



Virtual Organizations Breeding Environment (VBE)

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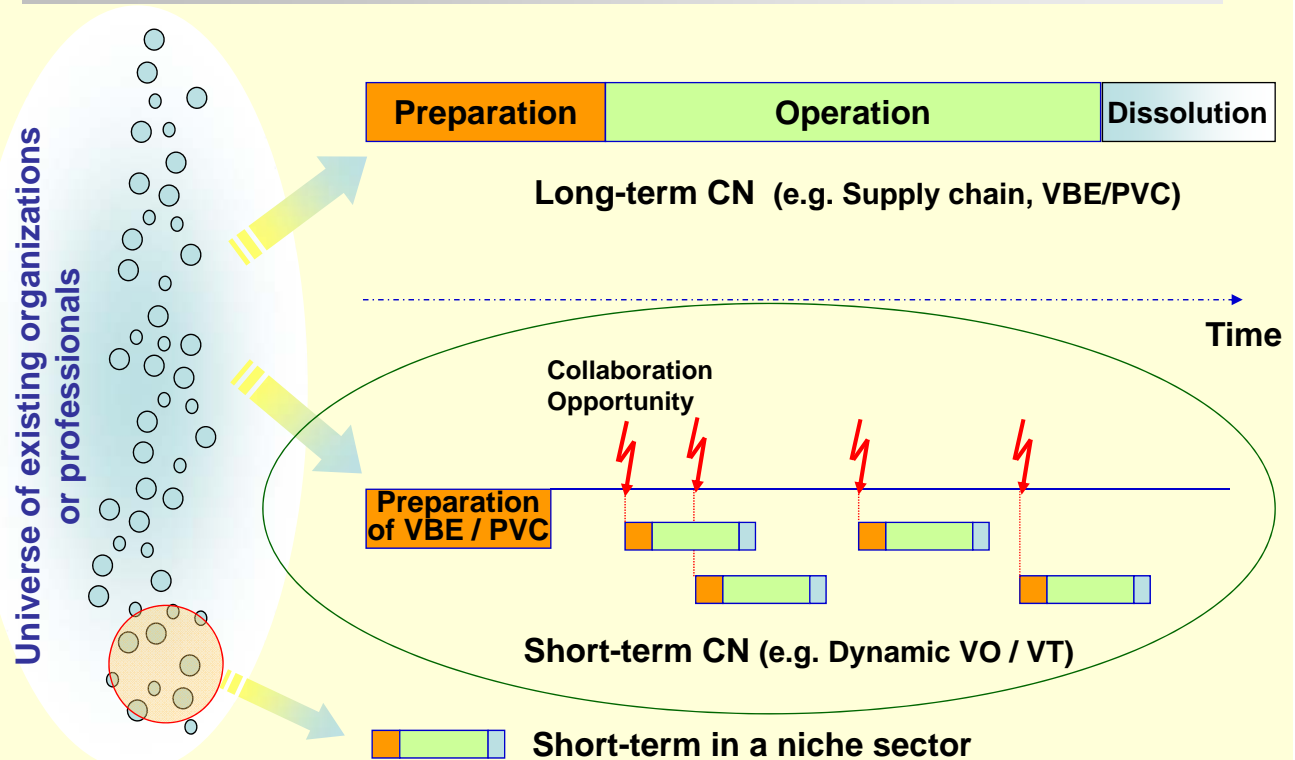
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Lecture 4

20 November, 2012

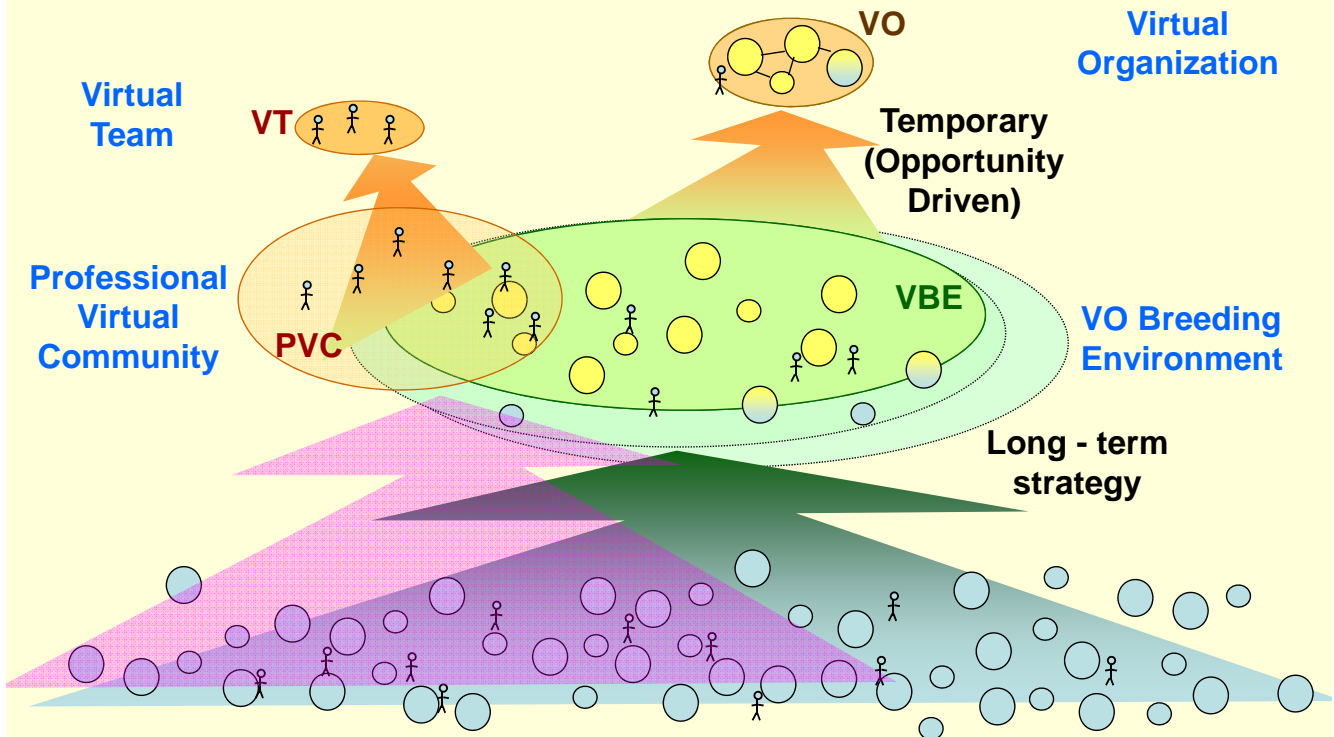


FORMATION OF CNs - Different kinds of CN





ROLE OF BREEDING ENVIRONMENTS



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PRE-ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Before you can configure and establish a **VO**, you need to know who is who in the potential environment to select from ...

- *Need for pre-establishment of **strategic alliances (VBE)** in different application areas that can facilitate the VO creation*

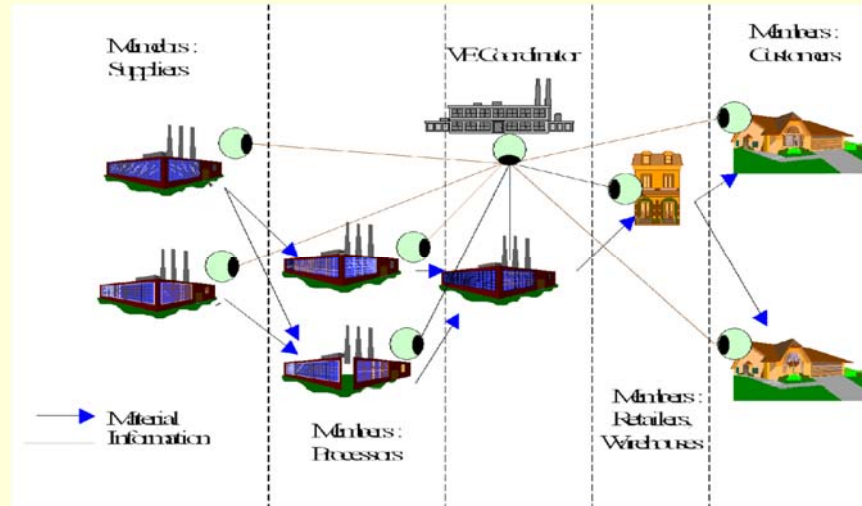
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VIRTUAL ORGANIZATION (VO)

VO is a dynamic goal-oriented Collaborative Network (CN)

“A **virtual organization** is a temporary alliance of enterprises that come together to share skills, competencies, and resources in order to better respond to business opportunities, and whose **collaboration** is supported by computer networks.”



