

A digital globe of the Earth is shown from space, with a complex network of white lines and dots overlaid on it, representing data infrastructure. The background is a dark space with a bright, glowing horizon line. The text is centered in a semi-transparent white box.

# Towards a common data infrastructure

Jandirk Bulens, Marc-Jeroen Bogaardt, Rob Lokers,  
Claudia Kamphuis, Fedde Sijbrandij



# What did we do?

- Develop and improve smart, privacy conserving data infrastructure
  - Around topic of circular agriculture
  - Using farm generated data and farm and food safety sensors
  - Touching emerging issues around privacy conservation, data sovereignty, data protection
- Establishing connections between infrastructure components
  - Test bed for exploring connectivity, interoperability, reusability over WUR infrastructures and research domains
- Mapping to a generic infrastructural framework
- Assessment of WUR organisational perspectives on data architecture
- Compiling lessons learned and a roadmap for future evolution


# How? → by connecting the Dots

- Farms Information Net (BIN)
  - Sample companies, data warehouse, business intelligence stack
- Farmmaps
  - Farm data space, management & advisemanagement information system
- AgroDataCube
  - Open data, legislative/satellite/sensor data service
- Farm Data Safe
  - Data sovereignty & privacy protection, personal data vault
- Methane Data Lake
  - On-farm sensor data streams, data lake, real-time
- Food Fraud Data (RASFF/EMI)
  - Sensitive/protected data, federated learning
- Fresh Water Fish
  - Sectoral interoperability, information model

# The continuing of the story..

- Starting from the concept: the Farm Data Train
  - Looking how to use Federated Data
  - Stumbled on the Innopay building block framework
- A conceptual setup of a 'soft data infrastructure'

# Infrastructural building blocks framework




Data standards and formats



Operational agreements



Legal agreements



Earnings model




Connectivity




Governance



Metadata



Consent



Identification and authentication

Source: Survey and benchmark data sharing initiatives, INNOPAY analysis

# What about you?



What standards do you use?



What license do you use?



Do you provide access?



Do you create Metadata?

For the data collection? - For the data structure? -  
Do you publish metadata? .. and how?



