



Establishing a sustainable and useful transport sector data management system

Arnaud Desmarchelier

SSATP Annual Meeting, Maseru, 11/1/2006



Findings of the SSATP Transport Performance Initiative

- Some data do exist
- But they often are:
 - Too few
 - Too inconsistent over time
 - Not clearly defined
 - Difficult to access to
- Policy design is too often not based on measured facts and implementation is not adequately monitored.



What indicators/data? For what?

	Coverage	Users	Type	Number
Sector Advocacy (High Level indicators)	Sector	Non technical public	Highly Aggregated indicators	Very few (up to 10)
Performance Monitoring (Secondary indicators)	Sub-sector	Sub-Sectoral managers	Aggregated indicators	Significant (up to 100)
Sector Management	Activities	Technical managers	Raw data	Numerous



The importance of the institutional framework

- Defining indicators is the easy part.
- Getting data is only a matter of resource availability.
- Implementing a system that will produce, manage and disseminate consistent data over time is:
 - Essential for sustainability
 - Cheap to do
- Yet it is often overlooked and therefore does not deliver.



The institutional framework

- Questions are:
 - Who is in charge of what?
 - With what resources and capabilities?
- Functions to perform are:
 - Data production
 - Data management
 - Data dissemination
 - Data analysis and design of policies, programs and projects



Necessary conditions for an efficient Institutional Framework

- The **KISS principle** is critical:
- Clear responsibilities for each function
- Simple, clear and implementable procedures to govern the flow of data
- Appropriate, resource-based methodology for data production
- Simple IT tools for data management
- Appropriate ambition
- Flexible and progressive system

