How far harmonisation?

Panel discussion set-up

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During the last two decades, numerous variants or dialects of information system techniques and methods have been developed. Differences may be merely terminological or notational, or may be more substantial, such as the assumption of different underlying classifications or views of the phenomena, things or issues of the world to be modelled, or different underlying ontologies. Unfortunately, there exists a widespread attitude of researchers in our field to invent yet another technique or method, without addressing the question of its justification and its scientific value added sufficiently. These circumstances have led to an uncontrolled growth of techniques and methods.

The following questions concerning this topic are to be discussed:

- Do we really need all those different dialects or variants?
- What good (or bad) reasons are there to keep certain variants, or to eliminate certain other variants?
- In which way (if at all) does the kind of application domain influence the choice of a technique or method?
- What approaches are there to get to a more unified and well-structured view on information system modelling?
- What are the possibilities and chances to achieve standardisation or harmonisation in this field?