

# Linking CRIS to Education A Survey

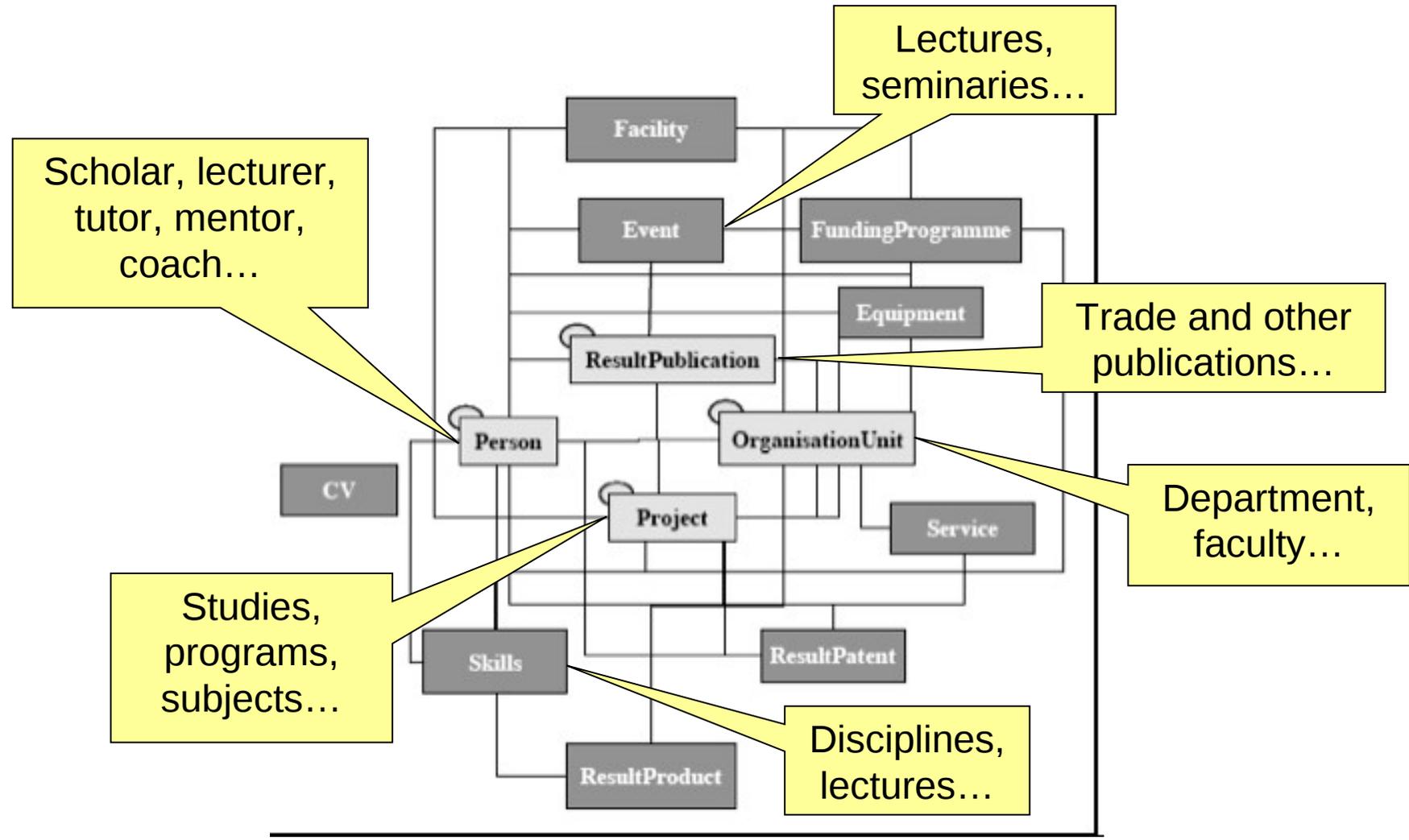
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# Questions

CRIS are for research. Yet...

- (a) How are the existing CRIS projects connected to education systems?
- (b) Should the CERIF model be extended to education?
- (c) If so, how should this be done (entities, attributes, semantics)?

# CRIS/CERIF and education



# State of the art CINECA

- Interconnected system with data on course planning, student services and student management.
- Integration with the universities' HR database.
- Research assets module includes “teacher” as personnel involved in research activity.
- Seminars are counted as part of scientific output.

# State of the art

## UK/JISC, CASRAI, DRIVER

- Links between research and student systems.
- Students as stakeholders for the project management of CRIS implementation.
- Education history as part of the description of people conducting research and for the generation of academic or student CV.
- Academic Information Domain (AID) with data from institutional repositories, eScience and learning management systems .

# Survey

- Ten exploratory interviews with a panel of CRIS and CERIF experts from the euroCRIS community.
- A survey of 35 CERIF projects and implementations in thirteen European countries (United Kingdom, Scandinavia, BeNeLux, Germany...).

# Results - Interest

- Response rate 30/34%.
- Universities are generally interested, for at least two reasons, overlapping concepts and duplication of efforts.
- Universities “*probably see a duplication of efforts when keeping a CRIS and an education management IS up to date and in sync.*”
- Yet, the experts add that education obviously is not, at least up to now, a priority for CRIS projects.

# Results - Connection

- Half of the respondents answer that their CRIS does not integrate information on education, mainly because their system is designed only for research activities.
- Limited purpose: they do not need to aggregate complex performance data.
- Implementation of an alternative software solution. The existing system architecture is sufficient for data production.
- When connected to education, the CRIS integrate data on students and scholars (teaching activities, CV, student projects) and *“synchronise with HR, finance, funding, student records and press clippings”*.
- Only one CRIS links data on course programs, and no CRIS seems to integrate learning objects.
- The connection is most often realized through data exchange between different data silos. One CRIS includes an institutional repository in this exchange.

# Results - CERIF

- Only in one CRIS project, this connection may modify the standard format.
- In another case, future modifications of the standard format are expected from the software user group.
- EuroCRIS experts seem hesitating. The predominant idea is that “*CERIF should stay focused on research (because it) is not suitable for time-table organisation, room allocation, scoring and marking of student work etc.*”
- A CERIF-based research information management system is not considered as an alternative to existing education information systems but may provide “*a useful set of data model patterns.*”

# Results - Options

- Extension of CERIF model not useful - “*no specific perspective, no priority*”.
- Preferred option: data exchange between data silos.
- Perhaps modification of the semantic layer.
- Limited interest of e-repositories.

# Discussion - Limits

- Short time period.
  - Not an in-depth study on implemented research information management systems, future projects or needs.
  - Only preliminary results.
- Small sample.
  - Systematic sampling bias.
  - Reduced validity and reliability.

# Discussion - synthesis

- **No priority:** Linking CRIS to education is not on the top of the agenda of CRIS project manager or euroCRIS experts.
- **No integration:** The preferred option seems data exchange between existing information systems, especially for information about students and their projects. CERIF would be useful as a middleware format.
- **CRIS rather than CERIF:** Further study should focus on CRIS rather than on CERIF. The common European format can be helpful but is not necessary for the link between education and research data.
- **No repository:** E-repositories are not considered as added value to the connection between CRIS and education.

# Conclusion

- Extending CRIS to education would probably imply working with new customers and development of new and different products.
- Should euroCRIS explore a territory beyond its traditional boundaries, previously out of scope?
- What can be done:
  - Develop a draft version of an extended CERIF model.
  - Analysis of needs for education related data, in the context of research, with scholars and managers of education information systems.

# Thank you!

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References <http://www.citeulike.org/user/Schopfel/tag/cris2012>