

# Chorus, the financial information system of the French State

Direction du Budget  
2BMS

September 26th, 2010

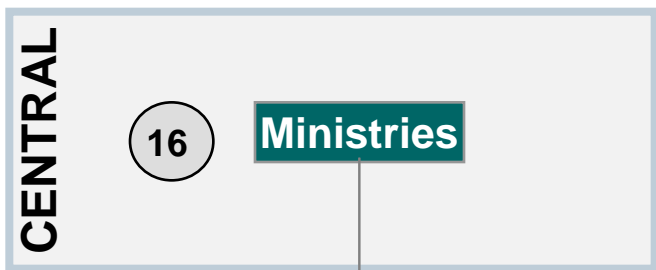
1. Chorus project : context, objectives and management
2. Chorus functionalities
3. The technical solution
4. Status of implementation and return on experience

# 1. Context, objectives and management of the project

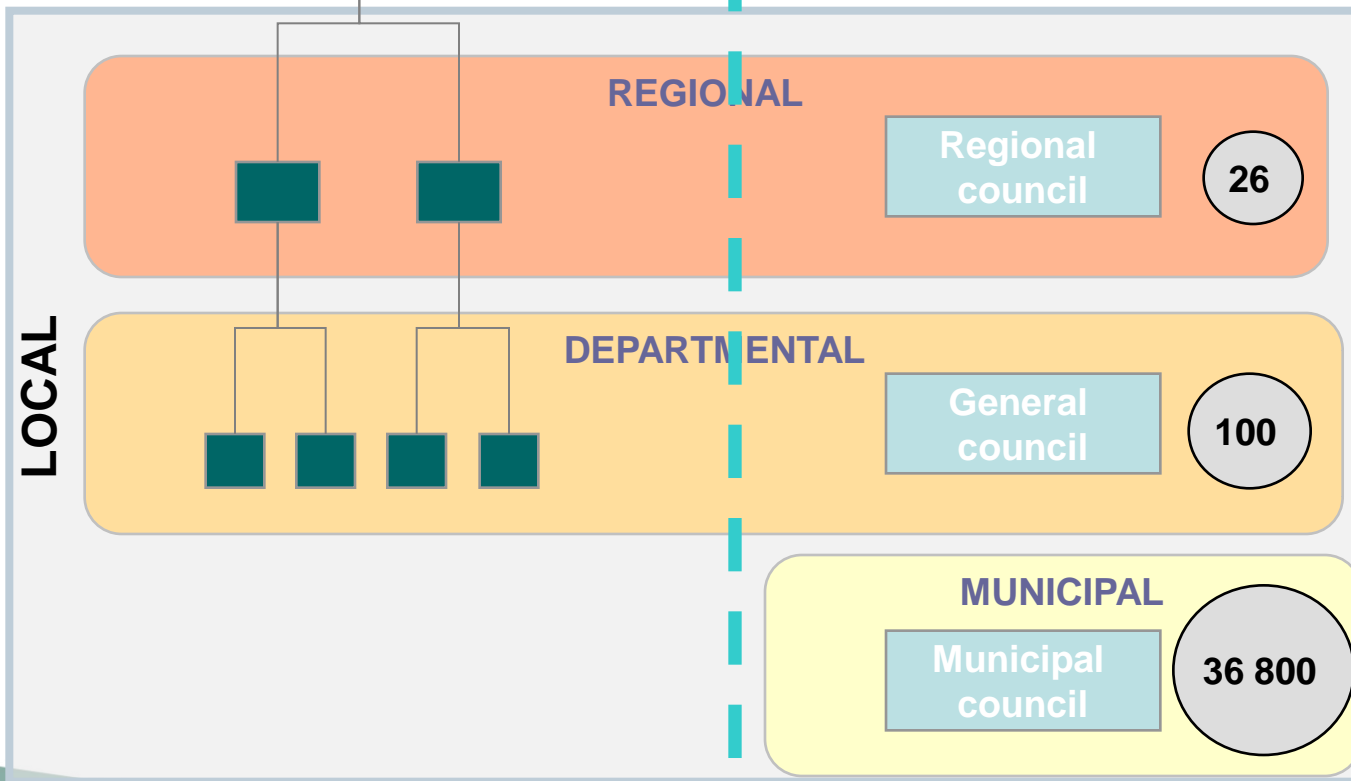
- Population : 65 millions
- 22 metropolitan regions
- 95 departments
- 36.000 cities
- GDP : 1921 billion euros (2010)

# 1.1. The French administrative organisation

## State Administration



## Territorial Administration



- A **centralized** country
- **Redundant services**
  - Human resources
  - Logistics services
  - Accounting and payment services
- **Local services** related to their supervisory Ministry

- **2001 : LOLF (constitutional bylaw on budget acts)**
  - To improve transparency and the role of Parliament.
  - To introduce performance in public management.
- **2007 : RGPP (General Review of Government Policies)**
  - To focus State activities on its core functions.
  - To reduce the costs (mutualisation of support functions).