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VOs AND VBEs

2 MAIN KINDS OF CNs

➔ **VOs (Virtual Organizations - collaborating partners)**
Cost-/time-effective creation of **goal-oriented dynamic VOs/VTs** requires an **underlying strategic CN** (i.e. **VBE/PVC**)

➔ **VBEs (Virtual organizations Breeding Environments – cooperating)**
Long term strategic CNs – VBEs and PVCs provide **necessary conditions**

- **required for effective configuration and formation of VOs/VTs at the strike of emerging collaboration opportunities**

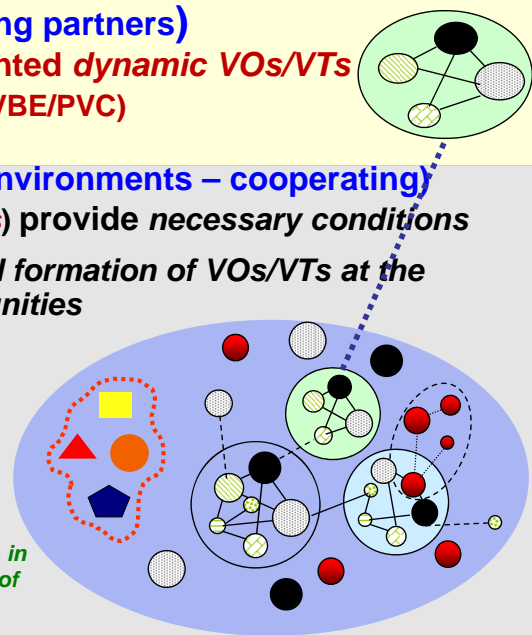
e.g.:

- **Automated search and matching** (with multi-dimensional ranking of groups of organizations/individuals) to best fit the required specificities of the **Collaboration Opportunity (CO)**, e.g. a call for tender
- **Measuring trustworthiness of actors**
- **Integration of legacy systems (DBs)**
- **Decomposing the CO into detailed characteristics, in order to compare against the qualifications/abilities of actors in the VBE/PVC**

- **prepare their members for collaboration in VOs/VTs**

e.g.:

long term agreements, common ICT infrastructure, common working/sharing policies



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LONG-TERM ALLIANCES

“ **VO Breeding environment (VBE)** – represents an association of organizations and their related supporting institutions, adhering to a base long term cooperation agreement, and adoption of common operating principles and infrastructures, with the main goal of increasing their preparedness towards rapid configuration of temporary alliances for collaboration in potential Virtual Organizations. Namely, when a collaboration opportunity is identified by one member (acting as a broker), a subset of VBE organizations can be selected to form a VE/VO

Professional virtual community (PVC) – represents an association combining the concepts of virtual community and professional community. Virtual communities are defined as social systems of networks of individuals, who use computer technologies to mediate their relationships. Professional communities provide environments for professionals to share the body of knowledge of their professions such as similar working cultures, problem perceptions, problem-solving techniques, professional values, and behavior. ”

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SOME EXAMPLES OF VBEs

virtuelle-fabrik.com

Metal-mechanics sector
Switzerland, Germany



Watch industry sector
Switzerland, China



netWork Oasis / Science Park
Finland



Engineering & Manufacturing
Mexico



Metal-mechanics sector
Spain



Telecommunications sector
Italy



Aeronautics sector
Spain



Electronics sector
Ireland



Engineering
Finland



Aeronautics sector
Germany

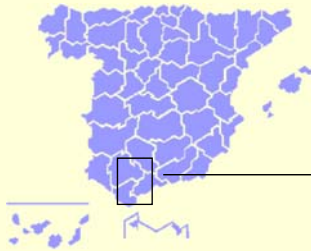
TechMoldes
Moulds industry
Brazil

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Example: ISOIN (Aerospace)

Andalusian Aeronautical cluster



Employment 4.500
Turnover M€ 645
97% SMEs 123M€
(24% of Spanish SMEs)

All of them currently
in expansion to make
room for new programs
A400M, A380, etc



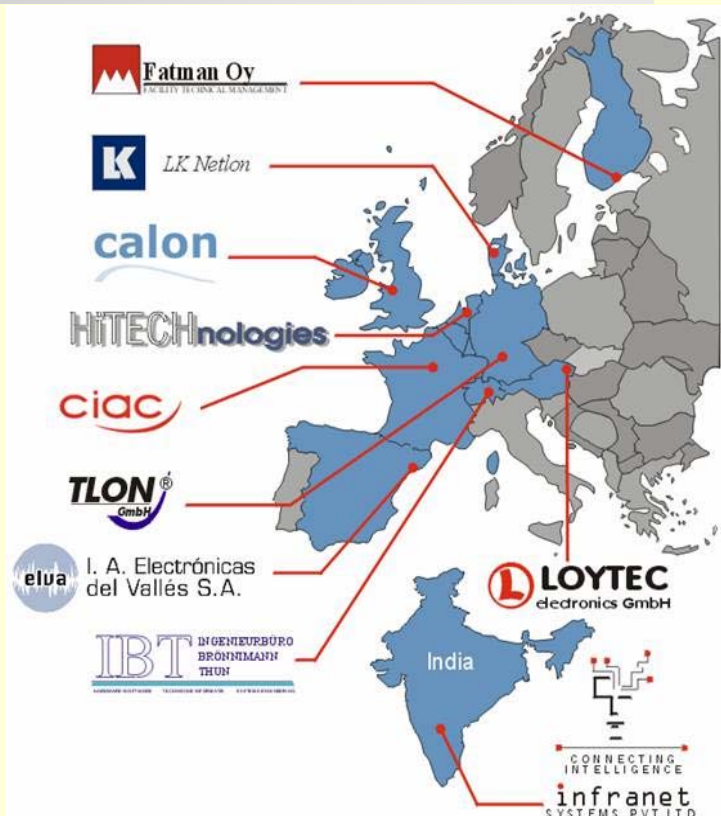
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Example: Infranet-Partners (Telecommunication)

Infranet Partners is a network of small companies specialising in Infranet solutions based on LonWorks® technology. The network was established in 1999 with 4 founding members and today there are 10 participants in the network.

- Creating a comprehensive pool of Technology and Application resources.
- Serving customers as a single organisation offering locally adapted solutions from this shared pool.
- Combining Product range under the Infranet Partners brand.
- Providing a comprehensive product range and support backed by frequent cross training.
- Providing a comprehensive Training program across Europe.
- Sharing technical support and knowledge of different markets to provide solutions for customers.
- Sharing marketing information using an advanced dynamic groupware marketing tool to enable them to act faster to meet customer requirements



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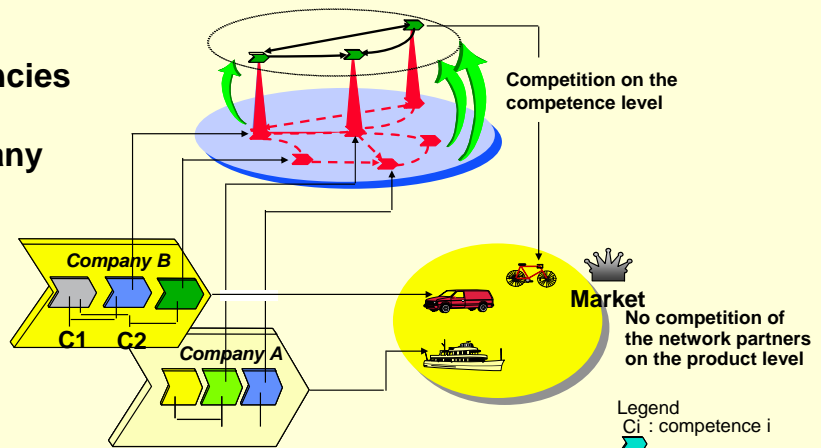


Example: VIRTUELLE FABRIK (Electro-Mechanics)

Pool of SMEs

Machine building competencies

Switzerland & South Germany



Various sub-networks



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Example: CeBeNetwork (Aeronautics)

- **Network:**
 - More than 30 co-operation partners
 - More than 20 years aerospace experience
 - More than 5000 highly skilled engineers, scientists and technicians
 - EN 9100 quality management
- **Engineering services**
 - Prime contractor CeBeNetwork
 - Best in class solutions for specific and non specific design work
- **IT services**
 - 6 IT companies in France, UK and Germany
 - High performance systems
 - B2B solutions
- **Onsite experts**
 - 4 companies act as agents for international aerospace specialists



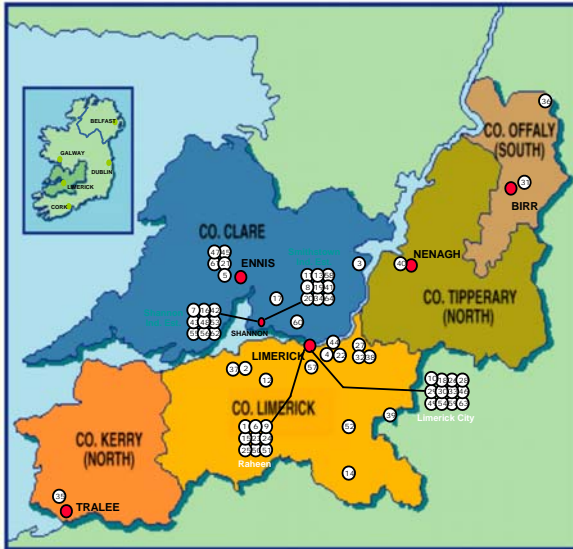
Integrated Portfolio for Product Engineering

- Testing & Aerodynamics
- Computer Aided Engineering
- Design Engineering
- Process & Technology Management
- Software Engineering
- Systems Engineering

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Example: Supply Chain Shannon (Engineering Electronics)



Over 80 Engineering & Electronics Sub-Supply Companies in the Region

Sector Now Employing Over 4000

Large Multinationals located in the Region

Turnover in excess of €200m

Limited Export Activity Nationally or Internationally from Region

Competitive threats from economic downturn and low labour cost regions

25 companies in SNS

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Example: CONSEN Euro-Group



Grouping of European SMEs who have agreed to cooperate as Euro-Cluster in Information Society Technologies projects, tenders and business throughout Europe

CONSEN is a non-profit, independent and international consulting firm constituted in November of 2004 in Barcelona.

