Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange

SDMX STANDARDS: SECTION 2

INFORMATION MODEL:

UML CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

VERSION 2.1

Revision 2.0

July 2020

Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange

Revision History

Revision	Date	Contents
	April 2011	Initial release
1.0	July 2011	Rectification of problems of the specifications dated April 2011
2.0	July 2020	Section 13 completely reformulated for the adoption of the Validation and Transformation Language (VTL)

Contents

Corrigendum

The following problems with the specification dated April 2011 have been rectified as described below.

1. **Problem**

   Figure 35 - Class diagram of the Item Scheme Map – shows the ItemSchemeMap with an alias attribute. This attribute is not supported in the schemas.

   Rectification

   The attribute alias is removed from the ItemSchemeMap class and also from the table in section 9.4.3.2.

2. **Problem**

   The Time Dimension and Measure Dimension in the Figure 40 - Constraints - Cube Region and Metadata Target Region Constraints – are shown as inheriting from Dimension, but in Figure 23 - Relationship class diagram of the Data Structure Definition excluding representation – they, and Dimension itself, inherit from DimensionComponent

   Rectification

   Dimension, TimeDimension, and MeasureDimension all inhetit from DimensionComponent and Figure 40 is changed to reflect this.

3. **Problem**

   The class SelectionValue is shown as a class in Figure 40 - Constraints - Cube Region and Metadata Target Region Constraints – but it is not described in the table at 10.3.3.2.

   Rectification

   The class SelectionValue is added to the the table at 10.3.3.2.

Adoption of the Validation and Transformation Language in 2020

The package 13 “Transformations and Expressions” of the specification dated July 2011 envisaged the adoption of a language aimed at specifying algorithms for the derivation of the data and presented a basic framework requiring however further elaboration for its actual use.
Following the adoption of the Validation and Transformation Language (VTL) version 2.0 and its application to SDMX 2.1, the package 13 is completely reformulated, renamed as “Validation and Transformation Language” and implemented also in the other Sections of the SDMX standards for actual use.

Change History

Version 1.0 – initial release September 2004.

Version 2.0 – release November 2005

Major functional enhancements by addition of new packages:

- Metadata Structure Definition
- Metadata Set
- Hierarchical Code Scheme
- Data and Metadata Provisioning
- Structure Set and Mappings
- Transformations and Expressions
- Process and Transitions

Re-engineering of some SDMX Base structures to give more functionality:

- Item Scheme and Item can have properties – this gives support for complex hierarchical code schemes (where the property can be used to sequence codes in scheme), and Item Scheme mapping tables (where the property can give additional information about the map between the two schemes and the between two Items)
- revised Organisation pattern to support maintained schemes of organisations, such as a data provider
- modified Component Structure pattern to support identification of roles played by components and the attachment of attributes
- change to inheritance to enable more artefacts to be identifiable and versionable

Introduction of new types of Item Scheme:

- Object Type Scheme to specify object types in support of the Metadata Structure Definition (principally the object types (classes) in this Information Model)
- Type Scheme to specify types other than object type
- A generic Item Scheme Association to specify the association between Items in two or more Item Schemes, where such associations cannot be described in the Structure Set and Transformation.

The Data Structure Definition is introduced as a synonym for Key Family though the term Key Family is retained and used in this specification.

Modification to Data Structure Definition (DSD) to

- align the cross sectional structures with the functionality of the schema
- support Data Structure Definition extension (i.e. to derive and extend a Data Structure Definition from another Data Structure Definition), thus supporting the definition of a related "set" of key families
- distinguish between data attributes (which are described in a Data Structure Definition) from metadata attributes (which are described in a metadata structure definition)
- attach data attributes to specific identifiable artefacts (formally this was supported by attachable artefact)

Domain Category Scheme re-named Category Scheme to better reflect the multiple usage of this type of scheme (e.g. subject matter domain, reporting taxonomy).

Concept Scheme enhanced to allow specification of the representation of the Concept. This specification is the default (or core) representation and can be overridden by a construct that uses it (such as a Dimension in a Data Structure Definition).

Revision of cross sectional data set to reflect the functionality of the version 1.0 schema.

Revision of Actors and Use Cases to reflect better the functionality supported.

<u>Version 2.1 – release April 2011</u>

The purpose of this revision is threefold:

- To introduce requested changes to functionality
- To align the model and syntax implementations more closely (note, however, that the model remains syntax neutral)
- To correct errors in version 2.0

SDMX Base
Basic inheritance and patterns

1. The following attributes are added to Maintainable:

i) isExternalReference
ii) structure URL
iii) serviceURL

2. Added Nameable Artefact and moved the Name and Description associations from Identifiable Artefact to Nameable Artefact. This allows an artefact to be identified (with id and urn) without the need to specify a Name.

3. Removed any inheritance from Versionable Artefact with the exception of Maintainable Artefact – this means that only Maintainable objects can be versioned, and objects contained in a maintainable object cannot be independently versioned.

4. Renamed MaintenanceAgency to Agency 0 this is its name in the schema and the URN.

5. Removed abstract class Association as a subclass of Item (as these association types are not maintained in Item Schemes). Specific associations are modelled explicitly (e.g. Categorisation, ItemScheme, Item).

6. Added ActionType to data types.

7. Removed Coded Artefact and Uncoded Artefact and all subclasses (e.g. Coded Data Attribute and Uncoded Data Attribute) as the "Representation" is more complex than just a distinction between coded and uncoded.

8. Added Representation to the Component. Removed association to Type.

9. Removed concept role association (to Item) as roles are identified by a relationship to a Concept.

10. Removed abstract class Attribute as both Data Attribute and Metadata Attribute have different properties. Data Attribute and Metadata Attribute inherit directly from Component.

11. isPartial attribute added to Item Scheme to support partial Item Schemes (e.g. partial Code list).

Representation

1. Removed interval and enumeration from Facet.
2. added facetValueType to Facet.
3. Re-named DataType to facetValueType.
4. Added observationalTimePeriod, inclusiveValueRange and exclusiveValueRange to facetValueType.
5. Added ExtendedFacetType as a sub class of FacetType. This includes Xhtml as a facet type to support this as an allowed representation for a Metadata Attribute

Organisations

1. Organisation Role is removed and replaced with specific Organisation Schemes of Agency, Data Provider, Data Consumer, Organisation Unit.

Mapping (Structure Maps)

Updated Item Scheme Association as follows:

1. Renamed to Item Scheme Map to reflect better the sub classes and relate better to the naming in the schema.

2. Removed inheritance of Item Scheme Map from Item Scheme, and inherited directly from Nameable Artefact.

3. Item Association inherits from Identifiable Artefact.

4. Removed Property from the model as this is not supported in the schema.

5. Removed association type between Item Scheme Map and Item, and Association and Item.

6. Removed Association from the model.

7. Made Item Association a sub class of Identifiable, was a sub class Item.

8. Removed association to Property from both Item Scheme Map and Item.

9. Added attribute alias to both Item Scheme Association and Item Association.

10. Made Item Scheme Map and Item Association abstract.

11. Added sub-classes to Item Scheme Map – there is a subclass for each type of Item Scheme Association (e.g. Code list Map).

12. Added mapping between Reporting Taxonomy as this is an Item Scheme and can be mapped in the same way as other Item Schemes.

13. Added Hybrid Code list Map and Hybrid Code Map to support code mappings between a Code list and a Hierarchical Code list.

Mapping: Structure Map

1. This is a new diagram. Essentially removed inherited /hierarchy association between the various maps, as these no longer inherit from Item, and replaced the associations to the abstract Maintainable and Versionable Artefact classes with the actual concrete classes.

2. Removed associations between Code list Map, Category Scheme Map, and Concept Scheme Map and made this association to Item Scheme Map.

3. Removed hierarchy of Structure Map.

Concept

1. Added association to Representation.

Data Structure Definition

1. Added Measure Dimension to support structure-specific renderings of the DSD. The Measure Dimension is associated to a Concept Scheme that specifies the individual measures that are valid.

2. The three types of “Dimension”, - Dimension, Measure Dimension, Time Dimension – have a super class – Dimension Component

3. Added association to a Concept that defines the role that the component (Dimension, Data Attribute, Measure Dimension) plays in the DSD. This replaces the Boolean attributes on the components.

4. Added Primary Measure and removed this as role of Measure.

5. Deleted the derived Data Structure Definition association from Data Structure Definition to itself as this is not supported directly in DSD.

6. Deleted attribute GroupKeyDescriptor.isAttachmentConstraint and replaced with an association to an Attachment Constraint.

7. Replaced association from Data Attribute to Attachable Artefact with association to Attribute Relationship.

8. Added a set of classes to support Attribute Relationship.

9. Renamed KeyDescriptor to DimensionDescriptor to better reflect its purpose.

10. Renamed GroupKeyDescriptor to GroupDimensionDescriptor to better reflect its purpose.

Code list

1. CodeList classname changed to Codelist.

2. Removed codevalueLength from Codelist as this is supported by Facet.

3. Removed hierarchyView association between Code and Hierarchy as this association is not implemented.

Metadata Structure Definition(MSD)

1. Full Target Identifier, Partial Target Identifier, and Identifier Component are replaced by Metadata Target and Target Object. Essentially this eliminates one level of specification and reference in the MSD, and so makes the MSD more intuitive and easier to specify and to understand.

2. Re-named Identifiable Object Type to Identifiable Object Target and moved to the MSD package.

3. Added sub classes to Target Object as these are the actual types of object to which metadata can be attached. These are Identifiable Object Target (allows reporting of metadata to any identifiable object), Key Descriptor Values Target (allows reporting of metadata for a data series key, Data Set Target (allows reporting of metadata to a data set), and Reporting Period Target (allows the metadata set to specify a reporting period).

4. Allowed Target Object can have any type of Representation, this was restricted in version 2.0 to an enumerated representation in the model (but not in the schemas).

5. Removed Object Type Scheme (as users cannot maintain their own list of object types), and replaced with an enumeration of Identifiable Objects.

6. Removed association between Metadata Attribute and Identifiable Artefact and replaced this with an association between Report Structure and Metadata Target, and

allowed one Report Structure to reference more than on Metadata Target. This allowing a single Report Structure to be defined for many object types.

7. Added the ability to specify that a Metadata Attribute can be repeated in a Metadata Set and that a Metadata Attribute can be specified as "presentational" meaning that it is present for structural and presentational purposes, and will not have content in a Metadata Set.