## ➤ **Situation before Chorus :**

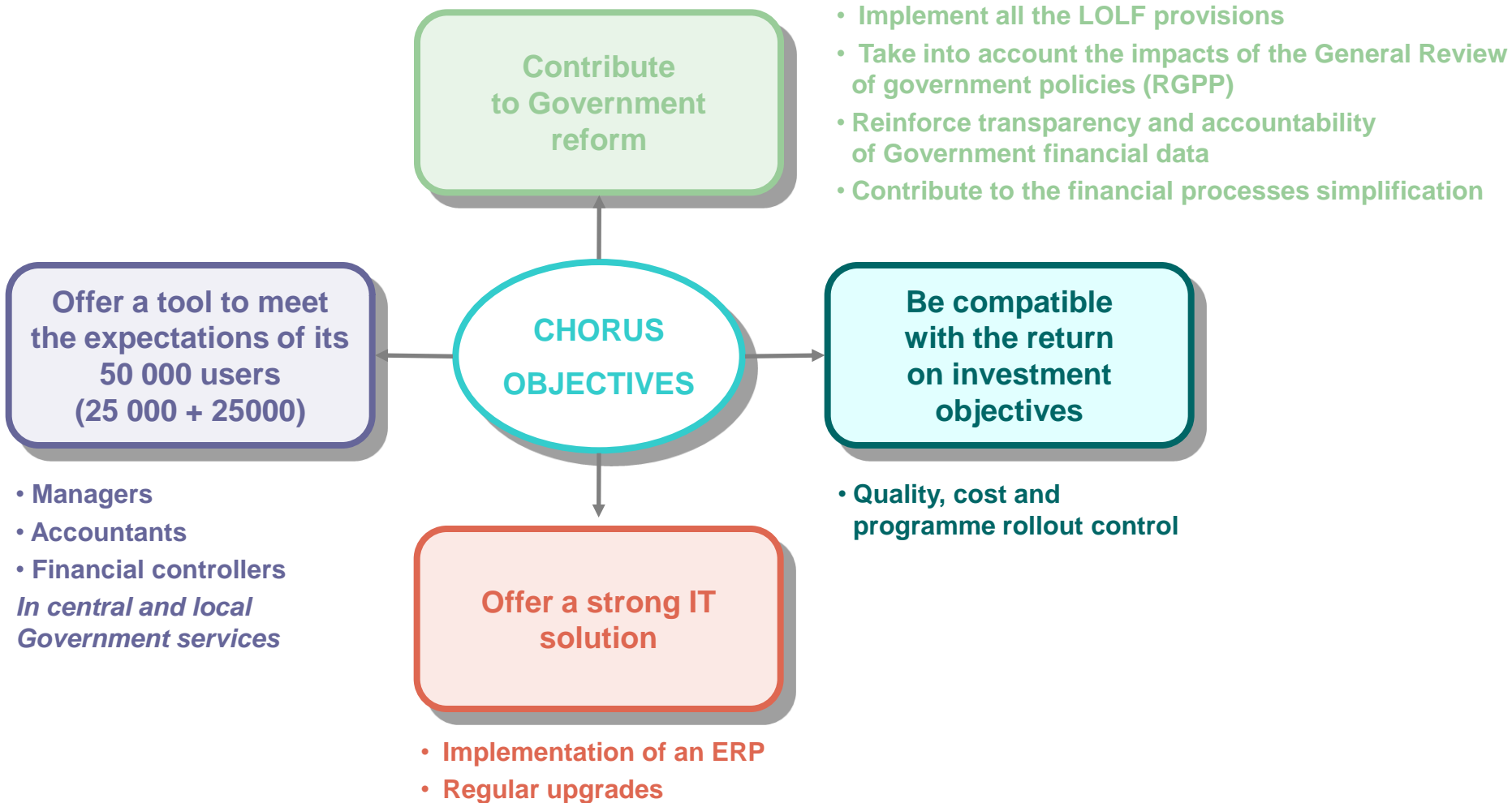
- Each Ministry had their own in-house payment applications.
- Accounting essentially kept on a cash basis.

## ➤ **Consequences :**

- Difficulties to control and monitor the payment process.
- Difficulties to issue reliable forecasts.



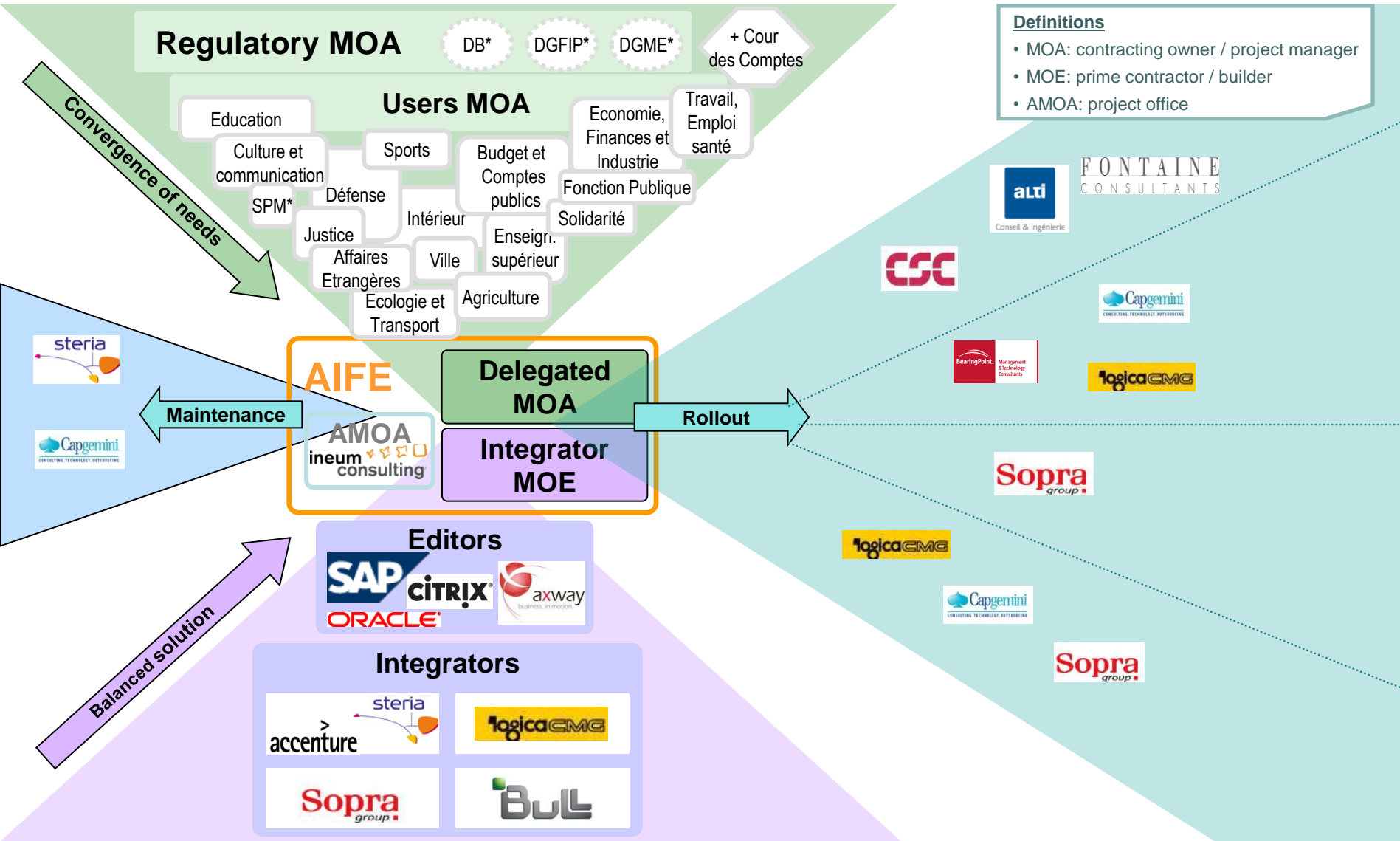
# 1.2. Chorus Project : *what is at stake ?*



**What is Chorus for?**

- Chorus is the Government financial information system, which manages **expenditure, non-tax revenues and Government accounting**, in compliance with the LOLF provisions.
- Chorus is a **consolidated accounting system**.
- Chorus is a **driver system**.
- Chorus comes with a **messaging system**.

