



a proposed infrastructure

Why? When? How?

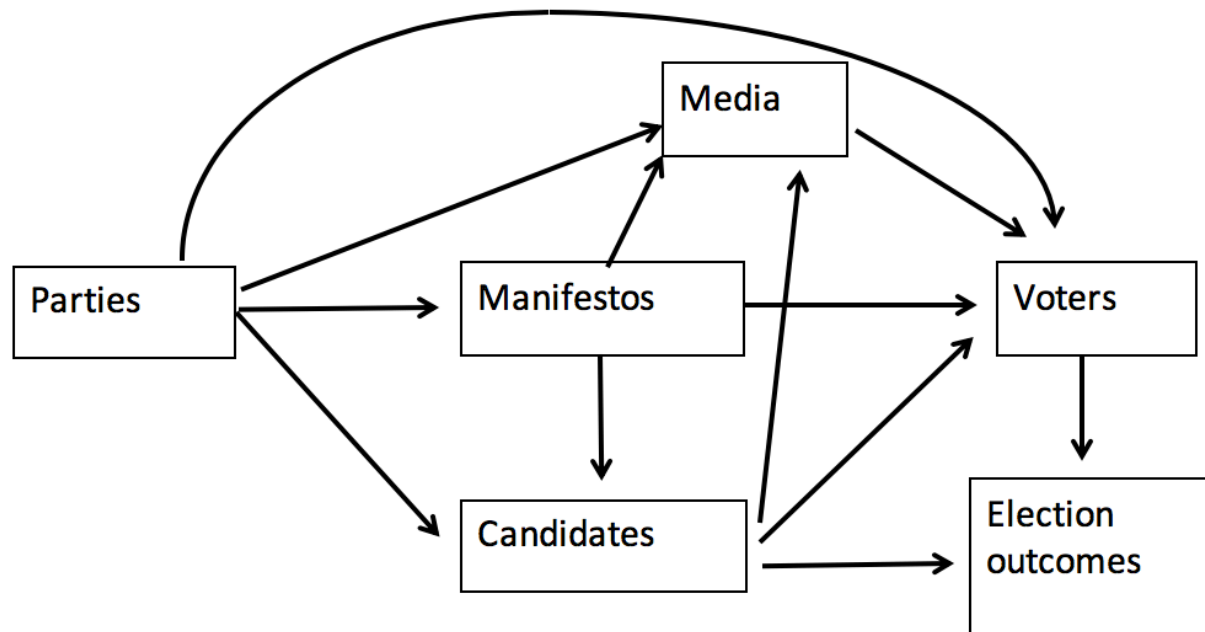
Presentation by Mark Franklin

(Inaugural Stein Rokkan Professor of Comparative Politics, European University Institute;
Reitemeyer Profesor Emeritus, Trinity College Connecticut; Co-convener of the Harvard Center for
European Studies Elections Monitor)

GESIS, Koln, November 28th 2018

Why?