8. The Representation of a Metadata Attribute uses Extended Facet (to support Xhtml).

Metadata Set

1. Added link to Data Provider - 0..1 but note that for metadata set registration this will be 1.

2. Removed Attribute Property as the underlying Property class has been removed.

3. One Metadata Set is restricted to reporting metadata for a single Report Structure.

4. The Metadata Report classes are re-structured and re-named to be consistent with the renaming and restructuring of the MSD.

5. Metadata Attribute Value is renamed Reported Attribute to be consistent with the schemas.

6. Deleted XML attribute and Contact Details from the inheritance diagram.

Category Scheme

1. Added Categorisation. Category no longer has a direct association to Dataflow and Metadataflow.

2. Changed Reporting Taxonomy inheritance from Category Scheme to Maintainable Artefact.

3. Added Reporting Category and associated this to Structure Usage.

Data Set

1. Removed the association to Provision Agreement from the diagram.

2. Added association to Data Structure Definition. This association was implied via the dataflow but this is optional in the implementation whereas the association to the Data Structure Definition is mandatory.

3. Added attributes to Data Set.

4. There is a single, unified, model of the Data Set which supports four types of data set:

    - Generic Data Set – for reporting any type of data series, including time series and what is sometimes known as "cross sectional data". In this data set, the value of any one dimension (including the Time Dimension) can be reported with the observation (this must be for the same dimension for the entire data set)

- Structure-specific Data Set – for reporting a data series that is specific to a DSD

- Generic Time Series Data Set – this is identical to the Generic Data Set except it must contain only time series, which means that a value for the Time Dimension is reported with the Observation

- Structure-specific Time Series Data Set - this is identical to the Structure-specific Data Set except it must contain only time series, which means that a value for the Time Dimension is reported with the Observation.

5. Removed Data Set as a sub class of Identifiable – but note that Data Set has a "setId" attribute.

6. Added coded and uncoded variants of Key Value, Observation, and Attribute Value in order to show the relationship between the coded values in the data set and the Codelist in the Data Structure Definition.

7. Made Key Value abstract with sub classes for coded, uncoded, measure (MeasureKeyValue) ads time(TimeKeyValue) The Measure Key Value is associated to a Concept as it must take its identify from a Concept.

XSDataSet

1. This is removed and replaced with the single, unified data set model.

Constraint

1. Constraint is made Maintainable (was Identifiable).

2. Added artefacts that better support and distinguish (from data) the constraints for metadata.

3. Added Constraint Role to specify the purpose of the Constraint. The values are allowable content (for validation of sub set code code lists), and actual content (to specify the content of a data or metadata source).

Process

1. Removed inheritance from Item Scheme and Item: Process inherits directly from Maintainable and Process Step from Identifiable.

2. Removed specialisation association between Transition and Association.

3. Removed Transition Scheme - transitions are explicitly specified and not maintained as Items in a Item Scheme.

4. Removed Expression and replaced with Computation.

5. Transition is associated to Process Step and not Process itself. Therefore the source association to Process Step is removed.

6. Removed Expressions as these are not implemented in the schemas. But note that the Transformations and Expressions model is retained, though it is not implemented in the schemas.

Hierarchical Codelist

1. Renamed HierarchicalCodeList to HierarchicalCodelist.
2. This is re-modelled to reflect more accurately the way this is implemented: this is as an actual hierarchy rather than a set of relational associations from which the hierarchy can be derived.

3. Code Association is re-named Hierarchical Code and the association type association to Code is removed (as these association types are not maintained in an Item Scheme).

4. Hierarchical Code is made an aggregate of Hierarchy, and not of Hierarchical Codelist.

5. Removed root node in the Hierarchy – there can be many top-level codes in Hierarchical Code.

6. Added reference association between Hierarchical Code and Level to indicate the Level if the Hierarchy is a level based hierarchy.

Provisioning and Registration

1. Data Provider and Provision Agreement have an association to Datasource (was Query Datasource), as the association is to any of Query Datasource and Simple Datasource.

2. Provision Agreement is made Maintainable and indexing attributes moved to Registration

3. Registration has a registry assigned Id and indexing attributes.

<u>Version 2.1 (Revision 2.0) – release July 2020</u>

The package 13, previously named “Expressions and Transformations” is completely reformulated, renamed as “Validation and Transformation Language” and implemented also in the other Sections of the SDMX standards for actual use.

The Item Scheme Pattern is amended to include the additional *Item Schemes* added in the Validation and Transformation Language.

1 Introduction

This document is not normative, but provides a detailed view of the information model on which the normative SDMX specifications are based. Those new to the UML notation or to the concept of Data Structure Definitions may wish to read the appendixes in this document as an introductory exercise.

1.1 Related Documents

This document is one of two documents concerned with the SDMX Information Model. The complete set of documents is:

SDMX SECTION 02 INFORMATION MODEL: UML CONCEPTUAL DESIGN (this document)

This document comprises the complete definition of the information model, with the exception of the registry interfaces. It is intended for technicians wishing to understand the complete scope of the SDMX technical standards in a syntax neutral form.

SDMX SECTION 05 REGISTRY SPECIFICATION: LOGICAL INTERFACES

This document provides the logical specification for the registry interfaces, including subscription/notification, registration/submission of data and metadata, and querying.

1.2 Modelling Technique and Diagrammatic Notes

The modelling technique used for the SDMX Information Model (SDMX-IM) is the Unified Modelling Language (UML). An overview of the constructs of UML that are used in the SDMX-IM can be found in the Appendix “A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model”

UML diagramming allows a class to be shown with or without the compartments for one or both of attributes and operations (sometimes called methods). In this document the operations compartment is not shown as there are no operations.

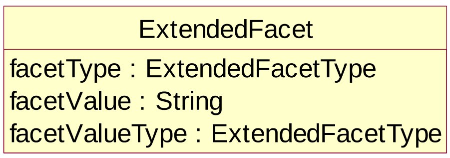

Figure 1 Class with operations suppressed

In some diagrams for some classes the attribute compartment is suppressed even though there may be some attributes. This is deliberate and is done to aid clarity of the diagram. The method used is:

- The attributes will always be present on the class diagram where the class is defined and its attributes and associations are defined.

- On other diagrams, such as inheritance diagrams, the attributes may be suppressed from the class for clarity.

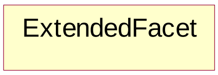

Figure 2 Class with attributes also suppressed

Note that, in any case, attributes inherited from a super class are not shown in the sub class.

The following table structure is used in the definition of the classes, attributes, and associations.

Class	Feature	Description
`ClassName`		
	`attributeName`	.
	`associationName`	
	`+roleName`	

The content in the "Feature" column comprises or explains one of the following structural features of the class:

- Whether it is an abstract class. Abstract classes are shown in *`italic Courier`* font
- The superclass this class inherits from, if any
- The sub classes of this class, if any
- Attribute – the `attributeName` is shown in `Courier` font
- Association – the `associationName` is shown in `Courier` font. If the association is derived from the association between super classes then the format is `/associationName`
- Role – the `+roleName` is shown in `Courier` font

The Description column provides a short definition or explanation of the Class or Feature. UML class names may be used in the description and if so, they are presented in normal font with spaces between words. For example the class `ConceptScheme` will be written as Concept Scheme.

1.3 Overall Functionality

1.3.1 Information Model Packages

The SDMX Information Model (SDMX-IM) is a conceptual metamodel from which syntax specific implementations are developed. The model is constructed as a set of functional packages which assist in the understanding, re-use and maintenance of the model.

In addition to this, in order to aid understanding each package can be considered to be in one of three conceptual layers:

- the SDMX Base layer comprises fundamental building blocks which are used by the Structural Definitions layer and the Reporting and Dissemination layer
- the Structural Definitions layer comprises the definition of the structural artefacts needed to support data and metadata reporting and dissemination
- the Reporting and Dissemination layer comprises the definition of the data and metadata containers used for reporting and dissemination

In reality the layers have no implicit or explicit structural function as any package can make use of any construct in another package.

1.3.2 Version 1.0

In version 1.0 the metamodel supported the requirements for:

- Data Structure Definition definition including (domain) category scheme, (metadata) concept scheme, and code list
- Data and related metadata reporting and dissemination

The SDMX-IM comprises a number of packages. These packages act as convenient compartments for the various sub models in the SDMX-IM. The diagram below shows the sub models of the SDMX-IM that were included in the version 1.0 specification.

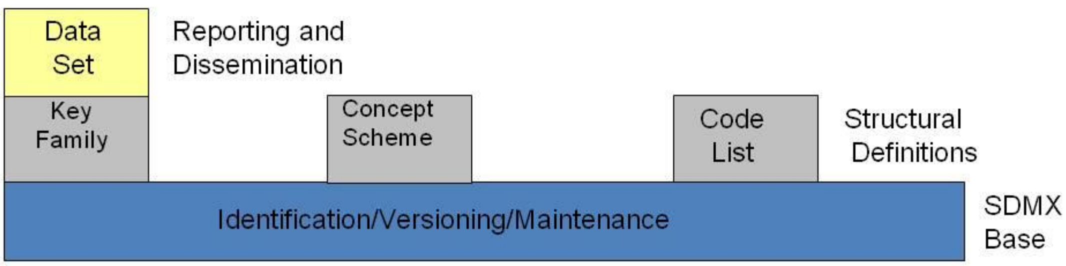

Figure 3: SDMX Information Model Version 1.0 package structure

1.3.3 Version 2.0/2.1

The version 2.0/2.1 model extends the functionality of version 1.0. principally in the area of metadata, but also in various ways to define structures to support data analysis by systems with knowledge of cube type structures such as OLAP[1] systems. The following major constructs have been added at version 2.0/2.1

- Metadata structure definition
- Metadata set

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[1] OLAP: On line analytical processing

- Hierarchical Codelist
- Data and Metadata Provisioning
- Process
- Mapping
- Constraints
- Constructs supporting the Registry

Furthermore, the term Data Structure Definition replaces the term Key Family: as both of these terms are used in various communities they are synonymous. The term Data Structure Definition is used in the model and this document.