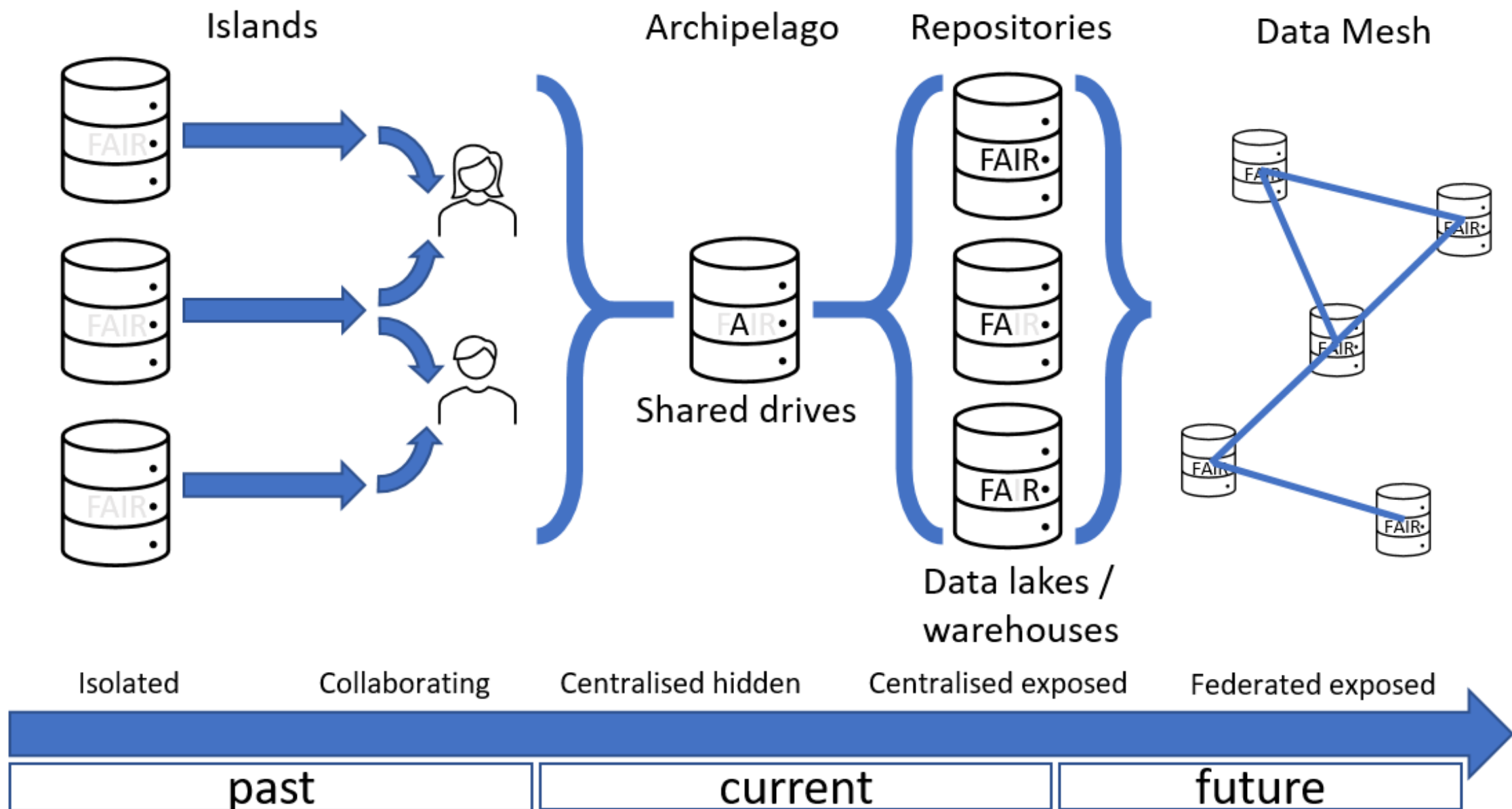
How do you authorise users?



