

## Viewpoints for process modeling

**Question:** How do you model a process in ArchiMate? The ArchiMate book shows a number of viewpoints but which combination of viewpoints is required to model a process contain sequential steps?

**Solution:** The ArchiMate book shows two viewpoints for process modeling: the Business process collaboration viewpoint and the Business process viewpoint. The difference between these viewpoints is that in the Business collaboration viewpoint the relation *between* processes and the relation with the environment is visualized, while in the Business process viewpoint one business process is expressed. We concentrate here on the Business process viewpoint; the Business process collaboration viewpoint is analogous.

When modeling a process in ArchiMate, the following aspects can be visualized: the parts of the process, their cohesion, the assignment of process parts to roles, actors of business parts and the support by applications. This can be realized in the following sequence:

1. *Model the business process on high level:* Decompose the business process and make relationships by introducing business events and triggering relationships. One can add to that the way in which the process delivers business services to its environment.
2. *Information-exchange:* Model the information-exchange between processes by adding flow relationships between processes, or reading and writing of business objects.
3. *Assignment to organization:* Model the organizational part that executes the business process. This can be visualized by assignment relationships or by using swimming lanes.
4. *Support by applications:* Model how applications support business processes. The application viewpoint can be used for this.

If required, a more generic distinction can be made between a 'logical' and 'concrete' level of modeling. A *logical* model expresses the functional structure and logical cohesion of business processes. No details about time, place, people or machines is given. A *implementation model* is closely resembling to what you can see or want to realize in reality. It describes *physical* aspects like humans and machines, with concrete assigned tasks. If an organization wants to distinguish a standard type of processes (template) in ArchiMate this should be defined before starting modeling. The relationship between 'logical process' and 'physical process' is of the composite type. A process can be specialized into process types. For example, the process 'Request insurance' can be specialized into the sub processes 'Request travel insurance' and 'Request damage insurance'.

**Consequences:** Not applicable.

**Alternatives:** Not applicable.

**Relationships with other good practices:** Refer to the good practices 'Business service, business function and business process' and 'Constraining business process'.