

Status of Action Systems – Symmetrical Integration Model

Action systems develop in a natural environment (the nature system). Together with it, they form the civilisation system. The nature system as a whole develops – to the best of our current knowledge – in an evolutionary manner, yet its lower levels it demonstrates integration and organisation. In this context, assuming for the sake of simplicity that we are not studying the relationships within the civilisation system, it is necessary to consider the integration levels of action systems, which I am attempting below.

Row headers in the table contain categories of identity and separateness of action systems (explanatory variables). Column headers present seven levels of integration (explained variables). Under the term symmetry of integration levels I understand two characteristics: a) an attempt to assert the disjointness of levels (pure models); b) lack of analysis of transitions between levels, valuation of levels as well as objective references (designations) of individual levels.

Tab. 1. Status of Action Systems – Symmetrical Integration Model

Identity and separateness	Internal		External			
	Pannetworkism – status and location within the super-system (country, state, globalisation)	Networkism – status and location – against relations with the environment	Process- and object oriented (economic)	Institutional		Social
				Legal	Organisational	
Integrity of action systems						
1. Whole (set of components) as Addition	1. There is no concept of the country, state, globalisation, hence there is no pannetworkism as a form of permanent structure 2. There is only the concept of “entity – component”, constituting its own, exclusive and autonomous “world”	1. There is no such action system 2. No cohesion of the whole – a change of one of the components does not bring about changes, or brings about random changes in the other components 3. Random organisation of the whole, complete polycentrism corresponding to the number of components 4. Extreme self-centredness of components	1. There is no such action system 2. None at the level of the whole. Complete at the level of individual components 3. Process-oriented and energy potential of the whole is a simple sum of the processes and potentials of the components 4. There is no process and economic calculation at the level of the whole	1. There is no such action system 2. None at the level of the whole. 3. Complete for components, as long as there exists a category such as legal separateness	1. There is no such action system 2. Complete freedom of movement of the components. Movements of the whole are fully random and evolutionary 3. No identified authority sources and bodies of the whole 4. There are no permanent ties, including social ones, of the whole and the OS	1. There is no such action system as a separate whole 2. There are no shared superior values, shared superior and common culture or other shared and superior integration factors (e.g. features of the community genotype, memory, principles of communication, informal social institutions, enterprise)
2. Whole (set of	1. Local networks may emerge locally,	1. Bottom-up agreements	1. Possible periodically	1. In principle,	1. There are no separate	1. Shared superior