# Findings

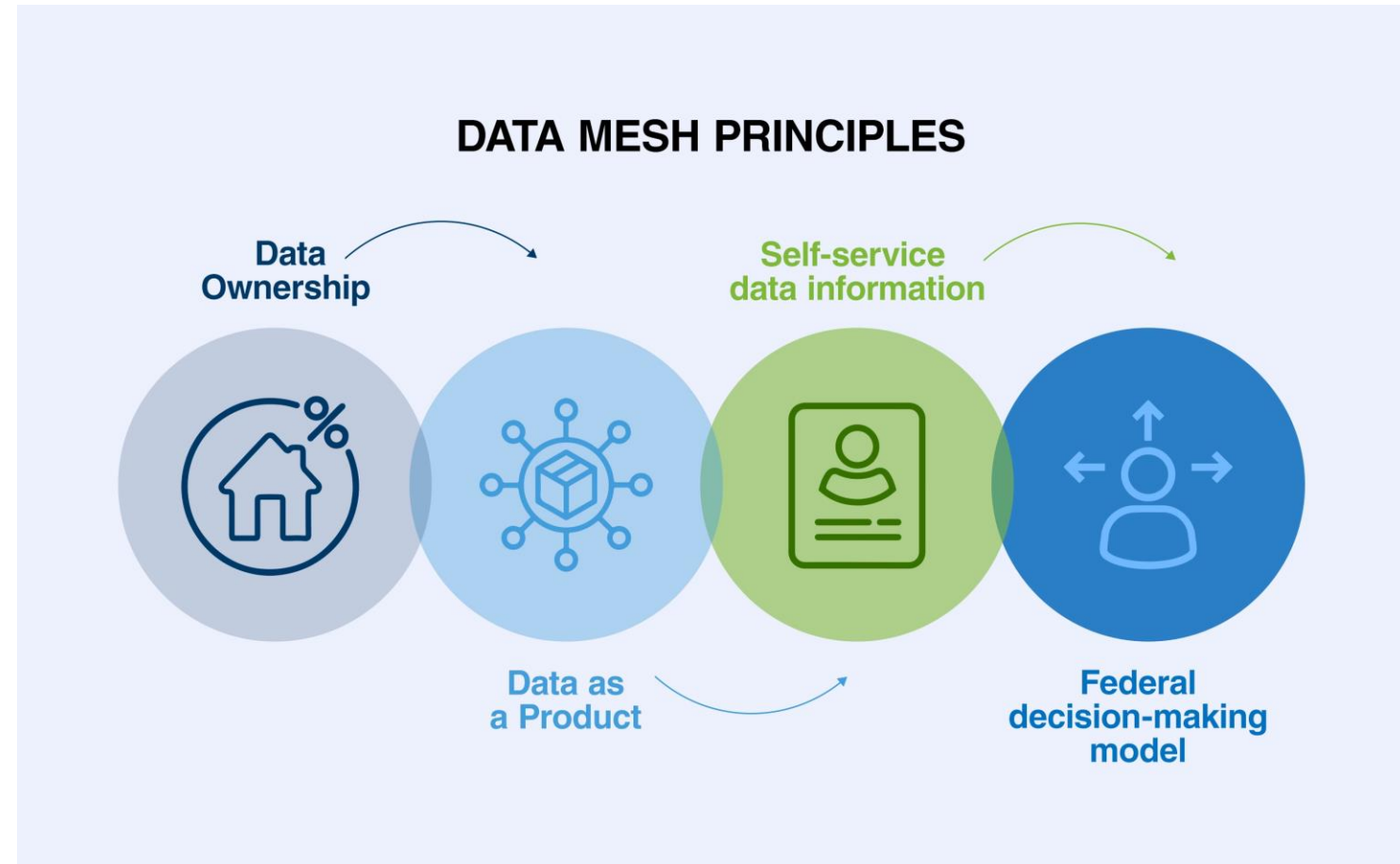
- What is still immature, or even lacking, are the standards that relate to semantics.
- Regarding the earnings model: also scientific data even from ongoing research can be very valuable for re-use.
- Metadata is often misunderstood. A general metadata standards is Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI). More specific for the WUR, PURE
- It is good to understand that the 9-block framework was in most cases not known when the data sources were compiled.
- within WUR there is a strong notion to make data FAIR, meaning a lot of building blocks already got attention.
- providing interoperability is the most difficult aspect of 'FAIRifying' data to compile proper metadata.
  - Happily enough we see that controlled vocabularies and ontologies are used more and more.





