





# Open Digital Rights Enforcement Framework (ODRE): from descriptive to enforceable policies

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## Standardization



## Web of Things (WoT) Discovery

W3C Recommendation 05 December 2023



## EU Projects



COGITO

AURORAL



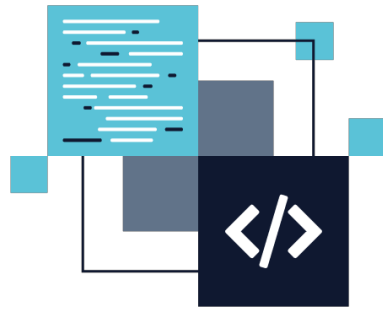
POLITÉCNICA

Permanent  
Professor



Senior  
Researcher





Development



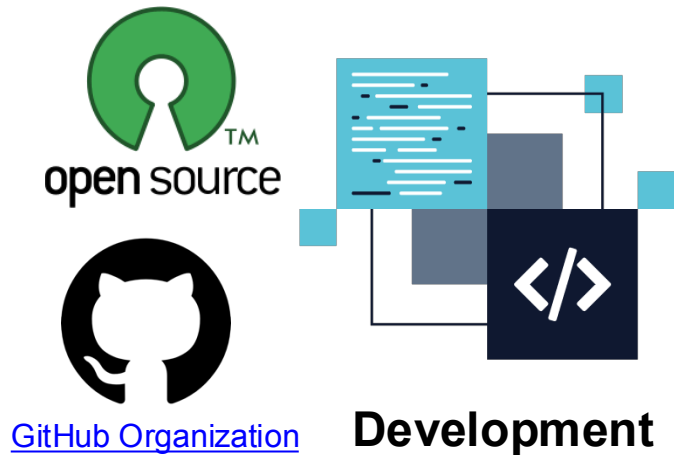
Research

- Enforcement libraries



- Ontology extensions of ODRL
  - Time
- Derived services

- Cimmino, A., Cano-Benito, J., & García-Castro, R. (2024). Open Digital Rights Enforcement Framework (ODRE): from descriptive to enforceable policies. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.17602*.
- Cano-Benito, J., Cimmino, A., & García-Castro, R. (2024). Towards time privacy policies in ODRL. In *NeXt-generation Data Governance workshop 2024*.
- Cano-Benito, J., Cimmino, A., & García-Castro, R. (2023, April). Injecting data into ODRL privacy policies dynamically with RDF mappings. In *Companion Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2023* (pp. 246-249).
- Cimmino, A., Cano-Benito, J., & García-Castro, R. (2023, April). Practical challenges of ODRL and potential courses of action. In *Companion Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2023* (pp. 1428-1431).



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If credentials are correct, you can access my resource

User must pay 5€  
if a document resource is read

PERMISSION/PROHIBITION/DUTY What? Which resource?

Under which circumstances?

Only during nighttime,  
you can read my data

User cannot display a movie  
if located in France

User can discover my cow's position  
if their GPS point is outside the  
fence GPS polygon



# ODRE approach to enforcement: fine-grinding the ODRL enforcement

## Enforcement understanding

Ontology must define the concepts (circumstances, actions, resources, ...) unambiguously for people and machines. Lexical differences must not affect the common understanding of policies, ontological terms must be clearly defined so their interpretation is closed.



## Requirements from use cases

Use cases must be collected to derive requirements, problems, and practical challenges. These must be addressed by the understanding layer or the theoretical enforcement layer. *For instance, are these common or individual requirements? Can these road-blocks be addressed with technological means or only manually?*



## Theoretical enforcement

Should promote an implementation-agnostic proposal; open enough (flexible) to include new practical challenges or use cases and closed enough to be implemented and used



## Implementations

Must meet what previous layers defined or established



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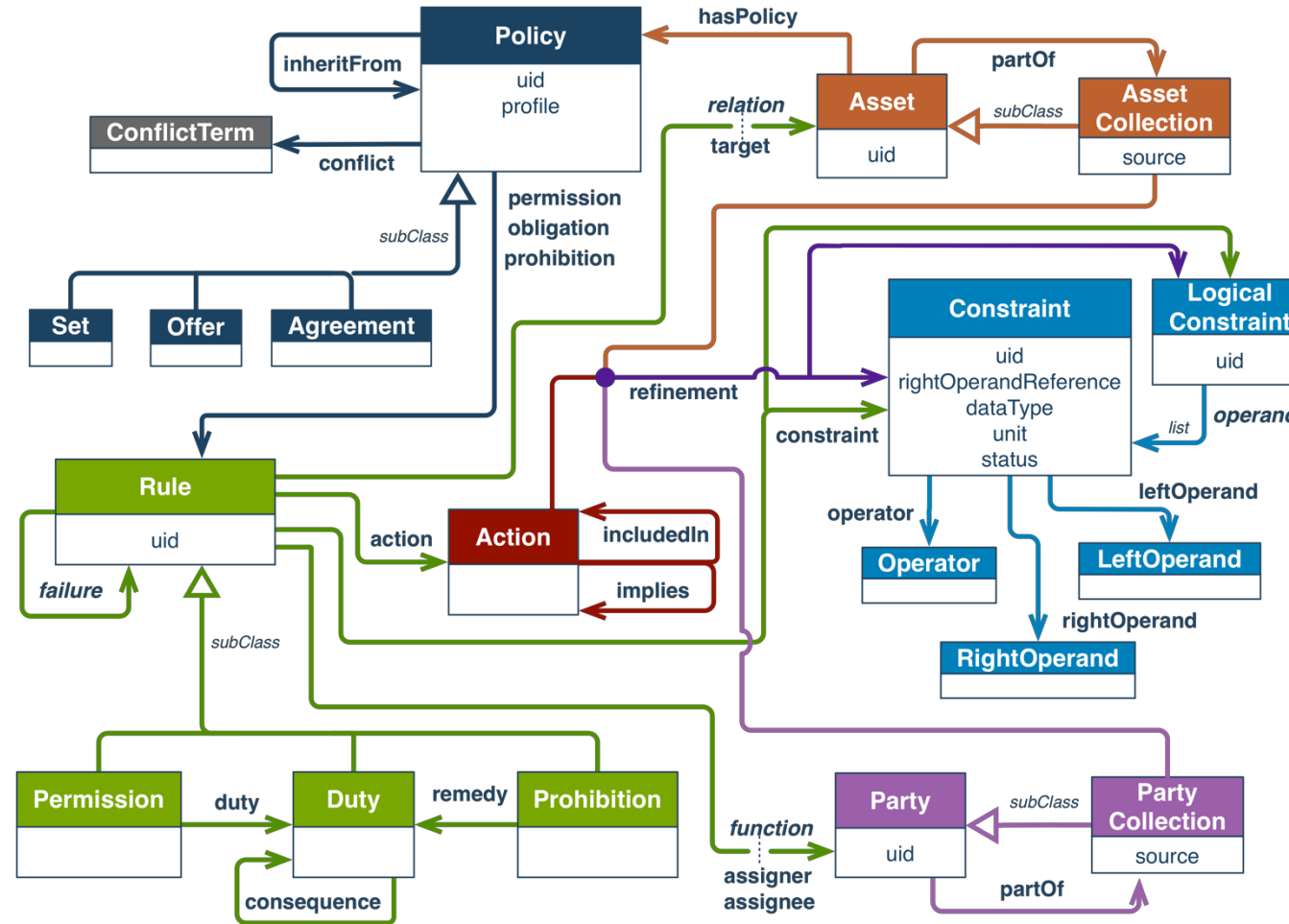
Must meet what previous layers defined or established





## ODRL Information Model 2.2

W3C Recommendation 15 February 2018



```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": "dateTime",  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "2006-05-30T09:00:00",  
    "@type": "xsd:dateTime"  
  }  
}  
...
```

P1

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": "dateTime",  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "09:00:00",  
    "@type": "xsd:time"  
  }  
}  
...
```

P2

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": {  
    "@type": "schema:Person", "schema:years": "17"  
  },  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": { "@value": "18", "@type":  
    "xsd:integer"}  
}  
...
```

P3

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": { "@value": "31", "@type": "xsd:integer" },  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": { "@value": "18", "@type": "xsd:integer" }  
}  
...
```

P4

- These policies use the same term, *odrl:gt*, but they add a small semantic flavour:
  - In P1 means that the current date has a value after the right's operand value
  - In P2 means that the current date has a value after the right's operand value, however, this later one is *xsd:time* and therefore they should not be compared
  - In P3 means that a *schema:Person* age is above 18 (over 18)
  - In P4 means that one whole number (W) is greater than the other.

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": "dateTime",  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "2006-05-01",  
    "@type": "xsd:dateTime" }  
  }  
},  
...  
P1
```

