



## SHAREBOX on-line training

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# How AI can support end-users evaluating IS potential

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IDEAI

# Artificial Intelligence & Decision Support Tools

- ④ **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: is the study of the possible or existing mechanisms – in human or other beings – providing such behaviour in them that can be considered as **intelligence**, and the simulation of these mechanisms, named as **cognitive tasks**, in a computer through the computer's programming.
- ④ **Intelligent Decision Support Systems (IDSS)**, is an AI application field oriented to give support to an end-user which is a decision-maker coping with complex decisions in a concrete domain
- ④ **Recommender Systems (RS)** are a special case of IDSS, where **decisions are always on which items are the optimal** to be consumed (music, films, books, etc.) or used (waste material, resources, etc.) or taken/followed (medical treatment, nutritional plan, etc.) by the end-user

# Issues on the use of AI in Industrial Symbiosis (IS)

- ⦿ Improvement of recommendations and/or strategies for IS decisions
- ⦿ Reducing economic costs
- ⦿ Reducing raw material consumption
- ⦿ Reducing waste products' disposal
- ⦿ Increase the reuse of wasting materials
- ⦿ Improve the circular economy
- ⦿ Discovering new waste resources to be used as input to a production process
- ⦿ Dynamic learning from past performed synergies

# Decision Support in Industrial Symbiosis

## ☐ Companies:

- Work based on predefined relationships and methods
- Have difficulties for the simultaneous evaluation of:
  - ☐ Numerous current alternatives
  - ☐ Cost (environmental, economic etc.) reduction possibilities
  - ☐ Optimization options
- Resource and process related information overload

## ☐ Need for Intelligent Decision Support Systems

- Filter existing information
- Identify suitable alternatives
- Present Top-N candidates
- Suggest unexpected possibilities