# Data mesh principles

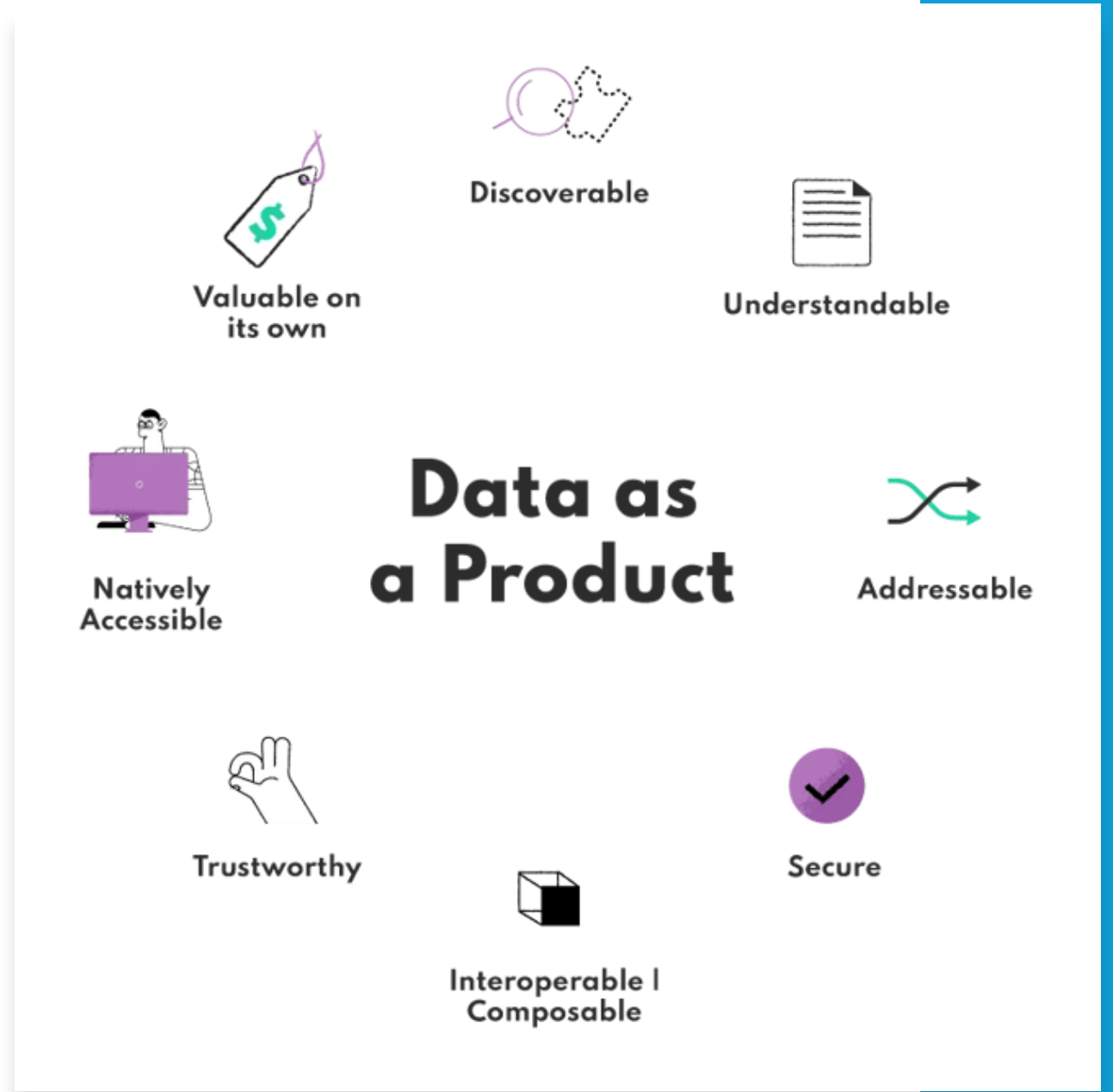
- Data Product versus
- Data as a Product



Data mesh pioneer [Zhamak Dehghani](#) talks about *calling for a new principle, self-serve data infrastructure as a platform to enable domain autonomy.*

# All data elements

(basically, make data FAIR)



# Recommendations [General]

- Disconnect data from applications, in contrast to data owners now tempted to build applications on top of the data and then develop a complete infrastructure ('data as a product' concept)
- Design a data exchange data infrastructure based on predetermined requirements for WUR
- Raise awareness on sharing data by (better) exposing a common vision providing support on all aspects as also shown in the data sharing Infrastructure framework
- Strengthen and improve the position of Data Stewards to raise awareness and provide better support on a 'sharing data infrastructure'

# Recommendations [all Building Blocks]

- Closely follow developments in shared data infrastructures taking place internationally
- At some point we need to decide to stop local initiatives and move to European level and phase out our legacy applications / infrastructures

# Recommendations [Overall/Governance]

- We recommend to promote and support the process by more consciously following a framework for a soft infrastructure, such as the nine building blocks or the framework for the EU-dataspace
- When implementing provide a unified (WUR) infrastructure, ready to use
- Our overarching recommendation would be to define governance more explicit related to the data infrastructure (a role of Chief Data Officer (CDO@WUR) possibly assigned to one of the general directors?)