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": "dateTime",  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "2006-05-01",  
    "@type": "xsd:dateTime" }  
  }  
},  
...  
P2
```

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": {  
    "@type": "schema:Person", "schema:years": "17"  
  },  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": { "@value": "18", "@type": "xsd:integer" }  
},  
...  
P3
```

As humans we can infer these subtleties, however, two people may infer, and therefore understand, different meanings. The context helps, for instance, P3 and P4 may aim at representing if someone is above 18

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": {  
    "@type": "xsd:integer", "value": "17"  
  },  
  "operator": "gt",  
  "rightOperand": { "@value": "18", "@type": "xsd:integer" }  
},  
...  
P4
```

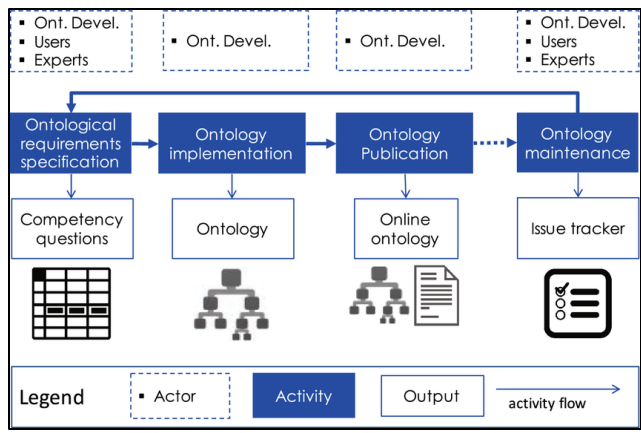
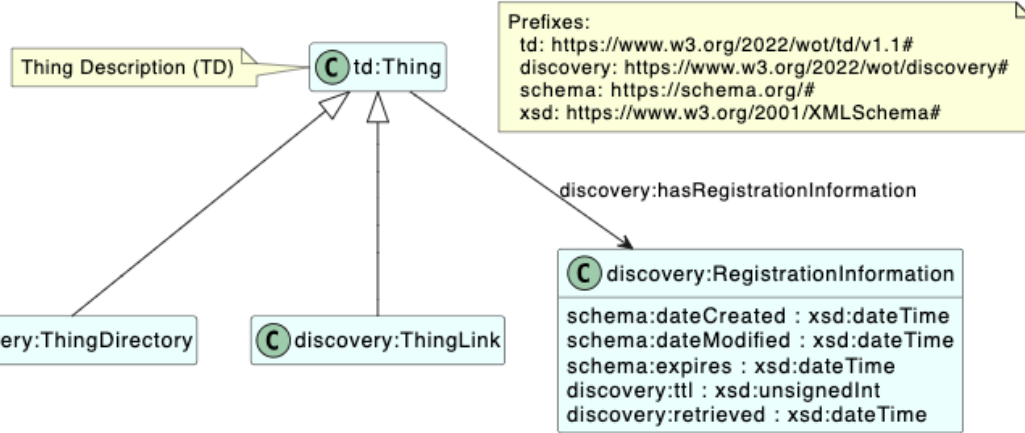


• They use the same term, *odrl:gt*, but they add a small flavour:

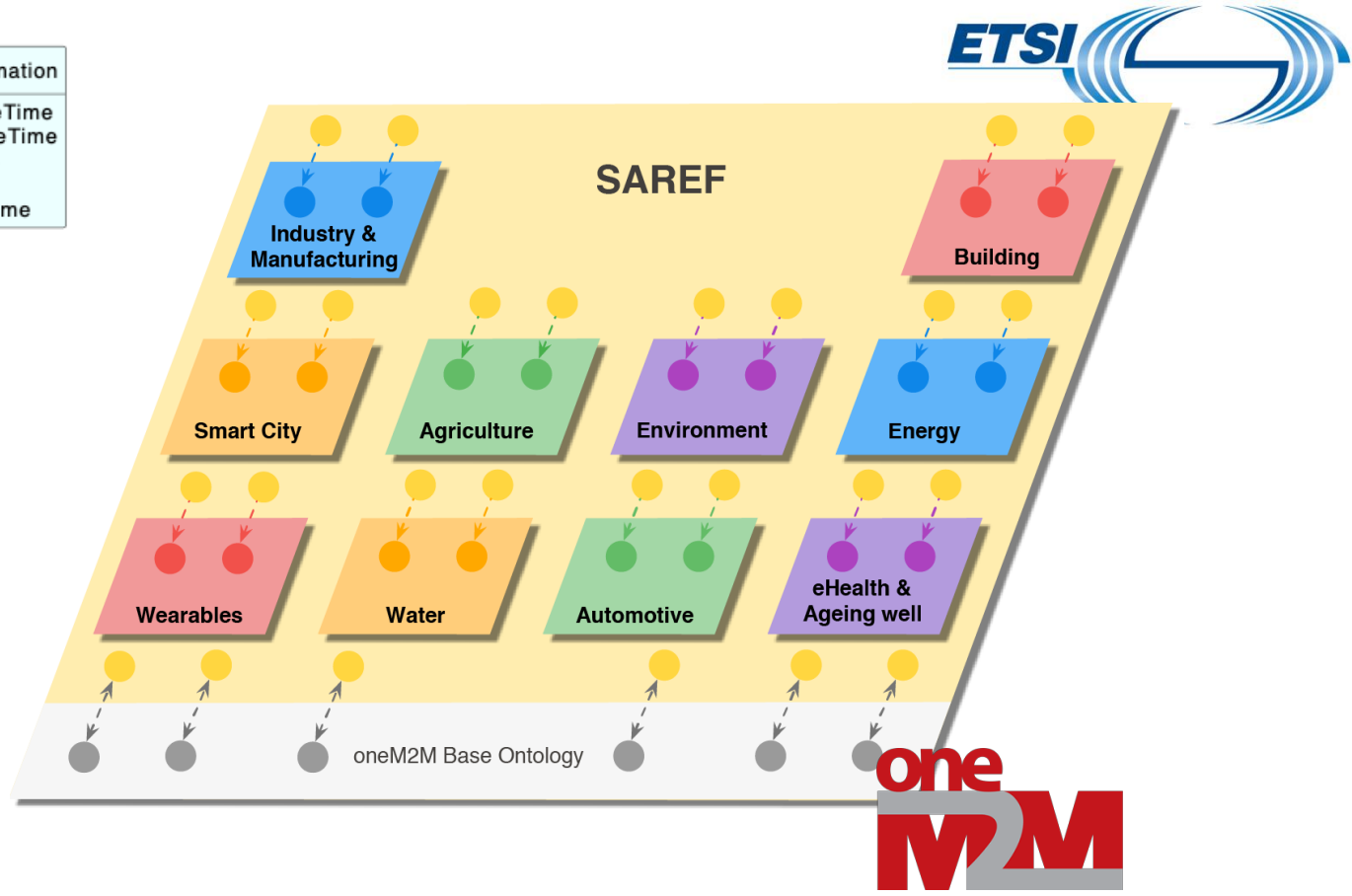
- In P1 means that the date is greater than 2006-05-01
- In P2 means that the date is greater than 2006-05-01 and therefore they are not the same
- In P3 means that a person is older than 17 years
- In P4 means that one whole number (W) is greater than the other.

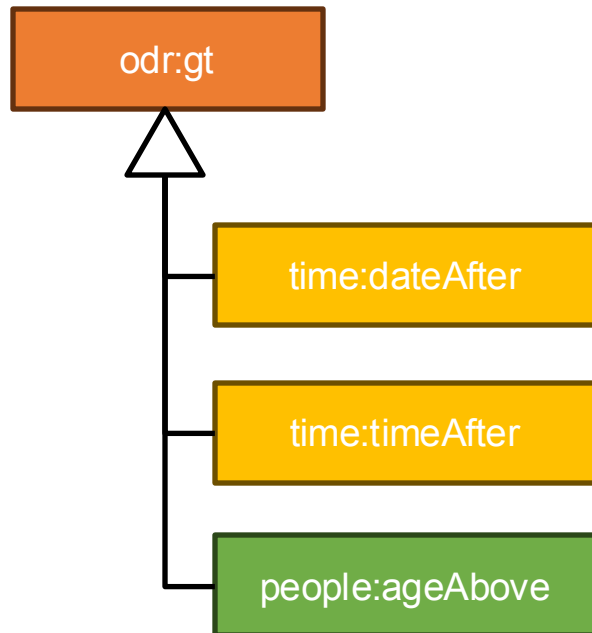
As machine these subtleties may led to different ways of processing data, i.e., different ways of implementing this operator

# How other standards are addressing this issue



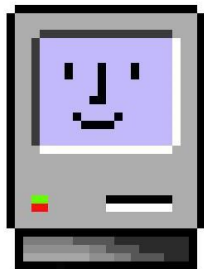
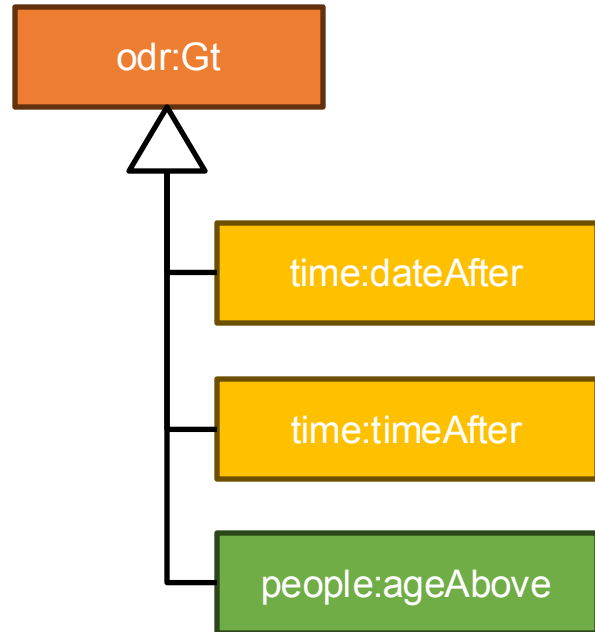
LoT methodology





- Allows narrowing down the definition of terms and concepts, reducing potential interpretations and increasing their unambiguous understanding:
  - For example, “time:dateAfter” compares two xsd:dateTime operands, cannot compare operands of different datatypes.
- Provide domain-specific artefacts related to the ontology:
  - Documentation
  - Ontology portal
  - SHACL shapes
  - JSON-LD 1.1 contexts
  - ...

**THESE MODULES SHOULD COME FROM THE STANDARD**