Open-Source Software, Contents, Standards, Infrastructures and Information Society Technologies

A member of CONSEN Partners network Grouping owns shares and pays an annual fee and receives benefits in four major areas:

- research and innovation,**
- marketing and promotion,**
- network building, and**
- organization.**

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Example: SWISS MICROTECH

Enterprise Network (association):

- Azurea Technologies SA
- Boillat SA
- DIXI Cylindre SA
- Ravine SA
- Detech SA
- Groupe Estoppey-Reber SA
- ADAX SA

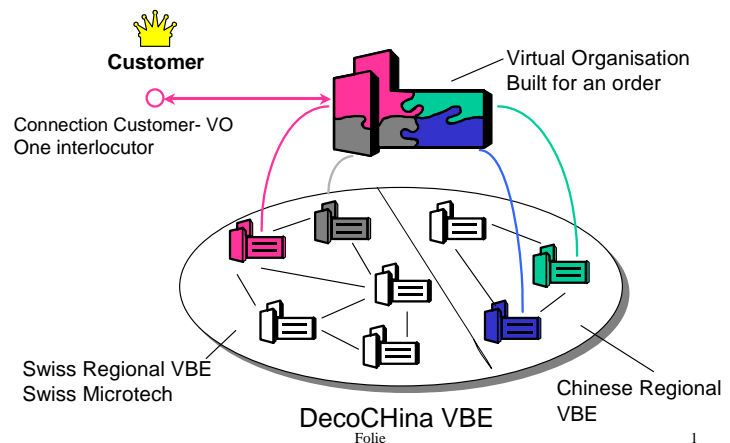
Micromechanics

Network established in 2001

Interest to create own products
of the network

Collaboration to China considered
(China strategy is being built)

The DecoCHina global network



1



STUDY OF MORE THAN 100 EXISTING LONG-TERM NETWORKS / VBES (IN ECOLEAD)

E.g.

Case	Members	Location	Domain
Virtuelle Fabrik	100	Switzerland, Germany	Mechanical industry
Kiesel	>15	Germany	Services, Environment
Virtec	>9	Brazil	Manufacturing
CEFAMOL	136	Portugal	Plastic moulds
Virtual Enterprise Networks Yorkshire	>25	UK	IT, Machinery, Bio-tech, e-Learning
Bipolo Ticino	>13	Switzerland	Life sciences
Virtual Biotech Company	>150	Germany	Biotechnology
PVC	45	Australia	Plastics
Regional Net for Ontario	-	Canada	Telecommunications
VIRFERBRAS	>12	Brazil	Moulds
Fenix Cluster	>250	Mexico	Electronics, metal & plastic
Biotechnology cluster	411	USA	Biotechnology
Biotechnology cluster	>160	Canada	Agro-food, biotechnology
Advanced Business Services	>6	USA	Credit, lending, investments
Helsinki ICT cluster	79	Finland	Telecommunications
CARPI	2068	Italy	Textile / clothing
Mining Cluster	-	Chile	Mining industry
Motorsport Valley	40	UK	Motor-sport
Verkko A	12	Finland	Process industry
Automotive cluster	54	Slovenia	Automotive industry
Plasttechnics cluster	>60	Slovenia	Plastics



VBE CATEGORIES

Main collaboration driver

- **Customer induced** ... To qualify as a supplier
- **Capacity achievement** ... Too big a "problem" / market
- **Complement competencies** ... New markets, new products, also dimension
- **Regional ecosystem** ... To preserve local specificities, tradition, culture ... Benefit from government incentives



	Membership	Overlapping of competencies	Support institutions	Market access
A1 Customer induced	-Enterprises & other -Highly selective	-Possible	-Limited	-Extremely focused
A2 Capacity achievement	-Organizations in same domain/sector	-Mostly	-Limited	-Focused on a domain (in general)
A3 Complement competencies	-May cover various sectors -Basic adhesion rule	-Possible, limited (regulated)	-Limited	-Generic (as possible)
A4 Regional ecosystem	-Specific sector (mostly) -Regional basis	-Possible	-Strong	-Generic, with regional focus

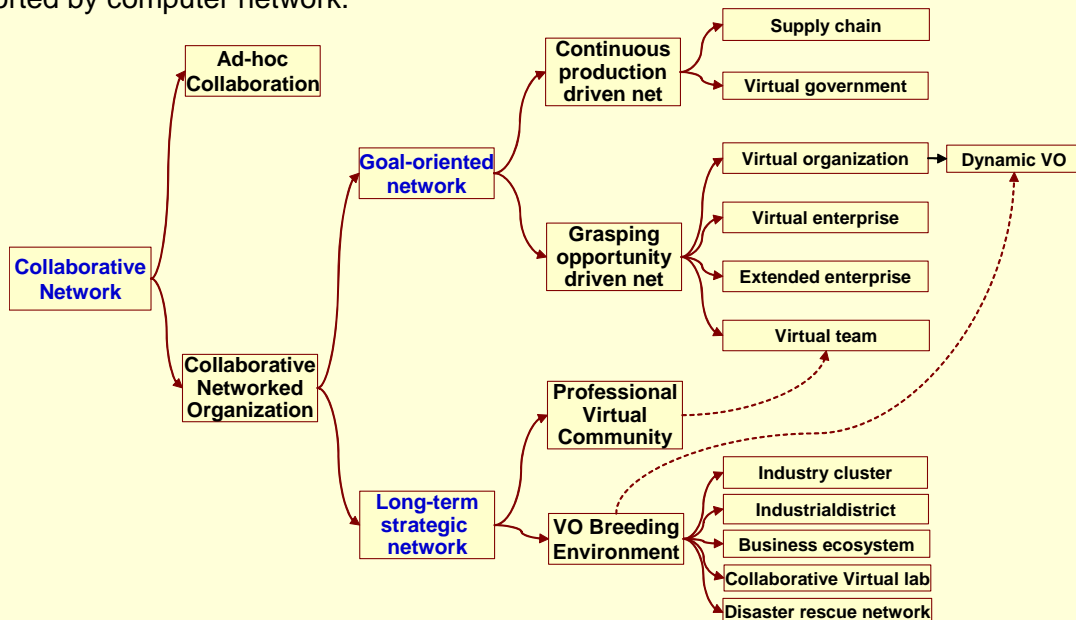
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CN TAXONOMY

A **collaborative network** (CN) is an alliance constituted by a variety of entities (e.g. organizations and people) that are largely autonomous, geographically distributed, and heterogeneous in terms of their operating environment, culture, social capital and goals, but that collaborate to better achieve common or compatible goals, and whose interactions are supported by computer network.

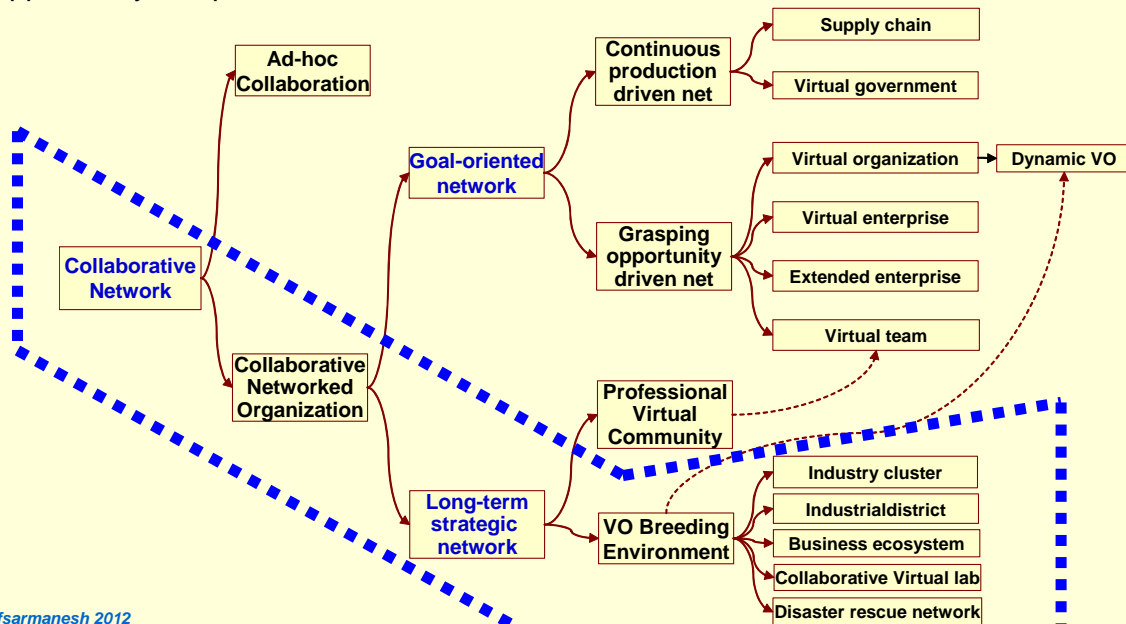


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LONG TERM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE - VBE