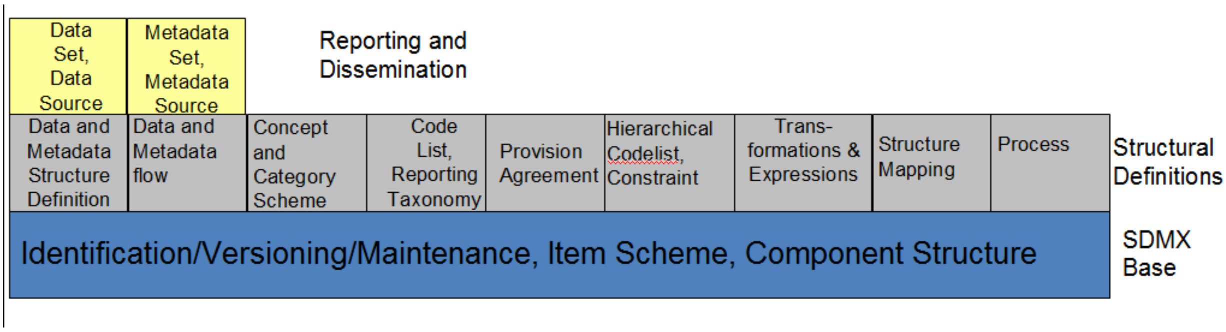


Figure 4 SDMX Information Model Version 2.0/2.1 package structure

Additional constructs that are specific to a registry based scenario can be found in the Specification of Registry Interfaces. For information these are shown on the diagram below and comprise:

- Subscription and Notification
- Registration
- Discovery

Note that the data and metadata required for registry functions are not confined to the registry, and the registry also makes use of the other packages in the Information Model.

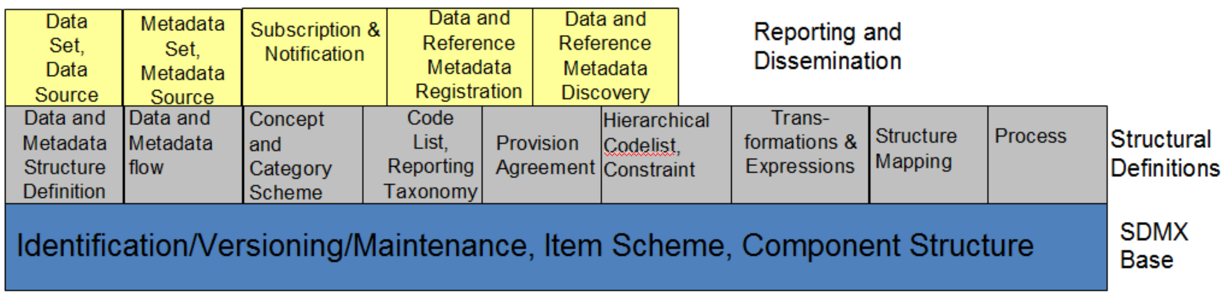


Figure 5: SDMX Information Model Version 2.0/2.1 package structure including the registry

2 Actors and Use Cases

2.1 Introduction

In order to develop the data models it is necessary to understand the functions to be supported resulting from the requirements definition. These are defined in a use case model. The use case model comprises actors and use cases and these are defined below.

Actor
"*An actor defines a coherent set of roles that users of the system can play when interacting with it. An actor instance can be played by either an individual or an external system*"

Use case
"A use case defines a set of use-case instances, where each instance is a sequence of actions a system performs that yields an observable result of value to a particular actor"

The overall intent of the model is to support data and metadata reporting, dissemination, and exchange in the field of aggregated statistical data and related metadata. In order to achieve this, the model needs to support three fundamental aspects of this process:

- Maintenance of structural and provisioning definitions
- Data and reference metadata publishing (reporting), and consuming (using)
- Access to data, reference metadata, and structural and provisioning definitions

This document covers the first two aspects, whilst the document on the Registry logical model covers the last aspect.

2.2 Use Case Diagrams

2.2.1 Maintenance of Structural and Provisioning Definitions

2.2.1.1 Use cases

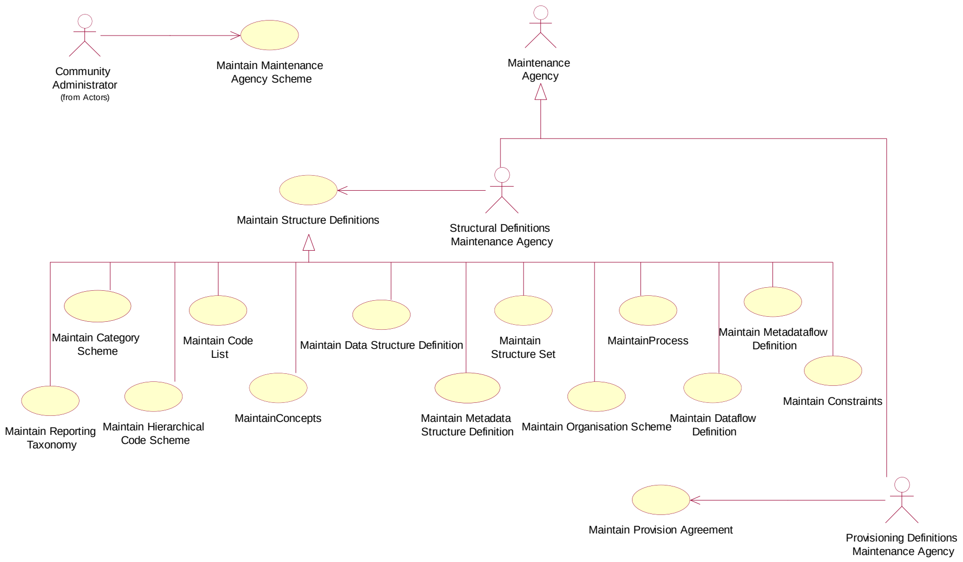


Figure 6 Use cases for maintaining data and metadata structural and provisioning definitions

2.2.1.2 Explanation of the Diagram

In order for applications to publish and consume data and reference metadata it is necessary for the structure and permitted content of the data and reference metadata to be defined and made available to the applications, as well as definitions that support the actual process of publishing and consuming. This is the responsibility of a Maintenance Agency.

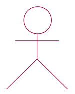
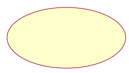
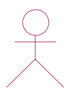
All maintained artefacts are maintained by a Maintenance Agency. For convenience the Maintenance Agency actor is sub divided into two actor roles:

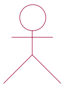
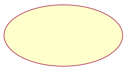
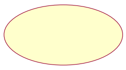
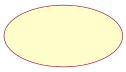
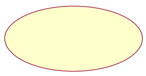
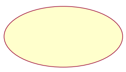
- maintaining structural definitions
- maintaining provisioning definitions

Whilst both these functions may be carried out by the same person, or at least by the same maintaining organization, the purpose of the definitions is different and so the roles have been differentiated: structural definitions define the format and permitted content of data and reference metadata when reported or disseminated, whilst provisioning definitions support the process of reporting and dissemination (who reports what to whom, and when).

In a community based scenario where at least the structural definitions may be shared, it is important that the scheme of maintenance agencies is maintained by a responsible organization (called here the Community Administrator), as it is important that the Id of the Maintenance Agency is unique.

2.2.1.3 Definitions

Actor	Use Case	Description
		Responsible organisation that administers structural definitions common to the community as a whole.
		Creation and maintenance of the top-level scheme of maintenance agencies for the Community.
		Responsible agency for maintaining structural artefacts such as code lists, concept schemes, Data Structure Definition structural definitions, metadata structure definitions, data and metadata provisioning artefacts such as provision

Actor	Use Case	Description
		agreement, and sub-maintenance agencies. sub roles are: Structural Definitions Maintenance Agency Provisioning Definitions Maintenance Agency
 Structural Definitions Maintenance Agency		Responsible for maintaining structural definitions.
	 Maintain Structure Definitions	The maintenance of structural definitions. This use case has sub class use cases for each of the structural artefacts that are maintained.
	 Maintain Code List  MaintainConcepts  Maintain Category Scheme  Maintain Data Structure Definition	Creation and maintenance of the Data Structure Definition, Metadata Structure Definition, and the supporting artefacts that they use, such as code list and concepts

Actor	Use Case	Description
	Maintain Metadata Structure Definition Maintain Hierarchical Code Scheme Maintain Reporting Taxonomy Maintain Organisation Scheme MaintainProcess Maintain Dataflow Definition Maintain Metadataflow Definition	This includes Agency, Data Provider, Data Consumer, and Organisation Unit Scheme
Provisioning Definitions Maintenance Agency		Responsible for maintaining data and metadata provisioning definitions.

Actor	Use Case	Description
	Maintain Provision Agreement	The maintenance of provisioning definitions.

Figure 7: Table of Actors and Use Cases for Maintenance of Structural and Provisioning Definitions