```
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...
```

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": "dateTime",  
  "operator": "time:dateAfter",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "2002-05-30T09:00:00",  
    "@type": "xsd:dateTime"  
  }  
}  
...
```

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": "dateTime",  
  "operator": "time:timeAfter",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "09:00:00",  
    "@type": "xsd:time"  
  }  
}  
...
```

```
...  
"constraint": {  
  "leftOperand": {  
    "@type": "schema:Person", "schema:years" : "17"  
  },  
  "operator": "people:ageAbove",  
  "rightOperand": {  
    "@value": "18", "@type": "xsd:integer"  
  }  
}  
...
```



- It is to be **expected to have multiple implementations** for the **enforcement**. Even for the same action, operand or operator.
- It is important that the **different implementations do not differ in the abstract behaviour** just *“in the code”*.
  - Somehow, the **ontological term should act as an interface** that the code implements
- **Defining domain-specific ontologies lower the chances of interpreting differently the same ontological concept** by narrowing down its meaning
  - This approach reduces the divergence of potential enforcement implementations
- Having a core ontology that is more abstract, and domain specific extensions is a common practice in ontology engineering

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Must meet what previous layers defined or established



- Architecture for Unified Regional and Open digital ecosystems for Smart Communities and wider Rural Areas Large scale application  
→ AURORAL (101016854) / doi [10.3030/101016854](https://doi.org/10.3030/101016854)
- H2020-EU.2.1.1. - INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP - Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Budget 16.265.962,26€
- Partners: 30 partners
- 8 pilots
- More than 20 cross-domain use cases



- *R1: Dynamic data must be handled in policies during enforcement*
  - Policies rely on operands holding data:
    - Written in the policy → may lead to privacy leak **HARD RESTRICTION**
    - Known by the enforcement system **SOFT RESTRICTION**
    - Provided by someone (whoever is enforcing the policy) **SOFT RESTRICTION**
    - Provided by a third-party service **SOFT RESTRICTION**
- *R2: Enforcement should specify if an action is part of the enforcement or must be performed by someone*
  - Actions are also something that must "happen" during enforcement