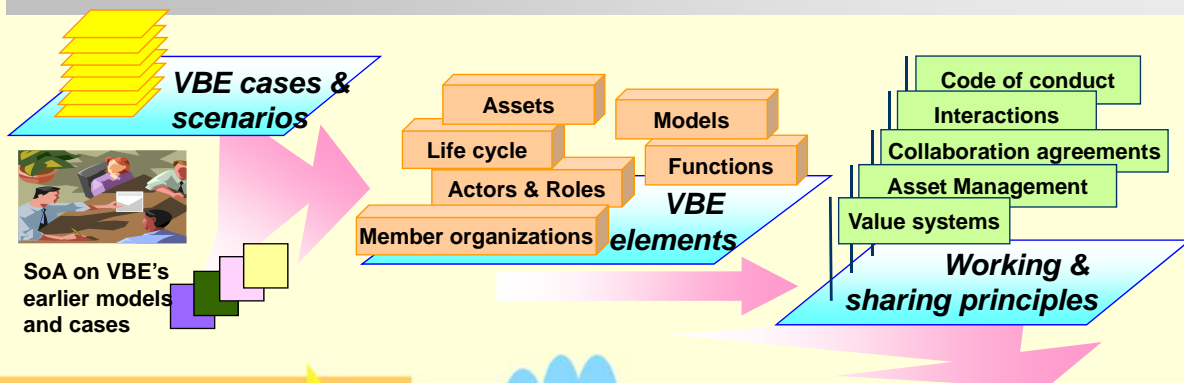
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VBE – REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS



State of the Art VBEs

- Virtuelle Fabrik
- Mexican VBE cases
- Emergency management
- Slovenian cases
- VIRFERBRAS, Brazil
- VIRTEC, Brazil
- KIESEL, Germany
- Virtual Biotech, Germany
- CEFAMOL, Portugal
- Yorkshire Forward, UK
- BIPOLO, Switzerland
- PVC, Australia
- RNO, Canada

Improved SoA VBEs

- Service for international students
- Furniture production CZIA scenario
- Extra Travel Service
- Home Menu Service

Futuristic VBEs

- Public health
- ERA
- Electricity market
- ...

Entities
Actors & Roles
Skills
Competencies
Brokerage
Organization
Infrastructure
Support institutions
Life cycle
Rules
Rights
Policies
...

• Need to Revisit Business Perspective

• Need for advanced research in:

- Comprehensive characterization
- VBE Typology
- Reference modeling
- Concepts/Functionality of VMS
- Conc./funct. Of VO creation

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SOME REASONS TO JOIN A VBE

Market-related reasons

- Coping with market **turbulence**
- Increase chances of **survival**
- More chances to **compete** with larger companies
- **Lobbying** & market influence (branding / marketing)
- Easier **access to loans**
- Cheaper **group insurance**
- Better **negotiation power** (e.g. Joint purchasing)
- **Prestige**, reputation, reference
- Access to /explore **new market** /product (e.g. Multidisciplinary sector)
- Expand geographical **coverage**
- Increase potential for innovation
- **Economy** of scale
- Achieve (global) **diversity**
- ...

Organizational reasons

- Management of competencies and resources
- Approaches to build trust
- Improve potential of risk taking
- Support members through necessary re-organization
- Learning & training
- Shared bag of assets
- Organize success stories & joint advertisement
- Help in attaining clear focus / developing core competencies
- ...

Preparedness

- **Agility** for opportunity-based VO creation
- Effective **common** ICT infrastructure
- Mechanisms, **guidelines** for VO creation
- General guidelines for **collaboration**
- Increase chances of VO **involvement**
- ...

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WHY REMAINING IN A VBE?

The initial attracting factors are not exactly the same that keep members happy in the long run!

- ◆ Profit from businesses
- ◆ Benefiting from the existing **infrastructure**
- ◆ Better **marketing** possibilities (fairs, cheaper admission costs, better publicity/visibility (better location) ...)
- ◆ Better **strategic position** through the VBE
- ◆ Easy access to **complementary skills**
- ◆ Explore **new market** / **new product** (multi-disciplinary-sector), expand geographical coverage
- ◆ Potential for **innovation**
- ◆ Continue profiting from the **opportunities** only **available** through the VBE
- ◆ Fight against a **common enemy**
- ◆ Better **negotiation power**
- ◆ Existing **success stories** and **advertising**
- ◆ Gain **higher rank** for more opportunities

Need for objective indicators!

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SYSTEM OF INCENTIVES

to attract and maintain VBE members

Example incentives:

1. For business related VBEs: economic profit and knowledge:

- (i) Guaranteed participation in a given number of VOs during a given period of time (difficult to materialize in practice),
- (ii) Access to a set of basic tools etc. provided in the VBE bag of assets,
- (iii) Access to other members public profiles,
- (iv) Tutorials, Courses and Conferences to enhance productivity (and core competencies) in companies,
- (v) Initial evaluation of the member, and commitment to provide constructive suggestions/advice to better its status in a given period of time.

2. For universities: the openness of VBE projects, possibility for student practices, early introduction to industry practices, and better links between industry and academia

3. For R&D organizations: the exploitation of their technological advances, and links between research and market

4. For government organization involvement: directly related to the social and economic impact of the VBE, e.g.: increase in employment rates, increase in gross product, better infrastructures, and SME developments.

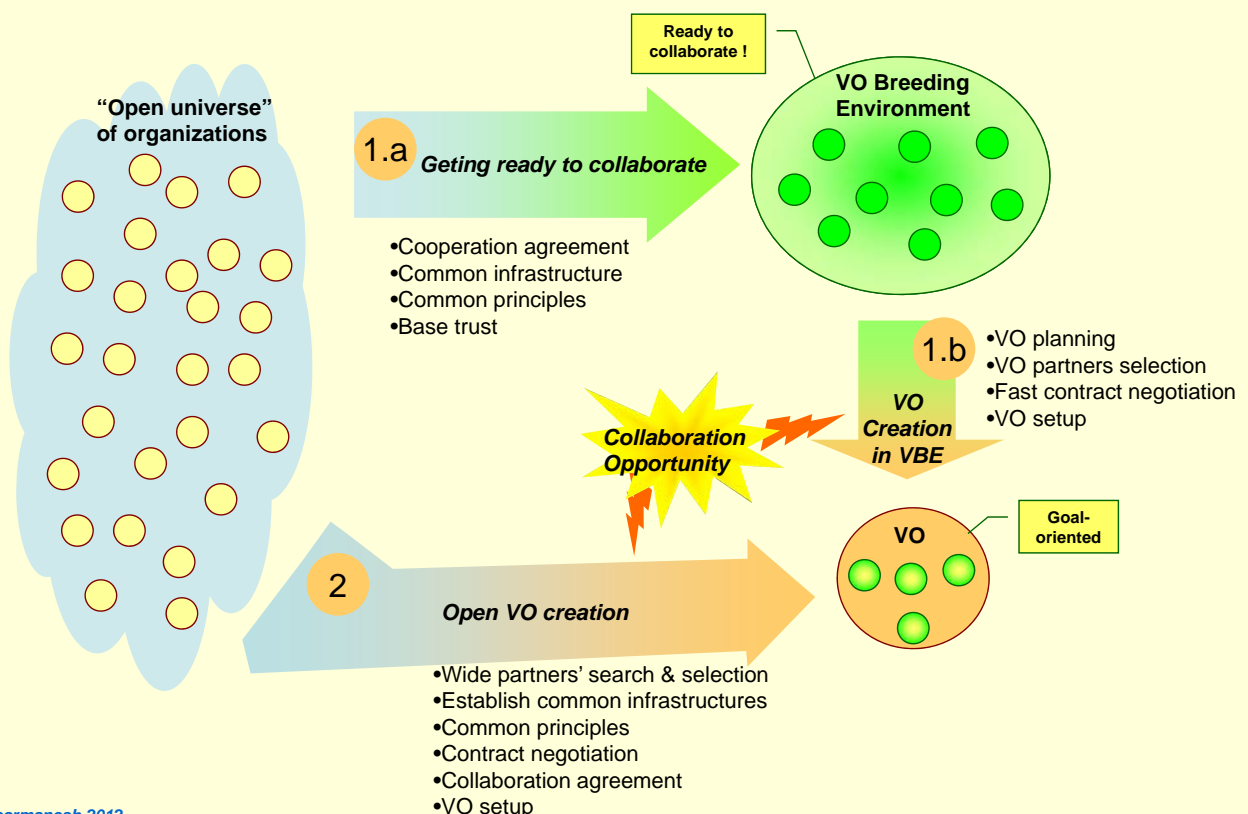
Awards and Sanctions



As a base incentive for VBE members, a set of rules that are defined to collect "points" (e.g. for taking active roles) to receive more benefits