# 1.3. Chorus project management : players



\* DB – direction du Budget, DGFIP - direction générale des Finances publiques, DGME – direction générale de la Modernisation de l'Etat, SPM – services du Premier Ministre



## 1.3. AIFE : a dedicated agency

- A dedicated agency **AIFE** (200 people) – the Government's Financial Information System Agency - is reporting to the Minister for the Budget, Public Accounts and State Reform.
- AIFE defines and implements the Government financial IT strategy.

Since  
2001

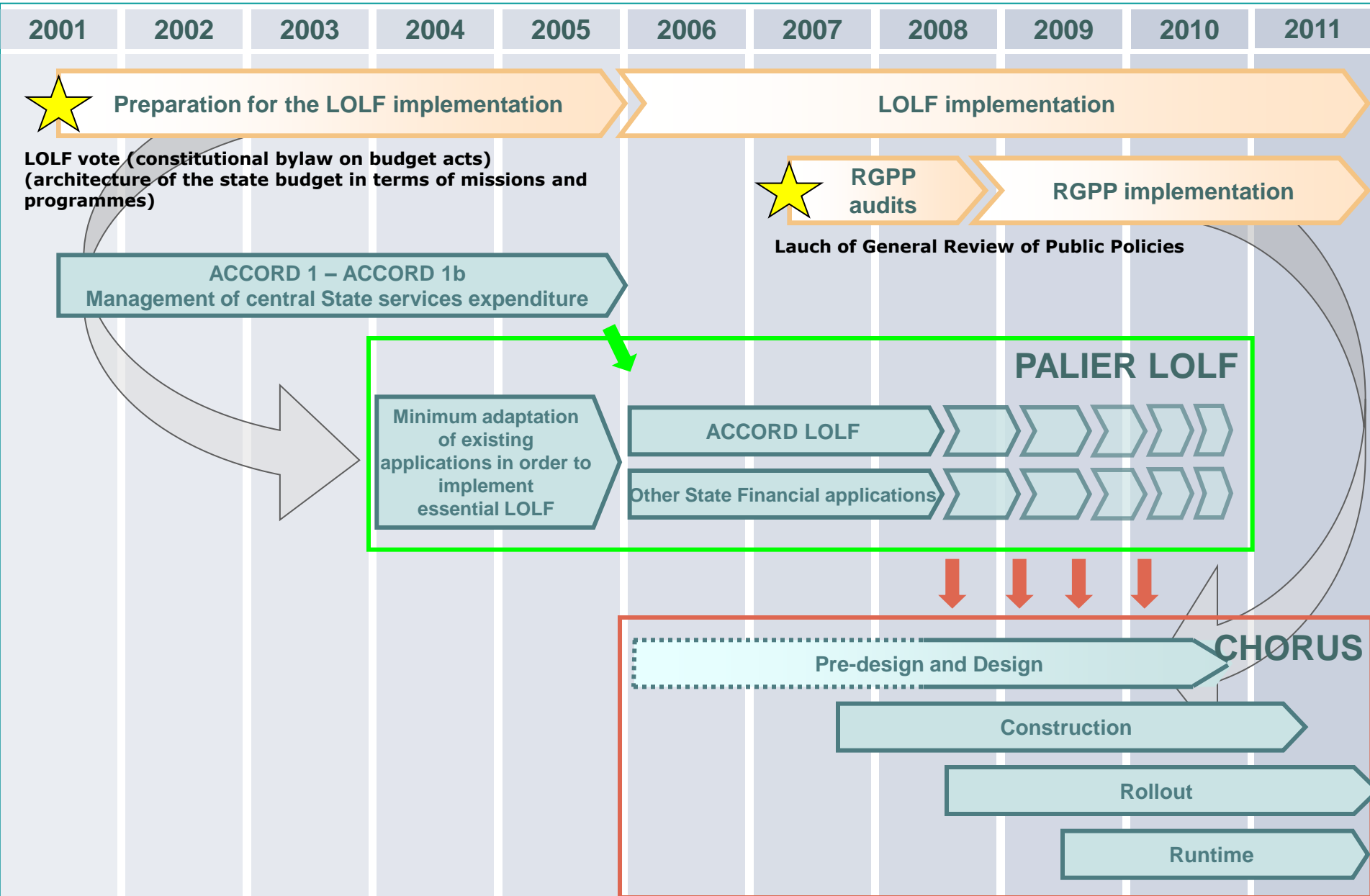
- Construction, development, rollout and maintenance of the management application of central expenditures (**Accord / Accord LOLF**)

Since  
2005

- Coordination of the functional evolutions of the existing financial applications (**Palier LOLF**), in line with the construction, development and rollout of the future French Government financial management application, (**Chorus**) for 50 000 users (25 000 + 25 000).
- Software architecture of the **State Financial Information System (SIFE)** : inclusion of all French Government financial applications into a global strategy of evolution.

- A directorate of the French budget ministry in charge of the preparation and implementation of the State budget.
- One of the MOA (contracting owner/project manager) responsible for :
  - the correct implementation of budgetary regulations in Chorus ;
  - the rollout of the application for the budget directorate staff ;
  - following the costs and ensuring the return on investment.
- A specific unit (BMS) dedicated to this function which requires permanent relations with AIFE, the public finance directorate, all ministries and the State audit service (Court of Account).

