

Basic Modelling Training using ARIS Express

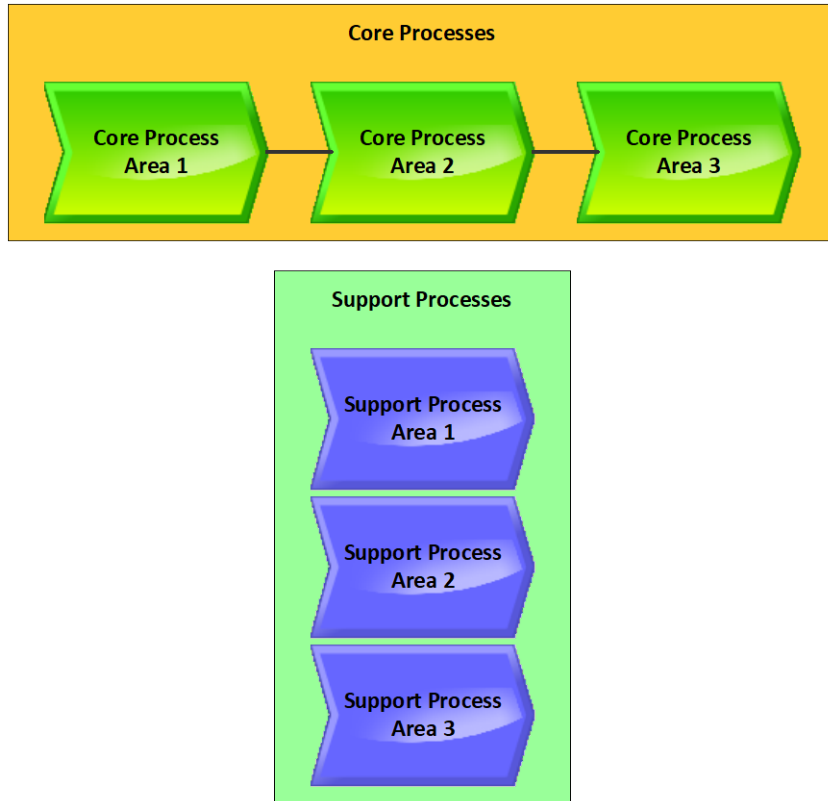
Date

Modelling using ARIS Express

Overview of the Value-Added Chain

- The Value-Added Chain Diagram (VACD) is a common model representation for high level models
- Typically free format modelling allowing landscape models that represent business process areas
- Note that while the VAC Objects are in the form of a chevron, this does not always imply a sequence.
- In ARISExpress, this model type is known as the Process Landscape

Overview of the Value-Added Chain



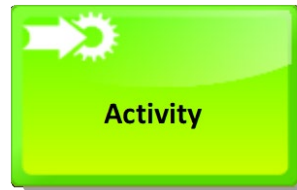
- Typical VAC model
- Only one object, the VAC function, that is used on the model
- The object description attribute can be used to fully describe the area
- Connections are allowed between the objects, with or without arrowheads
- Frames can be used to emphasize areas
- Colours can be changed to distinguish areas

Overview of Event-driven Process Chains (EPC)

- The EPC is a common model representation for detail level models
- Makes use of 3 main object types – events, activities (functions) and rule operators
- Objects are connected with arrow connections and always indicate sequence

Activity or Function Objects

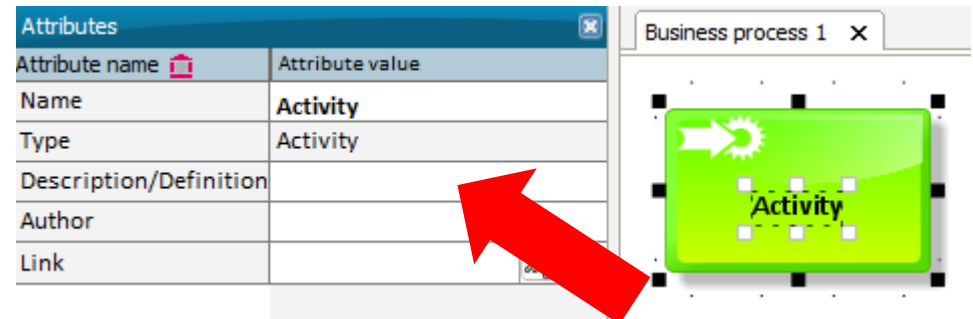
A function represents a defined activity. It implies that something is happening at this point. The naming convention is active (verb+noun), e.g. Complete Form, Pick Oranges. All processes must include at least one function.



