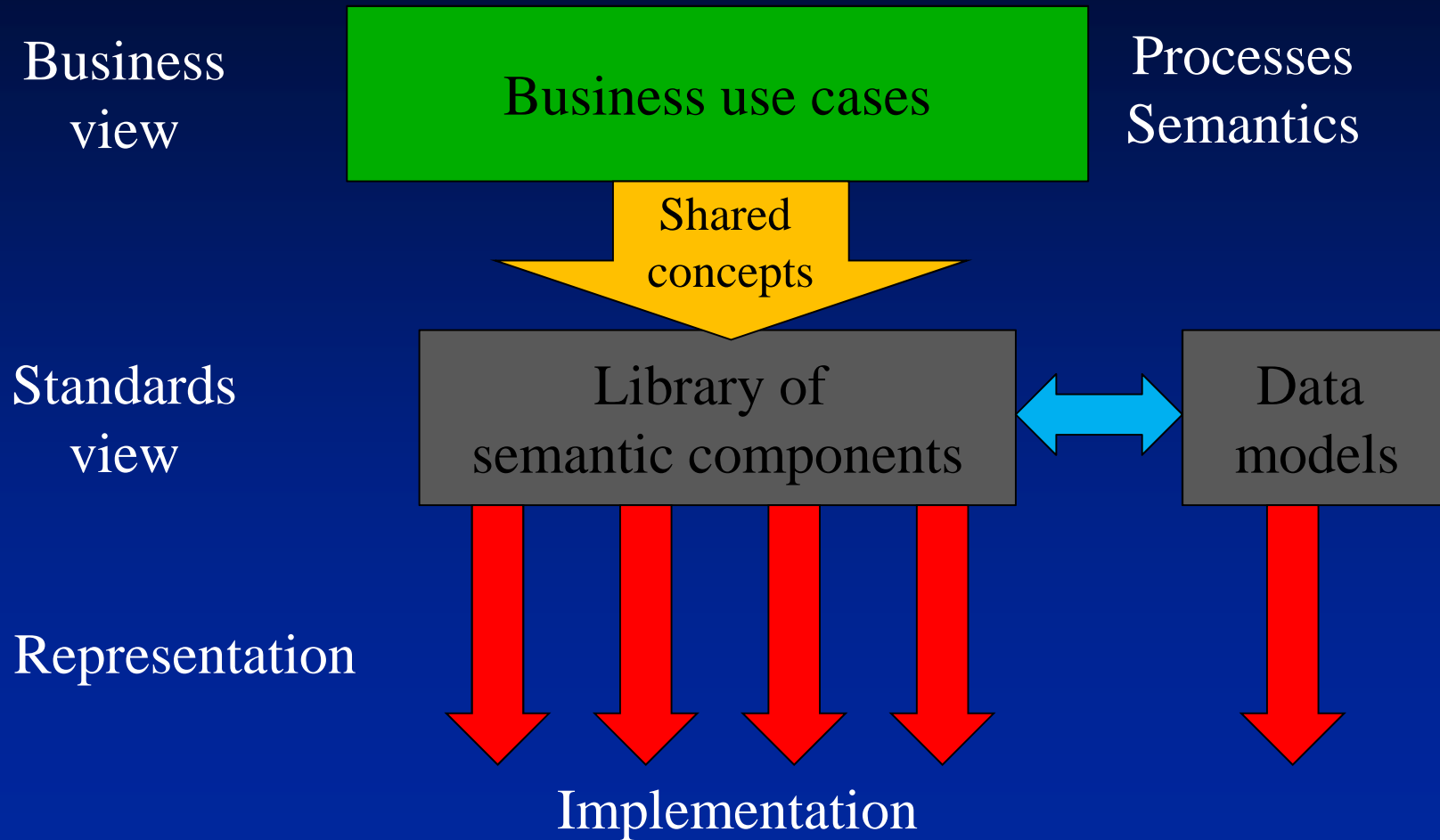


Semantic Interoperability

- Not a new concept
- Over 25 years of history and experience
 - Trade transactions
 - Product data
 - Text, XML and database representations
- Growing interactions between use cases
- Pivotal time for recognition of benefit
- New and evolving technologies
- Magnitude of challenge not underestimated