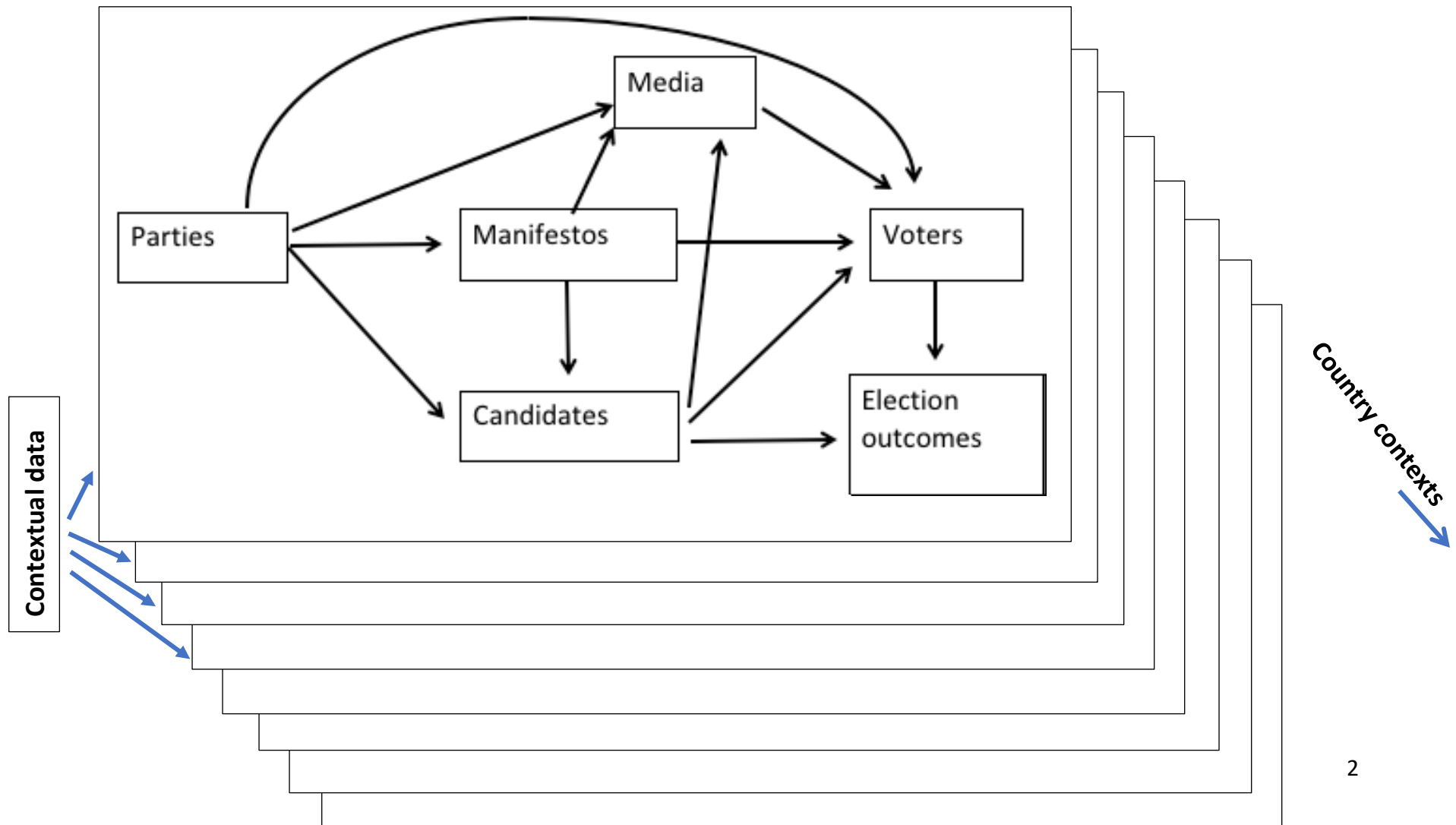
Understanding election outcomes calls for data not just on voters. We also need to understand how those voters are informed and about the entities that are subjects of that information: Parties, Candidates, Manifestos, Traditional media, Voting Advice Applications, Twitter feeds . . .



And the same for many additional countries . . .