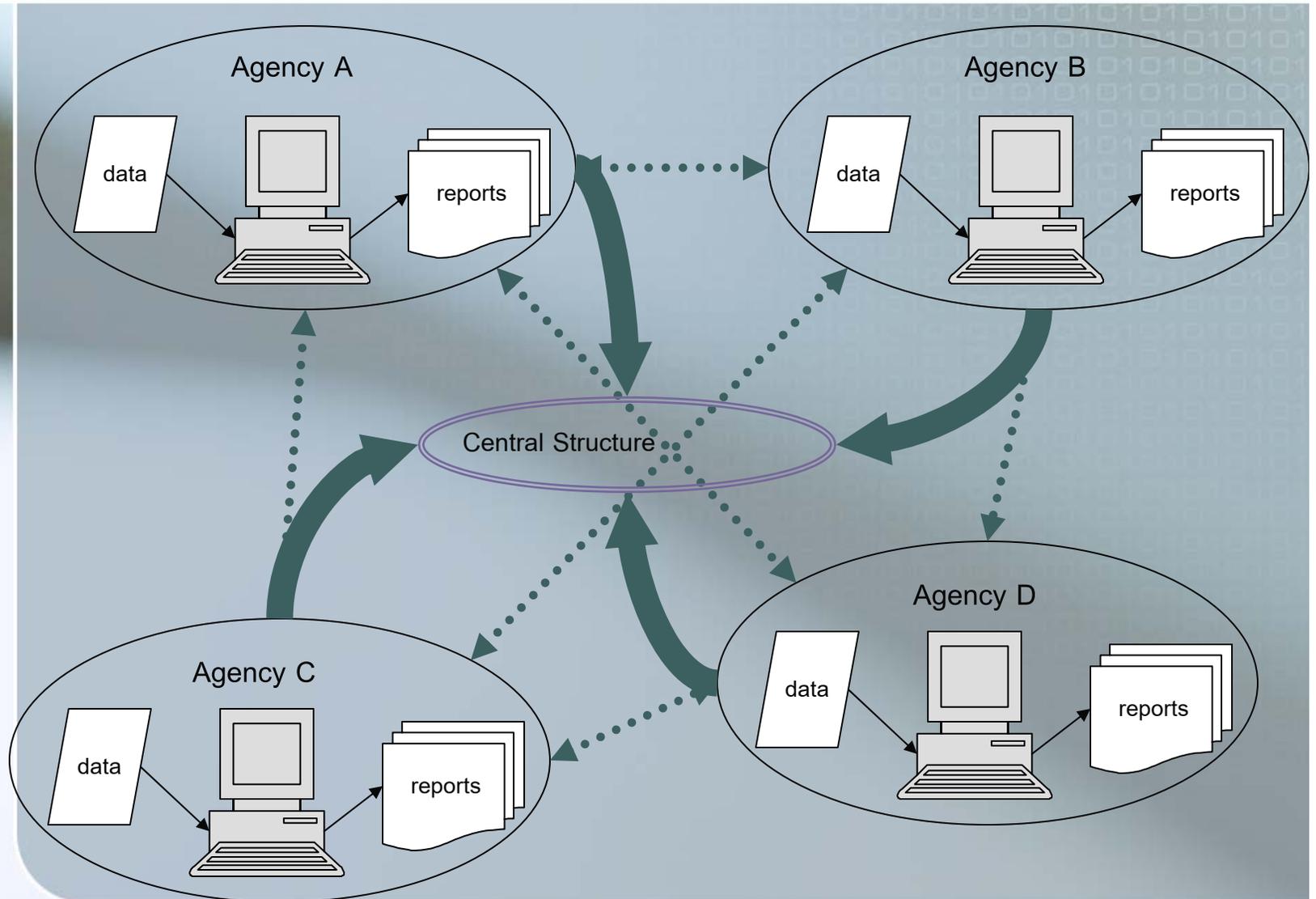


Possible Institutional Frameworks

	Production	Management	Dissemination	Usage
Decentralized	Technical agencies	Technical agencies	Technical agencies	Technical agencies + central structure
Centralized	Central structure	Central structure	Central structure	Technical agencies + central structure
Mixed	Technical agencies	Central structure	Central structure	Technical agencies + central structure