CREATION OF VO – 2 APPROACHES





VBE ACTORS, ROLES AND RIGHTS

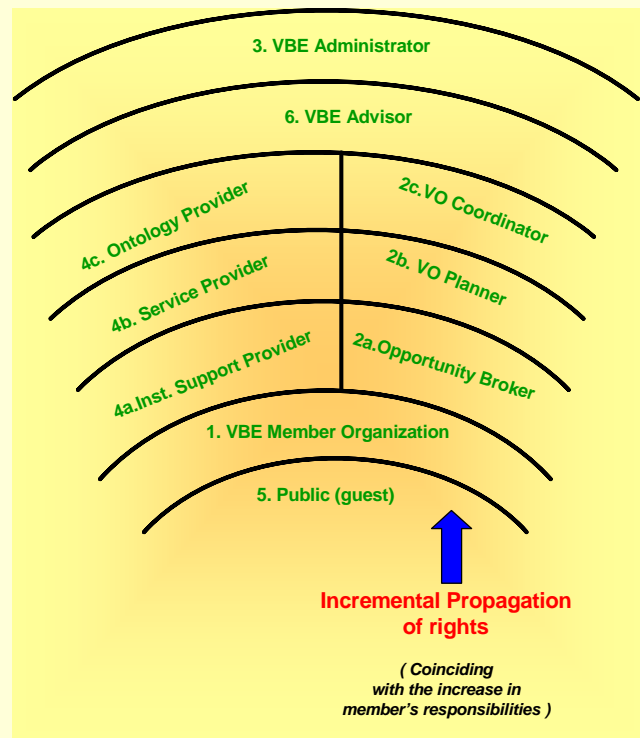
Main roles:

- VBE Administrator (Manager/Coach)
- Opportunity broker
- VO planner (Integrator)
- VO coordinator
- VBE Member

Other roles:

- Support institution assistance provider
- Common tools/services provider
- Common Ontology provider
- VBE advisor (board)
- Public (guest)

One actor can
play multiple
roles
simultaneously



[Afsarmanesh, 2007]

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SOME DIFFICULTIES IN COLLABORATION

- **Resources** – ownership and sharing of resources is a typical difficulty, whether it relates to resources brought in by members or resources acquired by the coalition for the purpose of performing the task.
- **Rewards** – finding a fair way of determining the individual contributions to a joint intellectual property creation is a rather challenging issue. Intellectual property creation is not linearly related to the proportion of resources invested by each party. At the very base of this issue is the need to reach a common perception of the exchanged values, which requires the definition of a benefits model and a system of incentives, based on a common value system.
- **Commitments** – whenever there is an attack or any other obstacle to the collaboration do parties respond as a whole, facing the consequences together, or do each one try to “save its neck”?
- **Responsibilities** – a typical phenomenon in collective endeavors is the dilution of responsibility. A successful collaboration depends on sharing the responsibilities, both during the process of achieving the goal, and also the liabilities after the end of the collaboration.

These issues must be settled by a set of **common working and sharing principles**.

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THE MAIN ICT NEEDS

What ICT support is needed for CNs?

ICT infrastructure:

- Safe communications, Information sharing, Coordination
- Interoperability and legacy systems integration
- Collaboration platform
- ...

ICT services: (Supporting all phases of CN life cycle)

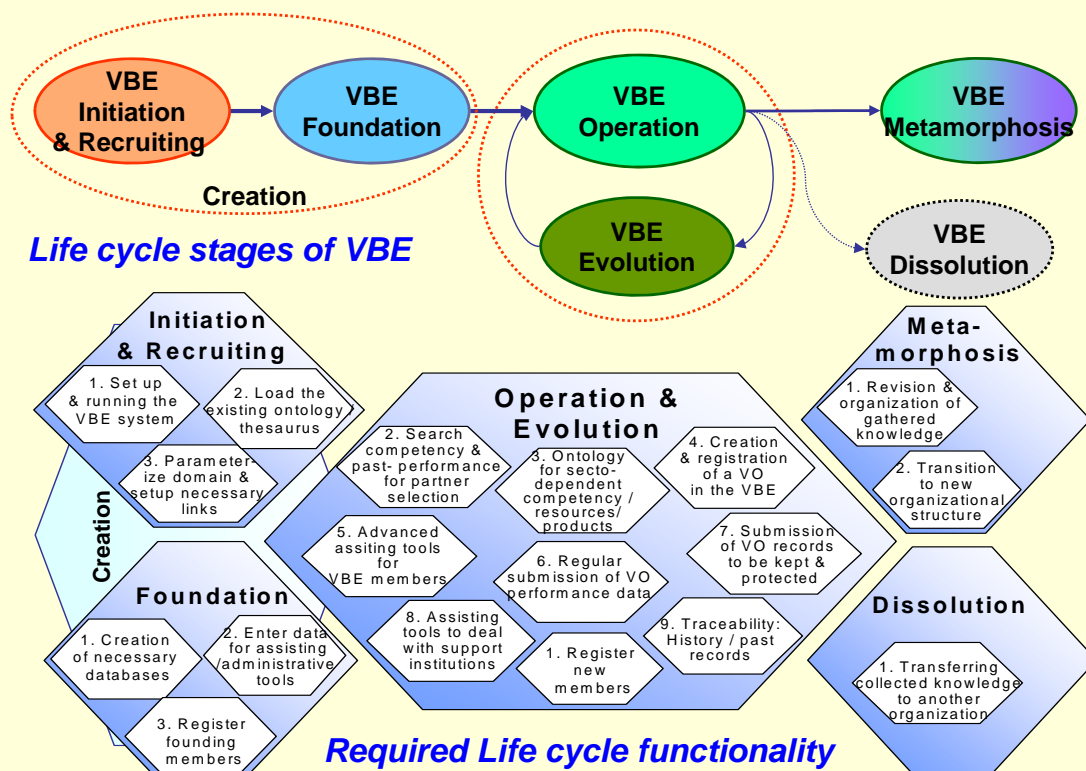
- Creation: Planning, partners selection, negotiation, contracting, ...
- Operation: Management, Conflict resolution, Performance management, ...
- Evolution: Partners search, reconfiguration, ...
- Dissolution: Inheritance mechanisms, ...

- ...

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VBE LIFE CYCLE FUNCTIONALITIES

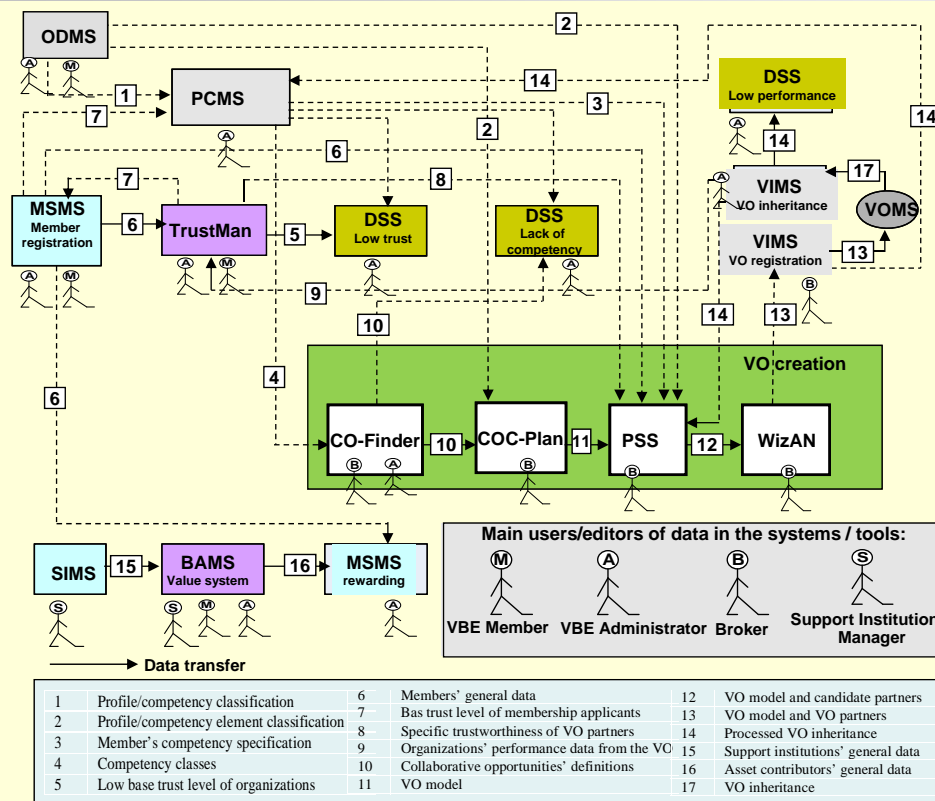


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[Afsarmanesh, 2007]