Objects in EPC's - Activities

Function Attributes required

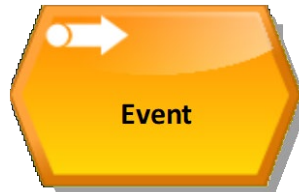
Activities can have their
“Description” attribute filled in to
give the detail around that
function



Event Objects

An event is a trigger, status or result in a process. It defines a current state, which may give rise to a task. No action occurs at an event. The naming convention is passive, eg. Form completed, Oranges picked.

All processes must include at least 2 events, at the start and end of the process. All processes must begin with an event, and end with an event.

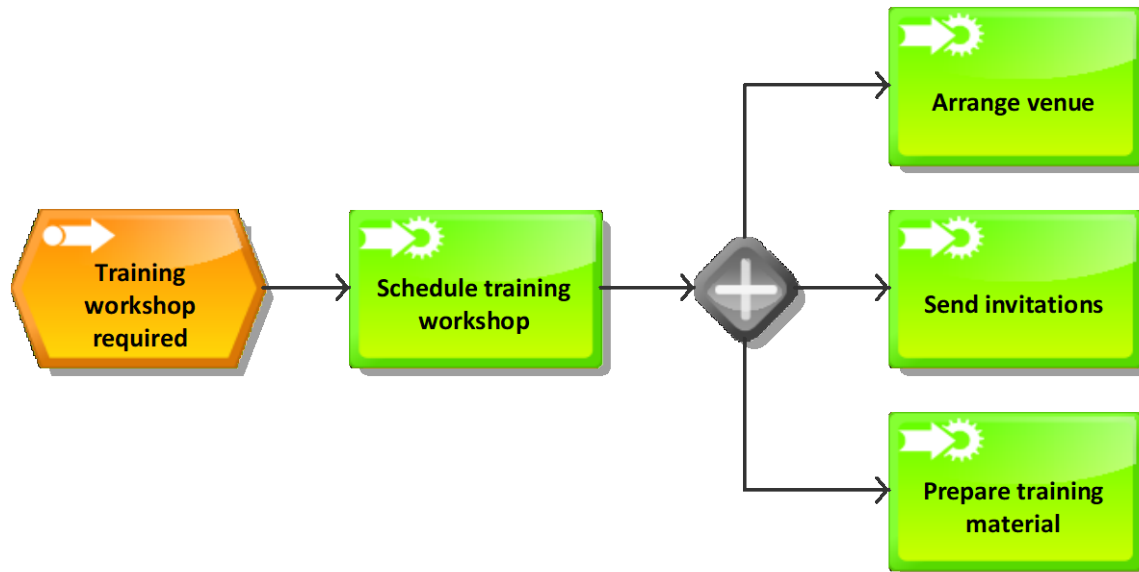


Rule Operator objects

A rule operator defines the flow of a process, typically indicating multiple paths. A rule operator is associated with rules.