  - In the case action is a physical action, who has such responsibility

- *R3: Enforcement must support and couple the ontological terms with code implementations, for this, a well and closed definition of the terms is needed*
  - Ontology extensions serve to this purpose
- *R4: New terms in the ontology may appear, or extensions of the ontology, and the enforcement must be able to adapt to them by including new behaviour coupled with such terms.*
- *R5: Enforcement must support N-ary operands and operators*
  - Order in the arguments may be challenging
- *R6: Enforcement must be synchronous and/or asynchronous*
  - Maybe this information should be specified in the policy
- *R7: Compatibility among operands in an operator must be considered*
  - We cannot compare xsd:date with xsd:time, xsd:dateTime with xsd:date, ....

- ODRE has collected different requirements from the use cases of the project AURORAL
  - The collection of **use cases if coming from the standard will improve by far what we need (the world) to take into consideration in the enforcement process**
- **ODRE implementation does not cover all these requirements since some (like R5 or R6) move too away from the actual standard**
- We have **stated only** what we consider the **most important requirements, not all those collected**



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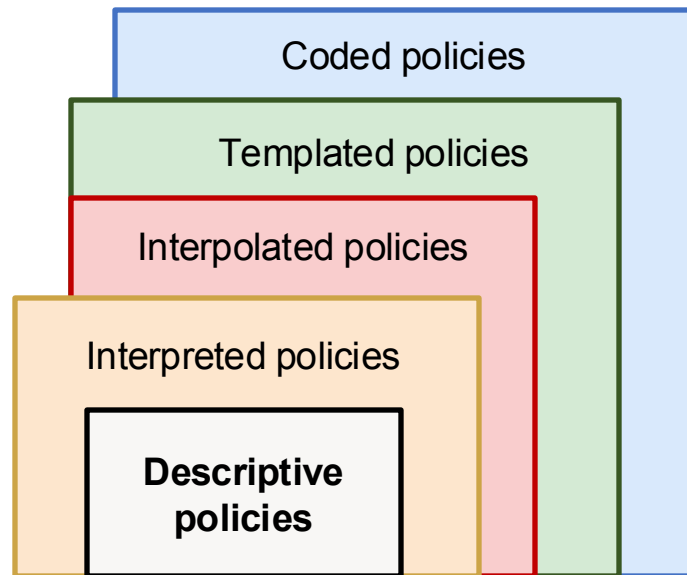
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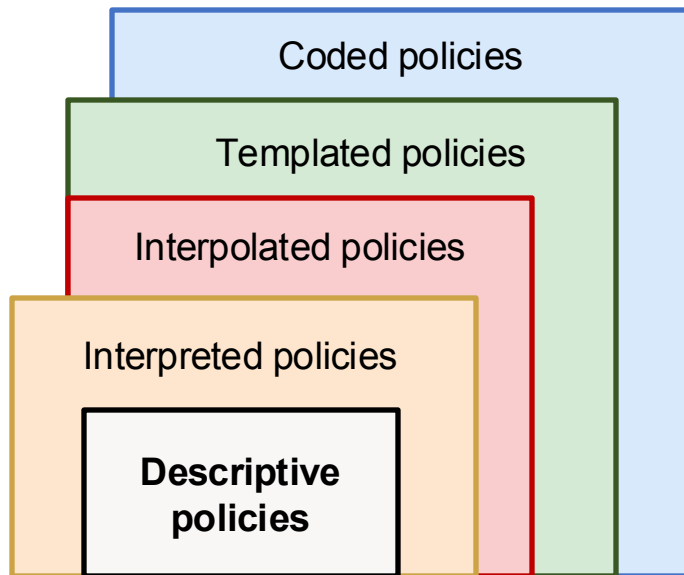


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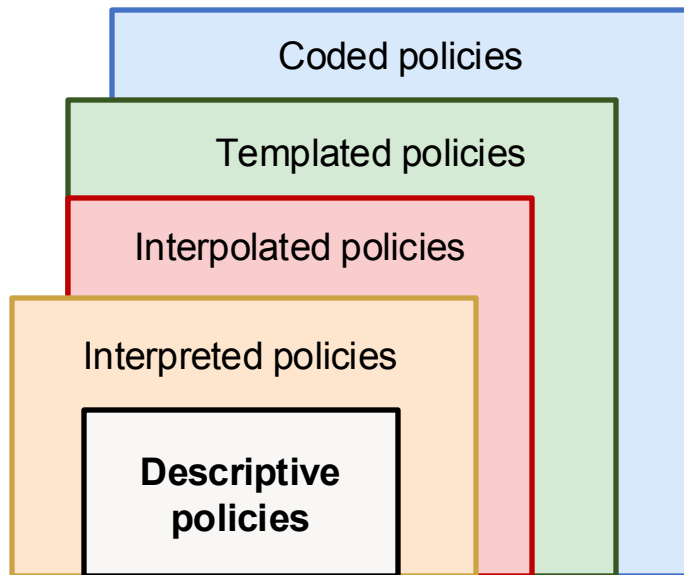
Must meet what previous layers defined or established





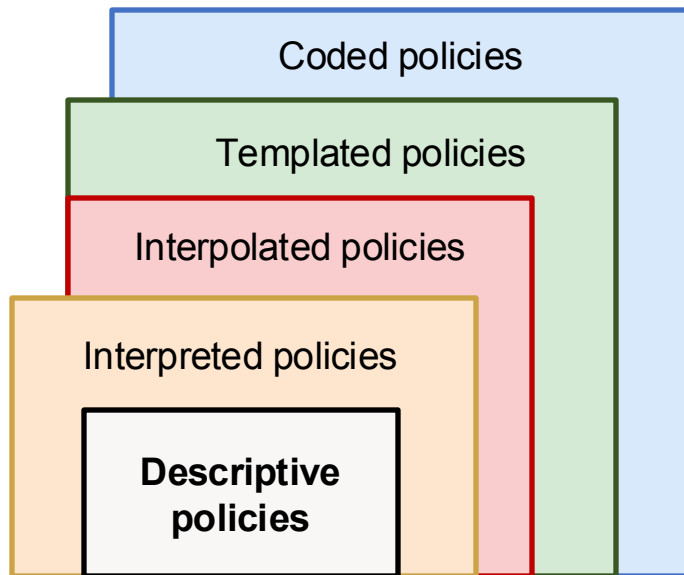


These are **policies** that are expressed **with terms from the ODRL ontology or extensions of it**. As a result, **they cannot be enforced**.



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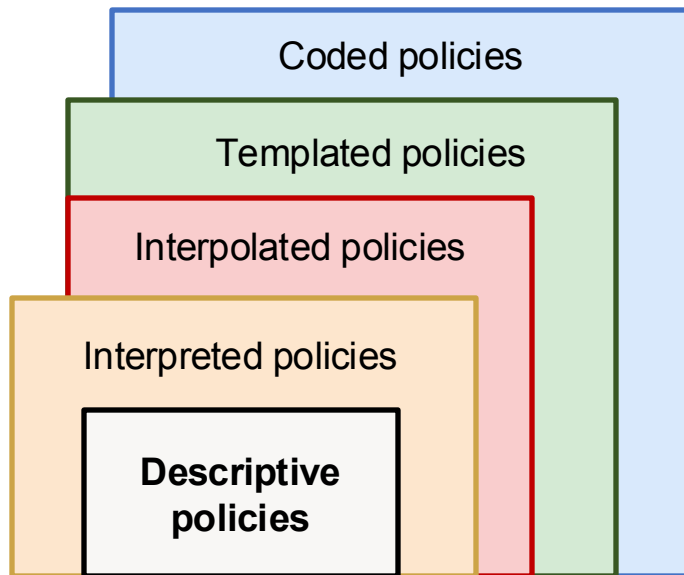
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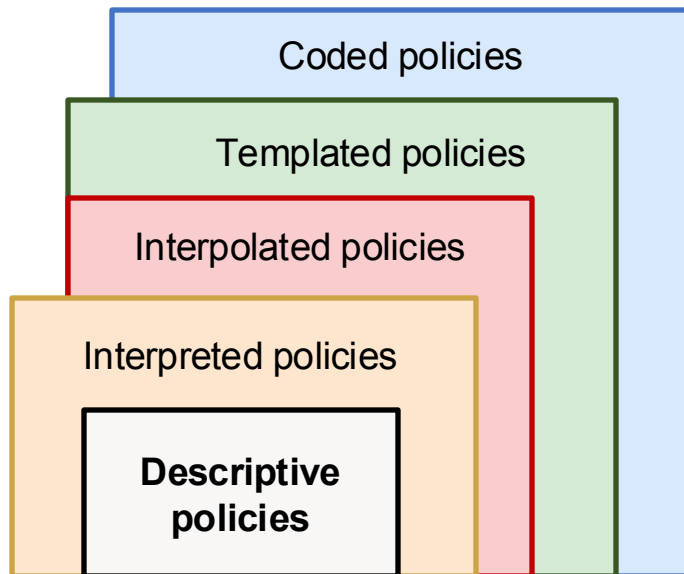
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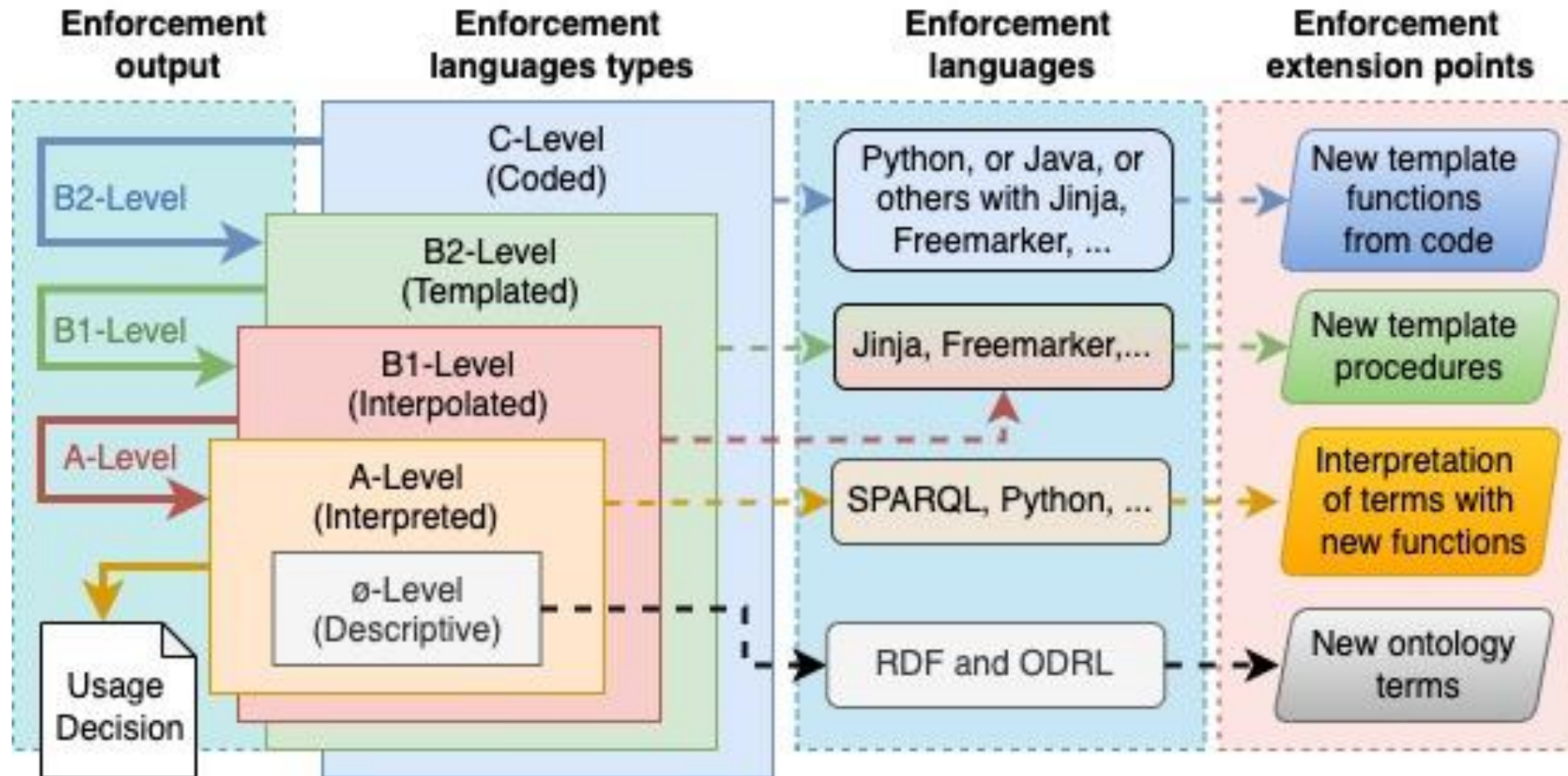
These are **policies** that are expressed **mixing a templated language with RDF**. However, the **template language references functions** that are implemented **with a code from a programming language**, e.g., java, and that invoked during enforcement.

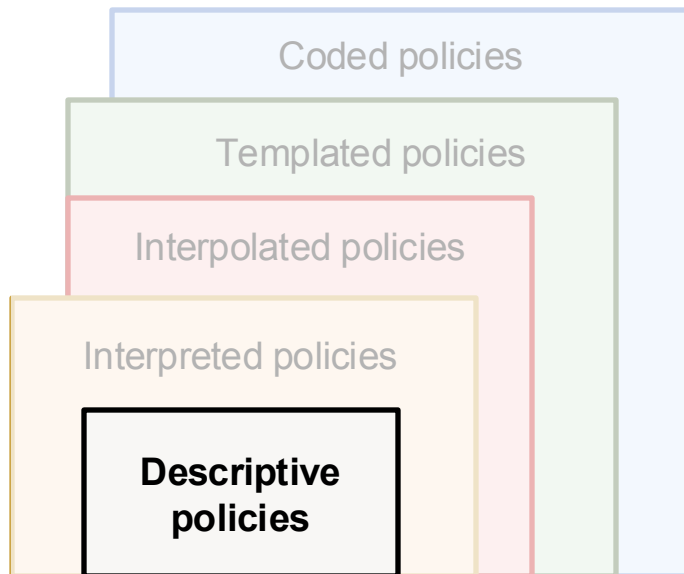
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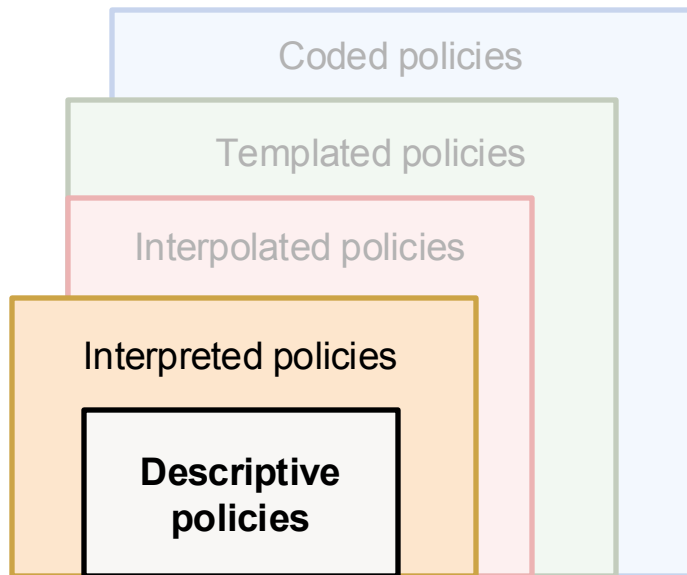
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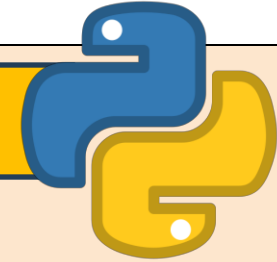