VBE management system – Main sub-systems



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3 SUBSYSTEMS SUPPORTING VBE

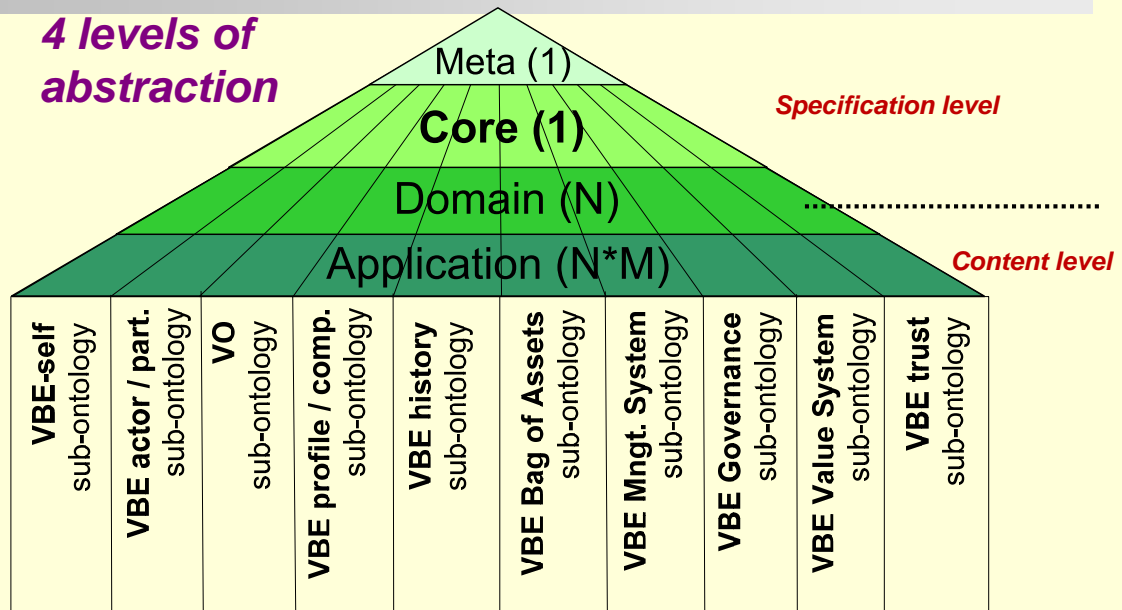
VBE Information Sub-Systems

- Ontology management
- Profile & Competency management
- Trust management

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Unified VBE ontology specification



10 sub-ontologies
(complementary VBE knowledge partitions)

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GUI for VBE ontology management system

Ontology Discovery and Management System

Home View ontology Customize ontology Evolve ontology Discover ontology

You are logged in as: IECOS_admin
Your role is: ODMS Administrator
[Log out](#)

Common VBE Profile ontology

- ☐ VBE Actor
- ☐ VBE Bag of Assets
- ☐ VBE Foundation
- ☐ VBE Functionality
- ☐ VBE Governance
- ☐ VBE History
- ☒ subclasses (1)
 - ☐ VBE Inheritance
- ☐ VBE Initiation and Recruiting
- ☐ VBE Life Cycle
- ☒ properties (1)
 - ☐ VBE Management System
 - ☐ VBE Profile
- ☒ subclasses (1)
 - ☐ VBE Stage
- ☒ properties (1)
 - ☐ subclasses (5)
- ☐ VBE Trust
- ☐ VBE Value System
- ☐ Virtual Organization
- ☐ Virtual organization Breeding Environment
- ☒ properties (10)
- ☐ hasPart
- ☐

Core VBE concepts

Search for concepts

Definitions

VBE Inheritance

VBE Inheritance constitutes some documents/information which VBE inherits after VO dissolution. VO Inheritance is stored as one or a set of the VBE Bag of Assets.

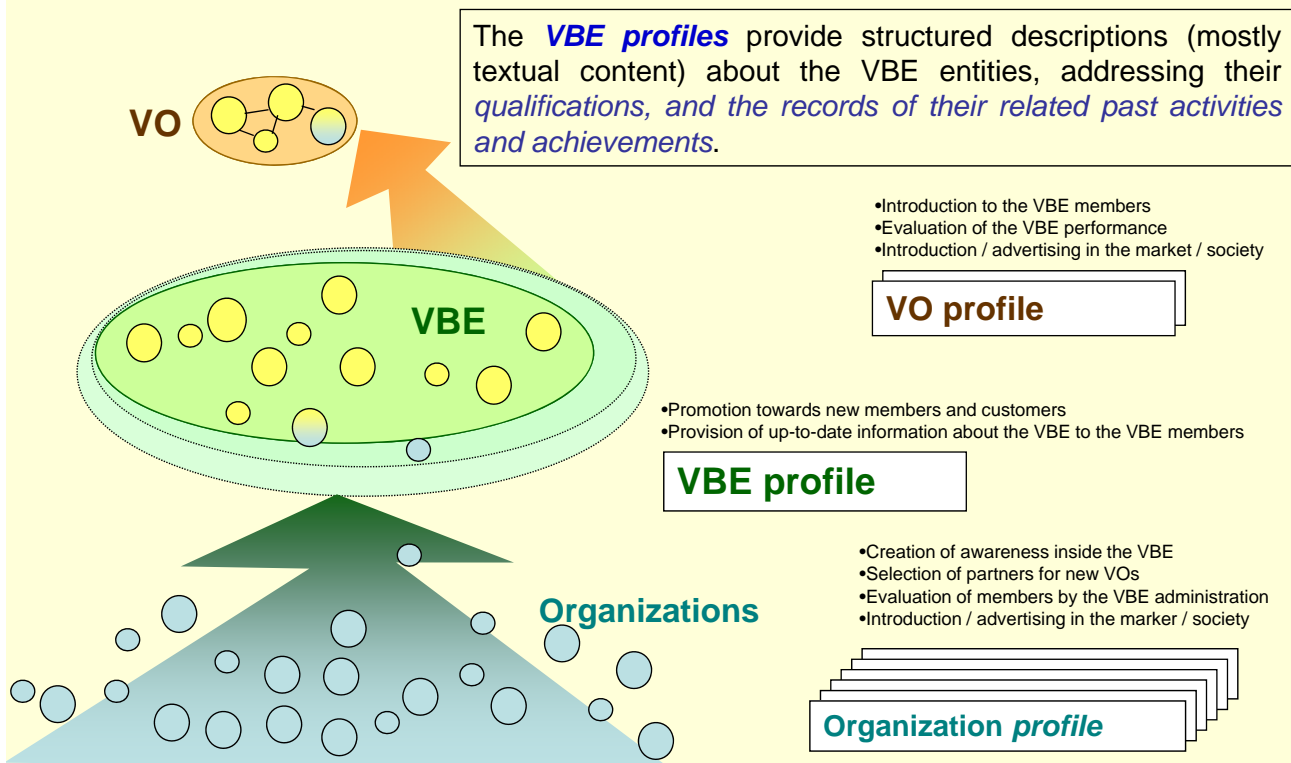
(c) COLNET, University of Amsterdam - ECOLEAD project

(Inspired by Protégé, but simpler and tailored for VBE actors, to navigate, edit, and use for discovery)

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MAIN COMPONENTS OF VBE PROFILES



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[Afsarmanesh, 2007]



VBE Competency model – Supporting dynamic / agile VO creation

□ Currently large VBEs fail chances to respond to emerging collaboration opportunities due to inability to dynamically process and analyse the competencies (i.e. qualifications and abilities) of their member organizations

□ For dynamic/agile configuration and creation of a VO, competencies of the VBE actors must be matched against the detailed specificities of the CO to which it is planned to respond

Example call for tender

Bidding Type	International Competitive Bidding
Project Name	CAIRO NORTH COMBINED-CYCLE POWER PLANT PROJECT (THE EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY HOLDING COMPANY (EEHC), A JOINT STOCK COMPANY ESTABLISHED BY LAW NO. 164 YEAR 2000 (FORMERLY EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY), HAS SECURED A LOAN FROM THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HAS REQUESTED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) TO FINANCE THE PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR SEVERAL PACKAGES OF THE CAIRO NORTH COMBINED-CYCLE POWER PLANT PROJECT){
Financier	
Tender Notice No.	Not Provided
Description	DESIGN, FABRICATION, FURNISHING, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TRAINING, TESTING, START-UP AND COMMISSIONING FOR 2 X 250 MW (ISO) GAS TURBINE GENERATORS AND AUXILIARIES (TWO 250 MW (ISO) COMBUSTION TURBINE GENERATORS, AND ONE 250 MW (NOMINAL) STEAM TURBINE GENERATOR), INCLUDING ALL MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORK REQUIRED FOR A COMPLETE OPERATIONAL SYSTEM.