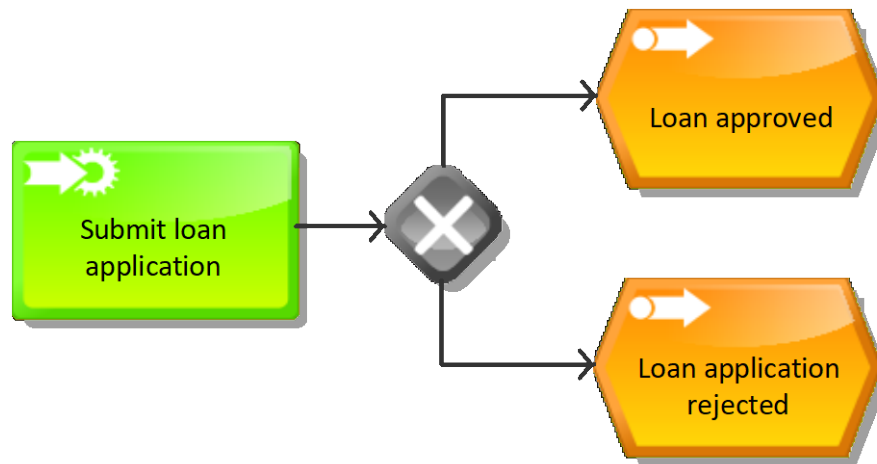
The AND Rule Operator indicates that all paths must be followed. In this case no additional information is required.



Rule Operator objects

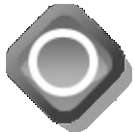


The EXCLUSIVE OR (XOR) operator indicates that only one outgoing path can be followed.

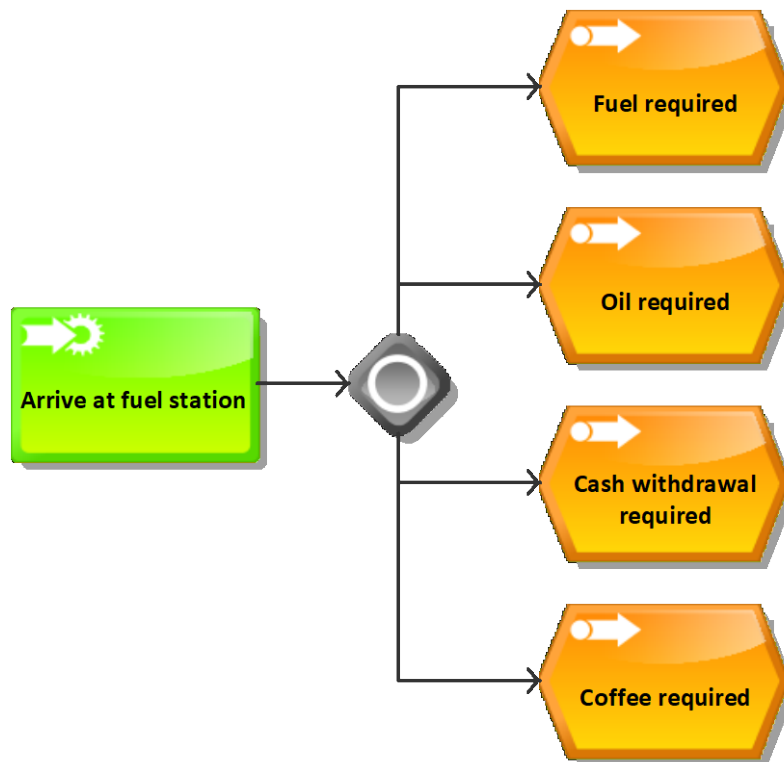


Note events are used rather than text on connectors for ease of modelling and readability in ARIS Express, since connections are deleted when any of the associated objects are deleted, and the information on the connection is lost.

Rule Operator objects



The OR operator indicates that at least one, and possibly more, outgoing paths can be followed.



Note that an OR operator is seldom found in a simple process orchestration environment, since it is non-specific and requires additional interpretation or business rules

