

Government Architecture: concepts, use and impact

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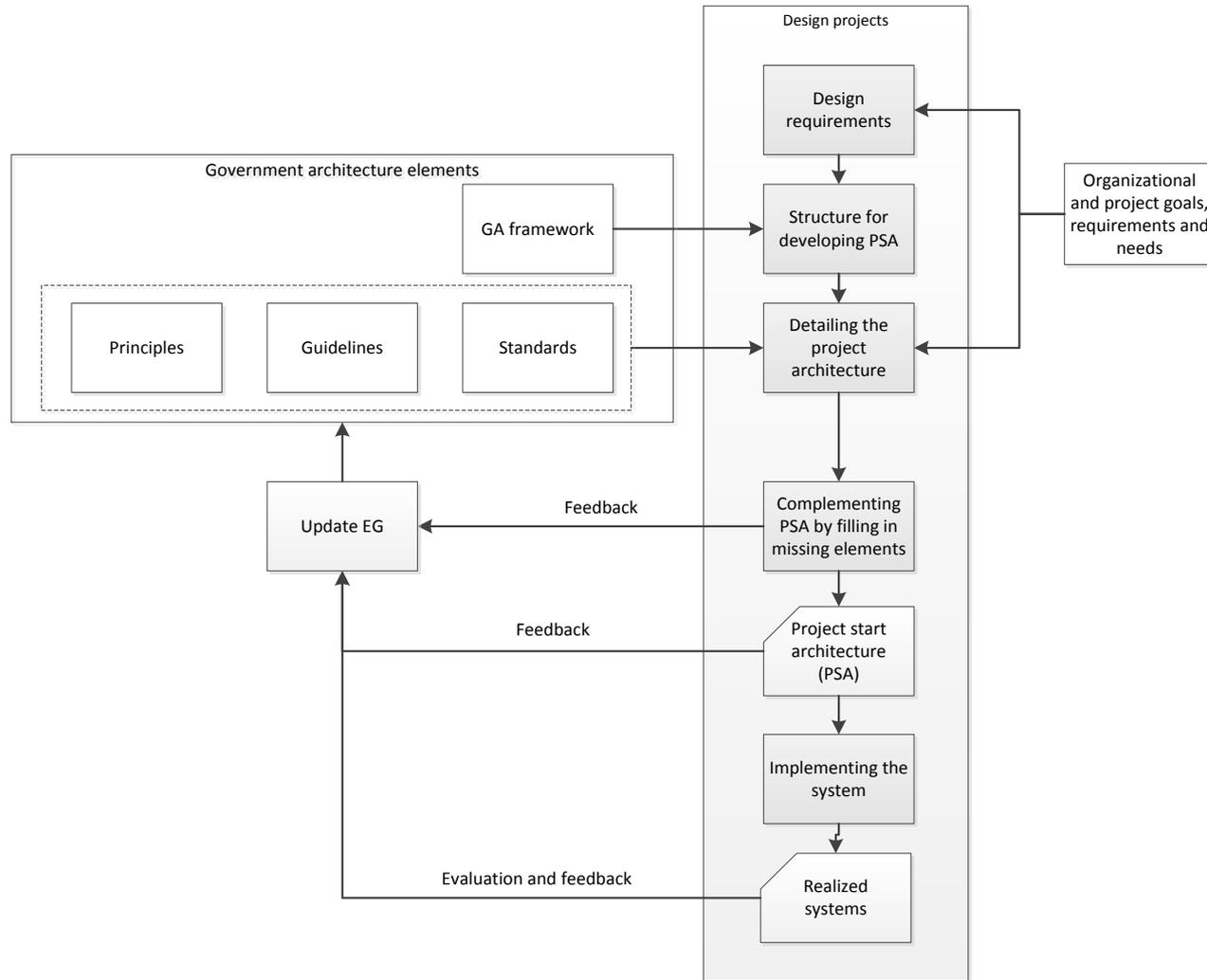
Introduction

- Governments have adopted a variety of models and often developed their own customized frameworks and applications that fit their country or organizational situations best
- Often terms and concepts are used in various ways and there is no uniform agreement on these concepts
 - Mixing up of enterprise and system architecture
 - Even term GEA, EA, GA are subject to discussions
 - Various countries and public organizations use terms in different ways
- There is no “one-size-fits-all” architectural method that is equally effective and a contingency approach is often taken
- Having a clear vocabulary is necessary to advance our understanding of the field and to understand how the various research efforts and conceptualizations are related to each other.
- Relationship between GA, benefits and public value creation

Research approach

- Comparing the architectural efforts in two counties
- Looking for commonalities and differences
- We explored the situation by first analysing publicly available data from both countries, by reading reports, presentations, project documents and websites
- Thereafter, our findings were discussed by key personnel working in these GAs projects

