Office for
National Statistics
Swyddfa
Ystadegau Gwladol

Access Without Boundaries: Long-Term Access to Micro-Data

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And with thanks to Tanvi Desai,
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Introduction

- The ESSnet project
    - 'Fat centre'
    - 'Thin centre'

- Long-term access to data
    - Distributing access vs distributing data
    - Gathering data vs gathering data together

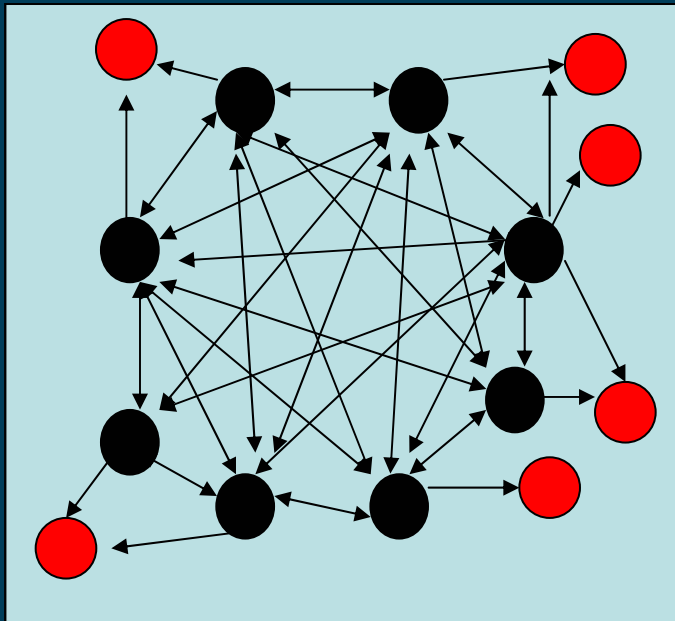- Long-term solution:
  Fully Connected Network

RDCs: why?

- Key objective: help researchers!
- Inexpensive solution
- Run by researchers for researchers
- Identifying research agendas
- Expertise in managing data
- Expertise in managing access to data

