„Round Table"

Elements of a Data Harmonisation Infrastructure

Options for Work Package 9 of the CESSDA PPP

Status Quo of Harmonisation Work

1. Expert knowledge is difficult to **find and access**

2. Harmonisations not always **transparent**

3. Difficult to **apply** even if good docs exist

4. No organised **channels** to create and distribute new harmonisations

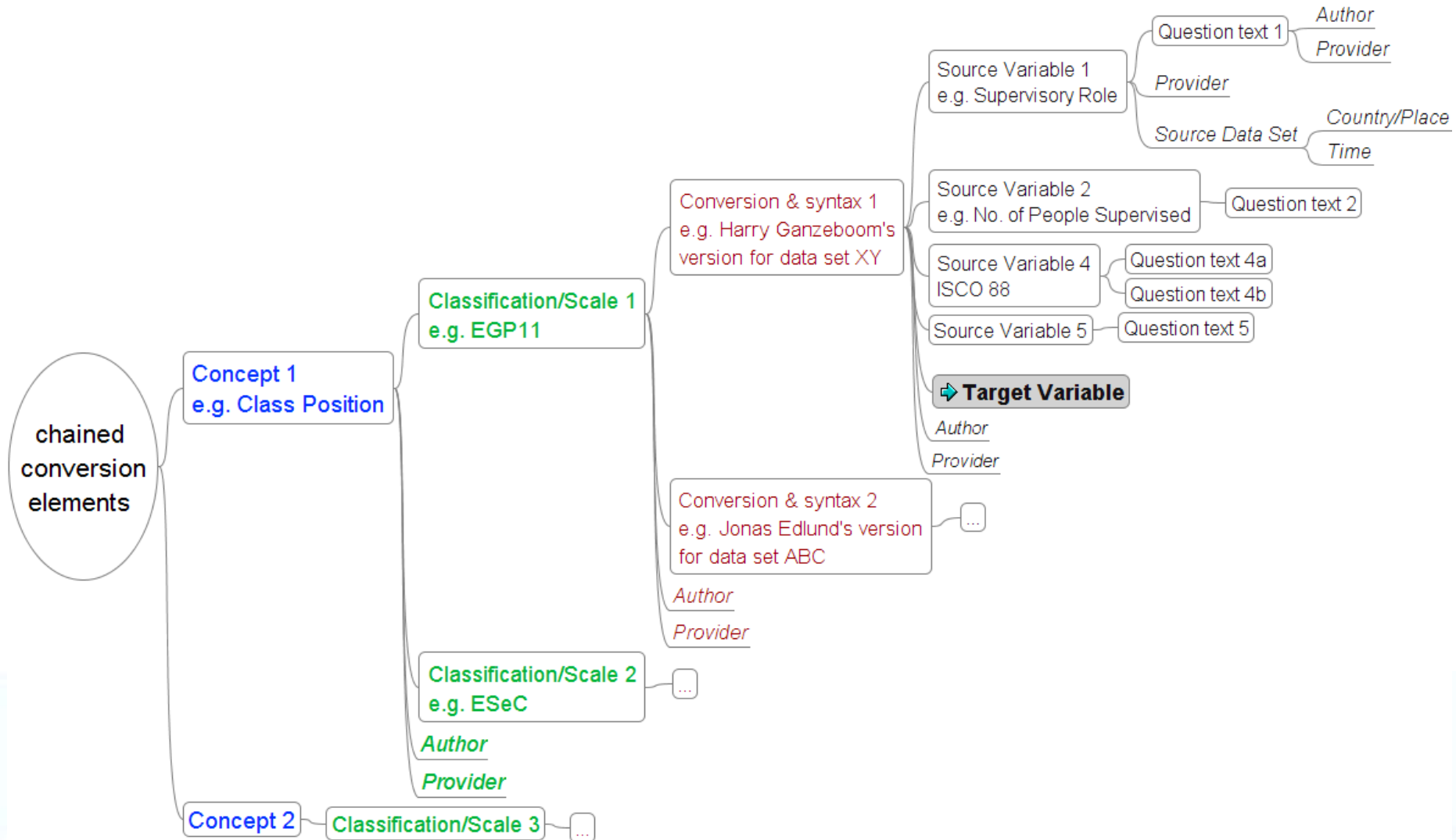5. Poor **incentives** for creators of harmonisations

Goals of New Infrastructure

1. **Access:** Central database with search interface
2. **Transparency:** Database allows and enforces structured documentation
3. **Extended Usability:**
   - If possible, apply routines directly to data
   - Reuse and adapt harmonisation routines
4. **Channels:**
   – Connect to existing documentation materials
   – Attached to CESSDA portal
5. **Incentives:** Harmonisation as scientific achievement in its own right

Three Models for Contribution

1. Centralised Contribution Approach
   – Only CESSDA contributes
   – Sound quality, low volume
2. Open Contribution Approach
   – Researchers may contribute freely
   – "Lemon market" problem
3. Controlled Contributors Approach
   – Registration only after approval
   – After registration, control mainly formal aspects

Logical Structure

Additional Aspects

➢ Markers for intellectual authors and technical providers

➢ Facilitate citation of individual elements in the database

➢ Create visible quality and reputation markers

➢ Define minimal standards and best practice of documenting conversions

➢ Establish access/editorial control

First Steps – WP9 of the PPP

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➢ Develop functional specs for large scale infrastructure

➢ Devise policies for collecting contributions & investigate cooperation options

➢ Select and process testing materials for harmonisation

➢ Develop and test demo database

Thank you!