Library Review

UN/CEFACT Forum

Geneva

2014-04-09

Membership

- Project team membership is by invitation of the Bureau.
- A deep understanding of the current library maintenance procedures, the involved actors and tools is required in order to identify possible bottlenecks, improvements, enhanced tool support and additional resources.
- Furthermore, a dedicated review team with representatives from each affected groups must be nominated. This team must review the draft not only to meet quality standards, but also acceptance by these groups. Of course, any other CEFACT expert may comment on the draft.

Potential Spokes(wo)men

- Rudi Bauer (Transport)
- Frans van Diepen (Agriculture)
- Liliana Fratini Passi (Finance)
- Edmund Grey (Supply Chain)
- Chris Hassler (Library Maintenance + Editor)
- Benoit Marchal (Accounting)
- Norbert Pfaffinger (Environment)
- Natascha Rossner (Procurement - declined)

- S.P. Sahu (Customs)
- Andreas Schultz (Insurance)
- Kees Sparreboom (Energy)
- Hisanao Sugamata (AFACT)
- Akio Suzuki (Tourism)
- Lance Thompson (International Trade Procedures)

Project Goal

The purpose of this project is to ensure the long-term sustainability of UN/CEFACT's libraries of business process and information models and associated technical artifacts (EDIFACT and XML).

Scope (1)

- The four principles of sustainability are governance, resourcing, operations and architecture. The project will review these dimensions covering the specification, documentation, development, validation, maintenance, publications and application of UN/CEFACT Core Components and element directories.

Scope (2)

The project will first identify the **as-is** process with respect to:

- Library maintenance activities
- Identification of the specifications, techniques and guidelines that provide the "rules" for executing an activity
- Identification of the roles carrying out each activity and the required skills to execute each activity.
- Identification of the tools currently used in each activity.

Scope (3a)

In a subsequent step the issues and challenges to the long term sustainability of the libraries should be identified and a proposals for their resolution should be developed.

- Identification of bottlenecks with respect to process activities as well as their human and technical resources. **Possible alternative scenarios** should be developed and evaluated against the current one.
- For each (currently manual) step it should be identified whether or not it can be (semi-) automatized. The required technical guidelines/specs and necessary tools should be outlined.
- Alternative tools that may be used in an activity should be identified. The pros and cons of each tool should be elaborated.
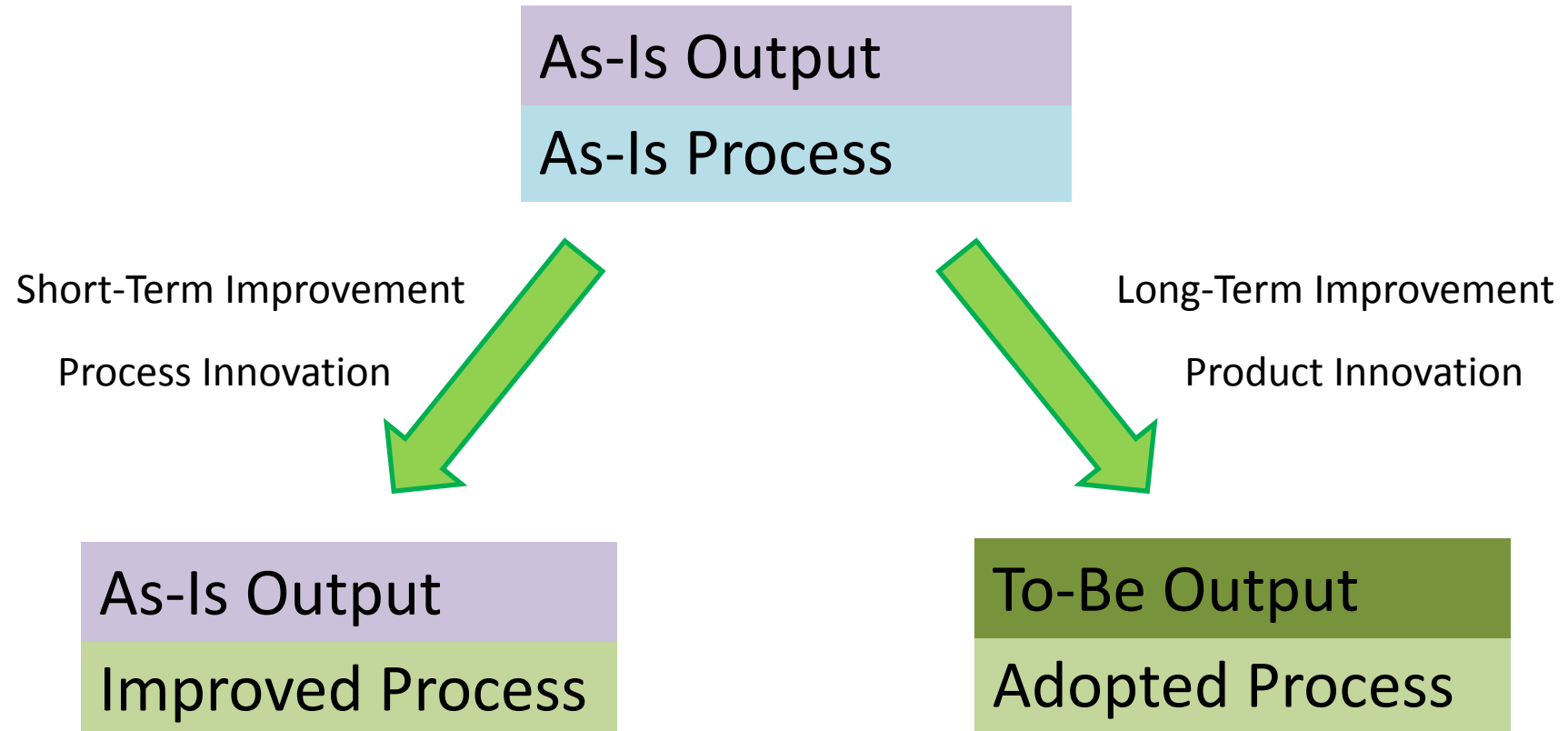
Scope (3b)