A collaboration Opportunity (CO)

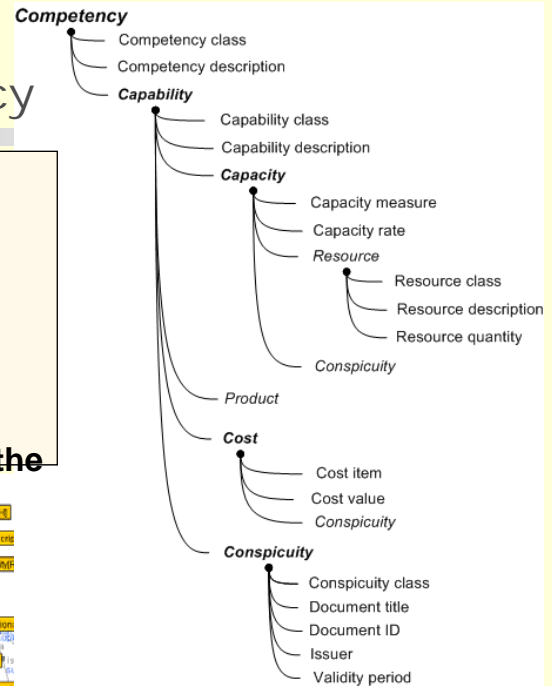
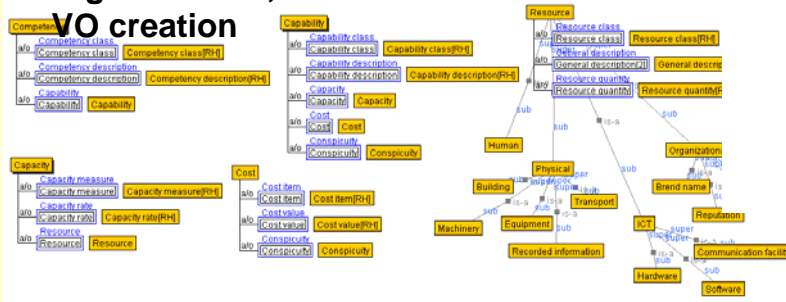
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The 4C-model of VBE competency

We have identified the **generic set of elements constituting VBE members' competencies**, i.e. with the **4C-model (including the Capabilities + Capacities + Costs + Conspicuities)**, that comprehensively specifies the needed information from VBE member organizations, in order to be selected for the

VO creation



Functionality for matching between the offered competencies by VBE actors, against the CO specificities (weighted multi-dimensional match), supported by other applicable functionalities from ontology engineering

Generic comprehensive 4C-model of competency

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GUI for competency management system

Welcome VBE-SELF NETWORK: SMT VBE! [Log out](#)

SMT's Profile and Competency Management System

Swiss Microtech Enterprise Network

About PCMS View profiles Search profiles Edit own profile **Customize profile model** Add profile [Guide](#) ODMs

Create sub-class Create attribute Update class Delete class Delete relationship

PROFILE 8 attributes, 0 sub-classes

GENERAL DATA 14 attributes, 0 sub-classes

CONTACT DATA 9 attributes, 0 sub-classes

COMPETENCY 0 attributes, 3 sub-classes

ORGANIZATION COMPETENCY 4 attributes, 5 sub-classes

ORGANIZATION CAPABILITY 1 attributes, 2 sub-classes

Size of product 0 attributes, 0 sub-classes

Quantity in series 0 attributes, 0 sub-classes

PRODUCT 2 attributes, 2 sub-classes

METAL WORKING COMPETENCY 0 attributes, 7 sub-classes

ELECTROPLATING COMPETENCY 0 attributes, 0 sub-classes

HEAD TREATMENT COMPETENCY 0 attributes, 0 sub-classes

SURFACE TREATMENT COMPETENCY 0 attributes, 0 sub-classes

ASSEMBLY COMPETENCY 0 attributes, 0 sub-classes

COLLECTIVE COMPETENCY 1 attributes, 0 sub-classes

VBE-SELF COMPETENCY 3 attributes, 0 sub-classes

RESOURCE 1 attributes, 4 sub-classes

PRODUCT 2 attributes, 2 sub-classes

CONSPICUITY 3 attributes, 2 sub-classes

ASSOCIATED PARTNER 5 attributes, 5 sub-classes

FINANCIAL DATA 1 attributes, 0 sub-classes

Core concepts

Domain concepts

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TRUST IN VBEs

WHY TRUST?

Based on earlier research...

- 50-80% of inter-organizational relationships fail
- Trust as a critical factor in inter-organizational relationships

It is important to understand trust...

- nature of trust
- dynamics in trust
- how to build trust?
- how to measure trust?
- trust building tools?

[Blomqvist, 2004]



TRUST – WHEN NEEDED IN VBEs

WHEN IS TRUST NEEDED?

The higher the uncertainty...

- emerging technologies
- emerging markets
- economic situation
- risky projects
- new business models

The higher the turbulence...

- blurring industry boundaries
- convergence
- consolidation

The higher the need for speed...

- law of increasing returns
- dominant market position
- fast-track projects

The higher the complexity...

- systemic products
- inter-disciplinary knowledge
- switching costs
- web of partners is needed

The higher the asymmetry...

- complementary knowledge
- diverse actors
- different cultures
- different power

The higher the need for innovation...

- knowledge-workers
- complementary knowledge
- voluntary nature of innovation
- commitment

...the higher the
need for trust

[Blomqvist, 2004]



TRUST IN VBEs

-How to establish and promote trust in VBEs:

- Among member organizations in the VBE?
- Between the organization and the VBE administration?
- Between the customer and the VBE?



- How can the VBE management system (VMS) assist member organizations in:

- Assessing current trust levels of other organizations in the VBE?
- Foreseeing their trustworthiness in the coming time?
- Establishing trust relationships with each other?

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Trust level assessment & management

Perspective	Requirements	Trust criteria
1. Structural	Structural strength	Size Competencies Personnel experts Centres
	Business strength	Geographical coverage Workload allocation Joint ventures
2. Social	Community participation	Activities participated Service contribution
	Community compliance	Standards complied
3. Economical	Capital	Cash Physical capital Material capital
		Cash in Cash out Profit/Loss Operational costs
	Financial stability	Cash in Cash out Profit/Loss
		Auditing standards Auditing frequency
	VO - financial stability	Cash in Cash out Profit/Loss
	Financial standards	Auditing standards Auditing frequency
4. Technological	ICT- Infrastructure	Network speed (Broadband) Interoperability
		Availability
	Technology standards	Protocol standards Software standards Hardware standards Security standards
		Operating systems
	Platforms	Programming languages VO based experience
	Platform experience	External project based experience Duration held
5. Managerial	Stable management	Years in power Management structure Frequency of power change
		VO opportunistic behaviour occurred VO successful collaborations
	VO-Collaborative behaviour	VO participation as organizer/leader
	Reliability	Quality Adherence to delivery dates

Set of trust elements

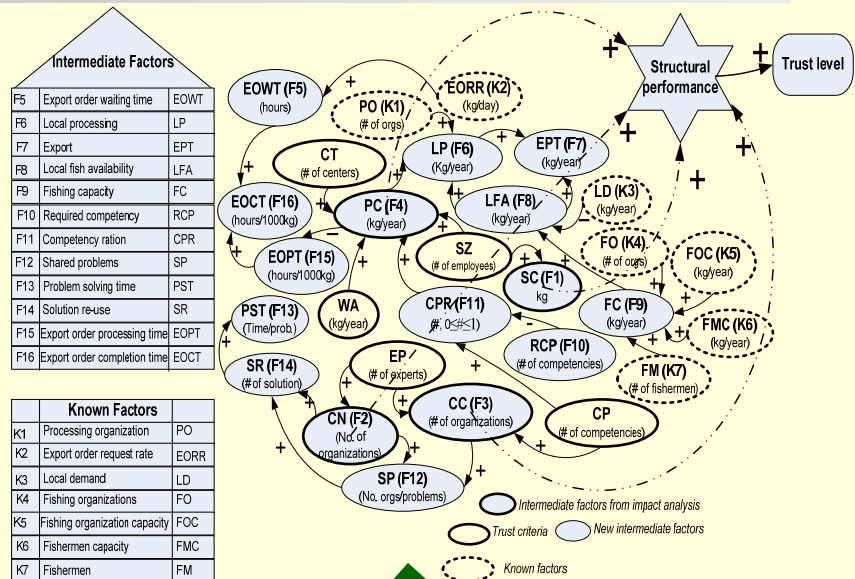


Trust assessment – Causal analysis

- Analyzing causal influences among trust criteria, intermediate factors and known factors

- Translating causal influences into mathematical equations

applies concepts inspired by system dynamics discipline



$$PC = SZ * WA * \frac{CP}{RCP} * CT$$

PC: Production capacity
SZ: Size
WA: Workload allocation
CP: Competency
RCP: Required competencies
CT: Centers

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Trust management system GUI

TrustMan

Multi-criteria based trust management system

Log out

Home

Assess:

Base trust level

Base trust level(specialized)

Evaluate trustworthiness:

Member

All members

Assessment mechanisms

Analysis of the base trust level for the VBE member

1. VBE member organization name: IECOS7

2. Partial results towards analysis of trust level (relative values)

Managerial trustworthiness details	Social trustworthiness details
VO collaborative behavior: 4.9	Community standards: 2.45
Management stability: 2.45	Community participation: 3.675
Structural trustworthiness details	Technological trustworthiness details
Organization size: 4.9	ICT infrastructure: 3.947
Competence: 4.9	Technological standards: 4.9
Centers: 3.062	Platforms: 4.9
Workload allocation: 4.9	Technological experience: 4.9
Economical trustworthiness details	
Capital: 4.51	
Financial stability: 1.985	
VO financial stability: 4.411	