<p>components) as Coordination n</p>	<p>but it is unlikely that networks encompassing all of the components should emerge 2. Location and role of components in such networks (if any) is a derivative of bottom-up capabilities and situational conditions 3. It is probable that such networks will define varied statuses of the components, including dominators, leaders, rulers, niche players and outsiders, etc.</p>	<p>with regard to defining the freedom of movement of the components 2. Initiatives in this scope are random, whereas their consequences temporary 3. Significant risk of disintegration of incidental ties 4. Self-centredness of the components prevails over the local interest and that of the whole 5. Local coordination more likely than that of the whole 6. Reduction of polycentrism through the emergence of coordination</p>	<p>a) Components adjusting their processes for the purposes of coordination b) Components performing certain processes for the sake of coordination 2. Complete at the level of components; without committing resources for the sake of coordination 3. Potentially, providing energy for a local or holistic purpose, in an exclusively and completely sovereign manner by the components 4. The energy provided, throughout its use, remains under complete control of the components 5. Economic calculation at the level of the whole is non-existent or unlikely. Possible economic calculation for a coordinated undertaking 6. Coordination exists as a separate process, moderated bottom-up, in an evolutionary and incidental manner</p>	<p>bottom-up, informal coordination. Formal coordination is conceivable, including legal arrangements 2. There are no such attributes of legal separateness as: legal capacity of the whole; the whole as a legal person; powers of attorney or powers of procurator on behalf of the whole, etc. 3. Formalisation is possible for undertakings, but it is not safeguarded by permanent institutions, hence there is a low level of enforceability</p>	<p>bodies representing the whole. Freedom of movement of the components may be limited solely depending on their good will 2. Bodies of local or holistic coordination are possible incidentally, with powers granted solely bottom-up 3. Individual sources of authority of the components prevail – there are no strong and reinforcing sources of authority in coordination 4. Coordination ties originate in components – coordination is poorly integrated</p>	<p>values, shared superior and common culture and other shared and superior integration factors (e.g. features of the community genotype, memory, principles of communication, informal social institutions, enterprise) a) Do not exist b) Exist short-term, adopted consciously for the sake of coordination (of an undertaking) 2. These variables remain under the dominant control of the components' interest</p>
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<p>3. Whole (set of components) as Coalition</p>	<p>1. Same as above 2. Coalition creates the beginnings of pannelworkismwithi n itself 3. Coalition may position itself in various roles vis-a- vis other components, starting from positive cooperation, through negative cooperation, evasion, blocking and indifference 4. This may lead to processes of mutual relations between the coalition and its environment (even the whole of components), bringing about cooperation between the coalition as a special case of a component and the rest 5. This may contribute to the development and growth (through mutual interaction, comparison, familiarisation) of a sense of identity and separateness: individual (of individual components), group (coalitions) and that of the super-system 6. Components initiate functional differentiation processes within the whole</p>	<p>1. Cohesion of the whole may be determined solely by the values and aspirations as well as principles underlying the coalition 2. Limited functional cohesion of the components for the sake of action, such as an undertaking 3. The interest of the undertaking is not an valid reason for integrating the interest of the whole 4. Total commitment of the components for the sake of the whole is excluded or subject to strict demarcation and control 5. Coalition ceases once the premises it is based on cease, yet before they do – the problem of the safety of the coalition and the components becomes important (risk) 6. Reduction of polycentrism by the emerging coalition</p>	<p>1. Possible, relatively permanent or periodical a) Components adjusting their own processes for the purposes of coalition b) Components performing certain processes for the sake of coalition 2. Coalition acts as a separate set of processes, moderated chiefly bottom-up, but certain processes may be induced by the coalition and recognised by the components of the coalition 3. Input of components' resources for the sake of the whole is possible, ultimately controlled by the components 4. Economic calculation of the coalition is possible, separate from other calculations of the components, and so is accounting for settlements between the coalition and individual components 5. A separate budget of the coalition, its activities and</p>	<p>1. May be, though not necessarily, formalised. Still, law becomes an important unifying foundation 2. Here, for the first time, emerge common aspirations, doctrine, restrictions, actions on a local or holistic level 3. There emerge structurally separate institutions oriented towards programmes, will (declaratory) , intentions as well as organisation and economics</p>	<p>1. Clearly defined goals and congruence of the undertaking. The scope of the coalition is well defined and differentiated from the scopes of the components 2. A holistic body is appointed with functions towards the whole, to which the components delegate certain powers and an appropriate OS 3. Authority of the holistic body originates from the components which make sure that they have in place effective mechanisms to govern the delegation of powers and exercise control over the whole 4. The coalition may not restrict the freedom of the components' organisational behaviour outside the scope of the coalition</p>	<p>1. Shared superior values, shared superior and common culture and other shared and superior integration factors (e.g. features of the community genotype, memory, principles of communication , informal social institutions, enterprise) a) May exist for the coalition as a whole b) Exist short-term, adopted consciously for the sake of coalition 2. These variables ultimately remain under the dominant control of the components' interest 3. It is possible for the coalition to induce these variables and for the components to adopt them to be shared</p>
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4. Whole (set of components) as Union	<p>1. The level of integration of the action system akin to the “inflection point”: It is possible to return to the lower level of integration, without dramatic events, or increase the integration level (to that of federation)</p> <p>2. Union is the first level of integration where the origins of the super-system, representing all of the components, emerge</p> <p>3. Advanced differentiation of positioning and roles of the components and groups within the whole</p> <p>4. The sense of identity and separateness of the beginnings of the super-system is reinforced, potentially those of the state and globalisation, if the whole (of the components) is a broader set than the action system in question</p> <p>5. There may be a mixed system for shaping the relations of the super-system (union) and action systems with the environment (including globalisation). In some situations, the super-system (union) is the sole authorised and legitimate entity, whereas in others – the systems themselves</p>	<p>1. Limited, perpetual functional cohesion of the components</p> <p>2. For the first time, the components recognise the values and goals as well as other aspirations of the whole as no less important than their own</p> <p>3. For the first time, the whole is treated by the components as a framework for their actions and an entity in some senses superior</p> <p>4. There emerge durable factors of cohesion, such as: symbols, ideas, visions, institutions, mechanisms, etc., in all areas</p> <p>5. The problem of risk and safety extends to the whole and becomes a separate category for the whole</p> <p>6. There emerges a vision of the whole as an integrated action super-system</p> <p>7. The whole is separate from the environment due to defining and defending its</p>	<p>1. For the first time there emerge key processes related to the longevity of the union as a whole</p> <p>2. This includes the development of specialised processes governing the activity of the whole, as well as maintaining and developing its identity and separateness</p> <p>3. Apart from adjusting processes, it is possible to input processes; alternatively, components can limit their own processes for the sake of the union</p> <p>4. Components remain separate economically, but internal barriers hindering economic cohesion and energy flow are removed</p> <p>5. Components make a certain permanent economic contribution towards regulatory functions of the whole</p> <p>6. Possible redistribution of energy to the level of components for the sake of goals</p>	<p>1. The whole becomes a legally separate (formal) structure; component entities do not lose legal separateness</p> <p>2. There emerge separate, constituent legal foundations of existence and activity of the whole, which must not collide with the law of the components</p> <p>3. Law becomes the institutionally leading foundation underlying the permanence of the whole as an independent entity (the action system of law)</p> <p>4. For the first time the whole becomes an entity in relations with the environment (twofold subjectivity – of the component and the super-system)</p>	<p>1. Specialised bodies of the whole perform advanced regulatory functions (elements of the regime) and there is a distinct OS</p> <p>2. Components undertake to agree the principles of action with the whole</p> <p>3. Law and legality become important sources of authority of the whole over the components</p> <p>4. There emerge permanent ties ensuring congruence of the whole, including but not limited to the responsibility of the components for the whole</p> <p>5. The whole may control components, but a single component may not control the whole</p> <p>6. Coercion, including para- and military force, starts to be considered as a factor stabilising the action super-system in internal and external relations</p> <p>7. Extending processes of unification, standardisation, normalisation at the level of the whole – to</p>	<p>1. Shared superior values, shared superior and common culture and other shared and superior integration factors (e.g. features of the community genotype, memory, principles of communication, informal social institutions, enterprise)</p> <p>a) May exist permanently for the union as a whole</p> <p>b) Exist short-term, adopted consciously for the sake of union</p> <p>2. Key variables ultimately find themselves</p> <p>a) Under the dominant control of the components’ interest</p> <p>b) Under the dominant control of the union</p> <p>3. These variables are relatively permanently induced by the union and adopted to be shared by the components</p> <p>4. There is tension (conflict) between the variables controlled by the components and those controlled by the union</p> <p>5. A special role is played by the interest</p>