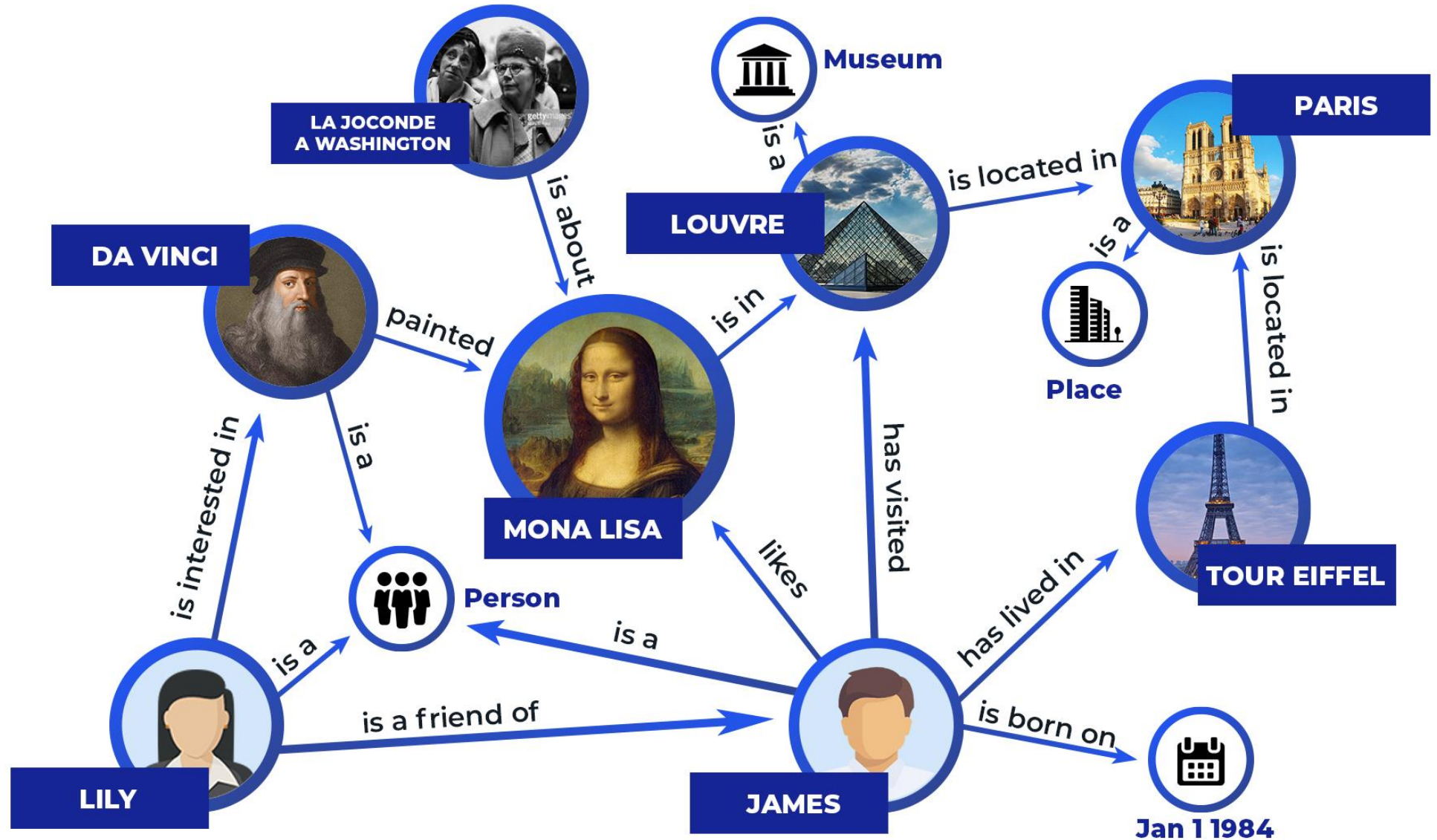
# Recommendations [BB Metadata]