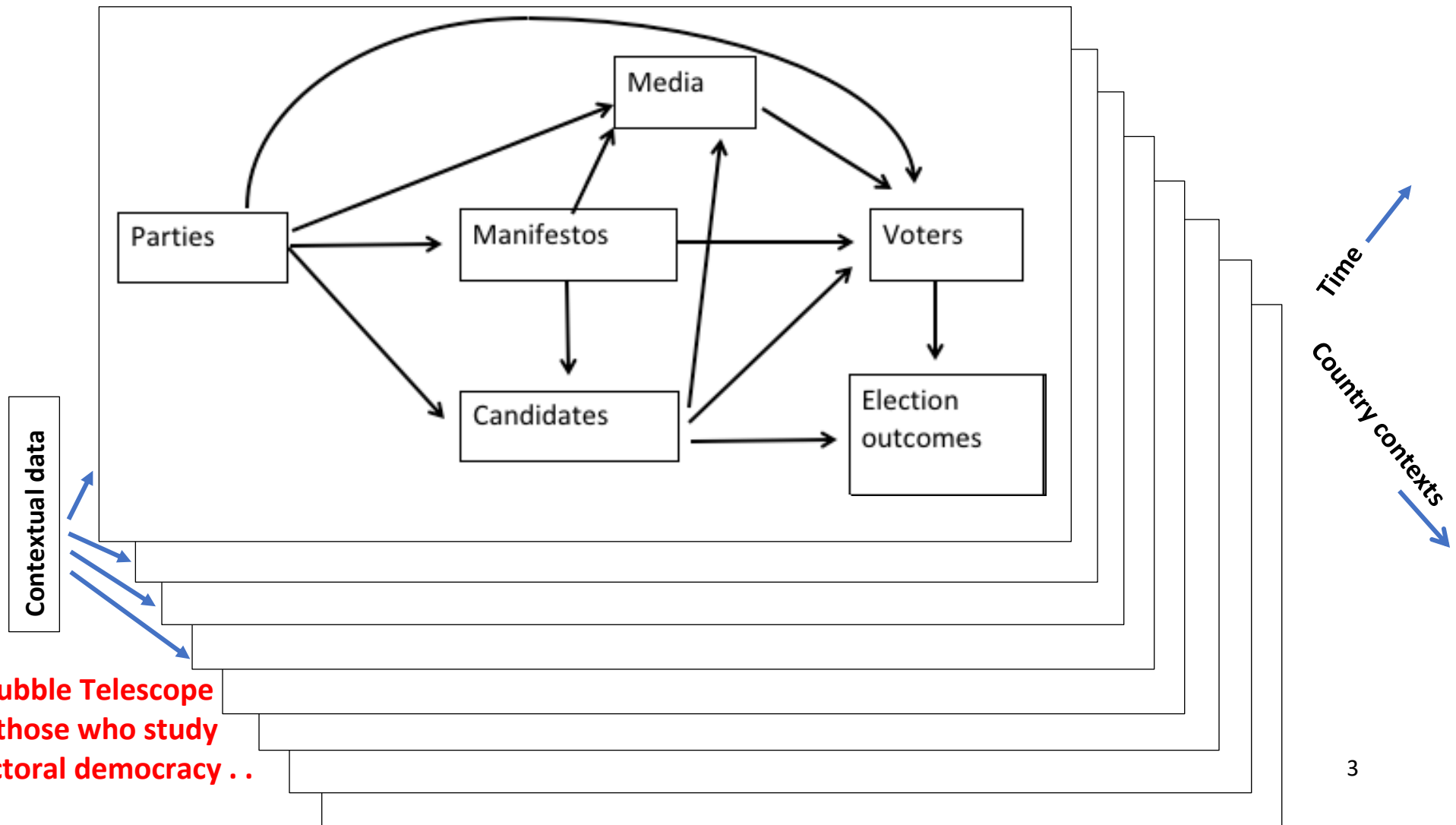
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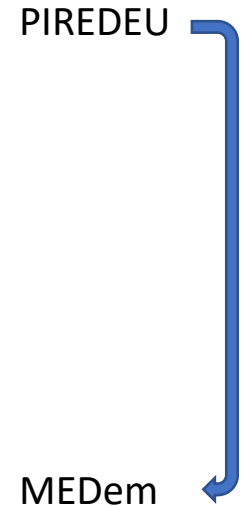
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When?

Precursor: Providing an Infrastructure for Research on Electoral Democracy
in the European Union (2008 - 2011)



Present: Monitoring Electoral Democracy (2017 - . . .)

Future ? : European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures "roadmap status"



When?

Parliament



How?

MEDem is organized as a bottom-up consortium of comparative projects, many of them already funded over a considerable period (National election studies since the 1950s in some countries).