		<p>boundaries – a double totality (level of the component and level of the super-system)</p> <p>8. Emergence of the process-oriented, object-oriented, institutional and social identity of the super-system</p> <p>9. Polycentrism becomes tied to monocentrism at the level of the whole</p> <p>a) two levels of authority</p>	<p>pursued by the whole</p> <p>7. The whole becomes separate in budgetary terms</p> <p>8. Economic calculation at the level of the whole is possible</p> <p>9. Twofold centring of economic responsibility – at the level of the component and that of the super-system</p>		<p>develop strong and lasting integrating ties</p> <p>8. Removing barriers to internal autonomy, while putting up barriers to external autonomy (twofold empowerment)</p> <p>9. The organisation process of the union is meandering and evolutionary as well as filled with conflict</p> <p>10. It is possible to reduce the level of cohesion, organisation and ultimately integration – in the case of outward tendencies of the components</p> <p>a) Due to the lack of force-based sources of authority at the union level</p>	<p>of individuals and local groups which is not necessarily consistent with the variables controlled by the official (formal) components and the union as a whole</p>
<p>5. Whole (set of components) as Federation</p>	<p>1. Once this level of integration is reached, identity and separateness become distinct and the action super-system (“region”, “country”, „state”) clearly dominates over the components (action systems) and their classes</p> <p>2. High levels of separateness and identity of action systems within the federation are maintained, yet going back to a lower level of integration (union) is highly unlikely, and if it should happen – is it nearly certain to take a</p>	<p>1. Limited, perpetual cohesion of the components in terms of functions and resources (system)</p> <p>2. The whole dominates over the components, including but not limited to the use of force to maintain the super-system (federation) as identical and separate</p> <p>3. Well established process-</p>	<p>1. The whole is clearly separate in terms of processes developing it</p> <p>2. Well-developed specialised processes aiming at protecting the identity and separateness of the whole and its safety</p> <p>3. Components consciously abandon some processes for the sake of the federation</p> <p>4. The whole</p>	<p>1. The whole emerges as a legally separate structure – possibly, pursuant to constating documents (acts of law)</p> <p>2. Individuals give up some of their legal separateness for the sake of the whole, but remain an important source of law</p> <p>3. Legal capacity and legal congruence</p>	<p>1. Sources of authority of the whole include:</p> <p>a) law and institutions of the whole,</p> <p>b) competence with regard to the resources of the whole,</p> <p>c) para- and military force</p> <p>d) organisational, capital, transactional and social ties</p> <p>2. Separate bodies and an extensive system of regulatory institutions of the super-</p>	<p>1. The whole may create specific variables of social coherence at the level of federation</p> <p>2. Components may be actively involved in shaping the social variables at the level of federation</p> <p>3. The sense of affinity with the federation is created and reinforced, yet outward tendencies are not fully removed</p>