```
{
  "@context": "...",
  "@type": "Policy",
  "uid": "https://upm.es/policy/1",
  "permission": [
    {
      "target": "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users/1",
      "action": "read",
      "constraint": [
        {
          "leftOperand": "dateTime",
          "operator": "gt",
          "rightOperand": {
            "@value": "2018-01-01T00:40:30",
            "@type": "xsd:dateTime"
          }
        },
        {
          "leftOperand": "media",
          "operator": "eq",
          "rightOperand": {
            "@value": "online",
            "@type": "xsd:string"
          }
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

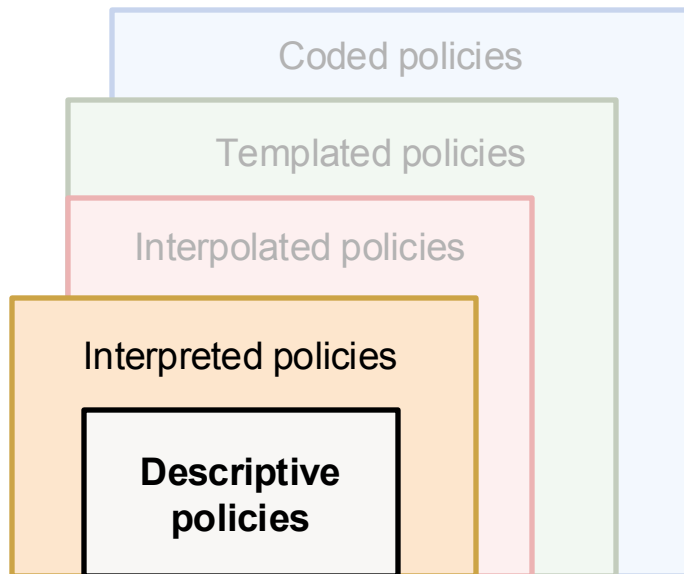


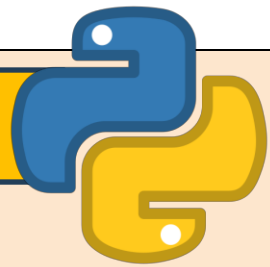
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{
  "@context": "...",
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        },
        {
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          }
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

```
odrl_gt(odrl_datetime(), cast_dateTime("2018-01-01T00:40:30")) and odrl_eq(odrl_media(), cast_string("online"))
```



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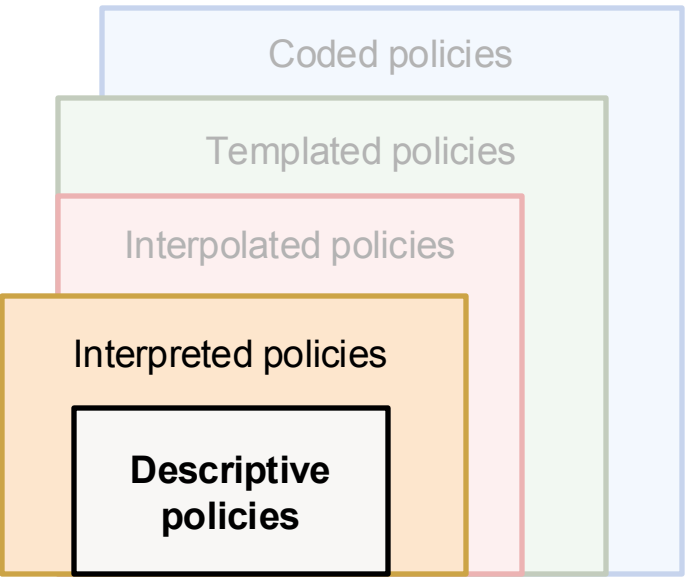


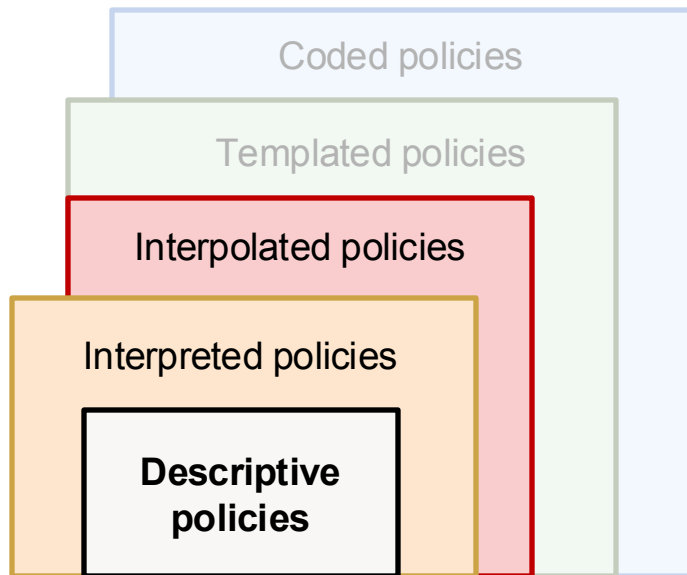


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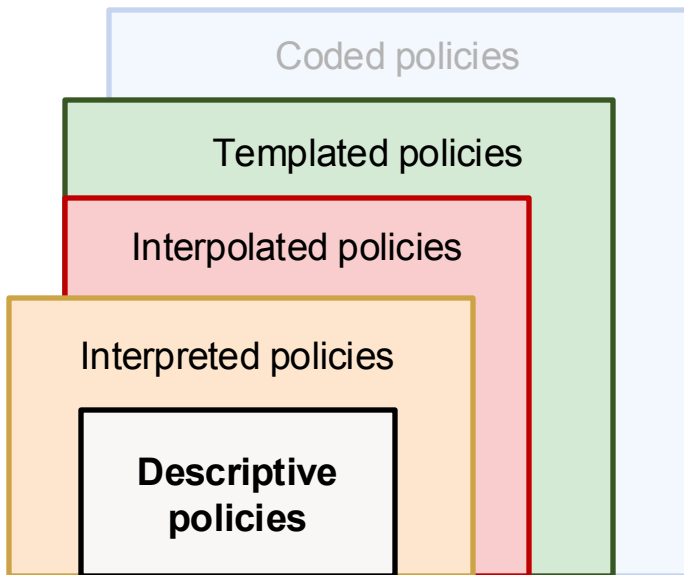
```
SELECT ?enforcementResult {
  BIND (
    fnc:now() > xsd:dateTime("2018-01-01T00:40:30")
    AND
    fnc:media() == xsd:string("online")
    AS ?enforcementResult
  ).}
```