## ☐ Recommender Systems

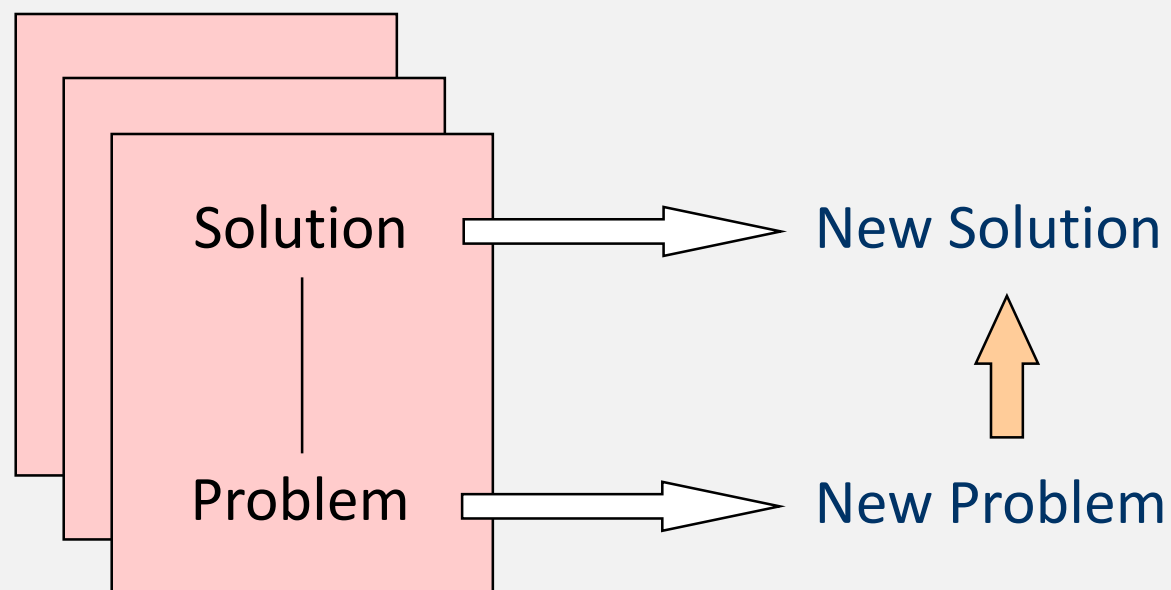
# Recommender Systems

## ⓐ Software tools & techniques for information retrieval and filtering

- Handle the existing information overload
- Provide meaningful suggestions to users
  - ⓐ Set of top – N items
  - ⓐ Predict if an item will be of interest
- Main Hypothesis:
  - ⓐ Users' behavior & preferences remain stable
  - ⓐ Similar users have similar behavior
- Utility function,  $v: U \times I \rightarrow R$ 
  - ⓐ The utility that a user from  $U$  gets from an item (or action) from  $I$ .
  - ⓐ Recommend the item(s)  $i' \in I$  that maximize user's utility under certain circumstances:  