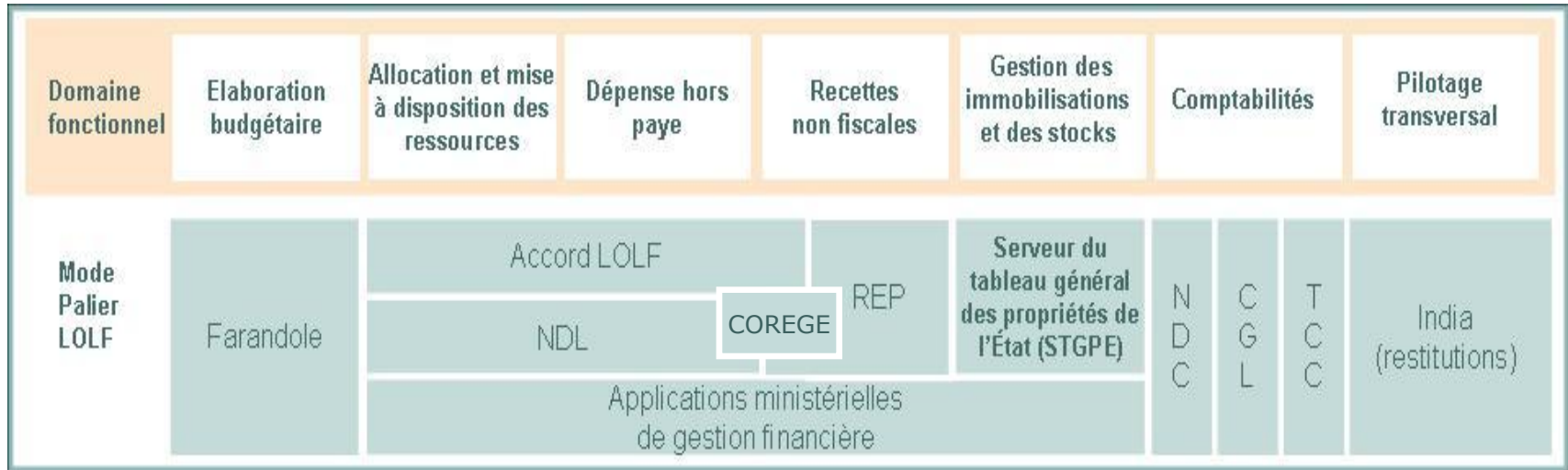
# 1.3. Chorus implementation calendar



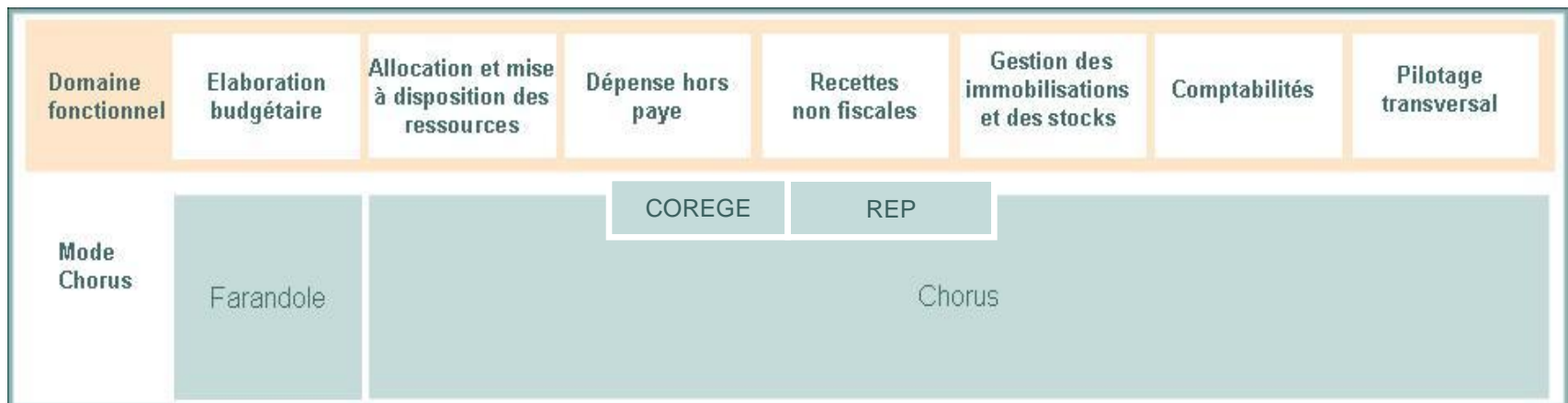
## 2. Chorus functionalities

# 2.1. Chorus : functional and software perimeter

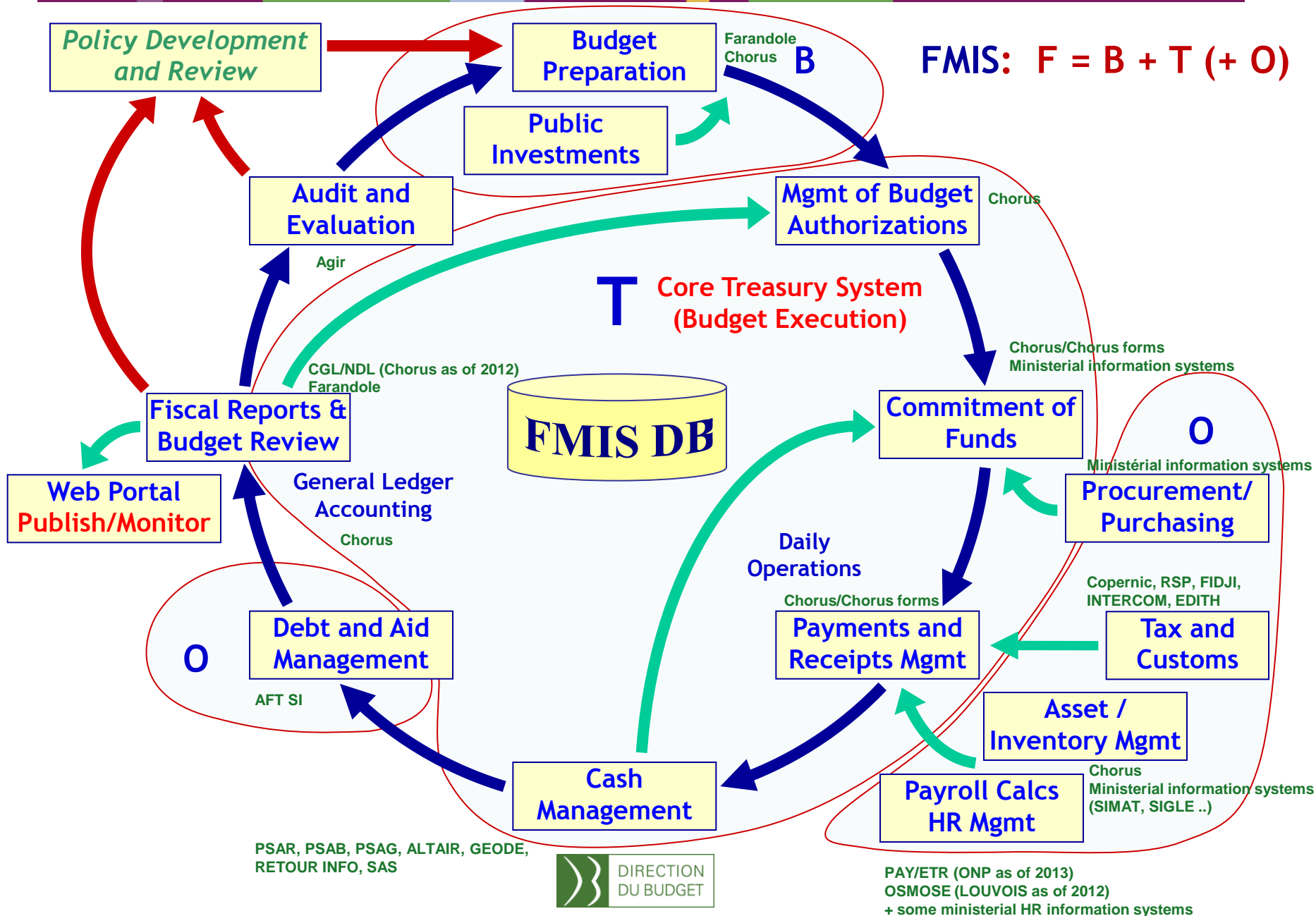
- Before Chorus: numerous in-house software