Distribution: Topology
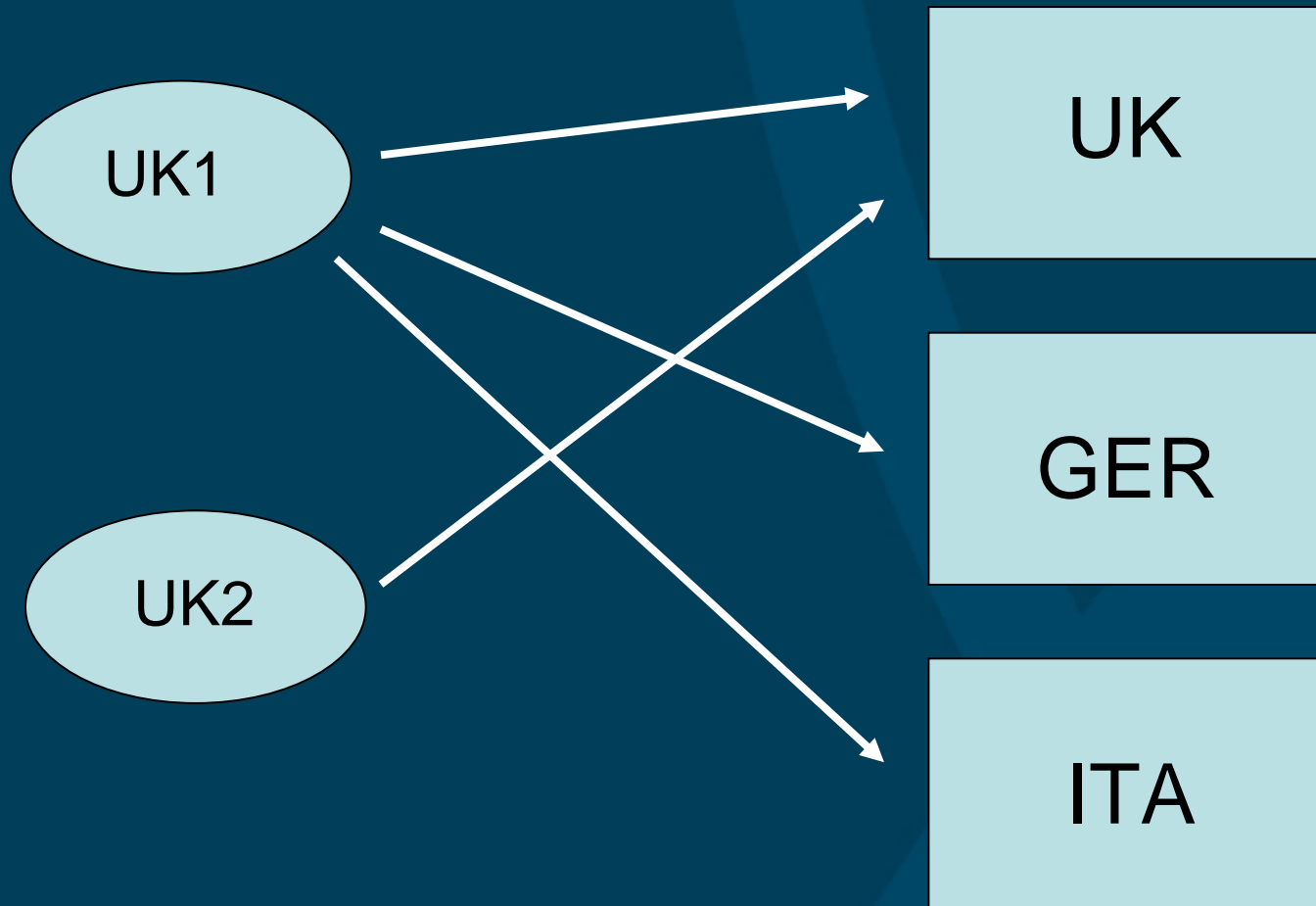

● Data processing, admin
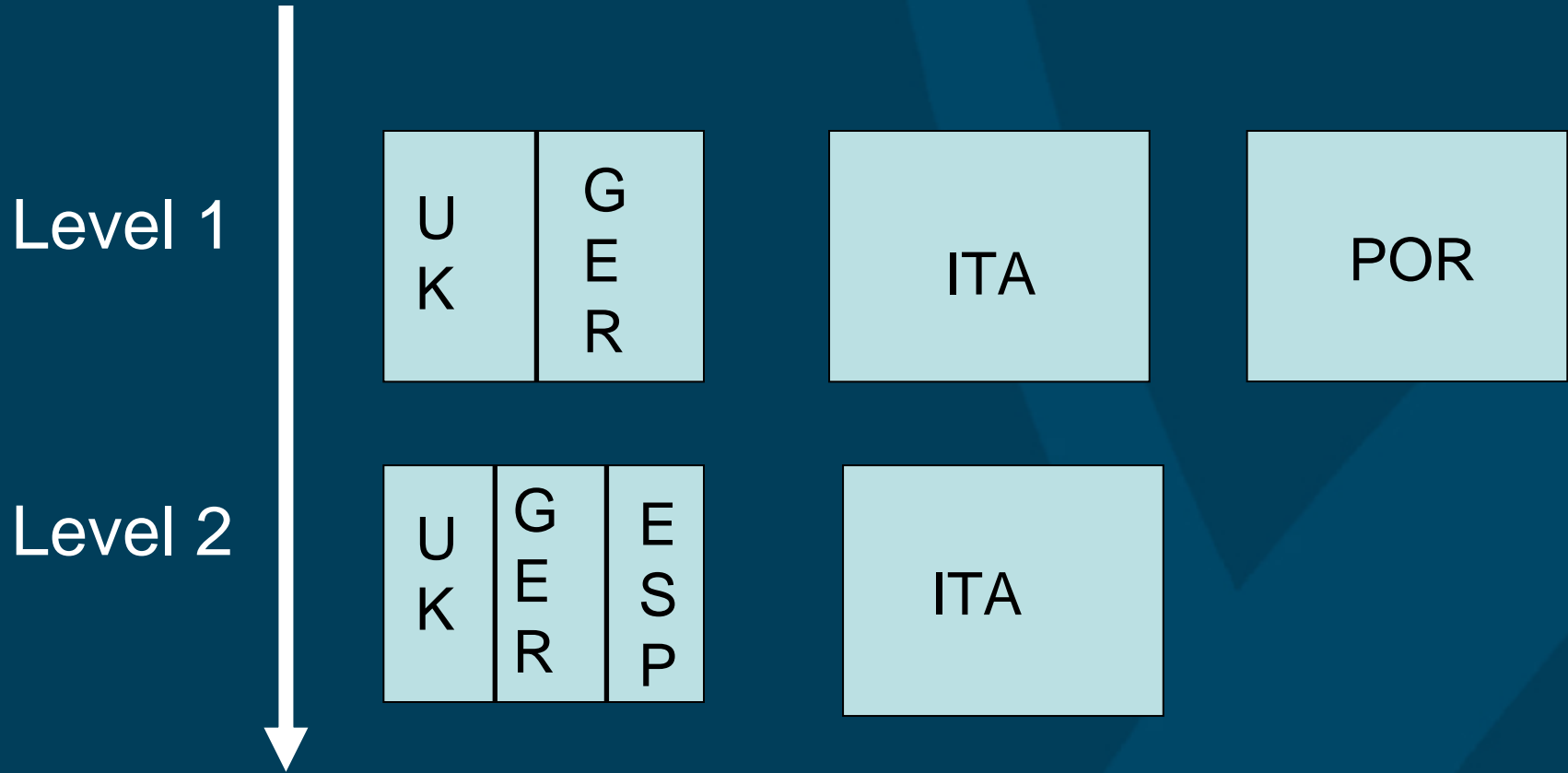
● Remote access point

Fully Connected Subnetwork

○ Data distributor ○ NSI access point

Fully Connected Network (1)

Fully Connected Network (2)