 $\forall u' \in U, i' = \operatorname{argmax} v(u', i)$

# Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) paradigm

- “*Transferring knowledge from past problem solving episodes to new problems that share significant aspects with corresponding past experience and using the transferred knowledge to construct solutions to new problems.*” (Carbonell, 1986)
- **CBR**: A methodology of solving new problems by adapting the solutions of previous similar problems



A computational  
metaphore of  
*Reasoning by  
Analogy*

- It uses **cases** as an episodic memory (**Case Library**).

# Local Resource Recommender for Industrial Symbiosis

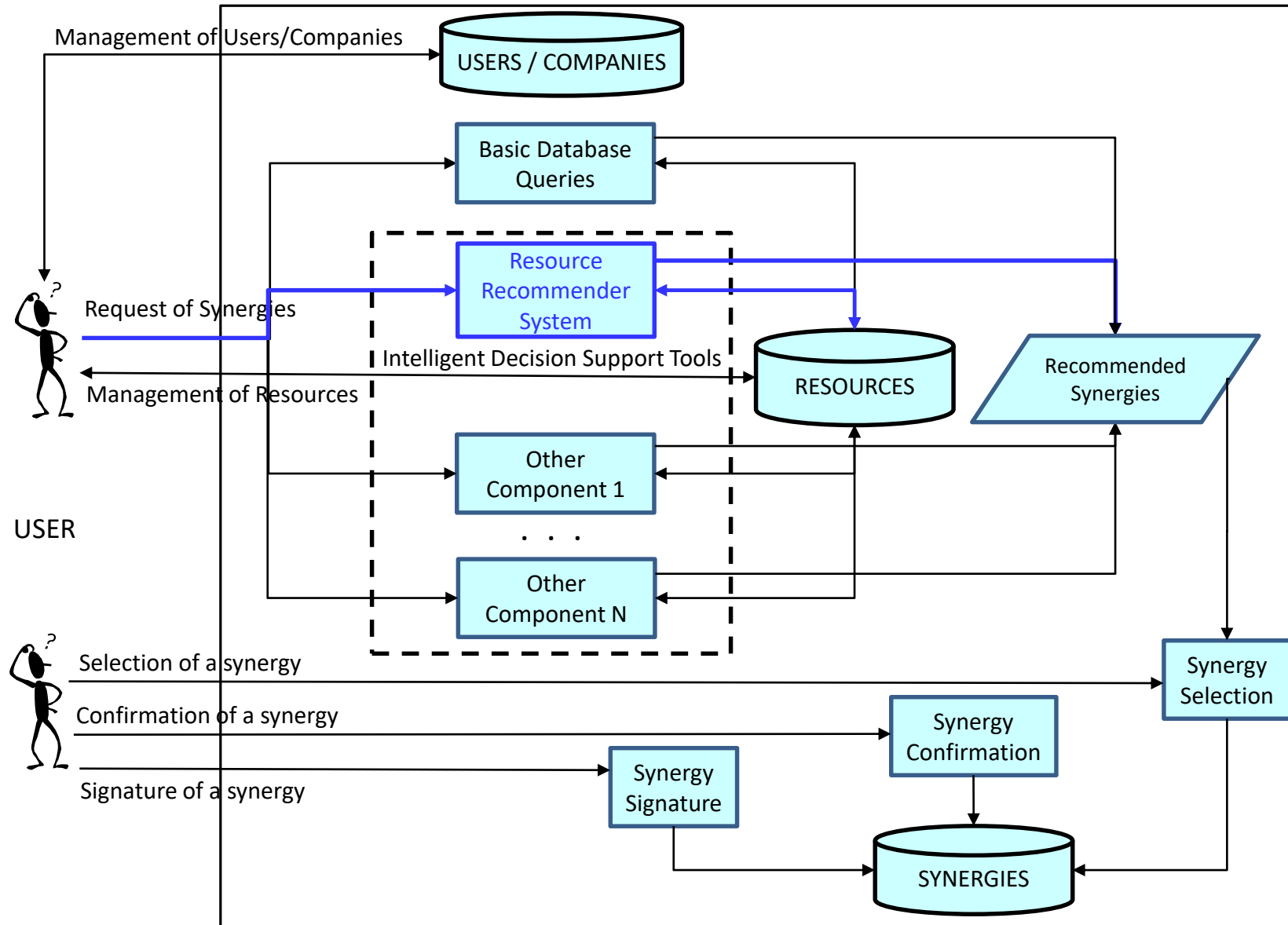
## Objectives:

- Improvement of recommendations and/or strategies for Industrial Symbiosis (IS) decisions

## How:

- Apply a hybrid recommender system using CBR and Ontological knowledge from EWCs to improve strategies for resource selection and starting of synergies
- Search for resources which are similar to the one specified in the user query
- Filter or rank the candidate resources
  - ◉ Filtering: only the same EWCs pass the filter
  - ◉ Ranking: the resources are ranked according to a hybrid semantic similarity function, which takes into account: keywords, EWCs, site distance, etc.
- The user finally selects the resource to start a possible synergy

# SHAREBOX Platform Architecture with the Resource Recommender





# Resource/Waste product Feature Model

- ⊖ **Resource Id**
- ⊖ **Name**
- ⊖ **Description:** basic information describing the resource
- ⊖ **Waste code/s:** EWC(s) of the registered resource
- ⊖ **Type:** Have/Want, indicating whether the resource is offered or needed by the company site
- ⊖ **Quantity:**
  - A specific number or in some cases it is possible to have theoretically unlimited availability (no limitations )
- ⊖ **Measurement unit:** depending on the type of resource
- ⊖ **Frequency or date:** when it is generated or requested
- ⊖ **Site:**
  - Geo-location of the resource, not the company
  - Longitude and latitude

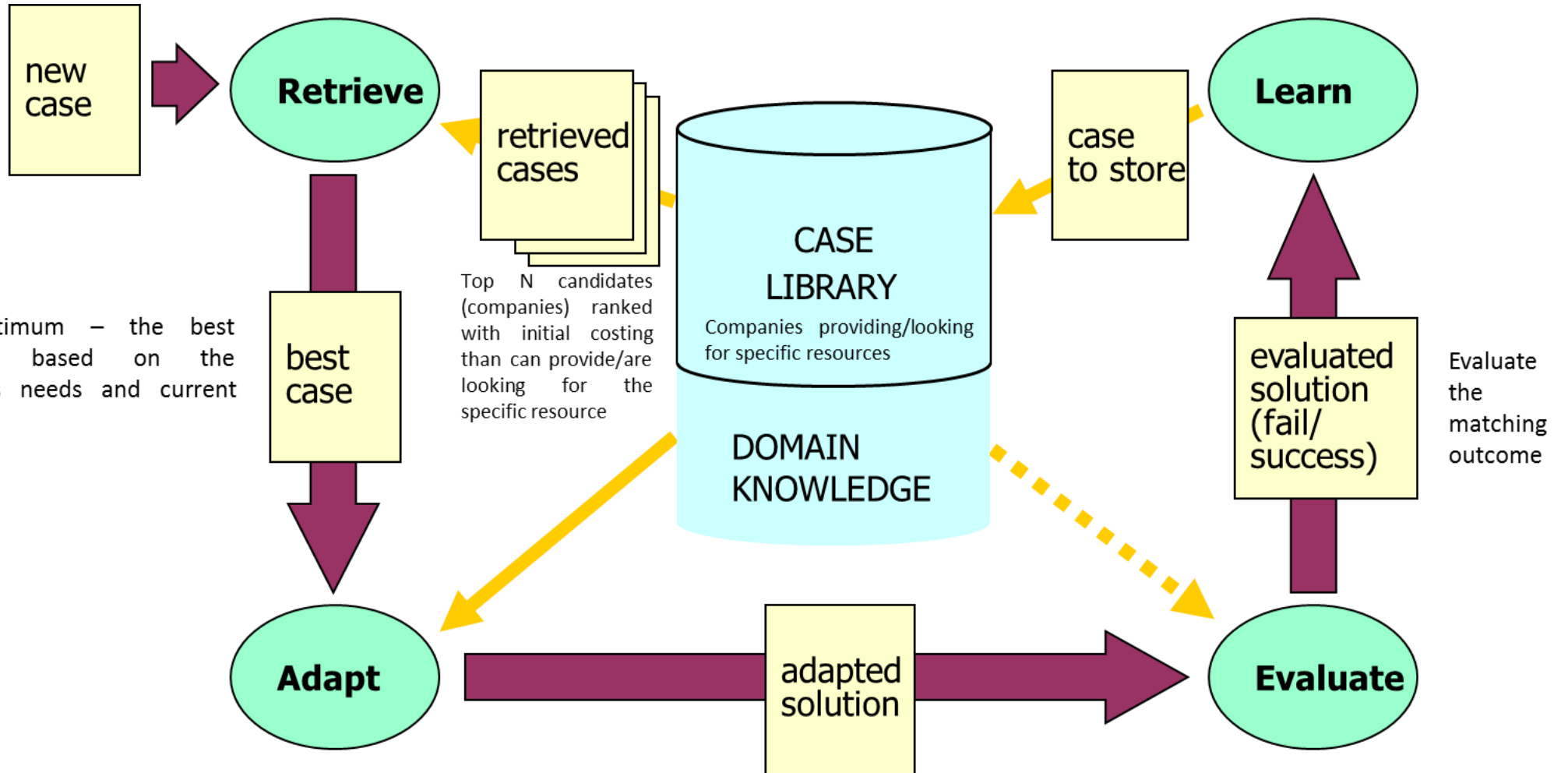
# User Query

- ⊖ **Keywords:** One or more keywords describing the resource requested
- ⊖ **Resource direction:** type of resource: a needed (want) or an offered (have) resource
- ⊖ **EWC code:** the waste code of the requested resource
  - In the three hierarchical levels: chapter, subchapter, code
  - Search method: Filter/Rank
- ⊖ **Category:** same as the EWC in the case that resource category descriptions are used
  - In three levels
  - Search method: same as in the case of the EWC
- ⊖ **Site:** the geo-location of the site where the resource is located
  - does not refer to the company
  - longitude and latitude

# CBR application in Resource Recommendation

User (company) is looking for a specific resource/can provide a specific waste on a specific time

Local optimum – the best matching, based on the company’s needs and current status



# An Example of the Resource Recommender

## ☐ User query:

- Want “steel”
- With EWC 08 01 99
- At longitude -127.9248046875 and latitude 54.13669645687003

## ☐ From past data:

- 16 resource candidates for keyword “steel”

## ☐ If Results filtered:

- 6 resource candidates for keyword “steel” and EWC 08 01 99

## ☐ If Results ranked:

- 3 EWC candidates (similarity > 0.5)
  - ☐ 08 01 99 , 06 13 99 , 06 04 99
- 71 another resource candidates