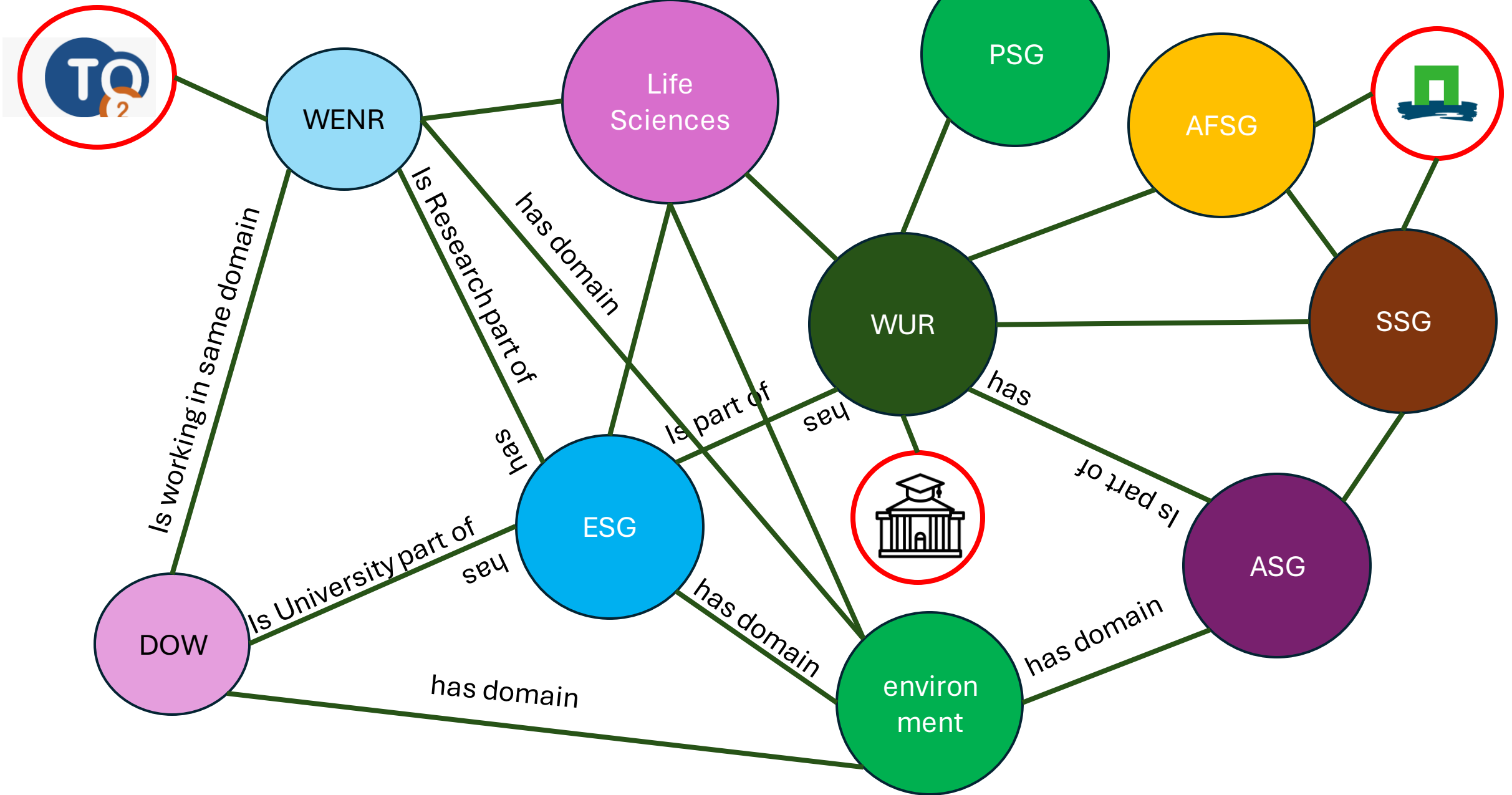
- We recommend to make use of semantic standards and create proper schemas with clear definitions and relationships between objects (ontologies) by using as much as possible existing commonly accepted ontologies in combination with controlled vocabularies and/or thesauri.
- We recommend to use a common WUR standard to create Metadata that combines the best of the current standards in use and fit the requirements of the WUR.
- Promote the idea of developing a WUR Knowledge graph. Start a programme on this at corporate level (KB?)





# A knowledge graph?





# What is next?

- The report is ready to be published
- Identify key elements of a soft infrastructure for WUR
- Interview the WCDS projects and key researchers on the key elements
  - Current experiences?
  - How to use for future work/research?
  - Prioritise the key elements
- Detail the roadmap for WUR
  - Related to the digital strategy
  - Follow up in KB and WUR programmes