Principal projects that existed at the time of MEDem's founding:

Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (**CSES** since 1996) -- voter surveys and contextual data

Comparative Candidates Survey (**CCS** since 2005) -- pre-post election surveys and contextual data

Comparative Manifestos Project (**CMP/MAPOR** since 1979) -- post-election coding of textual data

Comparative Agendas Project (**CAP** since 2007) -- continuous coding of textual data

Chapel Hill Expert Survey (**CHES** since 1999) -- (repeated) surveys of political experts worldwide

European Parliament Election Studies (**EES** since 1979) -- voter surveys and (often) media studies

The *Comparative Manifestos Project*, under its new title of MAPOR, may become an integral part of MEDem, since it is already centrally organized (as is the EES). MEDem is currently trying to stimulate creation of a *Comparative Media Study*, a *Comparative Study of Parliamentarians*, and a *Comparative Study of Voter Advice Application Data*. One or more of these might also become integral to MEDem.

How?

MEDem members are motivated by the promise of releasing hidden value by harmonizing data suited to comparative research through *quasi*-identical coding across countries and over time.

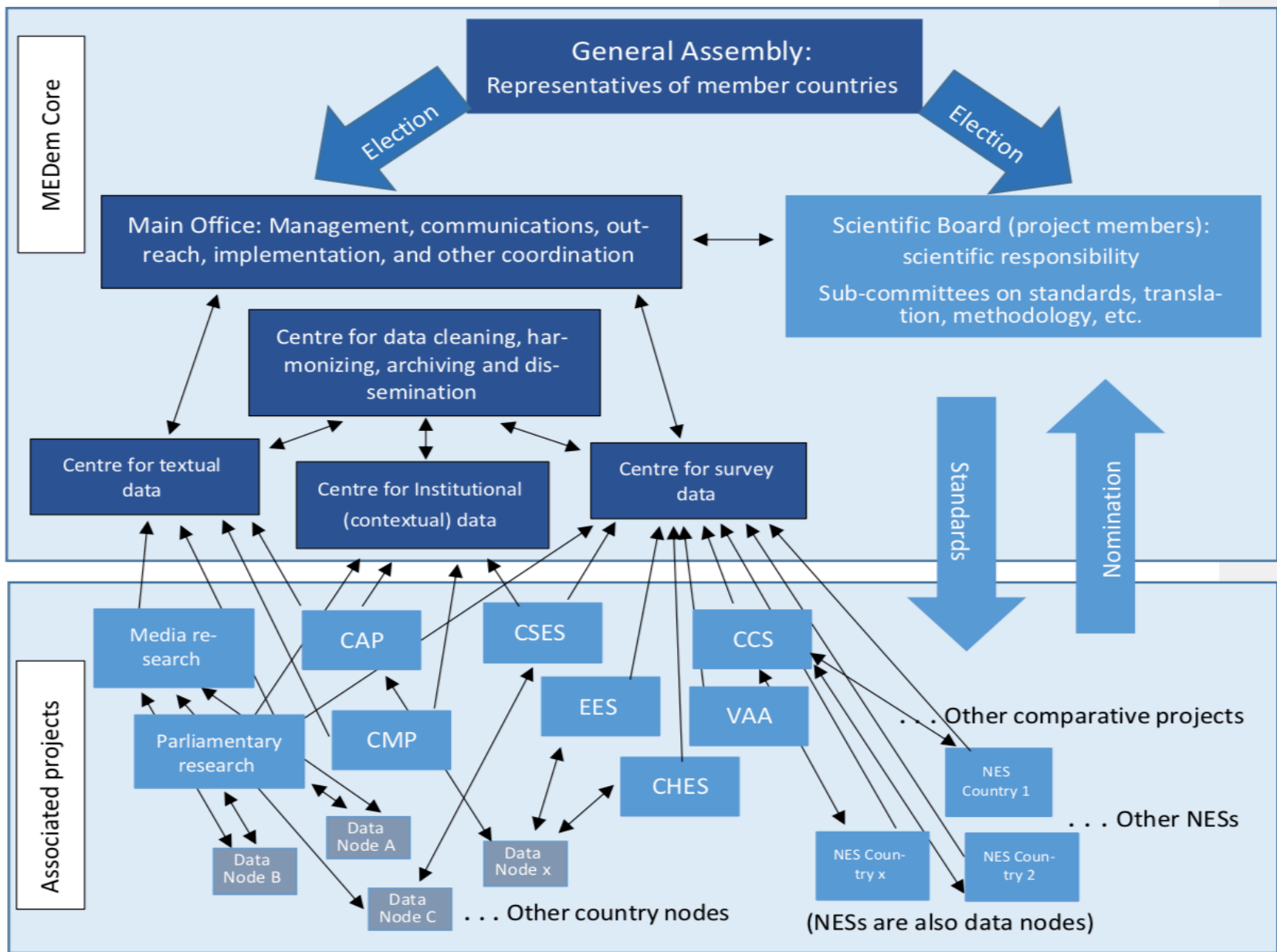
Pre-harmonization is already practiced by most founder-members of MEDem within their own projects, but sometimes (especially with election studies) the extent of harmonization is limited to specific data modules within much larger studies. Still needed is cross-project harmonization.