2.2.2 Publishing and Using Data and Reference Metadata

2.2.2.1 Use Cases

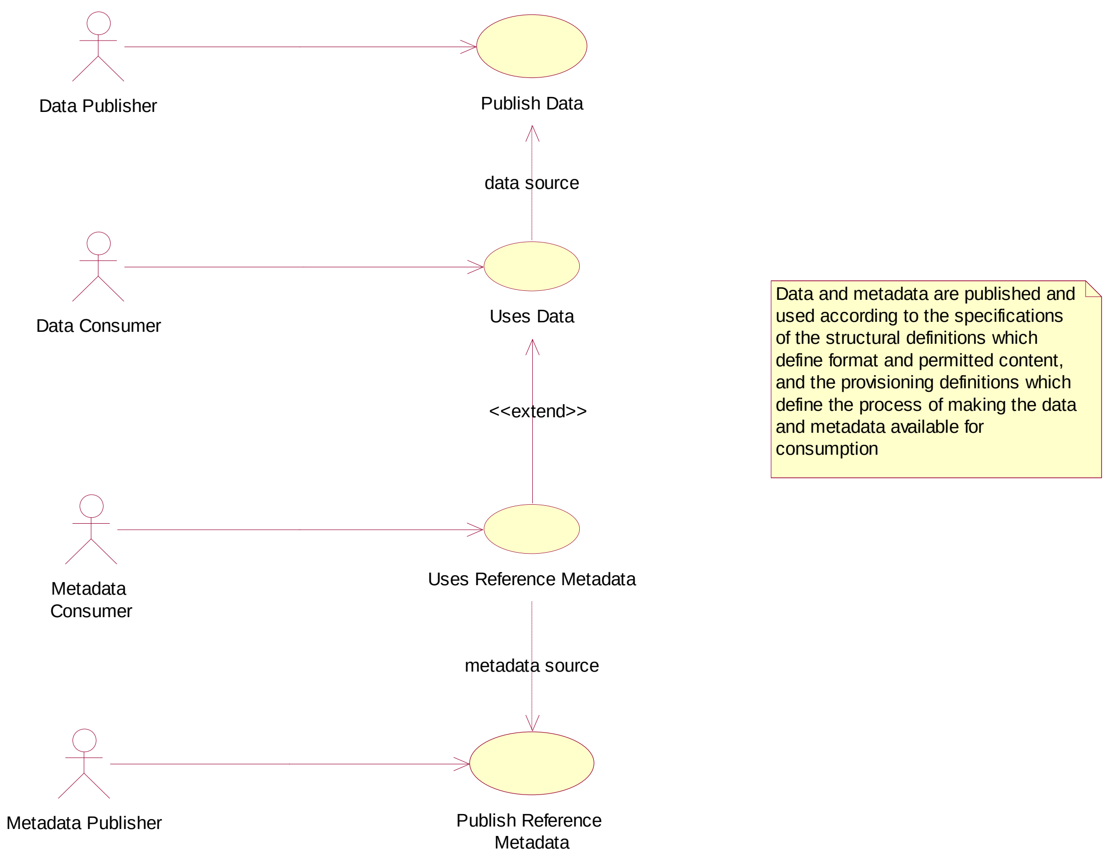


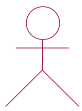
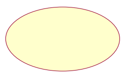
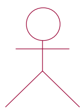
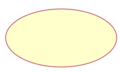
Figure 8: Actors and use cases for data and metadata publishing and consuming

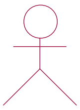
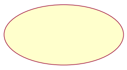
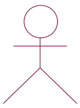
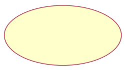
2.2.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

Note that in this diagram “publishing” data and reference metadata is deemed to be the same as “reporting” data and reference metadata. In some cases the act of making the data available fulfils both functions. Aggregated data is published and in order for the Data Publisher to do this and in order for consuming applications to process the data and reference metadata its structure must be known. Furthermore, consuming applications may also require access to reference metadata in order to present this to the Data Consumer so that the data is better understood. As with the data, the reference metadata also needs to be formatted in accordance with a maintained structure. The Data Consumer and Metadata Consumer cannot use the data or reference metadata unless it is “published” and so there is a “data source” or “metadata source” dependency between the “uses” and “publish” use cases.

In any data and reference metadata publishing and consuming scenario both the publishing and the consuming applications will need access to maintained Provisioning Definitions. These definitions may be as simple as who provides what data and reference metadata to whom, and when, or it can be more complex with constraints on the data and metadata that can be provided by a particular publisher, and, in a data sharing scenario where data and metadata are “pulled” from data sources, details of the source.

2.2.2.3 Definitions

Actor	Use Case	Description
 Data Publisher		Responsible for publishing data according to a specified Data Structure Definition (data structure) definition, and relevant provisioning definitions.
	 Publish Data	Publish a data set. This could mean a physical data set or it could mean to make the data available for access at a data source such as a database that can process a query.
 Data Consumer		The user of the data. It may be a human consumer accessing via a user interface, or it could be an application such as a statistical production system.
	 Uses Data	Use data that is formatted according to the structural definitions and made available according to the provisioning definitions. Data are often linked to metadata that may reside in a different location and be published and maintained independently.

Actor	Use Case	Description
 Metadata Publisher		Responsible for publishing reference metadata according to a specified metadata structure definition, and relevant provisioning definitions.
	 Publish Reference Metadata	Publish a reference metadata set. This could mean a physical metadata set or it could mean to make the reference metadata available for access at a metadata source such as a metadata repository that can process a query.
 Metadata Consumer		The user of the reference metadata. It may be a human consumer accessing via a user interface, or it could be an application such as a statistical production or dissemination system.
	 Uses Reference Metadata	Use reference metadata that is formatted according to the structural definitions and made available according to the provisioning definitions.

3 SDMX Base Package

3.1 Introduction

The constructs in the SDMX Base package comprise the fundamental building blocks that support many of the other structures in the model. For this reason, many of the classes in this package are abstract (i.e. only derived sub-classes can exist in an implementation).

The motivation for establishing the SDMX Base package is as follows:

- it is accepted “Best Practise” to identify fundamental archetypes occurring in a model
- identification of commonly found structures or “patterns” leads to easier understanding
- identification of patterns encourages re-use

Each of the class diagrams in this section views classes from the SDMX Base package from a different perspective. There are detailed views of specific patterns, plus overviews showing inheritance between classes, and relationships amongst classes.

3.2 Base Structures - Identification, Versioning, and Maintenance

3.2.1 Class Diagram

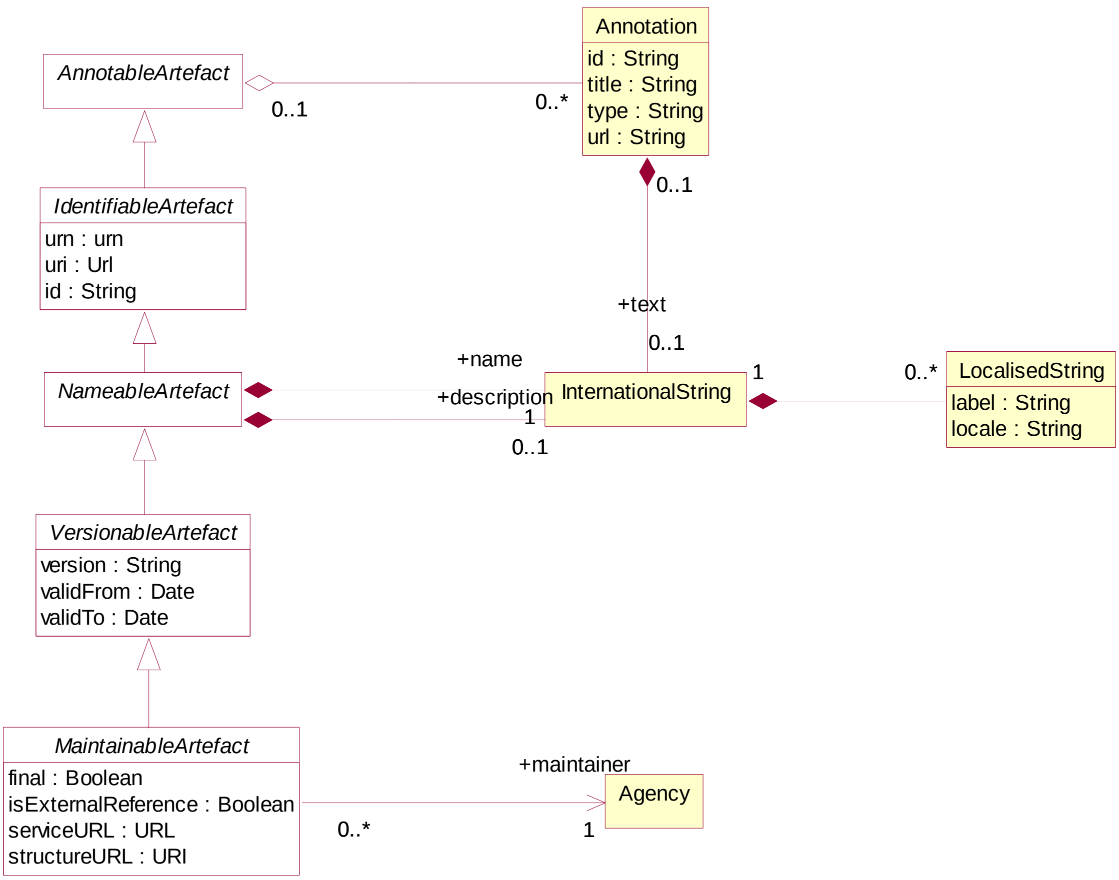


Figure 9: SDMX Identification, Maintenance and Versioning

3.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

3.2.2.1 Narrative

This group of classes forms the nucleus of the administration facets of SDMX objects. They provide features which are reusable by derived classes to support horizontal functionality such as identity, versioning etc.

All classes derived from the abstract class `AnnotableArtefact` may have Annotations (or notes): this supports the need to add notes to all SDMX-ML elements. The Annotation is used to convey extra information to describe any SDMX construct. This information may be in the form of a URL reference and/or a multilingual text (represented by the association to `InternationalString`).

The *IdentifiableArtefact* is an abstract class that comprises the basic attributes needed for identification. Concrete classes based on *IdentifiableArtefact* all inherit the ability to be uniquely identified.

The *NamableArtefact* is an abstract class that inherits from *IdentifiableArtefact* and in addition the +description and +name roles support multilingual descriptions and names for all objects based on *NameableArtefact*. The InternationalString supports the representation of a description in multiple locales (locale is similar to language but includes geographic variations such as Canadian French, US English etc.). The *LocalisedString* supports the representation of a description in one locale.

VersionableArtefact is an abstract class which inherits from *NameableArtefact* and adds versioning ability to all classes derived from it.

MaintainableArtefact further adds the ability for derived classes to be maintained via its association to *Agency*, and adds locational information (i.e. from where the object can be retrieved). It is possible to define whether the artefact is draft or final with the final attribute.

The inheritance chain from *AnnotableArtefact* through to *MaintainableArtefact* allows SDMX classes to inherit the features they need, from simple annotation, through identity, naming, to versioning and maintenance.

3.2.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
AnnotableArtefact	Base inheritance sub classes are: *IdentifiableArtefact*	Objects of classes derived from this can have attached annotations.
Annotation		Additional descriptive information attached to an object.
	id	Identifier for the Annotation. It can be used to disambiguate one Annotation from another where there are several Annotations for the same annotated object.
	title	A title used to identify an annotation.
	type	Specifies how the annotation is to be processed.
	url	A link to external descriptive text.
	+text	An International String provides the multilingual text content of the annotation via this role.