	<p>dramatic course</p> <p>3. The super-system has at its disposal sources of authority ensuring hegemony over action systems and acts as an authorised and legitimate representative of the action systems and the federation vis-a-vis the environment (including globalisation)</p>	<p>oriented, object-oriented, institutional and social identity of the super-system in internal relations</p> <p>4. Well established separateness and identity of the super-system in relations with the environment</p> <p>5. Some components retain their strong separateness and identity vis-a-vis the super-system, but some functions are reserved exclusively for the super-system</p> <p>6. Three levels of authority (federation; subcentres; components) - polycentrism becomes limited by</p> <p>a) the emergence of subcentres dominating over the components</p> <p>b) reinforcement of the monocentrism of the whole</p>	<p>is separate economically, but so are the components</p> <p>5. Components contribute certain resources to the whole, but also the whole provides resources in support of the components</p> <p>6. The whole and the components of the federation are separate centres of economic accountability</p> <p>. The relationships between them are specified separately</p> <p>7. Economic relations between the level of federation and the components, including ties related to transactions, organisation, capital and society involving resources, are regulated separately</p> <p>8. Only the federation maintains economic relations with the environment on its own behalf, account and risk</p> <p>9. Economic relations between the components and the environment are founded on defined principles of</p>	<p>is divided between the level of federation and the level of components</p> <p>4. The legal foundations of the federal constitution prevail over the constitutions of the components</p> <p>5. Partial legal separation of the components results from the compromise between the antecedence of the components and antecedence of the whole (usually, the components are primary)</p>	<p>system – regime and OS</p> <p>3. Separate bodies and an extensive system of regulatory institutions of the subcentres and components, with their functions divided and the federation prevailing – elements of the regime and OS</p> <p>4. Elements of the federation include</p> <p>a) founding components</p> <p>b) other components developed in the complex process of federalisation</p> <p>c) subcentres grouping components, developed in the complex process of federalisation</p>	<p>(resentment)</p> <p>4. The strong sense of identity and separateness of the components may constitute a significant barrier to a higher degree of integration</p> <p>5. Important roles may be played by such variables as: national flag, language, history</p>
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<p>6. Whole (set of components) as Entity (Holition)</p>	<p>1. A fully-formed integration level of the action system, where the identity and separateness of a “component” of the action super-system („region”, „country”, „state”, „global system”) is relatively developed and clear</p> <p>2. The differentiation and hierarchy of the action system and super-system are relatively developed</p> <p>3. The super-system of a given class dominates over the lower-order components of the given class and has the suitable sources of authority</p> <p>4. Moving to a lower level of integration is impossible without dramatic events and conflicts as well as extreme forms of negative cooperation</p>	<p>1. Complete cohesion, organisation and integrity of the whole</p> <p>2. Components of the whole are unrecognisable to the environment as autonomous entities</p> <p>3. Monocentrism of authority of the whole dominates unequivocally over lower levels in the hierarchy</p> <p>4. Uniform and systematic separateness and identity of the whole</p> <p>5. The whole dominates unequivocally in internal and external relations</p> <p>6. Components may not act on behalf of the whole, unless authorised by the latter</p>	<p>the federation</p> <p>1. Complete economic separateness at the level of the whole</p> <p>a) the whole is the dominant owner of resources (dominium)</p> <p>2. Lower levels of the hierarchy or components may be economically separate to a limited degree on the basis of delegation granted by the monocentric source of authority (the top level – Holition)</p> <p>3. The whole is the centre of business and budget responsibility</p> <p>4. Components are the centres of responsibility in terms of utility, costs, revenues, cash flows (inflows and outflows)</p>	<p>1. Complete legal separateness at the level of the whole (Holition as a legal entity)</p> <p>2. The existence of the whole is founded on specific legal acts, constating and instructive</p> <p>3. The legal system shapes, preserves and protects the legal domination of the whole over components</p> <p>4. Components are not legally separate, or may have limited legal capacity pursuant to authorisation of the whole.</p>	<p>1. System sources of authority at the level of the whole</p> <p>a) dominium and empire</p> <p>b) genesis, tradition</p> <p>c) law</p> <p>d) coercion</p> <p>2. The whole has its own bodies and management components. Complete separateness at the level of the whole</p> <p>3. The whole becomes a hierarchic structure with prevalent organisational ties, especially official ties</p> <p>4. Centres of responsibility below the level of Holition act under the principle of empire and delegating competences</p> <p>5. Marginalisation of responsibility of hierarchical levels resulting from economic (business) separateness</p>	<p>1. Beyond the level of federation, in fact, the whole systematically dominates over the components, while the latter no longer manifest (also as a result of pressure applied by other components or the whole) outward tendencies</p> <p>2. An irreversible process and status of integration. Return to the preceding stage is probably impossible without social upheaval</p> <p>3. The whole creates specific variables of social coherence at the level of Holition</p> <p>4. Components are actively involved in shaping the social variables at the level of Holition</p> <p>5. The sense of affinity with the Holition is created and reinforced, resentment aimed at returning to the lower level does not exist or is repressed</p> <p>6. The strong sense of identity and separateness of the components does not constitute a barrier to maintaining</p>
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						Holition 7. Important roles are played by such variables as: national flag, language, history, cultural separateness, politics and development strategy, respect for statehood
7. Whole (set of components) as Social machine	1. No such action system exists	1. No such action system exists 2. Unattainable level of systemic cohesion and organisation of the whole	1. No such action system exists	1. No such action system exists	1. No such action system exists	1. No such action system exists