Post-harmonization is a possible approach in such situations and has been attempted by past projects (The European Voter and True European Voter projects) whose work would be picked up and extended by MEDem). Post-harmonization between projects has only been performed *ad hoc*.

Complete harmonization of past MEDem data collections with present and future data collections is the ultimate goal of MEDem. Interestingly, we no longer hear any skepticism expressed regarding the cost-benefit balance offered by MEDem. Though the benefits will only gradually come into being (I imagine a rapid takeoff and more gradual evolution), the payoff is evident to all involved.

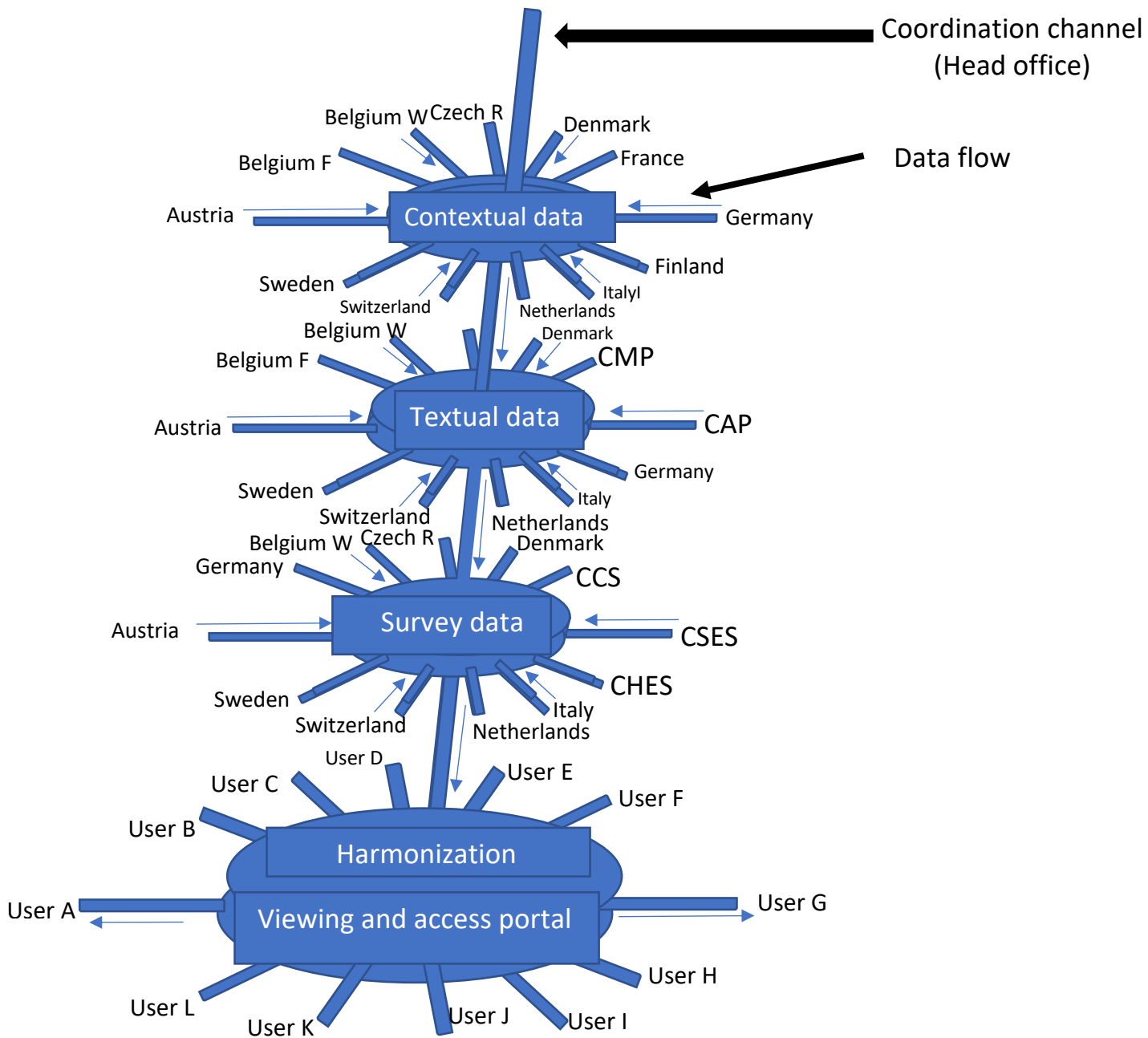
The next slide shows the (tentatively) planned structure of MEDem