- With Chorus: just a few softwares with one central software

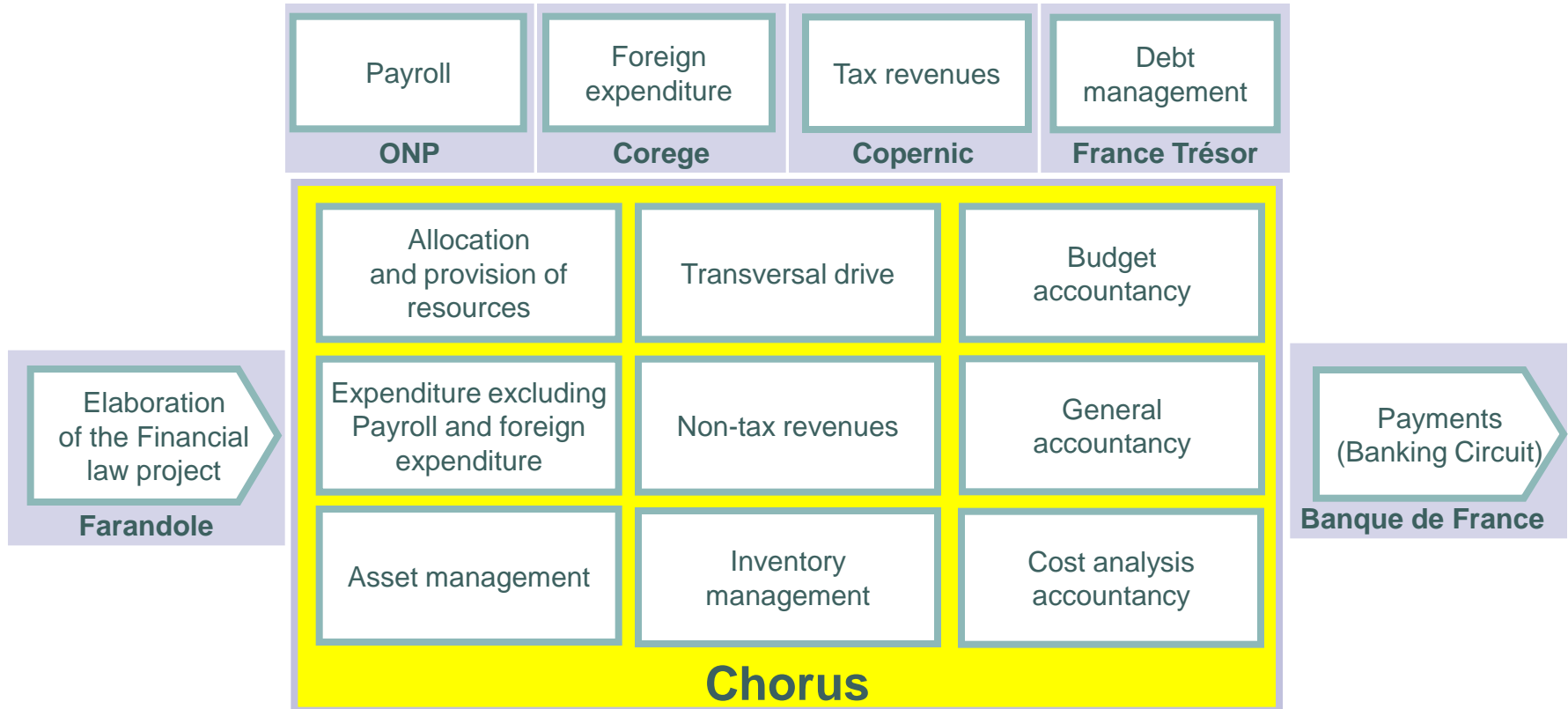


# 2.1. Chorus : FMIS mapping





# 2.1. Chorus : a central position



- **Articulation of Chorus with Copernic and the National Pay Operator (ONP) :**
  - **Chorus does not cover the domain of tax revenues, taken on by project Copernic.** the entries generated by tax revenues are deposited daily into Chorus, at a level that allows Chorus to remain autonomous in the keeping of State accounts.
  - **Chorus is conceived to function with the current pay applications.**

- Chorus enables annual and sub-annual forecasts that can be reviewed upon demand while ensuring the sustainability of these forecasts at short and middle term.

Chorus allows to establish formal forecasts of the amount of financial resources and how they are planned to be used according to the goals set and the resources allocated.

- **The programming of the expenses is the result of a discussion between the different levels of management :**
  - within each Ministry and their offices,
  - the budgetary programming is updated with the data resulting from the expenses actually made.
- In order to visualize the different steps of the budgetary programming, Chorus has various **budgetary programmations** :
  - simulations options,
  - a shared version that allows talks between the Ministry and their local offices,
  - read-only versions for prefects and external controllers.

- In-house software applications specific to some ministries allow non Chorus users to send data to Chorus through interfaces.
- Some in-house software applications remain to be interfaced with Chorus . They are not yet discarded.  
They process
  - huge amount of data ;
  - non-significant amount of data.
- Among the in-house software applications to be interfaced:
  - traveling expenses ;
  - health providers ;
  - scholarships.

- **Why « Chorus Forms »?**
  - offer HTML forms.
  - allow a range of organization forms before the Chorus data warehouse, especially for the validation process.
  - allow to create new forms if needed.

## 2.2.2. A gateway to Chorus : Chorus « forms » 21

- Chorus forms allow non-Chorus users to send data to **Chorus through the gateway « Chorus Formulaires » reachable with a navigator web.**
  - a simple authentication is requested (no electronic signature) due to the validation process which remains in Chorus core.
- **Examples of Chorus forms**
  - Buying requests
  - Subvention requests
  - Certification of the delivery
  - Third-party creation (in order to process the payment)
- With the data sent by the Chorus forms, dedicated payment services execute the whole process from the data entry until the payment to the supplier.

- **What is a dedicated payment service ?**
  - Allows to centralize operations that are now spread over numerous services.
  - Allows a better service since it is focused only on the expense process.
  - Allows to improve the efficiency of the whole payment process.
  - Offers a better control of the payment process.
  - Costs reductions are expected through the concentration and specialization of the workers of the payment process versus a previous organization where they were spread over each ministry.

- In compliance with the LOLF provisions, within Chorus, the costs analysis together with the budgetary accounting and the general accounting allow to have a complete information on the public expense.
- This triple action allows the transparency of the public funding.
- The cost analysis is not yet implemented through Chorus. This will be done when Chorus will be fully in force (2012).