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://upm.es/policy/1",
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  "read",
  "nt": [
    "Operand": "dateTime",
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```





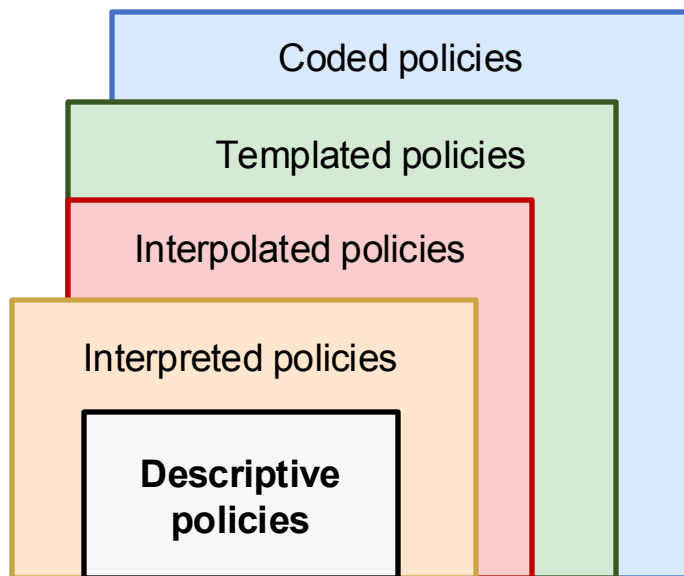
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  "@context": "...",
  "@type": "Policy",
  "uid": "https://upm.es/policy/1",
  "permission": [
    {
      "target": "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users/1",
      "action": "read",
      "constraint": [
        {
          [#assign timeVar=.now?time?iso("Europe/Rome")?replace('\+.*','', 'r')]
          "leftOperand": "[=timeVar]",
          "operator": "gt",
          "rightOperand": {
            "@value": "2018-01-01T00:40:30",
            "@type": "xsd:dateTime"
          }
        },
        {
          "leftOperand": "media",
          "operator": "eq",
          "rightOperand": {
            "@value": "online",
            "@type": "xsd:string"
          }
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
    
```





```
[#-- Data access --]
[#assign weather=request("GET", https://api.open-meteo.com/v1/forecast?
latitude=40.4050099&longitude=-3.839519&hourly=temperature_2m)]
[#-- Data handling --]
[#assign tmp="ERROR"]
[#list weather.hourly.time as elem]
[#if elem?contains("T"+currentTime) || elem?contains("T0"+currentTime)]
[#assign timeVar =weather.hourly.time[elem?index]]
[#break]
[/#if]
[/#list]
{
  "@context": "...", "@type": "Policy", "uid": "https://upm.es/policy/1",
  "permission": [{
    "target": "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users/1",
    "action": "read",
    "constraint": [
      {
        "leftOperand": "[=timeVar]",
        "operator": "gt", "rightOperand": { "@value": "2018-01-01T00:40:30",
"@type": "xsd:dateTime" }
      }, {
        "leftOperand": "media", "operator": "eq",
        "rightOperand": {
          "@value": "online", "@type": "xsd:string" }}}]]}]}
```

---

**Data:**  $P_*, M, F$   
**Result:**  $D$

- 1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset;$
- 2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F);$
- 3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A);$
- 4 **for**  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  **do**
- 5      $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id});$
- 6      $P_I \leftarrow \text{transformConstraints}(C_R);$
- 7      $d \leftarrow \text{evaluate}(P_I);$
- 8     **if**  $d$  **then**
- 9          $a \leftarrow \text{action}(P_A, r_{id});$
- 10         **if**  $\text{supported}(a)$  **then**
- 11              $A_I \leftarrow \text{transformAction}(a);$
- 12              $V \leftarrow \text{perform}(A_I);$
- 13              $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, V)\};$
- 14         **end**
- 15         **else**
- 16              $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\};$
- 17         **end**
- 18     **end**
- 19 **end**

```

Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$ 
Result:  $D$ 
1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F)$ ;
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A)$ ;
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
5    $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
6    $P_I \leftarrow \text{transformConstraints}(C_R)$ ;
7    $d \leftarrow \text{evaluate}(P_I)$ ;
8   if  $d$  then
9      $a \leftarrow \text{action}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
10    if  $\text{supported}(a)$  then
11       $A_I \leftarrow \text{transformAction}(a)$ ;
12       $V \leftarrow \text{perform}(A_I)$ ;
13       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, V)\}$ ;
14    end
15    else
16       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\}$ ;
17    end
18  end
19 end

```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
- $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
- $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
- Decision result after evaluation

Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F);$ 
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A);$ 
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
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18  end
19 end
    
```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
  - $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
  - $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
  - Decision result after evaluation
1. Reduce policies to interpreted language
    - inject interpolation data variables and coded function, then, solve policy
    - The result must be an interpreted policy

Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F)$ ;
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A)$ ;
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
5    $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
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8   if  $d$  then
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15    else
16       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\}$ ;
17    end
18  end
19 end
    
```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
  - $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
  - $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
  - Decision result after evaluation
2. For the policy, find the rules and its constraints
- Filter the rule using, for instance, SPARQL

Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F)$ ;
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A)$ ;
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
5    $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
6    $P_I \leftarrow \text{transformConstraints}(C_R)$ ;
7    $d \leftarrow \text{evaluate}(P_I)$ ;
8   if  $d$  then
9      $a \leftarrow \text{action}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
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11       $A_I \leftarrow \text{transformAction}(a)$ ;
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13       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, V)\}$ ;
14    end
15    else
16       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\}$ ;
17    end
18  end
19 end
    
```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
  - $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
  - $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
  - Decision result after evaluation
3. Transform the policy into an interpreted language and enforce the result



Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F)$ ;
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A)$ ;
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
5    $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
6    $P_I \leftarrow \text{transformConstraints}(C_R)$ ;
7    $d \leftarrow \text{evaluate}(P_I)$ ;
8   if  $d$  then
9      $a \leftarrow \text{action}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
10    if  $\text{supported}(a)$  then
11       $A_I \leftarrow \text{transformAction}(a)$ ;
12       $V \leftarrow \text{perform}(A_I)$ ;
13       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, V)\}$ ;
14    end
15  else
16     $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\}$ ;
17  end
18 end
19 end
    
```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
  - $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
  - $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
  - Decision result after evaluation
4. If the decision is positive,  $d$ , retrieve the action related to the constraints. Check if that action is enforceable, i.e., is coupled the action with some interpretable code

Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F)$ ;
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A)$ ;
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
5    $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
6    $P_I \leftarrow \text{transformConstraints}(C_R)$ ;
7    $d \leftarrow \text{evaluate}(P_I)$ ;
8   if  $d$  then
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```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
  - $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
  - $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
  - Decision result after evaluation
4. If the decision is positive,  $d$ , retrieve the action related to the constraints. Check if that action is enforceable, i.e., is coupled the action with some interpretable code
- 4.1 Transform the action into interpretable code, run it, and store the result as part of the decision



Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F);$ 
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A);$ 
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16       $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\};$ 
17    end
18  end
19 end
    
```

- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
  - $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
  - $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
  - Decision result after evaluation
4. If the decision is positive,  $d$ , retrieve the action related to the constraints. Check if that action is enforceable, i.e., is coupled the action with some interpretable code
- 4.1 Transform the action into interpretable code, run it, and store the result as part of the decision
- 4.2 Store the action URI as part of the decision