Class	Feature	Description
IdentifiableArtefact	Superclass is *AnnotableArtefact* Base inheritance sub classes are: *NameableArtefact*	Provides identity to all derived classes. It also provides annotations to derived classes because it is a subclass of Annotable Artefact.
	id	The unique identifier of the object.
	uri	Universal resource identifier that may or may not be resolvable.
	urn	Universal resource name – this is for use in registries: all registered objects have a urn.
NameableArtefact	Superclass is *IdentifiableArtefact* Base inheritance sub classes are: *VersionableArtefact*	Provides a Name and Description to all derived classes in addition to identification and annotations.
	+description	A multi-lingual description is provided by this role via the International String class.
	+name	A multi-lingual name is provided by this role via the International String class
InternationalString		The International String is a collection of Localised Strings and supports the representation of text in multiple locales.
LocalisedString		The Localised String supports the representation of text in one locale (locale is similar to language but includes geographic variations such as Canadian French, US English etc.).
	label	Label of the string.
	locale	The geographic locale of the string e.g French, Canadian French.

Class	Feature	Description
VersionableArtefact	Superclass is *NameableArtefact* Base inheritance sub classes are: *MaintainableArtefact*	Provides versioning information for all derived objects.
	version	A version string following an agreed convention
	validFrom	Date from which the version is valid
	validTo	Date from which version is superceded
MaintainableArtefact	Inherits from *VersionableArtefact*	An abstract class to group together primary structural metadata artefacts that are maintained by an Agency.
	final	Defines whether a maintained artefact is draft or final.
	isExternalReference	If set to "true" it indicates that the content of the object is held externally.
	structureURL	The URL of an SDMX-ML document containing the external object.
	serviceURL	The URL of an SDMX-compliant web service from which the external object can be retrieved.
	+maintainer	Association to the Maintenance Agency responsible for maintaining the artefact.
Agency		See section on "Organisations"

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3.3 Basic Inheritance

3.3.1 Class Diagram– Basic Inheritance from the Base Inheritance Classes

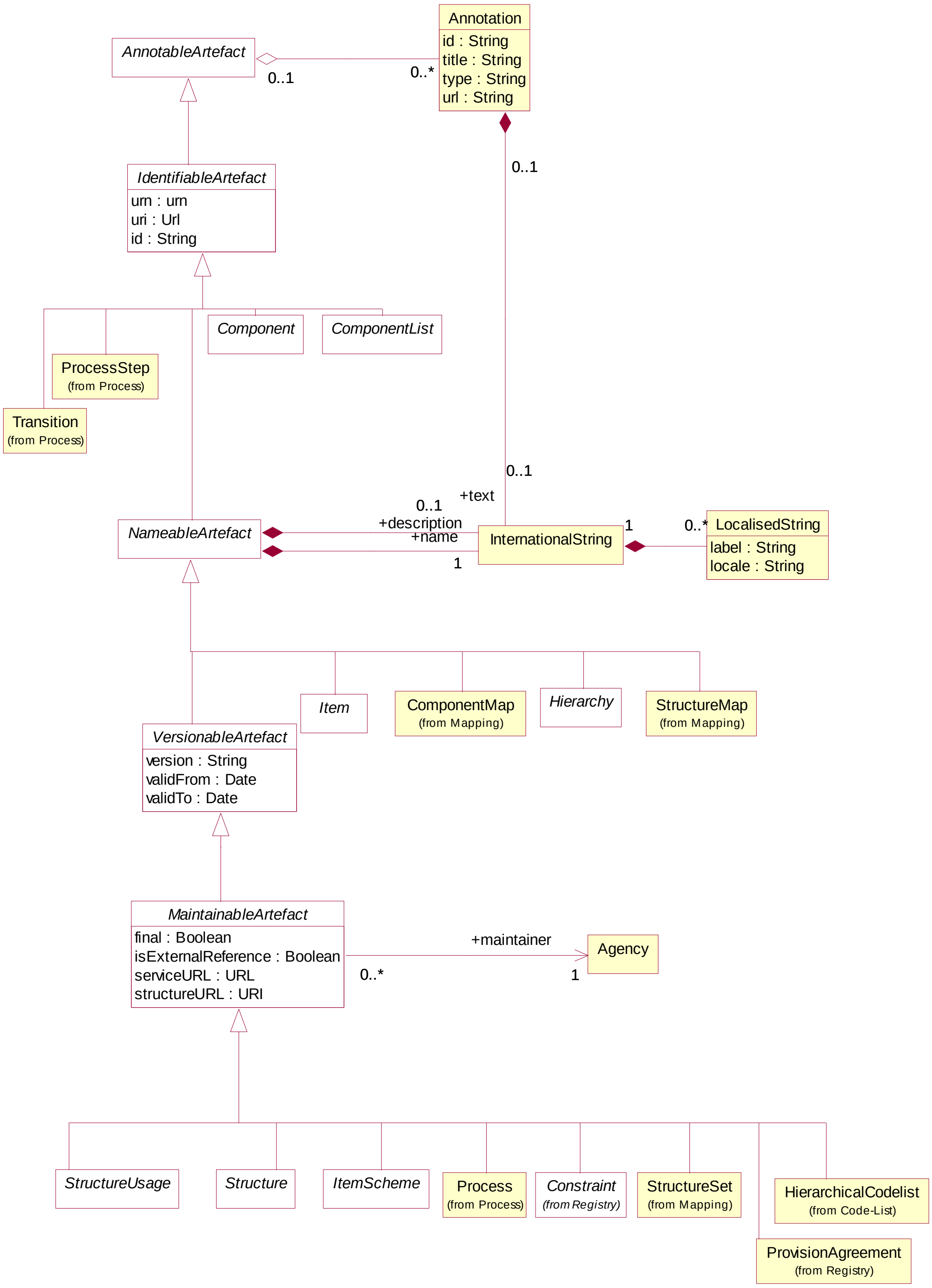

Figure 10: Basic Inheritance from the Base Structures

3.3.2 Explanation of the Diagram

3.3.2.1 Narrative

The diagram above shows the inheritance within the base structures. The concrete classes are introduced and defined in the specific package to which they relate.

3.4 Data Types

3.4.1 Class Diagram

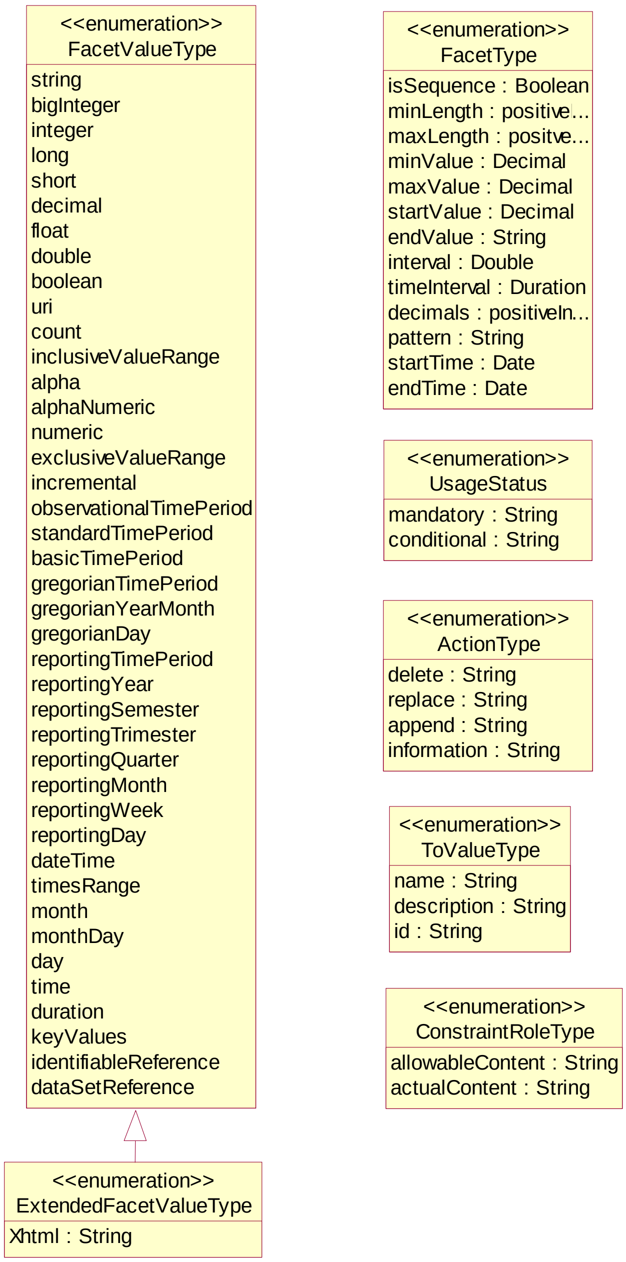

Figure 11: Class Diagram of Basic Data Types

3.4.2 Explanation of the Diagram

3.4.2.1 Narrative

The UsageStatus enumeration is used as a data type on a DataAttribute where the value of the attribute in an instance of the class must take one of the values in the UsageStatus (i.e. mandatory, conditional).

The FacetType and FacetValueType enumerations are used to specify the valid format of the content of a non enumerated Concept or the usage of a Concept when specified for use on a *Component* on a *Structure* (such as a Dimension in a DataStructureDefinition). The description of the various types can be found in the section on *ConceptScheme* (section 4.4).

The ActionType enumeration is used to specify the action that a receiving system should take when processing the content that is the object of the action. It is enumerated as follows:

- Append

  Data or metadata is an incremental update for an existing data/metadata set or the provision of new data or documentation (attribute values) formerly absent. If any of the supplied data or metadata is already present, it will not replace that data or metadata. This corresponds to the "Update" value found in version 1.0 of the SDMX Technical Standards

- Replace

  Data/metadata is to be replaced, and may also include additional data/metadata to be appended.

- Delete

  Data/Metadata is to be deleted.

- Information

  Data and metadata are for information purposes.

The IdentifiableObjectType enumeration is used to specify an object type whose class is a sub class of IdentifiableArtefact either directly of via NameableArtefact, VersionableArtefact or MaintainableArtefact.

The ToValueType data type contains the attributes to support transformations defined in the StructureMap (see Section 9).

The ConstraintRoleType data type contains the attributes that identify the purpose of a Constraint (allowableContent, actualContent).

3.5 The Item Scheme Pattern

3.5.1 Context

The Item Scheme is a basic architectural pattern that allows the creation of list schemes for use in simple taxonomies, for example.

The `ItemScheme` is the basis for `CategoryScheme`, `Codelist`, `ConceptScheme`, `ReportingTaxonomy`, and *`OrganisationScheme`*.