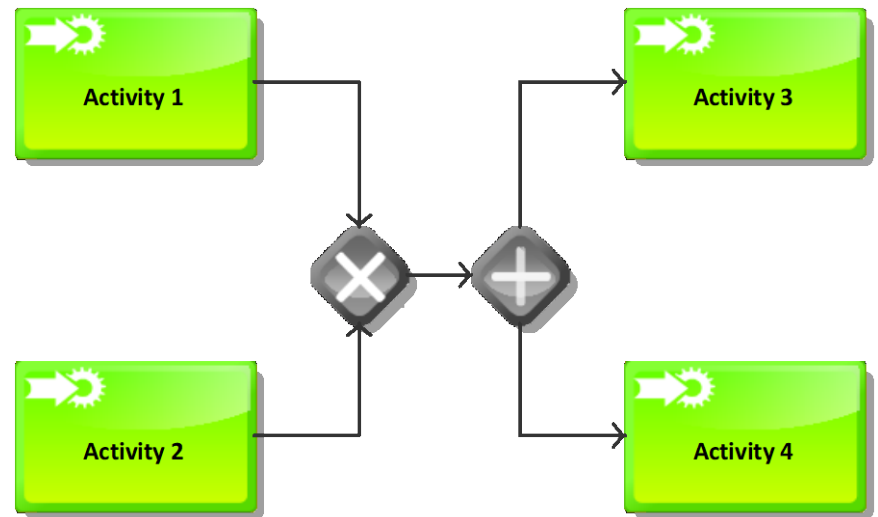
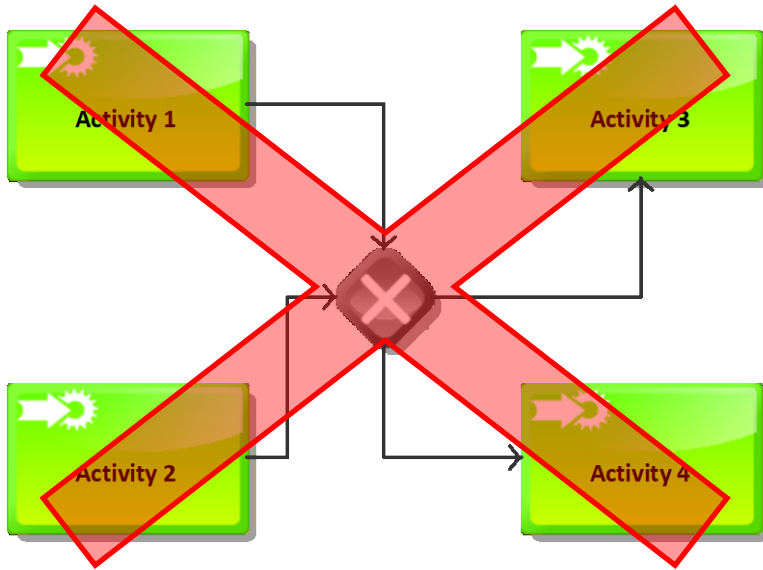
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Rule Operator objects

Notes on Rule operators:

To avoid ambiguity, gateways must be constructed as:

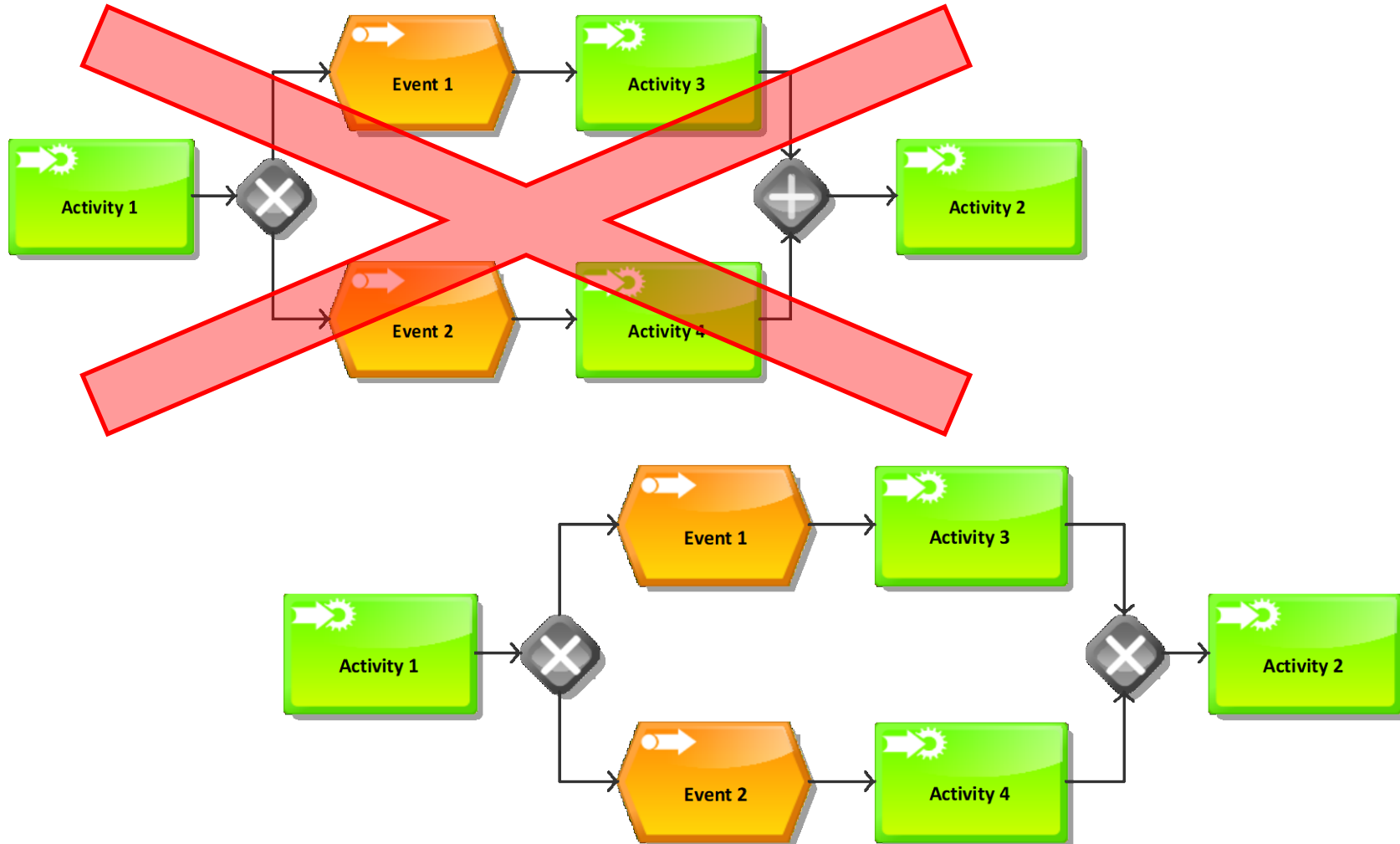
- one in-many out or
- Many in-one out



Rule Operator objects

Notes on Rule operators:

Diverging and converging operators must be of the same type



Modelling basics

Basic modelling tips:

The model is created for a particular audience. If that audience cannot read it, the purpose has not been achieved. In order to stand a better chance of having a readable model, take note of the following:

- Pay attention to layout. The start and end points of the process must be immediately apparent
- Big models become complex. Make use of multiple pages or Process Interfaces to simplify the process
- Pay attention to direction. Decide on left-to-right or top-to-bottom and keep consistent. Try to keep to this even in connections.
- Avoid all sources of ambiguity, even if allowed by the standard, eg. Implied “AND”
- No loose-standing objects without connections.
- Avoid crossing connections. Minimise by improving layout if they cannot be avoided
- Be consistent in modelling techniques
- While not mandatory, it may be useful to use events when a handover occurs between executing groups, describing the condition that occurs at the handover

Modelling Processes

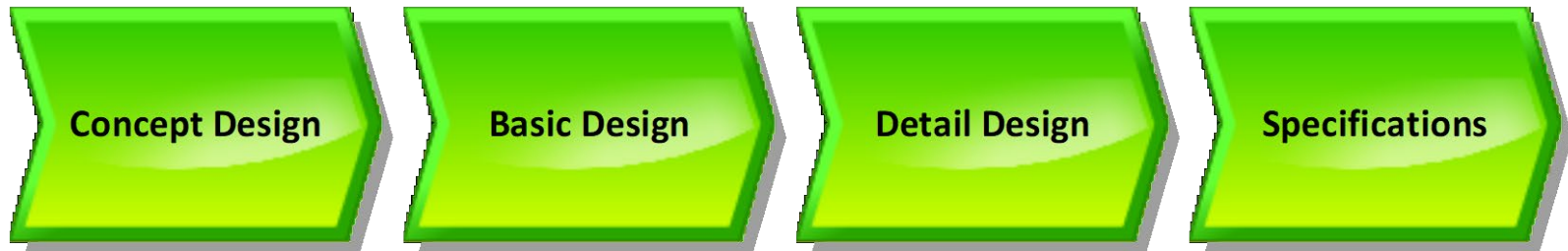
Basic modelling rule:

Model as little as possible, and as much as is necessary to effectively document the process, for the purpose that it being documented for.