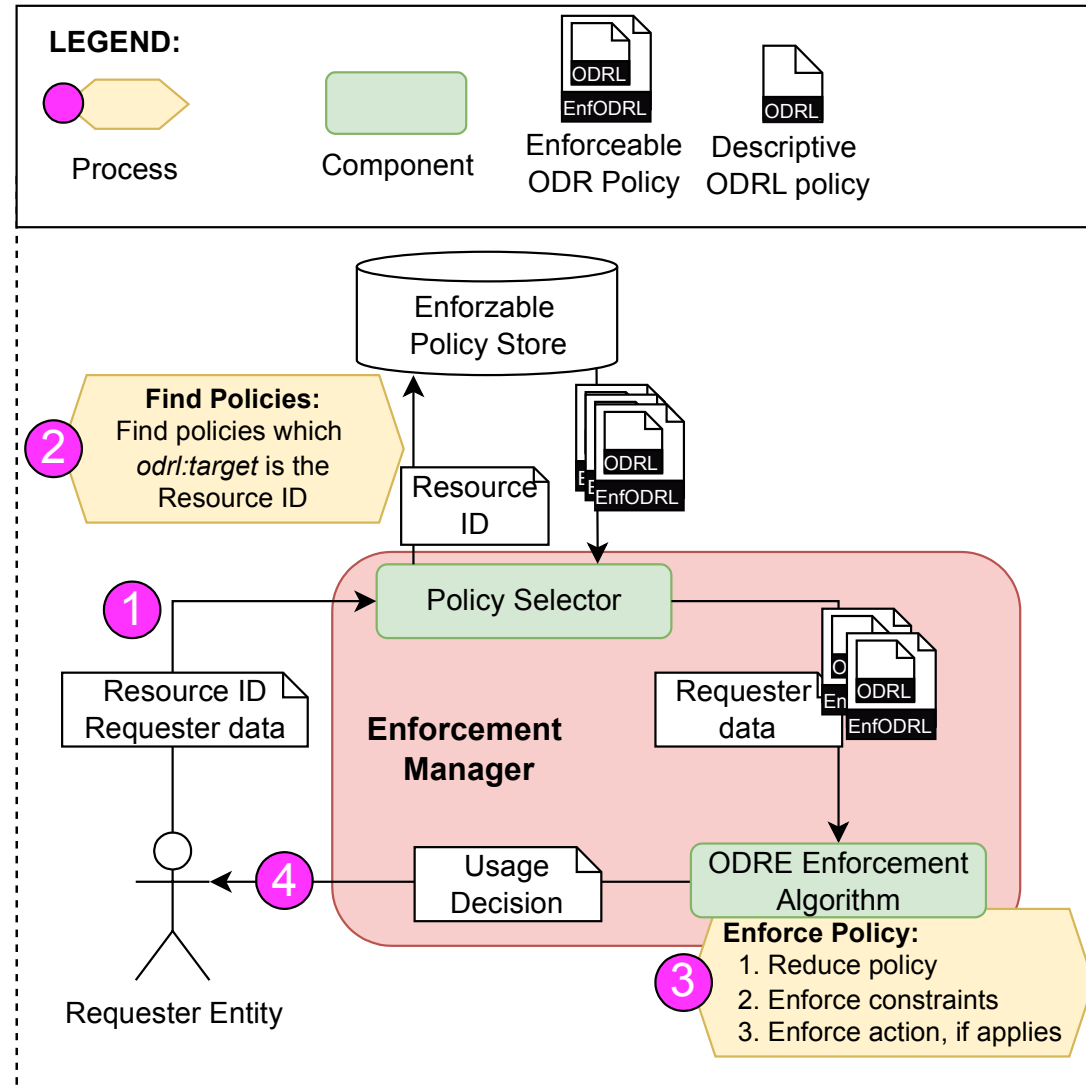
Data:  $P_*$   $M$   $F$   
 Result:  $D$

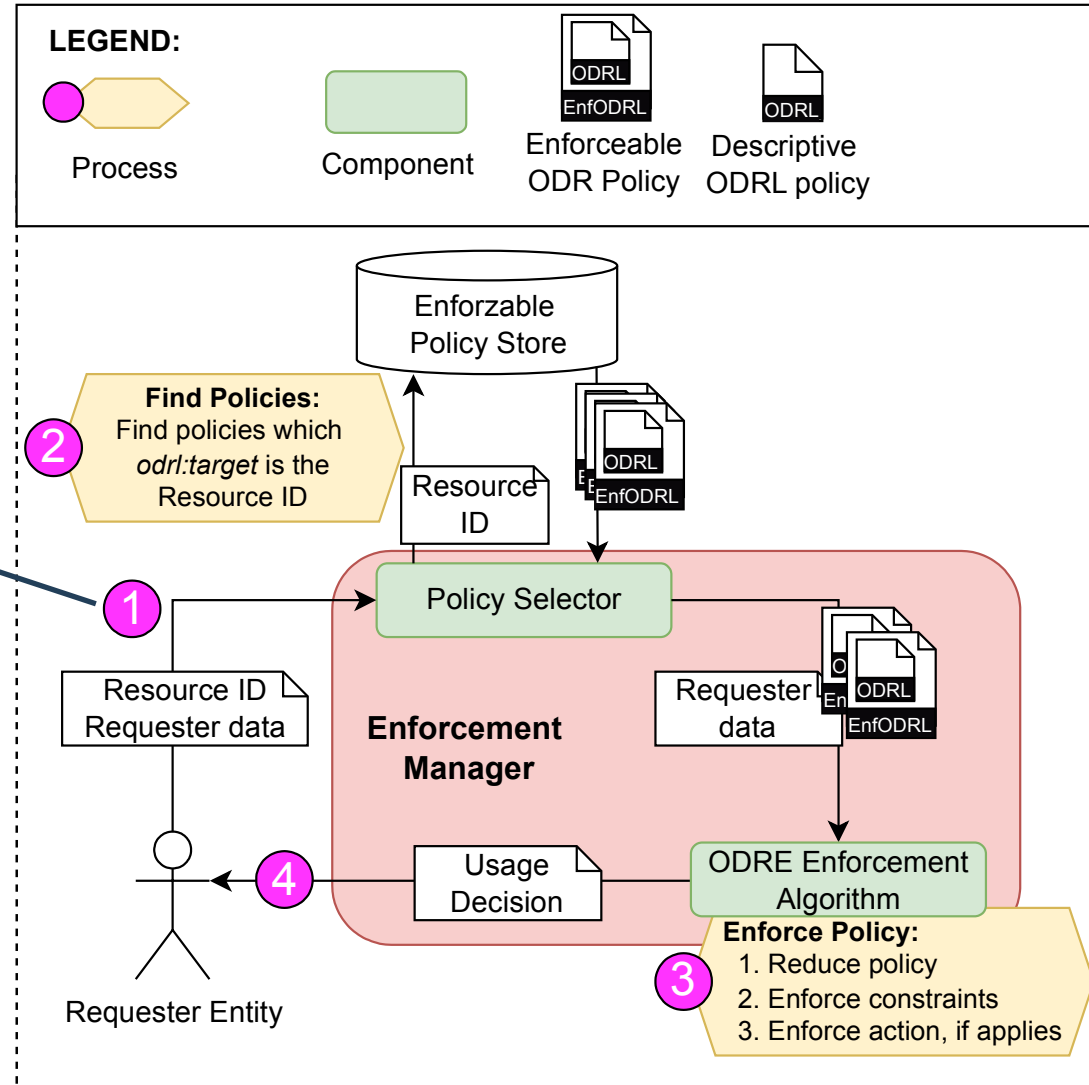
```

1  $D \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
2  $P_A \leftarrow \text{reduce}(P_*, M, F)$ ;
3  $R_{id} \leftarrow \text{rules}(P_A)$ ;
4 for  $r_{id} \in R_{id}$  do
5    $C_R \leftarrow \text{constraints}(P_A, r_{id})$ ;
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14    end
15  else
16     $D \leftarrow D \cup \{(a, a)\}$ ;
17  end
18 end
19 end
    
```