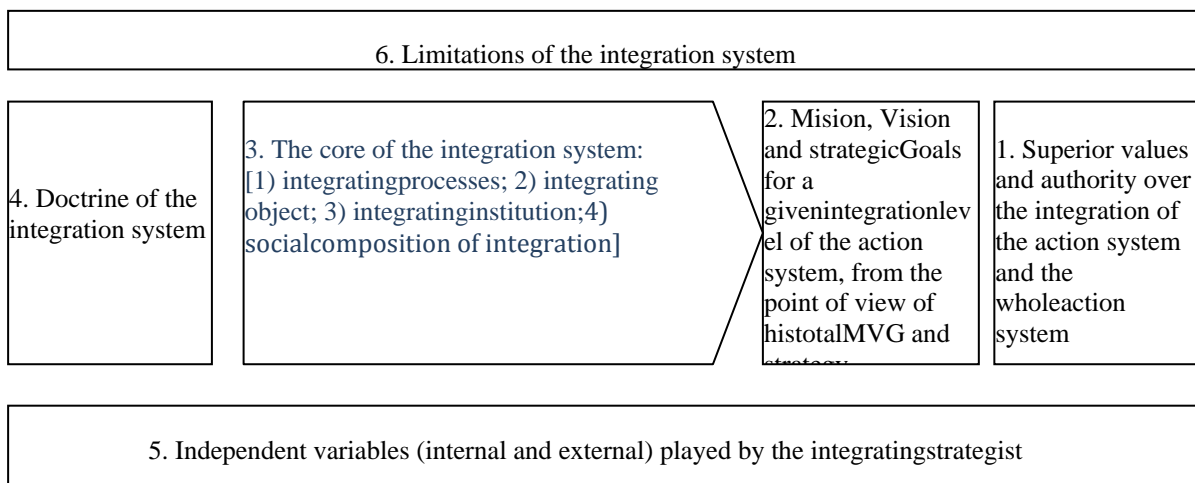
Notes:

1) I have merged process- and object-oriented (economic) identity and separateness because I am convinced that the drawbacks of this approach do not exceed the benefits of a holistic approach to the issue in a single table.

2) An entry needs to be considered that addition – from the point of view of the whole of the addition set – is an amorphous system. This means that under certain conditions (potential for cohesion, activation and combination) it has the biggest capacity for organising itself as a whole – and moving to a higher level of integration or dividing the whole set into smaller sets (fragmentation).

3) Integration level – to develop it fully one must consider the block diagram – i.e. the "integration system".

Fig. 1. Integration system of the action system



where: MVG refers to respectively: the mission, vision and strategic goals of the action system.
Source: own work.

- 4) Integration level – must be viewed dynamically, i.e. against the backdrop of changes taking place in the action system, and also in light of the growth/decline (lifecycle) [(Elements E) x elements' (Properties P) x (Relationships R) among E through their properties] of action systems.
- 5) Integration level – must be viewed against the backdrop of inward factors (uniting) and outward factors (separating).
- 6) Note (November 2011): Is it possible, and on what principles, to differentiate the status and integration level of individual components of a given action system, which has a certain integration level as a whole (e.g. the US as a whole is a federation, but might exclude one state to the level of union? The EU as a whole is a union, but Greece, for economic reasons, could revert or be moved back to the level of coalition?).

Where: OS – organisational structure.

Source: own work.