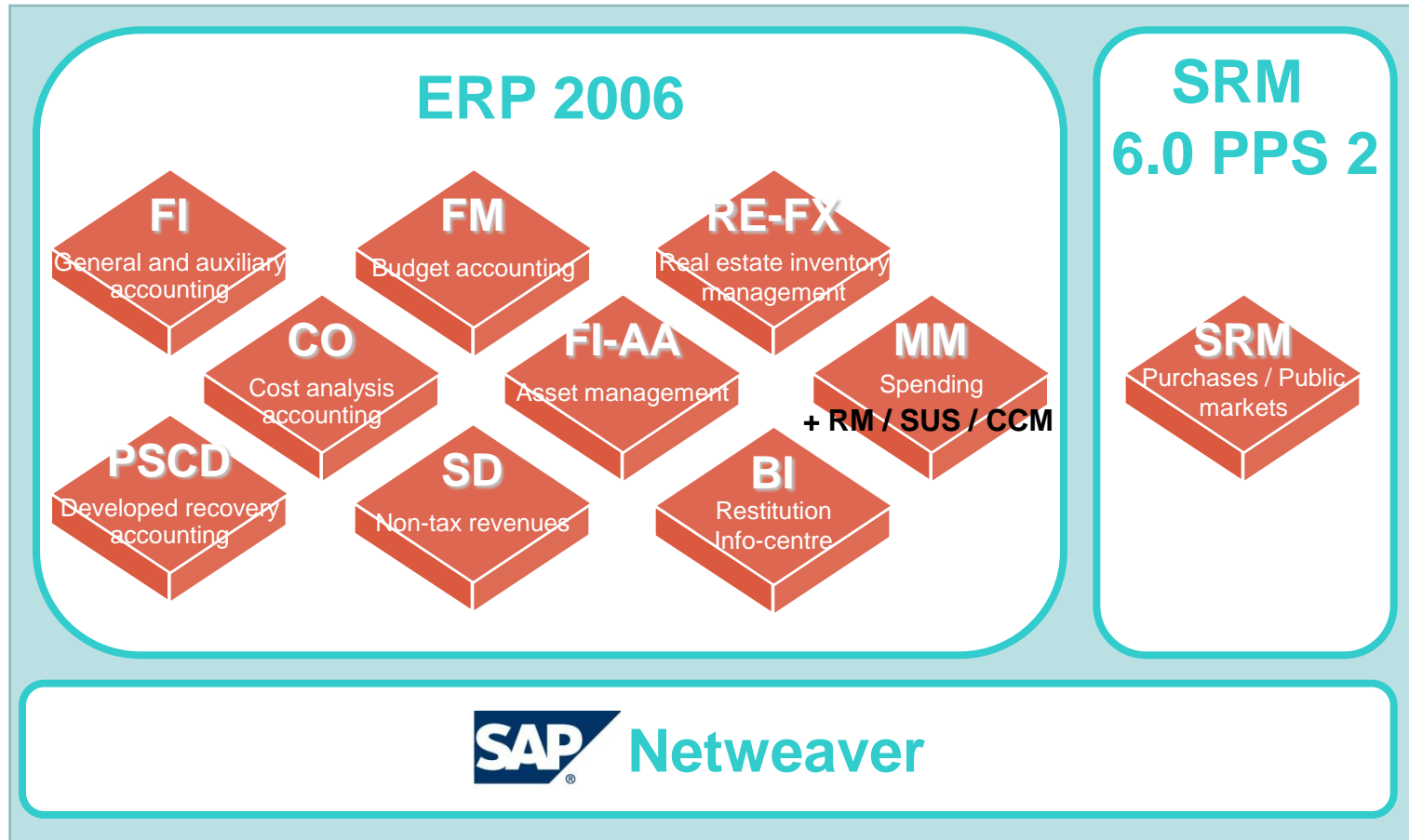
Chorus is the first tool that gives a global view of the payment process.

- Information access through specific synthesis documents.
- Any data can be analyzed and retrived in a synthesis document.
- The whole payment process can be scrutinized and access to the data is given according to the level of management and according to the responsibility.



## 3. The technical solution

## Main modules used



## SAP Solution Enhancement

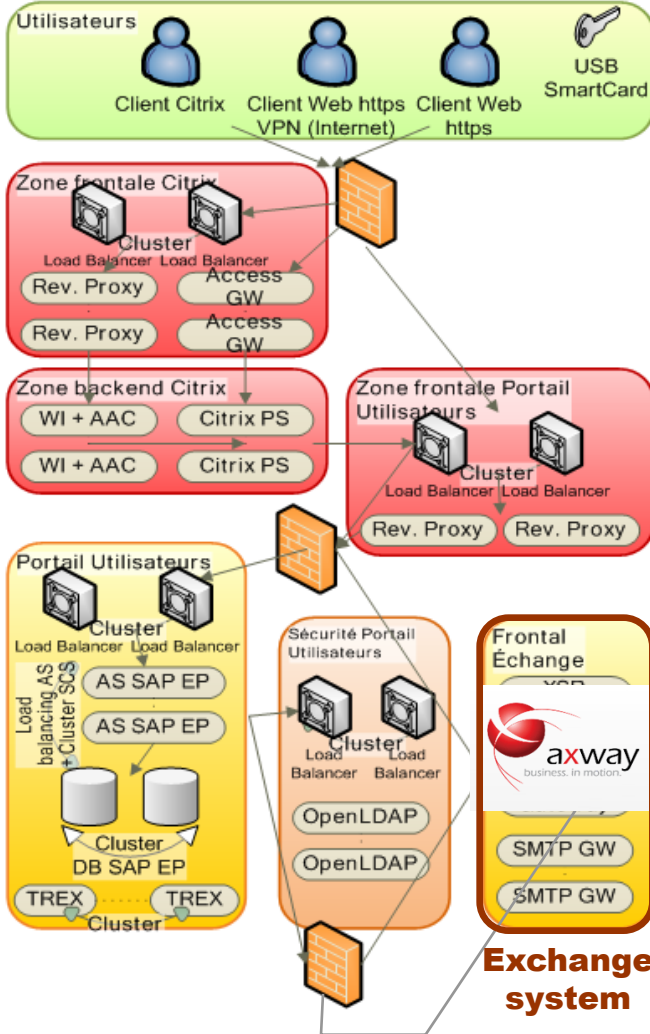
- In response to the needs expressed by the administration, the programming has allowed for inclusion in the standard SRM of new functions relating to the management of public procurement and sales/stops.
  - **Modification of standard programmes**
  - **Creation of new SAP objects**
  
- “Badis” were also added, in order to ensure that these needs were completely met.
  - **The “Business Add-In” is a point of entry to a programme to allow the addition of specific rules to each client.**
  