3. Base score for each perspective

Technological	Managerial	Social	Economical	Structural
4.722	3.75	3.125	3.709	3.125

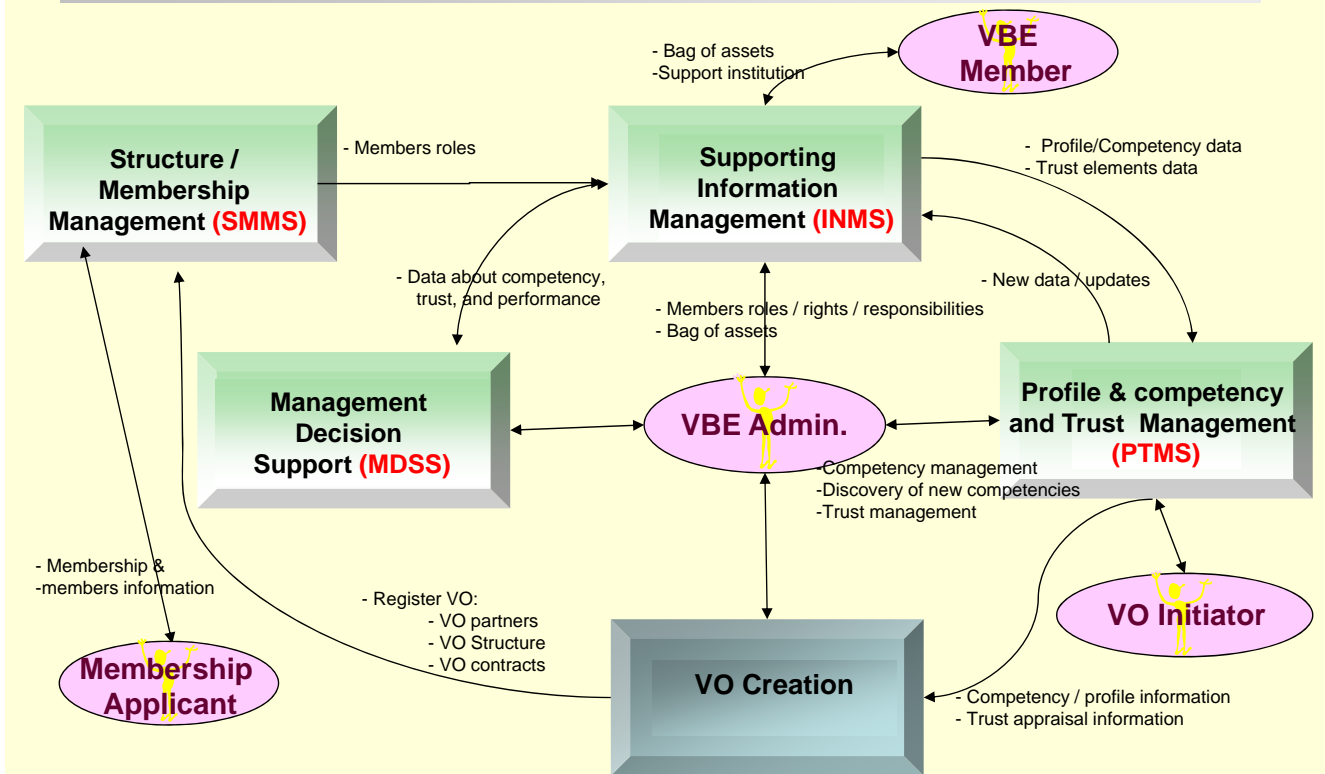
4. The base trust level results

Org ID	Name	Trust Level	Score
60	IECOS7	More trustworthy	3.686

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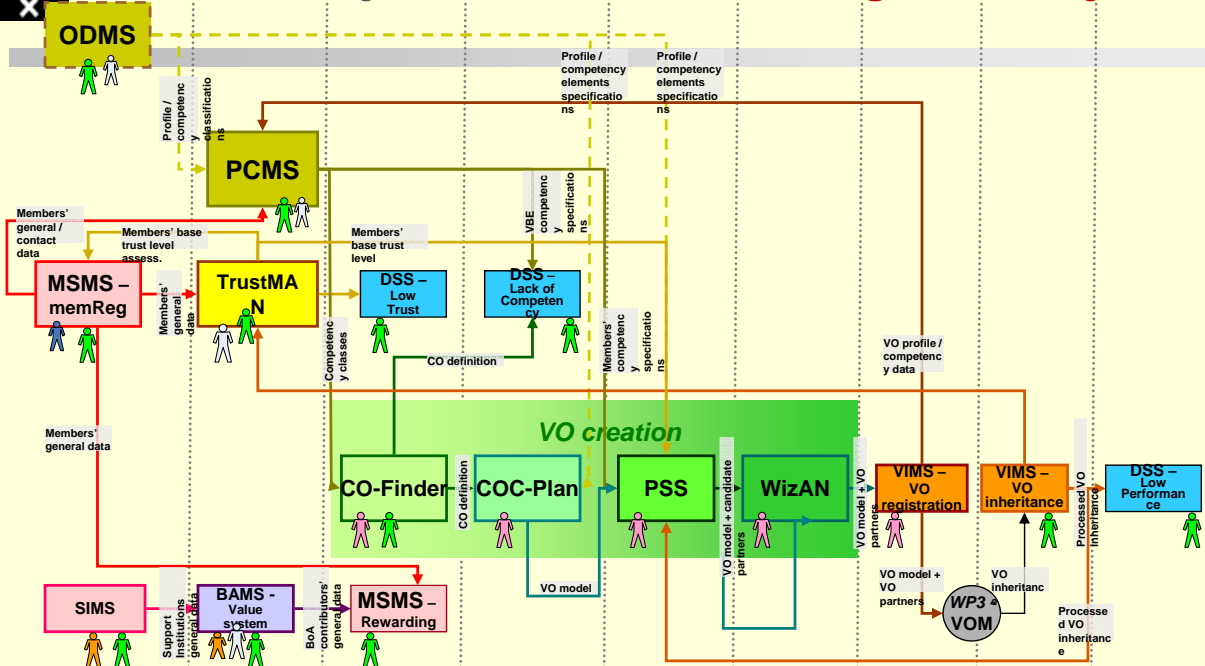
ECOLEAD: VMS ARCHITECTURE & USERS



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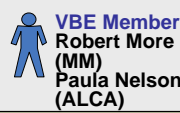
Main subsystems of VBE management system



Data transfer:

→
→
→
* In the color of their originator

Main users/editors of data in the systems / tools:



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Conclusion

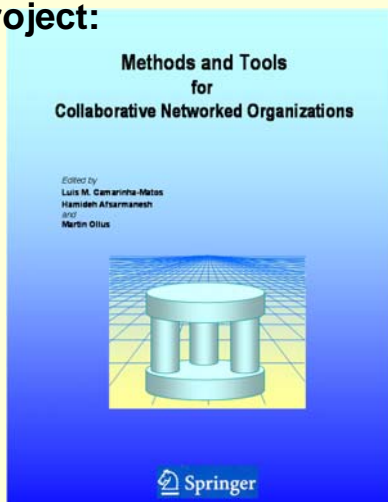
- ◆ **Collaborative Networks** manifest in a wide and growing range of application scenarios.
- ◆ Pre-establishment of supporting **long-term strategic alliances**, can provide the needed environment for creation of **cost- and time-effective dynamic virtual organizations** and virtual teams.
- ◆ Gathering up-to-date information on **wide variety of aspects** are necessary for efficient creation of **dynamic opportunity-based collaborative networks**.
- ◆ A main challenging criterion for the **success of collaborative networks** is the **effective management of the wide variety of information** that needs to be handled inside the CNs to support their functional dimension.
- ◆ Advanced **CN support platforms** require **modeling** and management of heterogeneous and **incomplete & imprecise information**, which calls for a **combination of approaches** such as **federated databases, ontology engineering, computational intelligence, and qualitative modeling and reasoning**.

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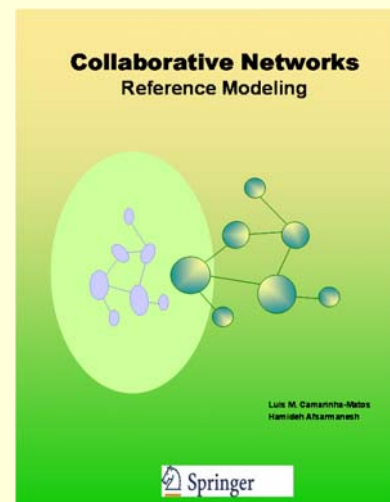
To read more on CNs

More details on many of the mentioned subjects can be found in the following two books generated through the results of ECOLEAD project:



Methods and tools for Collaborative Networked Organizations

L.M. Camarinha-Matos, H. Afsarmanesh, M. Ollus (Ed.s)
Springer, 2008.



Collaborative Networks: Reference Modeling

L.M. Camarinha-Matos, H. Afsarmanesh
Springer, 2008

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