- Specification of management procedures supporting the library maintenance process in order to ensure an accurate timing and quality of the artefacts.

- A plan to appropriately staff all activities has to be developed. This plan also has to identify training activities to gain the necessary skill sets and the potential trainers.

Project Deliverables

- An Informative Note for the UN/CEFACT Bureau describing the issues and challenges to the long term sustainability of the libraries and proposals for their resolution.

From today to tomorrow

As-Is Output

As-Is Process

Short-Term Improvement

Process Innovation

Long-Term Improvement

Product Innovation

As-Is Output

Improved Process

To-Be Output

Adopted Process

Two Paths

- Process Innovation
  - M&T together with Library Maintenance
  - Review of improved process by domains

- Product Innovation
  - Domains define the to-be output
  - Team work on alternative scenarios
  - Team evaluates pros and cons of the scenarios

Steps for 2nd Path

- Free text input by domains (by 15th May)
- Structuring of input by project officers (develop a matrix)
- Structured input by domains (i.e. complete the matrix)
- Distribute outcome and invite for submissions of proposals of possible scenarios
- Consolidate proposals
- Invite for comments (pros and cons) on scenarios
- Information note to the bureau

Expected Statements (Examples)

Kees (Energy):

When CEFACT is about trade facilitation, the focus should be on semantics and maybe on the basic information clusters to be used when constructing information exchange. Not on processes, not on syntax dependent messages nor on schema's. But probably instead on responsibilities that lead to the exchange (i.e. a role model similar to the one used in the electricity sector). And CEFACT should be limited to what is needed as input for business sectors. CEFACT is no business sector itself. So these clusters may be CC's, but certainly not BIE's.

When talking about sustainability of maintenance, I think we talk about methodology to support consistency and quality. For semantics probably OWL. I am not an expert. And for information clusters and role model, maybe UML. UMM would do fine (when strictly limited for use to specify interface processes only).

Frans (Agriculture):
•Agriculture business is in need of simple reference implementations and quidelines for electronic business information exchange in G2G, and especcially B2G and B2B.
•Agriculture business and agriculture traders are not ICT experts. Request is overall support in exchange of business information between partners. Support the practising the XSD message in the real business . Exchange of XML message is supported by many devices and communication channels:
•paper exchange,
•paper – electronic combinations , with devices such as fax, OCR ,
•electronic exchange by email, ftp, HTTP and HTTPs, message service or webservices.
For highly automated and high volume electronic information exchange (computer – computer transfer) webservices are most practiced.
Webservices   requires a lot of configuration and maintenance at both server and the client side. The configuration needs to be agreed and adopted by all business partners.
Agri business partners have no off the shelve configurations or profiles available for the different business transaction types.
In UNCEFACT there are no recommendations or implementation quidelines for setting up webservices or other channels such as email or ftp.
For agriculture it wil be very usefull to have the recommendation or guidelines   for webservice communication.
They can contain best practices, technical instructions or configuration specifications to set up, test and deploy webservices, on both client and server side. If relevant for characteristic business process types specific profiles can be included in the recommendation.