- The new solution is called Procurement for Public Sector (PPS) and includes the rules of the French administration as well as those of other administrations, with an impact on existing ERP modules.
  - **Impact of market programming on modules MM / FI / FM**
  - **Impact of sales / stops programming on module FI**

**The SAP Solution Enhancement is not a development specific to the French administration or to another customer.**

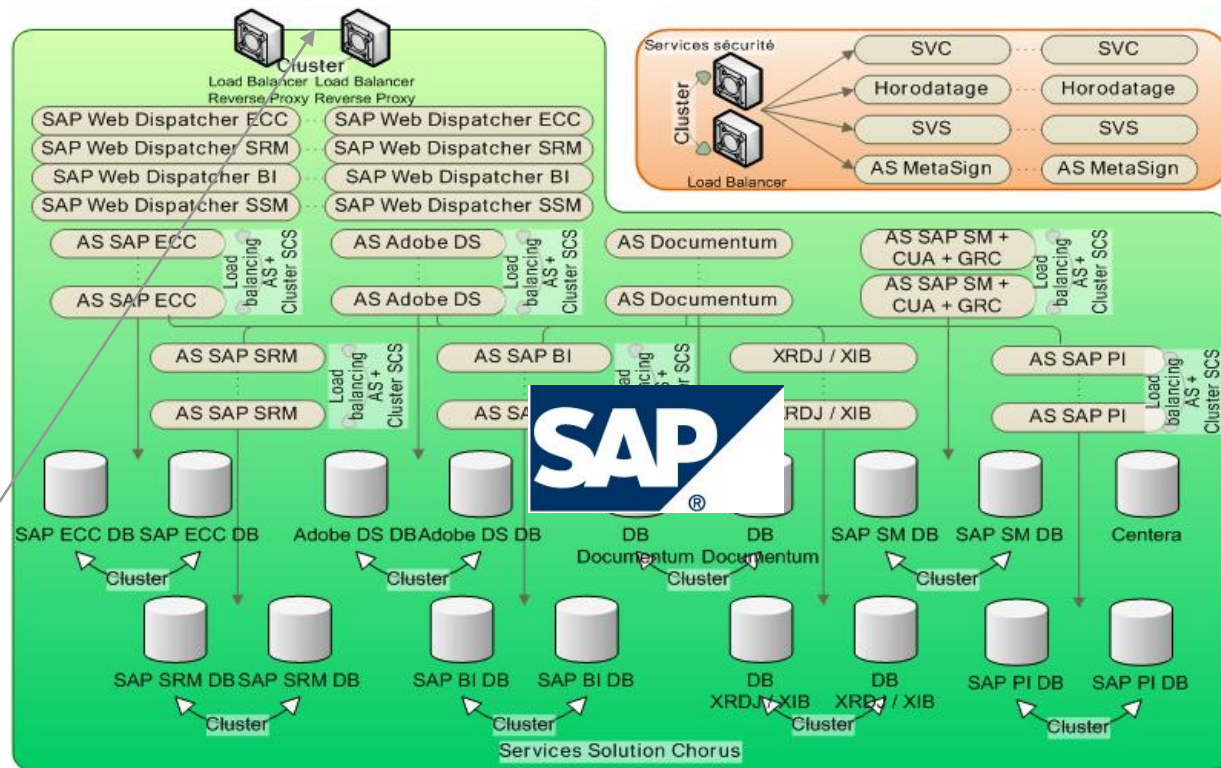
**The solution developed becomes an integral part of standard SAP.**