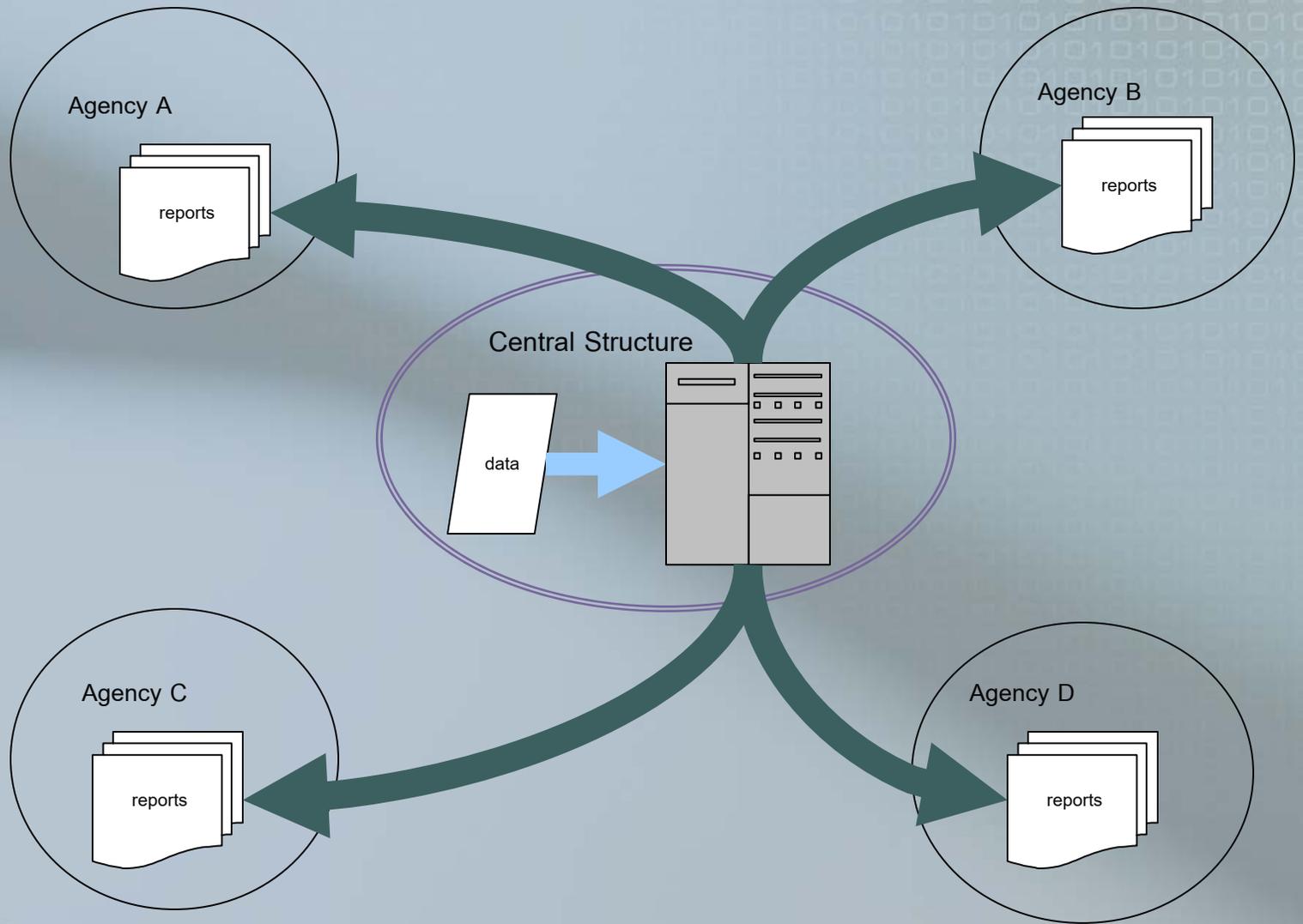


Decentralized framework



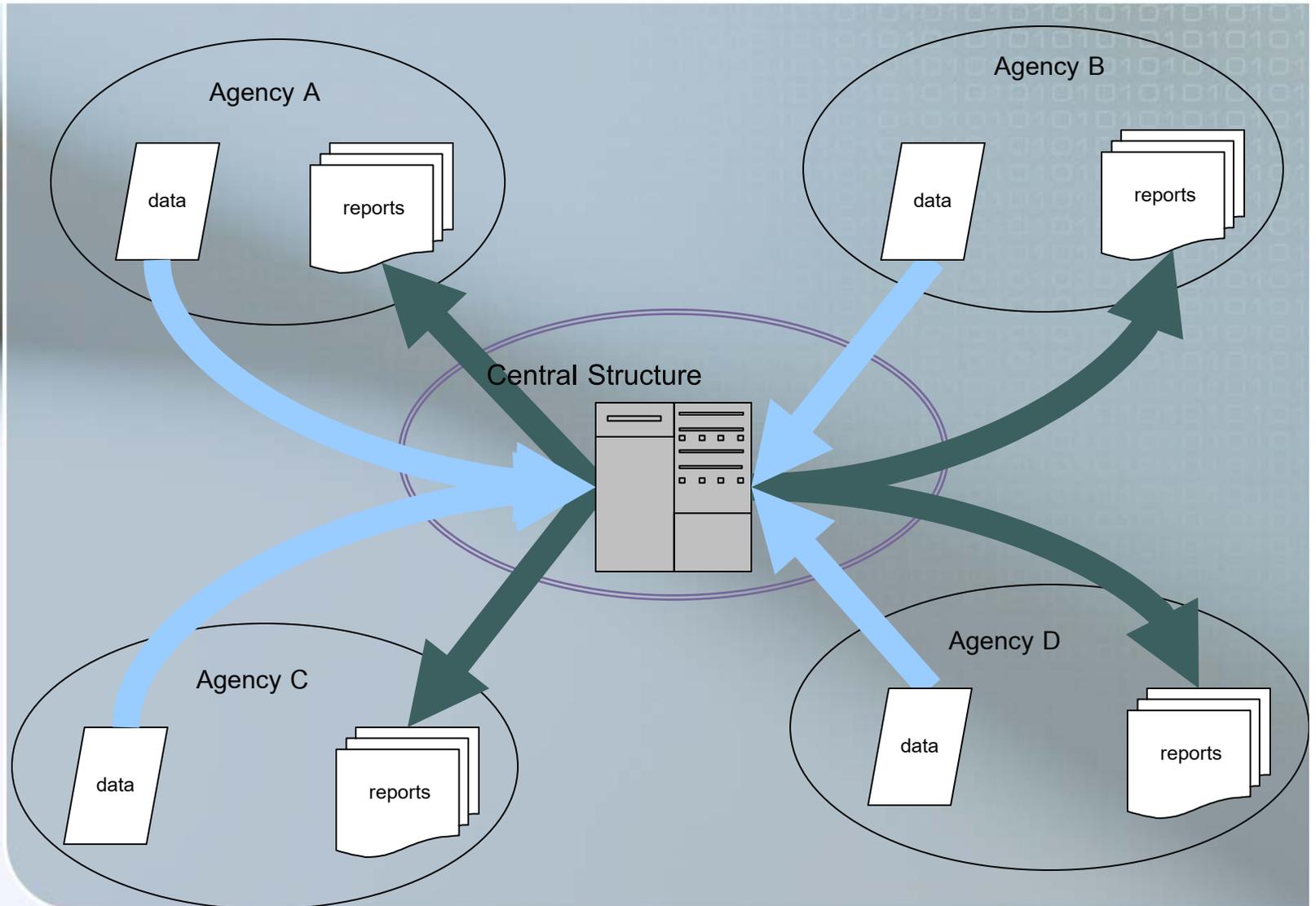


Centralized framework





Mixed framework





Preparatory work

- Institutional assessment of the current system and design of an appropriate system
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Human resources
 - Technical equipment
 - Financial resources
- Consensus building around the recommended system
 - Agencies
 - Government
 - Donors



Implementation of the improved system

- Develop the new institutional setup
 - Manual of procedures defining responsibilities and tasks of each agency.
 - Rules and legal texts
- Initial investments
 - IT system
 - If need be, data production equipment
- Capacity building



Operations

- Data production
 - Low-cost data
 - Data from registers, accounting, financial statements
 - Inventory updates
 - High-cost data
 - Initial inventories
 - Recurrent surveys (especially household surveys)
- Data management system
 - IT support
 - Dissemination
- Indicator production and analysis





Implementing a sustainable data management system

- Who should promote it?
 - Donors already invest important amount in project and program monitoring + preparation studies + other analytical works
 - expensive and redundant
 - no consistency and continuity of data → retrospective analysis often very difficult
 - Baseline data are often not timely produced.
- Who should finance the high-cost data?
 - Government budget? RMF? Donors?