Fundamentals of interoperability

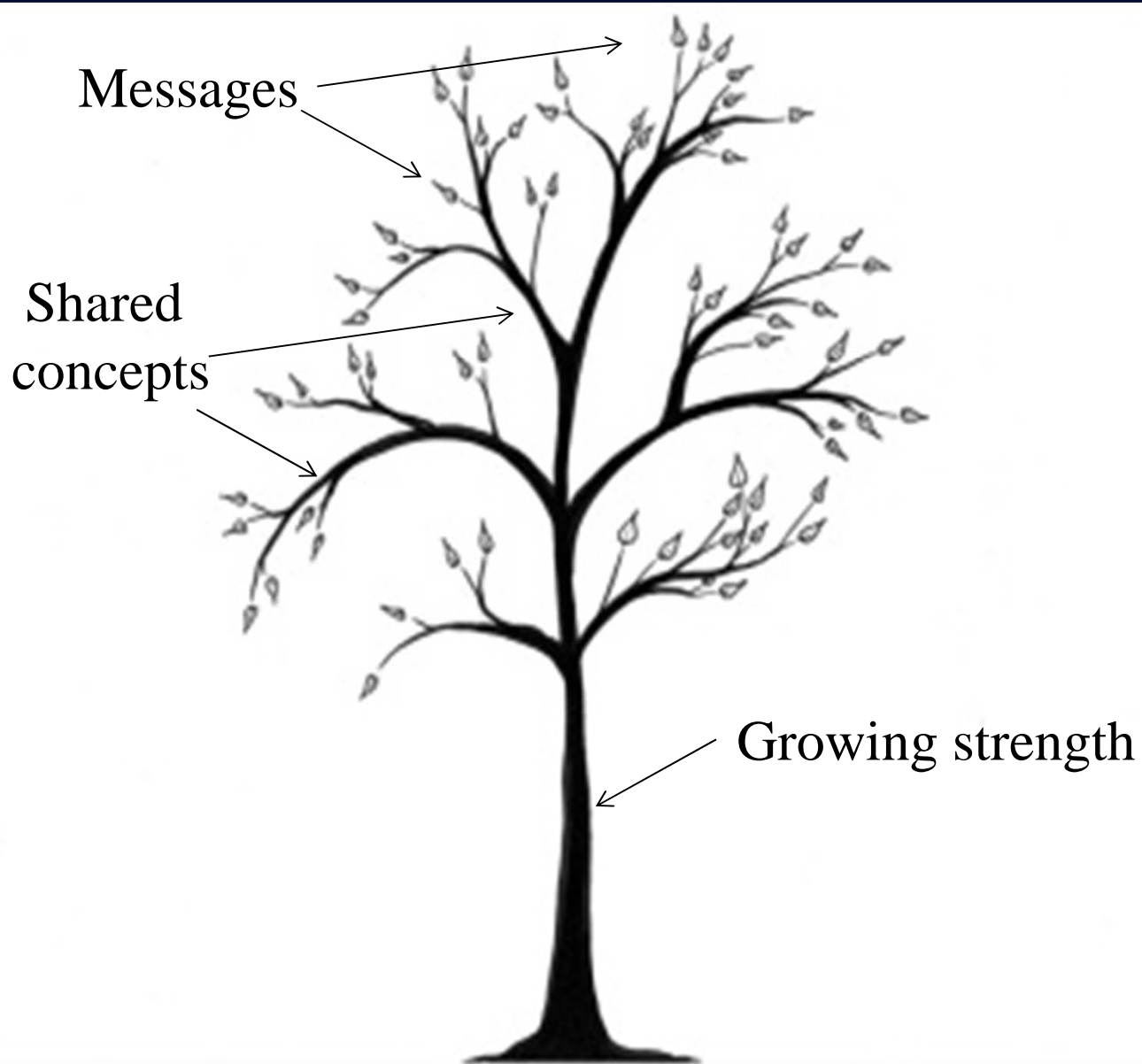


A controlled vocabulary for business

- Governance and operation of the vocabulary, in a web-enabled syntax neutral environment
- The processes for discovering concepts and reusing them to foster interoperability
- The process for defining and agreeing extensions to the vocabulary
- Support for multiple representations and syntaxes
- Support for multiple languages
- Implementation support tools, including mapping between native data in applications and the vocabulary
- Use of tools such as SKOS and RDF
- Deployment of the vocabulary – Publicly Available Free of Charge



The semantic tree of knowledge



Current stakeholders

- ISO – TC 154 and TC 184/SC 4
- IEC – TC 57
- UN/CEFACT
- UN/ISO 7372 Joint MA
- OASIS
- OAGi
- GS1
- CEN-BII
- Open to other users and developers



The plan

- Federated project under the MoU/MG
- Development of joint requirements statement
 - Under way
- Maximum use of existing investment in information
- Identification of suitable tools – open-source
- Identification of best practices