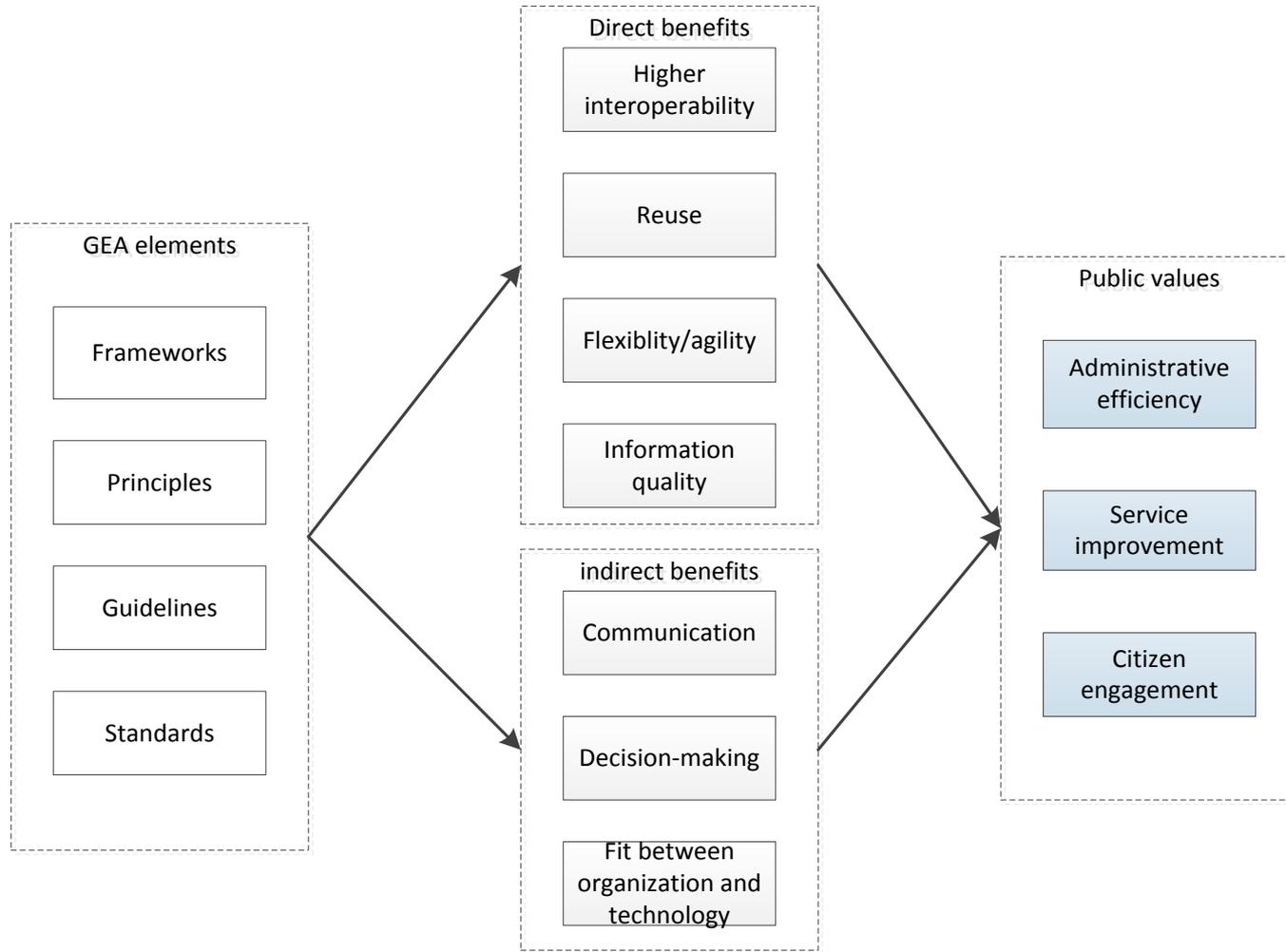
Common architecture usage patterns



Key definitions (based on literature, see paper)

- *Architecture Frameworks* structures and interrelates architecture elements to allow design of the elements independently and at the same time ensuring coherency among elements
- *Principles* are normative and directive statements that guide in decision making when designing new systems
- *Guidelines* are rules of thumb for determining courses of actions allowing leeway in its interpretation
- *Standards* are set of well-defined policies and specification used as rules to form unifying practices across projects and organizations

Conceptualizing GA and its impact



Conclusions and further research

- GA consists of frameworks, principles, guidelines and standards to guide design project and deal with the complexity
 - Although these four concepts might look clear at first glance, they were not in the practice
 - The differences between countries revealed similarities and differences
- Although the Netherlands and Norway are in various stages of developments, both countries employ similar concepts
- Architectural efforts are focussed on creating benefits like better interoperability, reuse, flexibility/agility and information quality and indirect benefits like better communication, decision-making and fit between organization and technology, whereas the ultimate goal is the creation of public values
- Defining the common elements of GA can result in a vocabulary with enables easier communication between stakeholders and should ensure development of pan-European architectures