3.5.2 Class Diagram

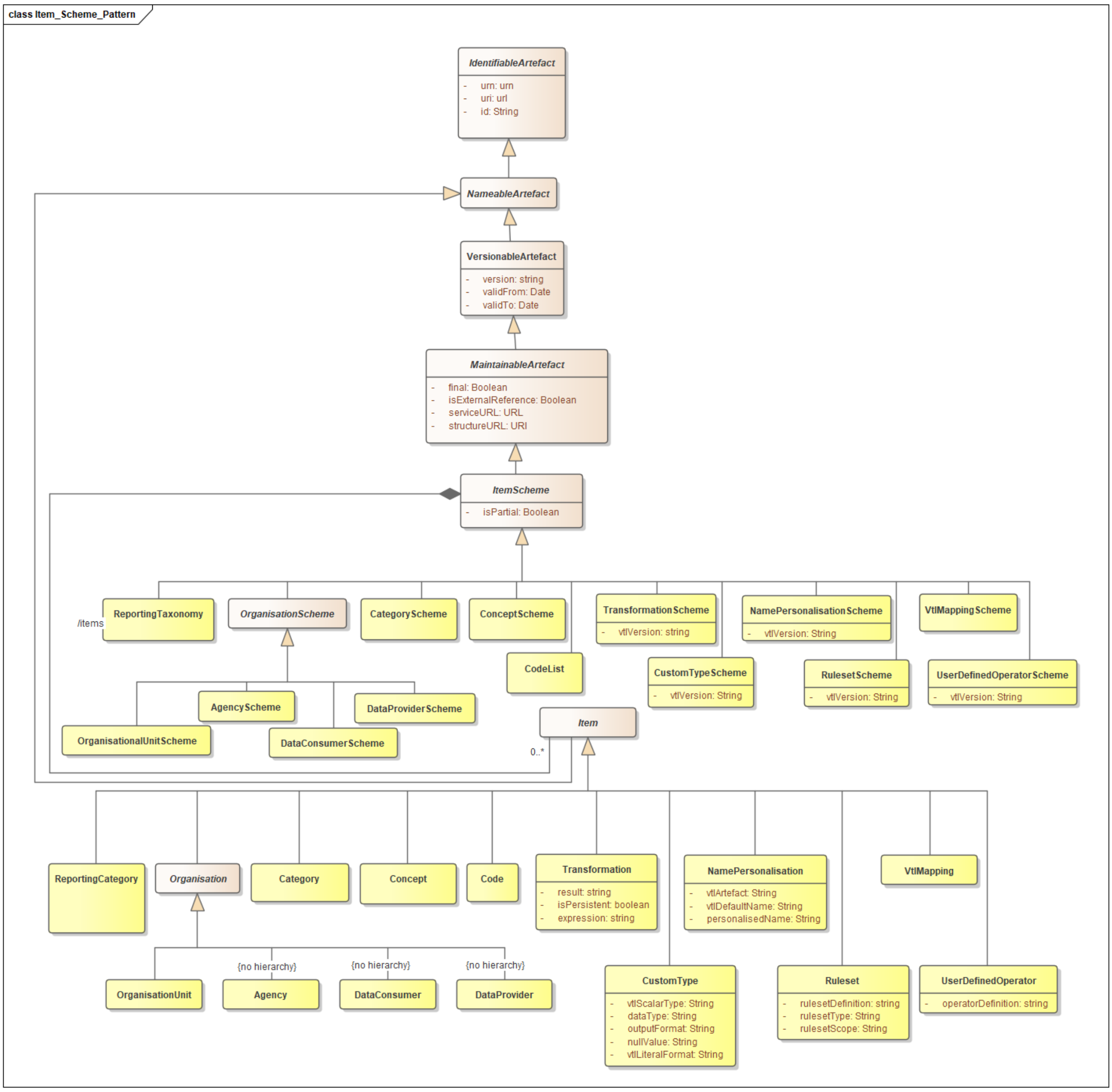

Figure 12 The Item Scheme Pattern

3.5.3 Explanation of the Diagram

3.5.3.1 Narrative

The *ItemScheme* is an abstract class which defines a set of *Item* (this class is also abstract). Its main purpose is to define a mechanism which can be used to create taxonomies which can classify other parts of the SDMX Information Model. It inherits from *MaintainableArtefact* which gives it the ability to be annotated, have identity, naming, versioning and be associated with an Agency. An example of a concrete class is a CategoryScheme. The associated Category are *Items*.

In an exchange environment an ItemScheme is allowed to contain a sub-set of the Items in the maintained *ItemScheme*. If such an *ItemScheme* is disseminated with a sub-set of the Items then the fact that this is a sub-set is denoted by setting the isPartial attribute to "true".

A "partial" *ItemScheme* cannot be maintained independently in its partial form i.e. it cannot contain *Item*s that are not present in the full *ItemScheme* and the content of any one *Item* (e.g. names and descriptions) cannot deviate from the content in the full *ItemScheme*. Furthermore, the Id of the *ItemScheme* where isPartial is set to "true" is the same as the Id of the full *ItemScheme* (maintenance agency, id, version). This is important as this is the Id that that is referenced in other structures (e.g. a Codelist referenced in a DSD) and this Id is always the same, regardless of whether the disseminated *ItemScheme* is the full *ItemScheme* or a partial *ItemScheme*.

The purpose of a partial *ItemScheme* is to support the exchange and dissemination of a sub-set ItemScheme without the need to maintain multiple *ItemScheme*s which contain the same *Item*s. For instance, when a Codelist is used in a DataStructureDefinition it is sometimes the case that only a sub-set of the Codes in a Codelist are relevant. In this case a partial Codelist can be constructed using the Constraint mechanism explained later in this document.

Item inherits from *NameableArtefact* which gives it the ability to be annotated and have identity, and therefore has id, uri and urn attributes, a name and a description in the form of an InternationalString. Unlike the parent *ItemScheme*, the *Item* itself is not a *MaintainableArtefact* and therefore cannot have an independent Agency (i.e. it implicitly has the same agency as the *ItemScheme*).

The *Item* can be hierarchic and so one *Item* can have child *Item*s. The restriction of the hierarchic association is that a child *Item* can have only parent *Item*.

3.5.3.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
ItemScheme	Inherits from: *MaintainableArtefact* Direct sub classes are: CategoryScheme ConceptScheme Codelist	The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of objects into groups based on characteristics, which the objects have in common.

Class	Feature	Description
	ReportingTaxonomy *OrganisationScheme* Transformation Scheme CustomTypeScheme NamePersonasationScheme RuletScheme VtlMappingScheme UserDefinedOperatorScheme	
	isPartial	Denotes whether the Item Scheme contains a sub set of the full set of Items in the maintained scheme.
	items	Association to the Items in the scheme.
Item	Inherits from: *NameableArtefact* Direct sub classes are Category Concept Code ReportingCategory *Organisation* Transformation CustomType NamePersonlisation Ruleset VtlMapping UserDefinedOperator	The Item is an item of content in an Item Scheme. This may be a node in a taxonomy or ontology, a code in a code list etc. Note that at the conceptual level the Organisation is not hierarchic
	hierarchy	This allows an Item optionally to have one or more child Items.

3.6 The Structure Pattern

3.6.1 Context

The Structure Pattern is a basic architectural pattern which allows the specification of complex tabular structures which are often found in statistical data (such as Data Structure Definition, and Metadata Structure Definition). A Structure is a set of ordered lists. A pattern to underpin this tabular structure has been developed, so that commonalities between these structure definitions can be supported by common software and common syntax structures.