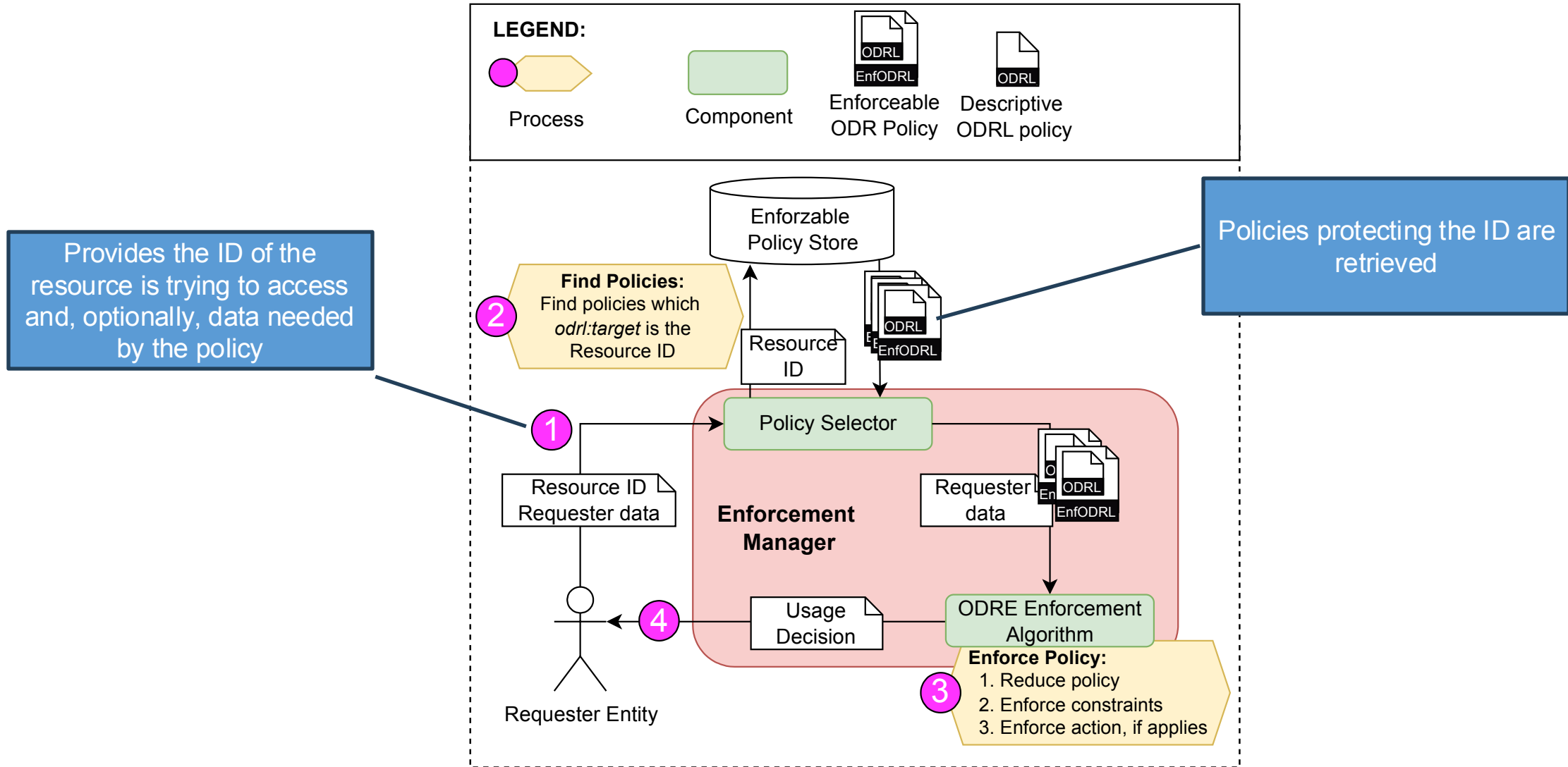
- $P_*$  a ODRL policy
- $M$  a key-value set with interpolation variables
- $F$  a key-value set with coded functions
- Decision result after evaluation

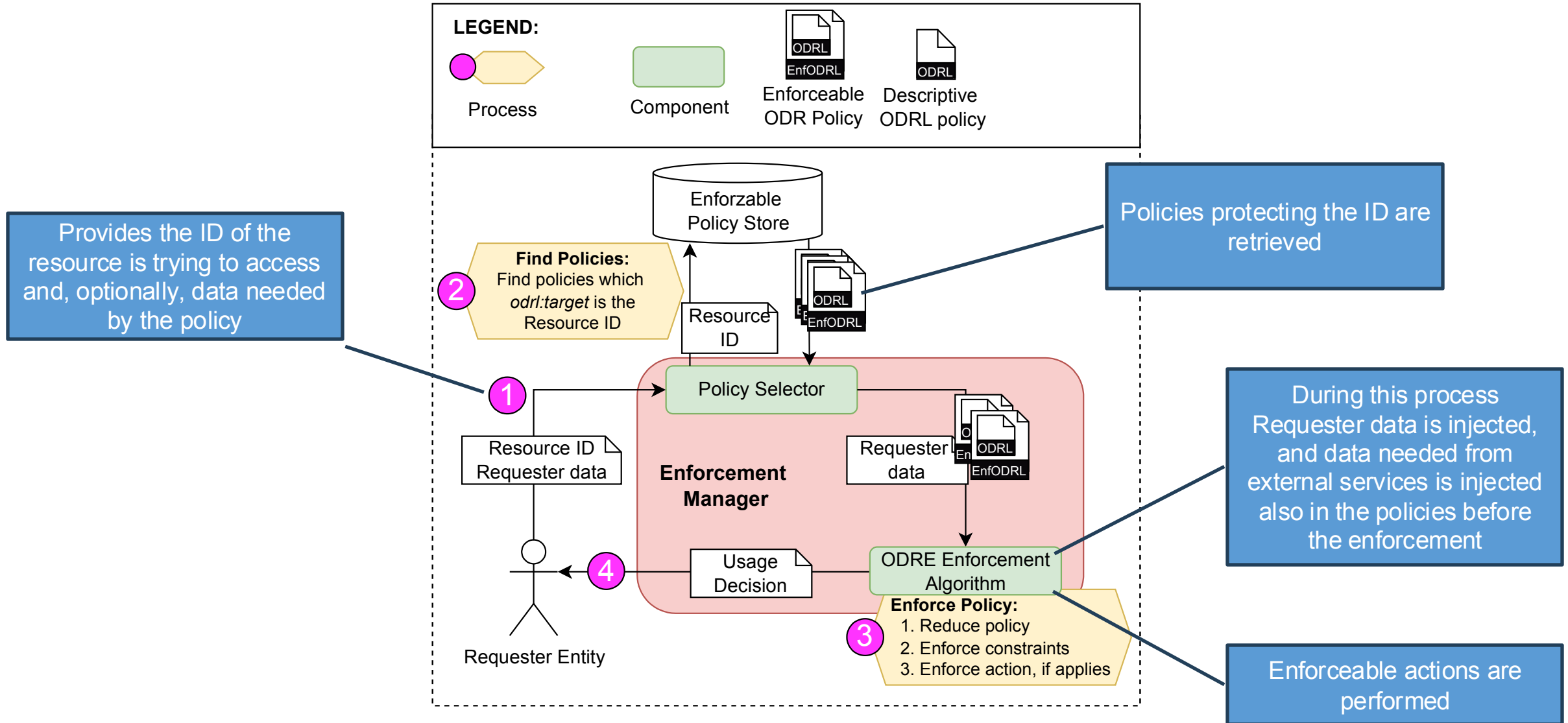
## 5. Return the Decision





Provides the ID of the resource is trying to access and, optionally, data needed by the policy





- **ODRE approach aims to be implementation agnostic**
- Its goal is **not to impose a solution** but rather to **define and model the problem and provide an approach to address it.**
- **Multiple improvements exist:**
  - o The current limitations where not overcome since this would move away ODRE from the standard.

# ODRE approach to enforcement: fine-grinding the ODRL enforcement

## Enforcement understanding

Ontology must define the concepts (circumstances, actions, resources, ...) unambiguously for people and machines. Lexical differences must not affect the common understanding of policies, ontological terms must be clearly defined so their interpretation is closed.



## Requirements from use cases

Use cases must be collected to derive requirements, problems, and practical challenges. These must be addressed by the understanding layer or the theoretical enforcement layer. *For instance, are these common or individual requirements? Can these road-blocks be addressed with technological means or only manually?*



## Theoretical enforcement

Should promote an implementation-agnostic proposal; open enough (flexible) to include new practical challenges or use cases and closed enough to be implemented and used



## Implementations

Must meet what previous layers defined or established







<https://github.com/ODRE-Framework/odre-java>

<https://central.sonatype.com/artifact/io.github.odre-framework/odre-core>



<https://github.com/ODRE-Framework/odre-python>

<https://pypi.org/project/odre/>

**Supported operands:** `odrl:dateTime`, `otime:time`, `otime:date`

**Supported operators:** `odrl:eq`, `odrl:neq`, `odrl:lt`, `odrl:lteq`, `odrl:gt`, `odrl:gteq`, `otime:between`

**Supported actions:** `demo:dummy_read`



**DEMO Link**