# An intelligent system for improving the usage of the SHAREBOX platform / A **synergy** hybrid recommender

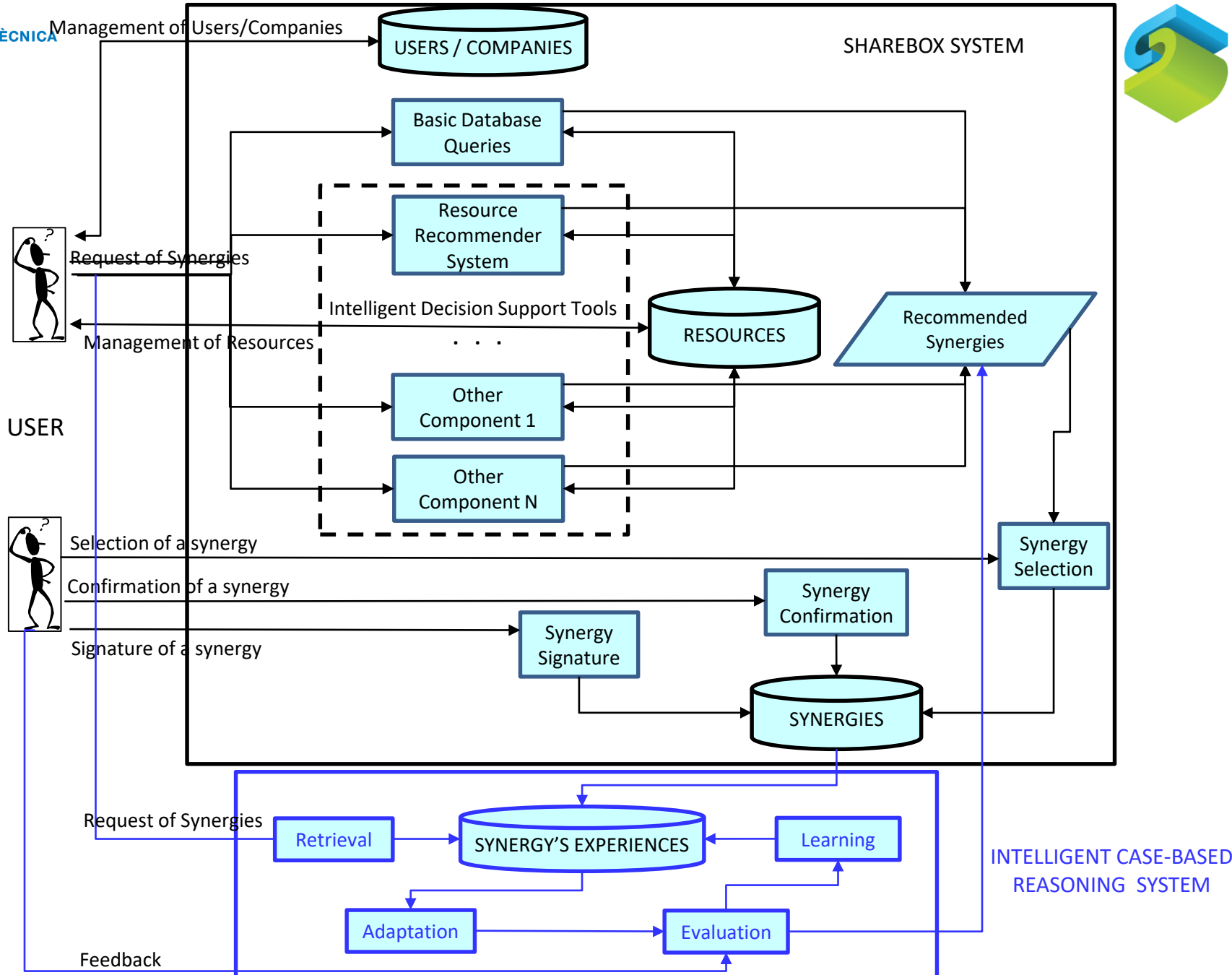
## 🕒 Objectives:

- SHAREBOX system's day-to-day usage and performance improvement
- Symbiotic **synergies** optimization

## 🕒 How:

- Design and develop an intelligent module
- Use data mining techniques to gather historic data
- Use a case-based reasoning to analyze daily operations and learn to solve operational problems
- Suggest recommendations in a more competent way based on successful past synergies
- Evaluate synergies' feedback

# Global Synergy Recommender System integrated in SHAREBOX platform



# Synergy model

## ☐ User

- Company
- Category: industrial sector
- Location site

## ☐ Resource required

- EWCs

## ☐ Synergy partner

- Company
- Category: industrial sector
- Location site

## ☐ Resource obtained

- EWCs

☐ ***Synergy status:*** requested, scoping, negotiation, signed, ongoing, completed

☐ ***Synergy rating:*** synergies are automatically evaluated with a 5-star rating system

# User Query

## ☐ User

- Company
- Category: industrial sector
- Location site
- Optionally:
  - ☐ Synergy status required
  - ☐ Synergy rating required

## ☐ Resource required

- EWCs description



# Retrieval Flexibility

## Retrieved synergies according to different focus:

- **Resource-based:** only synergies with similar EWCs
- **User-based:** only synergies initiated by users of the same category
- **Case description-based:** only synergies initiated by users of the same category and on similar resources
- **Location-based:** only synergies performed in close geographic locations to the user location
- **Status-based:** only synergies having reached the same status are evaluated
- **Rating-based:** only higher rated synergies are considered
- **Similarity-based:** the whole case (synergy) similarity is considered (rating, status, location, user category, and resource)

# An Example of the Synergy Recommender

## ☐ User query

- Category: 15 (Waste Packaging)
- Location site: Geolocation of Castelldefels (41° 16' 48.058" N 1° 58' 35.866" E)
- Resource required: EWC = 15 01 02, plastic packaging

## ☐ Retrieved synergies

- Similarity-based:
  - ☐ <15 01 02, plastic packaging, company-24, ongoing, 5 stars> ,
  - ☐ <20 01 39, plastics from municipal waste, company-371, completed, 5 stars > ,
  - ☐ <19 12 04, plastic and rubber wastes from mechanical treatment of waste, company-254, ongoing, 5 stars>
  - ☐ <15 01 01, cardboard packaging, company-89, negotiation, 3 stars> ,
  - ☐ <15 01 03, wooden packaging, company-453, signed, 4 stars> ,

# Advantages of using Recommender Systems in IS

- ⊙ They provide the SHAREBOX platform with:
  - A very *flexible recommendation* system for suggesting the most suitable resources or synergies, given a query of a user through *similarity-matching strategies*.
  - A *hybrid semantic measure* to compare EWCs and linguistic terms to suggest appropriate resources and synergies
  - **Maximize the possibility to *find the most useful resource*. This is a great advantage compared with usual Information Systems based on the *exact-matching approach* offered by a database querying system.**
  - A *resource discovering functionality*, with its hybrid recommendation strategy.
  - *Increase of reusing* of waste products
  - *Reductions on new raw material* for productive industrial processes
  - *Energy cost savings* derived on the established synergies
  - The ability to learn with the use of the platform and to improve the accuracy of the recommendations
  - *Analogical reasoning* techniques exploiting the knowledge from past resources and synergies

# The project: SHAREBOX



[www.sharebox-project.eu](http://www.sharebox-project.eu)

## Secure Management Platform for Sharing Process Resources

- Joint project funded by EU (Horizon 2020)
- 16 project partners from 8 countries
- EC funding (A): 5.416.544,75 €
- Private investment (B): 1.500.000 €
- Funding period: 2015-2019



Funded by the Horizon 2020  
Framework Programme of the  
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Sustainable Process Industry through  
Resource and Energy Efficiency

[www.spire2030.eu](http://www.spire2030.eu)



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