Useful Suggestions

- Produce a methodology poster once finalised (including other model types and objects based on requirements)
- Control the methodology through a Change Control Mechanism like a User forum, to ensure the standards are preserved
- Implement a modelling QA process

Different Audiences



- There is no one size fits all
- Modelling to describe a functional spec for techies, vs modelling to describe a concept for management, is not the same picture
- However, they are both valid reasons for wanting to model a process
- The trick is to build a methodology that allows all of these

Layout – the ART of
modelling!!!!

Layout

Try and follow the following simple rules

- Quickly look at the model from a distance, where the text cannot be read:
 - Can you clearly see where the model starts and ends, i.e. all start and end points?
 - Can you clearly see where the flow of the model splits or converges?
 - Can you easily see the feedback/repeat loops?
 - Can you make out the default path? (Difficult in swimlanes)
 - Can you make sense of the connections?
- If the model isn't readable like this, chances are good it will confuse the reader
- This is true even if the model in terms of sequence and logic, is 100% correct.

Layout

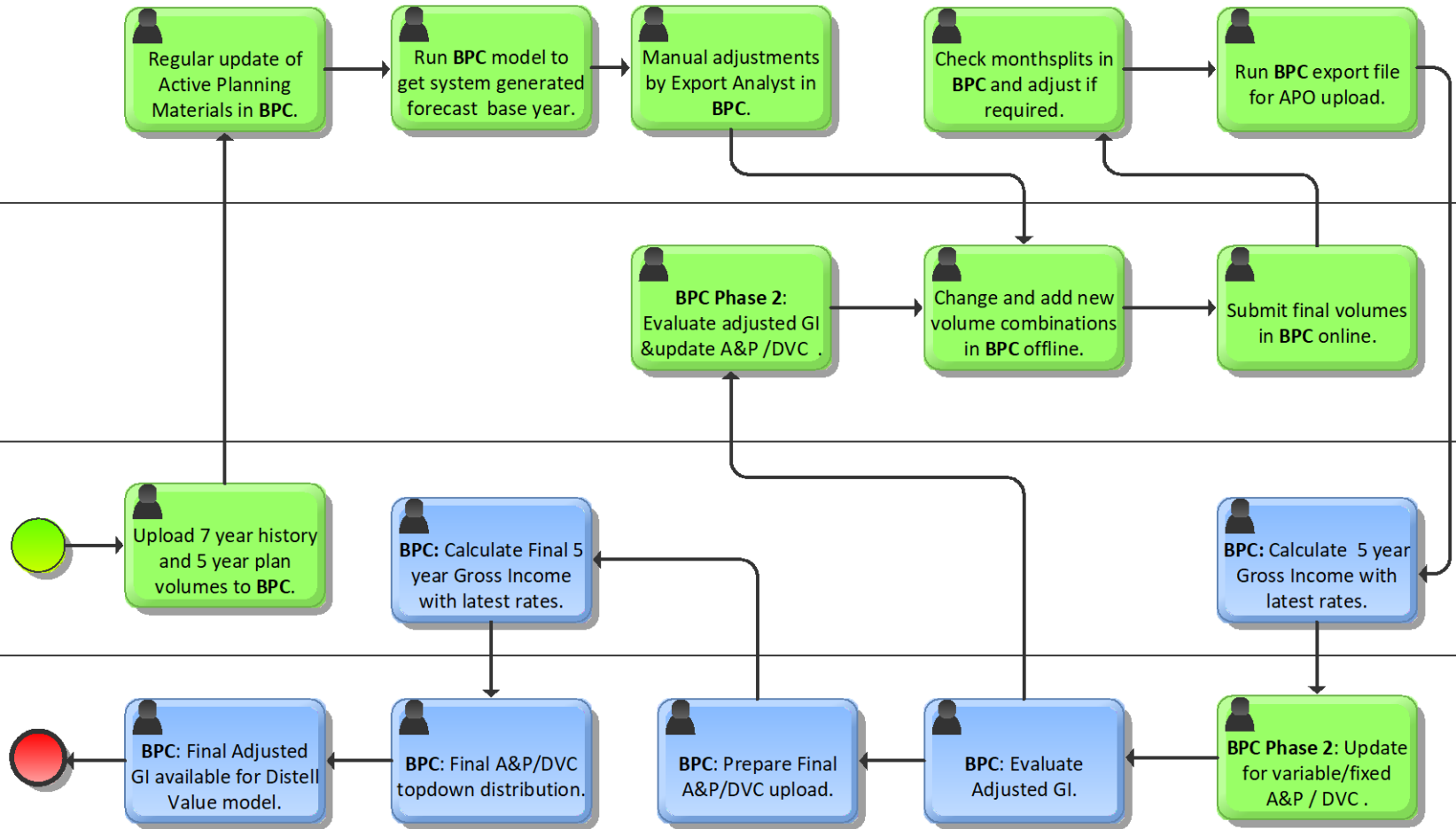
International Volume Business Planning process