Level 1

Level 2

UK | GER

ITA

POR

UK | GER | ESP

ITA

Barriers

- Technology and legal

- Or Legal and technology

- Costs

- Communication

How to do it

1. 'Liberalise' RDCs – not NSI-based
2. Framework for (assessing) RDCs
   - No 'enforced' standards
3. RDCs adopt 'positions'
4. NSIs 'fit into' RDC framework

More about the Framework

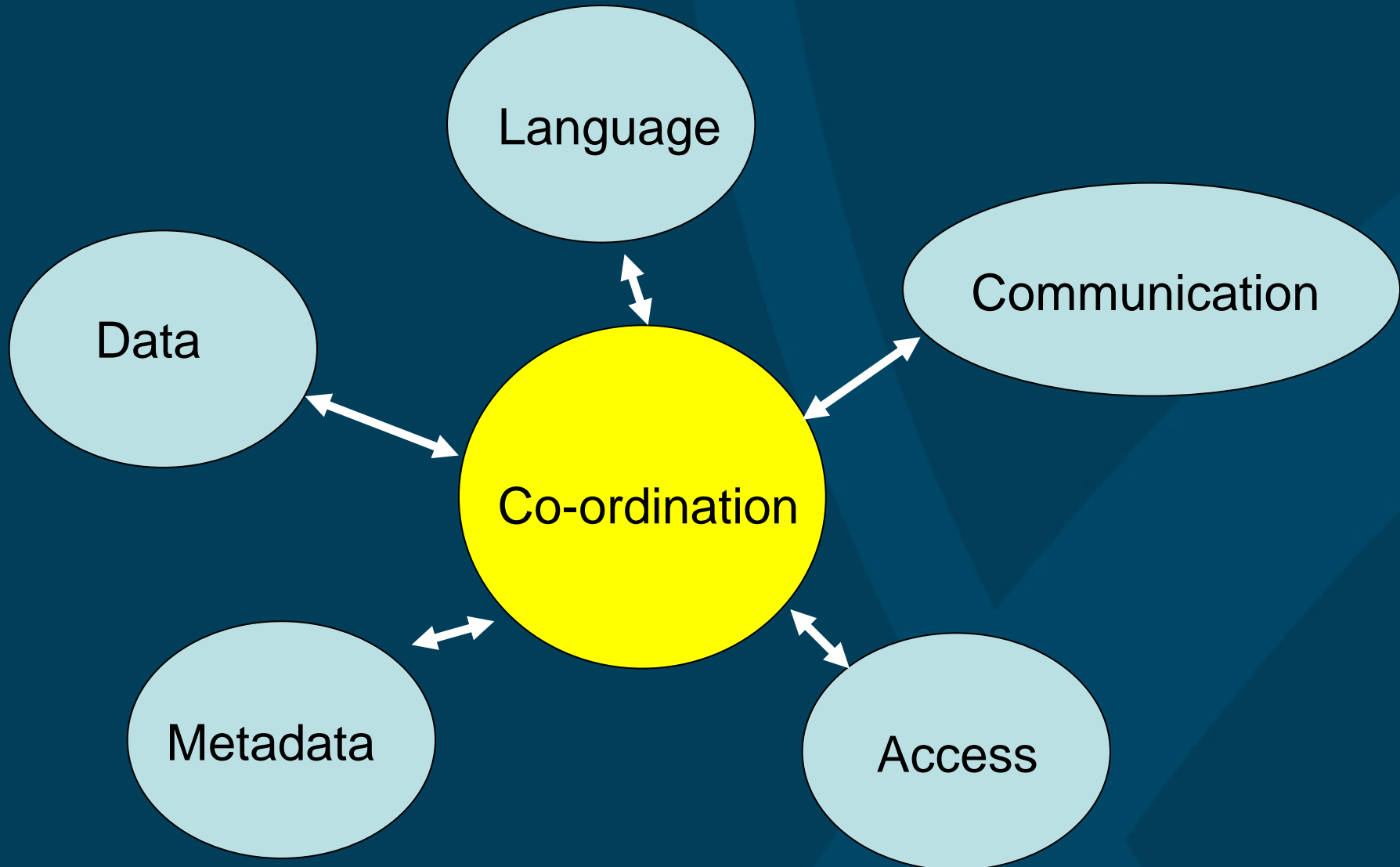| Level	Specification
Level1	No Background check on researcher No Review of project by support officers No SDC on any outputs No Active management No Training No Secure technical setting
Level 5	Background check on researcher Review of project by support offiicers SDC on all outputs Active management Training Secure technical setting

The framework already exists!

ONS VML: on site access only :
administrative data

UKDA SDS: remote access:
survey data

Both:
only outputs are made available

Problems (only if you see them!)

Benefits and Risks

- RDCs: learning and 'competing' for access

- From a Researcher's point-of-view
  - Faster administration and faster SDC – Customer Service
  - Better IT
  - Better 'data'
  - Better documentation and metadata
  - Equality of access

- Access Risks
  - Defragmentation of network
  - Communication is essential: between all
  - What if no RDCs meet standards?
  - Will there be negative effects of 'competition'?

Re-arranging the universe

- 'Galileo' solution: researchers at the centre