3.6.2 Class Diagrams

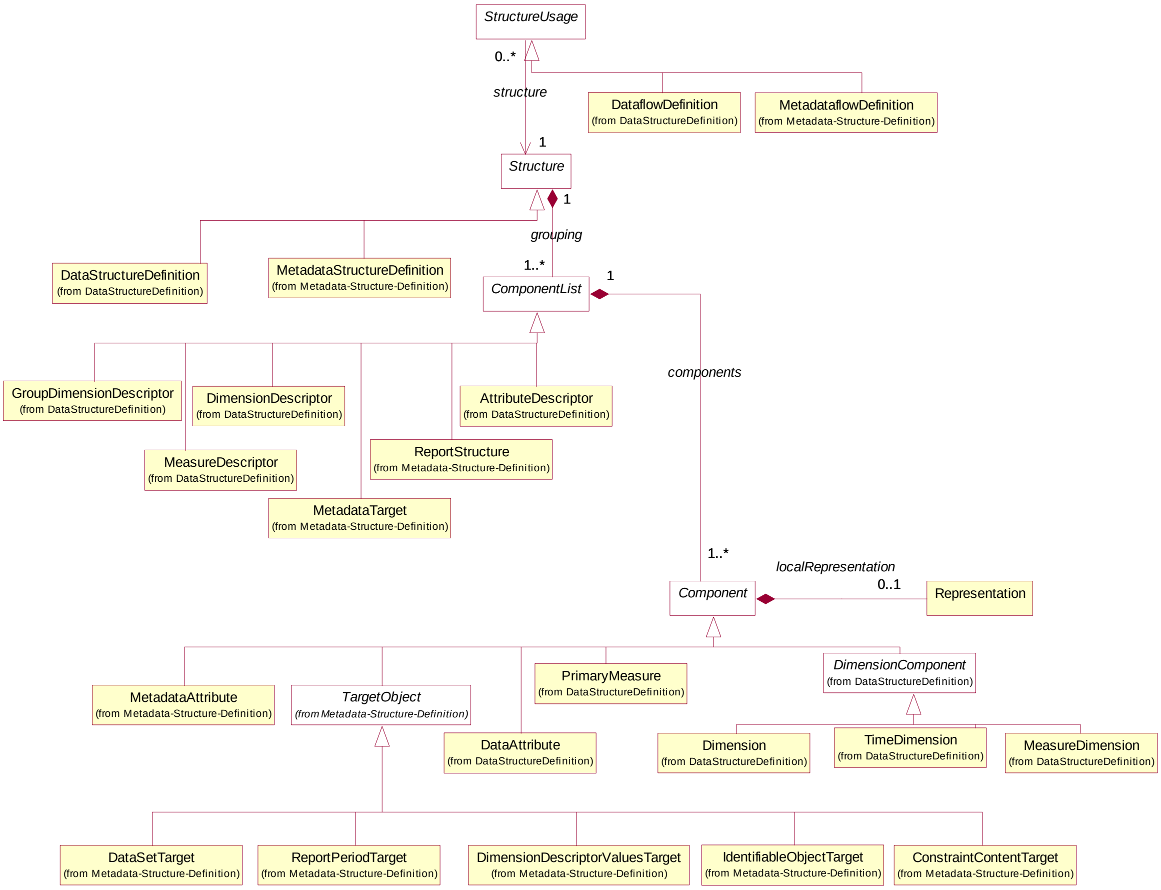

Figure 13: The Structure Pattern

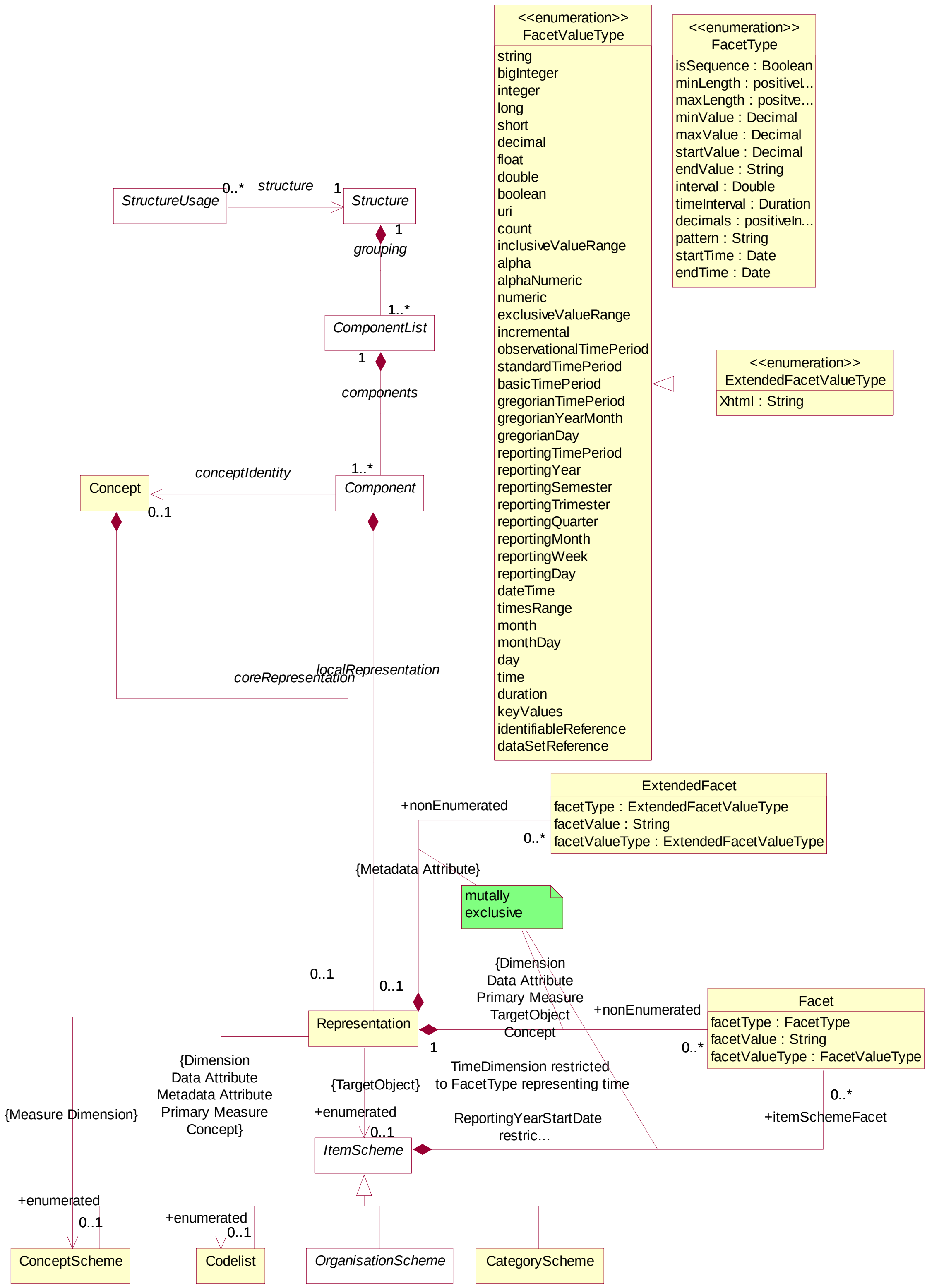

Figure 14: Representation within the Structure Pattern

3.6.3 Explanation of the Diagrams

3.6.3.1 Narrative

The *Structure* is an abstract class which contains a set of one or more *ComponentList*(s) (this class is also abstract). An example of a concrete *Structure* is DataStructureDefinition.

The *ComponentList* is a list of one or more *Component*(s). The *ComponentList* has several concrete descriptor classes based on it: DimensionDescriptor, GroupDimensionDescriptor, MeasureDescriptor, and AttributeDescriptor of the DataStructureDefinition and MetadataTarget, and ReportStructure of the MetaDataStructureDefinition.

The Component is contained in a ComponentList. The type of Component in a ComponentList is dependent on the concrete class of the ComponentList as follows:

DimensionDescriptor: Dimension, Measure Dimension, Time Dimension
GroupDimensionDescriptor: Dimension, Measure Dimension, Time Dimension
MeasureDescriptor: PrimaryMeasure
AttributeDescriptor: Data Attribute
MetadataTarget: *TargetObject* and its sub classes
ReportStructure: MetadataAttribute

Each Component takes its semantic (and possibly also its representation) from a Concept in a ConceptScheme. This is represented by the conceptIdentity association to Concept.

The *Component* may also have a localRepresentation, This allows a concrete class, such as Dimension, to specify its representation which is local to the *Structure* in which it is contained (for Dimension this will be DataStructureDefinition), and thus overrides any coreRepresentation specified for the Concept.

The Representation can be enumerated or non-enumerated. The valid content of an enumerated representation is specified either in an *ItemScheme* which can be one of ConceptScheme, Codelist, *OrganisationScheme*, CategoryScheme, and ReportingTaxonomy. The valid content of a non-enumerated representation is specified as one or more Facet (for example these may specify minimum and maximum values). For a MetadataAttribute this is achieved by one of more Extended Facet which allows the additional representation of XHTML.

The types of representation that are valid for specific components is expressed in the model as a constraint on the association viz:

- The MeasureDimension must be enumerated and use a ConceptScheme
- The Dimension (but not MeasureDimension), DataAttribute, PrimaryMeasure, MetadataAttribute may be enumerated and, if so, use a Codelist

- The *`TargetObject`* may be enumerated and, if so, can use any `ItemScheme` (`Codelist`, `ConceptScheme`, *`OrganisationScheme`*, `CategoryScheme`, `ReportingTaxonomy`)
- The `Dimension` (but not `MeasureDimension`), `Data Attribute`, `PrimaryMeasure`, *`TargetObject`* may be non-enumerated and, if so, use one of more `Facet`, note that the `FacetValueType` applicable to the `TimeDimension` is restricted to those that represent time
- The `MetadataAttribute` may be non-enumerated and, if so, uses one or more `ExtendedFacet`

The *`Structure`* may be used by one or more *`StructureUsage`*. An example of this in terms of concrete classes is that a `DataflowDefinition` (sub class of *`StructureUsage`*) may use a particular `DataStructureDefinition` (sub class of *`Structure`*), and similar constructs apply for the `MetadataflowDefinition` (link to `MetadataStructureDefinition`).

3.6.3.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description

`StructureUsage`	Inherits from:
	`MaintainableArtefact`
	
	Sub classes are:
	`DataflowDefinition`
	`MetadataflowDefinition`
		An artefact whose components are described by a Structure. In concrete terms (sub-classes) an example would be a Dataflow Definition which is linked to a given structure – in this case the Data Structure Definition.

	`structure`	An association to a Structure specifying the structure of the artefact.

`Structure`	Inherits from:
	`MaintainableArtefact`
	
	Sub classes are:
	`DataStructure Definition`
	`MetadataStructure Definition`
		Abstract specification of a list of lists to define a complex tabular structure. A concrete example of this would be statistical concepts, code lists, and their organisation in a data or metadata structure definition, defined by a centre institution, usually for the exchange of statistical information with its partners.

	`grouping`	A composite association to one or more component lists.

Class	Feature	Description
ComponentList	Inherits from: *IdentifiableArtefact* Sub classes are: DimensionDescriptor GroupDimension Descriptor MeasureDescriptor AttributeDescriptor MetadataTarget ReportStructure	An abstract definition of a list of components. A concrete example is a Dimension Descriptor which defines the list of Dimensions in a Data Structure Definition.
	components	An aggregate association to one or more components which make up the list.
Component	Inherits from: *IdentifiableArtefact* Sub classes are: PrimaryMeasure DataAttribute *DimensionComponent* *TargetObject* MetadataAttribute	A component is an abstract super class used to define qualitative and quantitative data and metadata items that belong to a Component List and hence a Structure. Component is refined through its sub-classes.
	conceptIdentity	Association to a Concept in a Concept Scheme that identifies and defines the semantic of the Component
	localRepresentation	Association to the Representation of the Component if this is different from the coreRepresentation of the Concept which the Component uses (ConceptUsage)
Representation		The allowable value or format for Component or Concept

Class	Feature	Description
	+enumerated	Association to an enumerated list that contains the allowable content for the Component when reported in a data or metadata set. The type of enumerated list that is allowed for any concrete Component is shown in the constraints on the association (e.g. Identifier Component can have any of the sub classes of Item Scheme, whereas Measure Dimension must have a Concept Scheme).
	+nonEnumerated	Association to a set of Facets that define the allowable format for the content of the Component when reported in a data or metadata set.
Facet		Defines the format for the content of the Component when reported in a data or metadata set.
	facetType	A specific content type which is constrained by the FacetType enumeration
	facetValueType	The format of the value of a Component when reported in a data or metadata set. This is contrained by the FacetValueType enumeration.
	+itemSchemeFacet	Defines the format of the identifiers in an Item Scheme used by a Component. Typically this would define the number of characters (length) of the identifier.
ExtendedFacet		This has the same function as Facet but allows additionally an XHTML representation. This is constrained for use with a Metadata Attribute

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The specification of the content and use of the sub classes to ComponentList and Component can be found in the section in which they are used (DataStructureDefinition and MetadataStructureDefinition)