MEDem (tentative) organizational structure



Abbreviations: European Parliament election studies (EES); Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES); Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS); Comparative Agenda Project (CAP); Comparative Manifesto Project (CMP); Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES); network of Voting Advice Applications (VAAs); National Election Studies (NES). Nodes and arrows are exemplary, not exhaustive.

MEDem (tentative) coordination and data flow



EXEMPLARY CONCEPTUAL MAP: LIST OF PIREDEU CONCEPTS

Part I locates each concept in terms of proposed instruments (projects) and past usage; Part II provides details of concept wording (including question wording if a survey item) and of coding categories.

CONCEPTUAL MAP (I): LOCATION OF CONCEPTS		
<u>Concept:</u> (categories)	<u>Project Instrument:</u>	<u>Source (Project, Years):</u>
	Voter Survey Elite Survey Manifesto Media Study	European Election Studies (EES) (1989, 1994, 1999, 2004); EES Trend File (2008) European Candidate Study (ECS) (1979, 1994); MEP/MNP (1996, 2000, 2005, 2006) Euromanifestos Coding Scheme II (EMCS) (2004); EES EM description (EMD)**(2005) EES Media Content Analysis (EMCA) (1999)
1. Voting: (1=national; 2=EP) a1, a2. Future Vote Choice b. Propensity to vote c1, c2. Vote Recall/Turnout	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	National: (a) ALL; (b) ALL; (c) ALL; EP: (a) EES 1989; (b) ALL; (c) ALL National: (a-c) n/a EP: (a-c) n/a National: (a-c) n/a EP: (a,b) n/a; (c) EMD National: (a-c) n/a EP: (a) EMD; (b) n/a (c) EMD
2. Party ID: a. National b. European	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	(a) EES & Trend; (b) n/a (a) ECS, MEP 2000; (b) 2000, 2006 (a) EMCS, EMD; (b) EMD (a) EMCA; (b) EMCA
3. Political Interest & knowledge a. National b. European	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	Interest: ALL Interest: National: n/a EP: ECS 1994, MEP/MNP 2006 Interest: National: n/a EP: n/a Interest: ALL
4. Media Usage	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	1999, 2004, 2008 1996, 2006 n/a 1999
5. Institutions: a. National (also regional & local) b. EU c. Trust in...	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	(a-c) 1989 (a-c) 1994, 1996a/b, 2000, 2006 (a,b) 2004 (Trust: n/a) (a,b) ECMA (Trust: n/a)
6. EU Integration: (a) General, (b) Power-Sharing, (c) Economy, (d) Immigration, (e) Defense, (f) Agriculture, (g) Expansion, (h) Foreign Relations	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	(a-g) ALL (a-g) 1979, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2006 (a-g) 2004, 2005 (a-f) 1999
7. Left-Right Scale	Voter Surveys Elite Surveys Manifestos Media Study	ALL