# Overview of Chorus architecture

## Front end

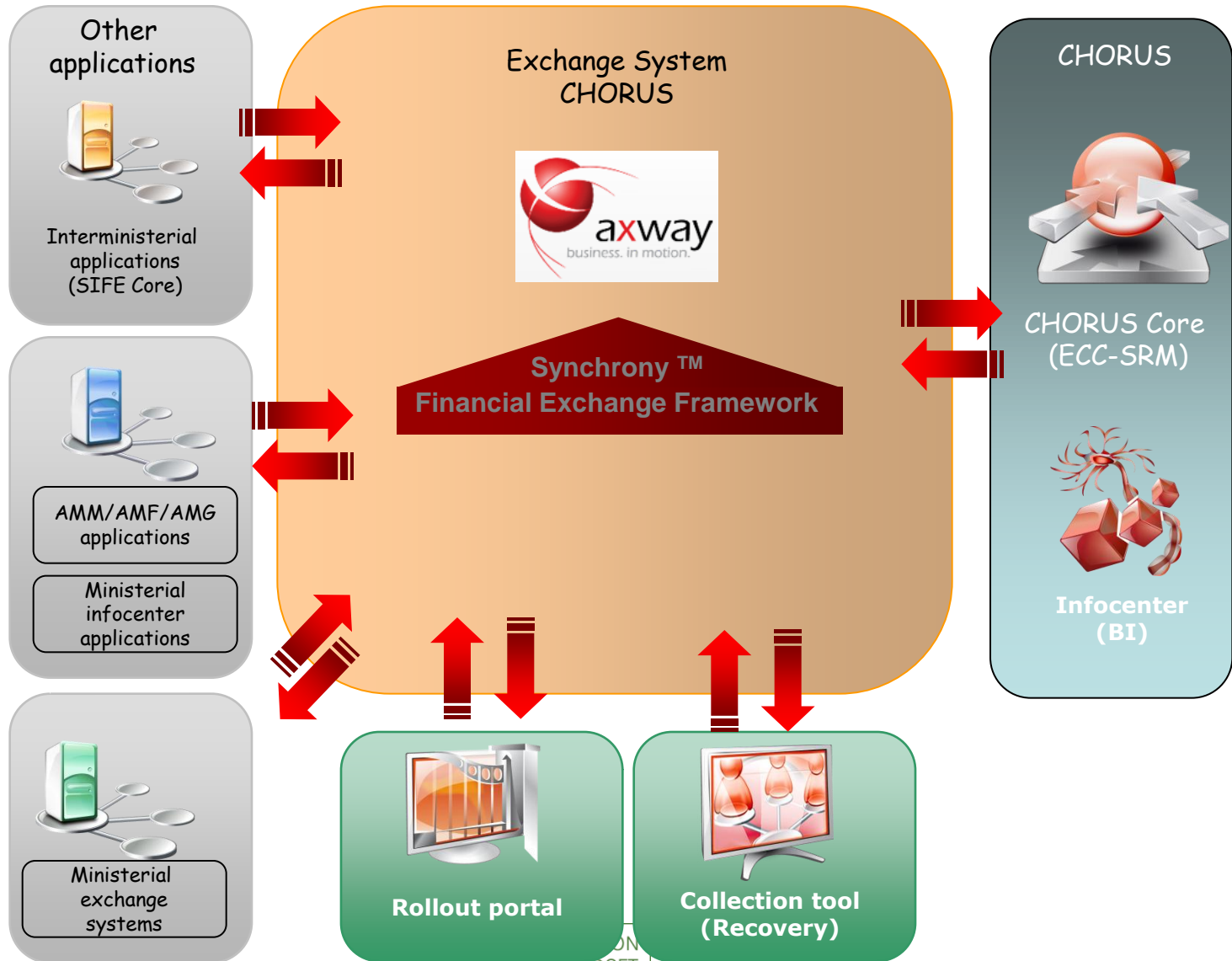


## Back end



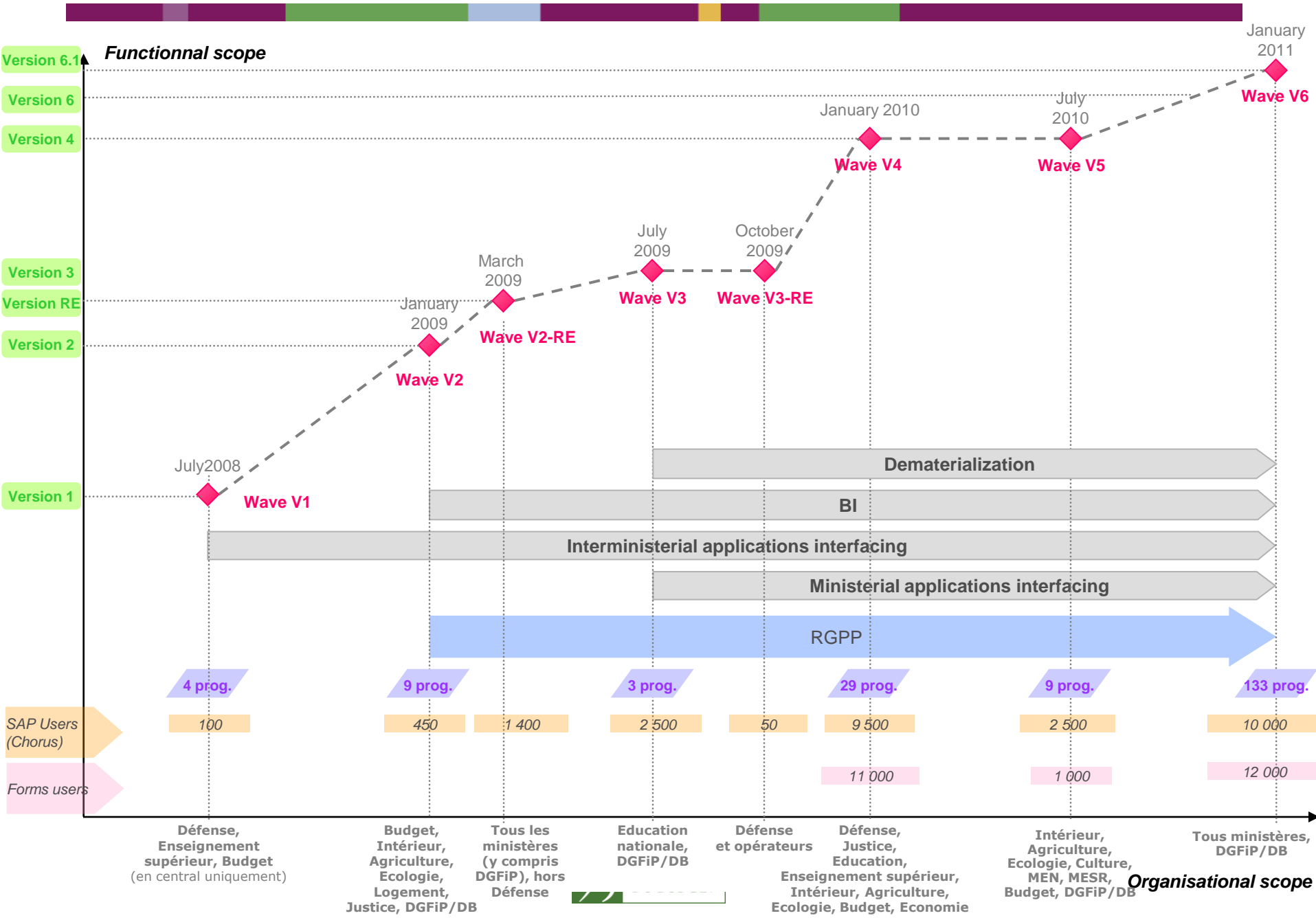
- **Connection :**  
USB key and password (authentication process)
- **Two kinds of access rights :**
  - on functionalities
  - on data
- **Workflow :**  
No need of an electronic signature in the data vetting process.

## ES positioning in the CHORUS system



## **4. Status of implementation and return on experience**

# Status of implementation : global roadmap 32







~ **over 1000** servers

**10** Terabytes of RAM memory

**100** Terabytes of data online

**30** km of cables

Total weight ~ **45** Tons

# Some Chorus key figures



All state financial informations in one system  
for a total budget of **380 Mds. €**  
**81 Billions Euros paid in the first three month of this  
year**



**25 000 Chorus users**  
**9 500 daily connections**  
**25 000 users of Chorus web  
solution**



**3 200 men per year**  
(to build Chorus solution)



**45 tons of hardware !**



**28% of Chorus budget  
has been dedicated to  
training and teaching**

- **Initial estimation : 1,1 Billiards € on a 10 years based** (5 years building the system and 5 using it) based on an external audit in 2006
- **Final costs : 1,05 Billiards €** including **investment costs** and **using costs**.
- A large part of the costs are balanced by the **end of previous and numerous applications/tools**.
- It is more **difficult to identify accurately the staff reductions** allowed by more efficient tools and organisations.

- **To complete the rollout** (January 2012) :
  - budgetary and general accounting synthesis documents ;
  - some revenue functionalities ;
  - cost analysis.
- **To adapt the administrative organisation** to the solution and **to improve the knowledge of Chorus** by all its users.
- To elaborate and enforce **new functionalities** to meet new needs :
  - adaptation of existing functionalities : synthesis documents ;
  - new functionalities : cost accounting.

- Chorus is in the middle of the French State budgetary and accounting modernisation.
- The organisational stakes have been well highlighted by the return on investment audit (tighten up back office, instigate shared services).
- Chorus gives an opportunity for the General Revision of Public Policies (RGPP), whether in the simplification of procedures or the capacity to sustain efficient organisational models without constraints (a unified system for all players).
- The implementation of an ERP must notably allow improvement in the direction of public management and reinforce transparency and accountability of State financial data.

Thank You

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