Export Logistics

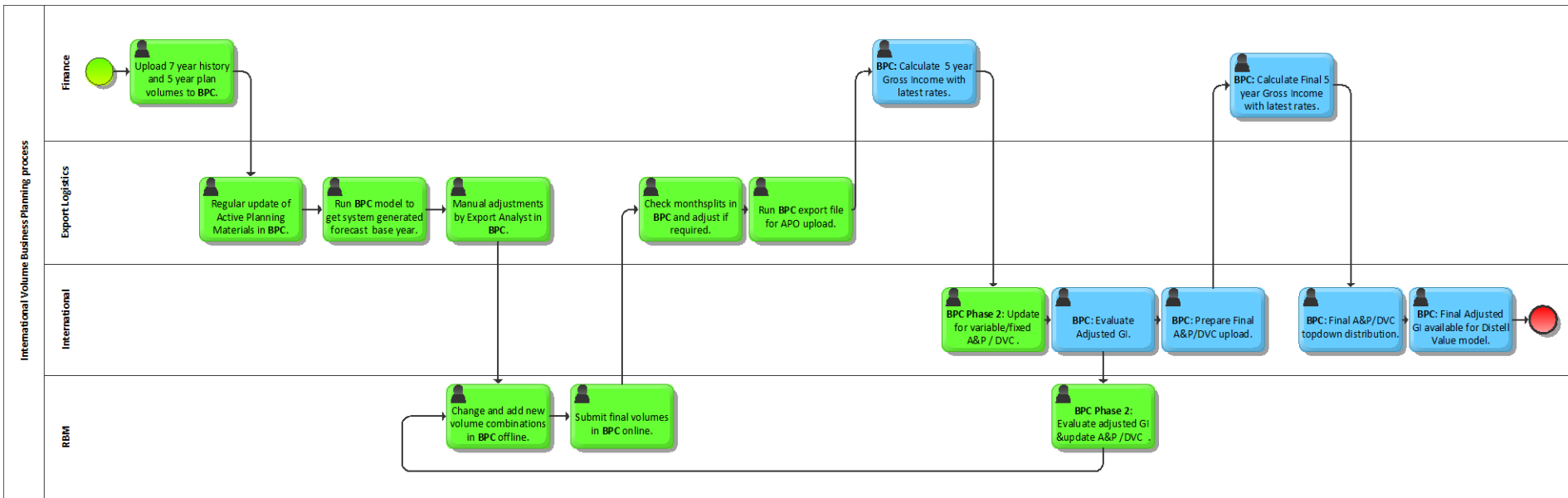
RBM

Finance and IT

International



Layout



Link to Aris Express

<https://www.ariscommunity.com/aris-express>