3.6.3.3 Representation Constructs

The majority of SDMX FacetValueTypes are compatible with those found in XML Schema, and have equivalents in most current implementation platforms:

SDMX Facet Value Type	XML Schema Data Type	.NET Framework Type	Java Data Type
String	xsd:string	System.String	java.lang.String
Big Integer	xsd:integer	System.Decimal	java.math.BigInteger
Integer	xsd:int	System.Int32	int
Long	xsd.long	System.Int64	long
Short	xsd:short	System.Int16	short
Decimal	xsd:decimal	System.Decimal	java.math.BigDecimal
Float	xsd:float	System.Single	float
Double	xsd:double	System.Double	double
Boolean	xsd:boolean	System.Boolean	boolean
URI	xsd:anyURI	System.Uri	Java.net.URI or java.lang.String
DateTime	xsd:dateTime	System.DateTime	javax.xml.datatype.XMLGregorianCalendar
Time	xsd:time	System.DateTime	javax.xml.datatype.XMLGregorianCalendar
GregorianYear	xsd:gYear	System.DateTime	javax.xml.datatype.XMLGregorianCalendar
GregorianMonth	xsd:gYearMonth	System.DateTime	javax.xml.datatype.XMLGregorianCalendar
GregorianDay	xsd:date	System.DateTime	javax.xml.datatype.XMLGregorianCalendar
Day, MonthDay, Month	xsd:g*	System.DateTime	javax.xml.datatype.XMLGregorianCalendar
Duration	xsd:duration	System.TimeSpan	javax.xml.datatype.Duration

There are also a number of SDMX data types which do not have these direct correspondences, often because they are composite representations or restrictions of a broader data type. These are detailed in Section 6 of the standards.

The Representation is composed of Facets, each of which conveys characteristic information related to the definition of a value domain. Often a set of Facets are needed to convey the required semantic. For example, a sequence is defined by a minimum of two Facets: one to define the start value, and one to define the interval.

Facet Type	Explanation
isSequence	The isSequence facet indicates whether the values are intended to be ordered, and it may work in combination with the interval, startValue, and endValue facet or the timeInterval, startTime, and endTime, facets. If this attribute holds a value of true, a start value or time and a numeric or time interval must supplied. If an end value is not given, then the sequence continues indefinitely.
interval	The interval attribute specifies the permitted interval (increment) in a

	sequence. In order for this to be used, the isSequence attribute must have a value of true.
startValue	The startValue facet is used in conjunction with the isSequence and interval facets (which must be set in order to use this facet). This facet is used for a numeric sequence, and indicates the starting point of the sequence. This value is mandatory for a numeric sequence to be expressed.
endValue	The endValue facet is used in conjunction with the isSequence and interval facets (which must be set in order to use this facet). This facet is used for a numeric sequence, and indicates that ending point (if any) of the sequence.
timeInterval	The timeInterval facet indicates the permitted duration in a time sequence. In order for this to be used, the isSequence facet must have a value of true.
startTime	The startTime facet is used in conjunction with the isSequence and timeInterval facets (which must be set in order to use this facet). This attribute is used for a time sequence, and indicates the start time of the sequence. This value is mandatory for a time sequence to be expressed.
endTime	The endTime facet is used in conjunction with the isSequence and timeInterval facets (which must be set in order to use this facet). This facet is used for a time sequence, and indicates that ending point (if any) of the sequence.
minLength	The minLength facet specifies the minimum and length of the value in characters.
maxLength	The maxLength facet specifies the maximum length of the value in characters.
minValue	The minValue facet is used for inclusive and exclusive ranges, indicating what the lower bound of the range is. If this is used with an inclusive range, a valid value will be greater than or equal to the value specified here. If the inclusive and exclusive data type is not specified (e.g. this facet is used with an integer data type), the value is assumed to be inclusive.
maxValue	The maxValue facet is used for inclusive and exclusive ranges, indicating what the upper bound of the range is. If this is used with an inclusive range, a valid value will be less than or equal to the value specified here. If the inclusive and exclusive data type is not specified (e.g. this facet is used with an integer data type), the value is assumed to be inclusive.
decimals	The decimals facet indicates the number of characters allowed after the decimal separator.
pattern	The pattern attribute holds any regular expression permitted in the implementation syntax (e.g. W3C XML Schema).

4 Specific Item Schemes

4.1 Introduction

The structures that are an arrangement of objects into hierarchies or lists based on characteristics, and which are maintained as a group inherit from *`ItemScheme`*. These concrete classes are:

- `Codelist`

- `ConceptScheme`
- `CategoryScheme`
- `AgencyScheme`, `DataProviderScheme`, `DataConsumerScheme`, `OrganisationUnitScheme` which all inherit from the abstract class *`OrganisationScheme`*
- `Reporting Taxonomy`

4.2 Inheritance View

The inheritance and relationship views are shown together in each of the diagrams in the specific sections below.

4.3 Codelist

4.3.1 Class Diagram

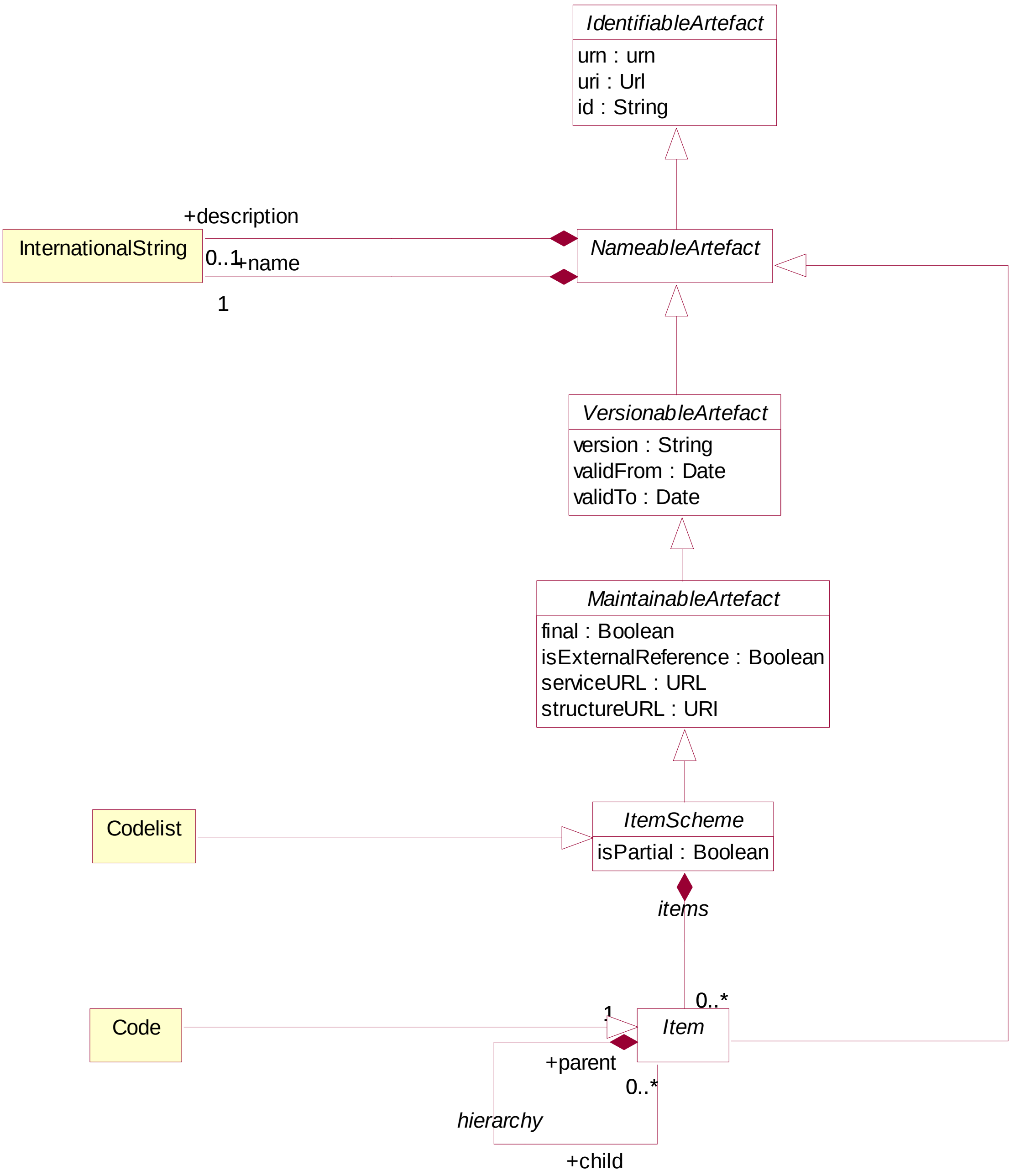

Figure 15 Class diagram of the Codelist

4.3.2 Explanation of the Diagram

4.3.2.1 Narrative

The `Codelist` inherits from the *`ItemScheme`* and therefore has the following attributes:

- `id`
- `uri`
- `urn`
- `version`
- `validFrom`
- `validTo`
- `isExternalReference`
- `serviceURL`
- `structureURL`
- `final`
- `isPartial`

The `Code` inherits from *`Item`* and has the following attributes:

- `id`
- `uri`
- `urn`

Both `Codelist` and `Code` have the association to `InternationalString` to support a multi-lingual name, an optional multi-lingual description, and an association to `Annotation` to support notes (not shown).

Through the inheritance the `Codelist` comprise one or more `Code`s, and the `Code` itself can have one or more child `Code`s in the (inherited) `hierarchy` association. Note that a child `Code` can have only one parent `Code` in this association. A more complex `HierachicalCodelist` which allow multiple parents and multiple hierarchies is described later.

A partial `Codelist` (where `isPartial` is set to “true”) is identical to a `Codelist` and contains the `Code` and associated names and descriptions, just as in a normal code list. However, its content is a sub set of the full `Codelist`. The way this works is described in section 3.5.3.1 on *`ItemScheme`*.

4.3.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`Codelist`	Inherits from *`ItemScheme`*	A list from which some statistical concepts (coded concepts) take their values.
`Code`	Inherits from *`Item`*	A language independent set of letters, numbers or symbols that represent a concept whose meaning is described in a natural language.
	`/hierarchy`	Associates the parent and the child codes.

4.4 Concept Scheme and Concepts

4.4.1 Class Diagram - Inheritance

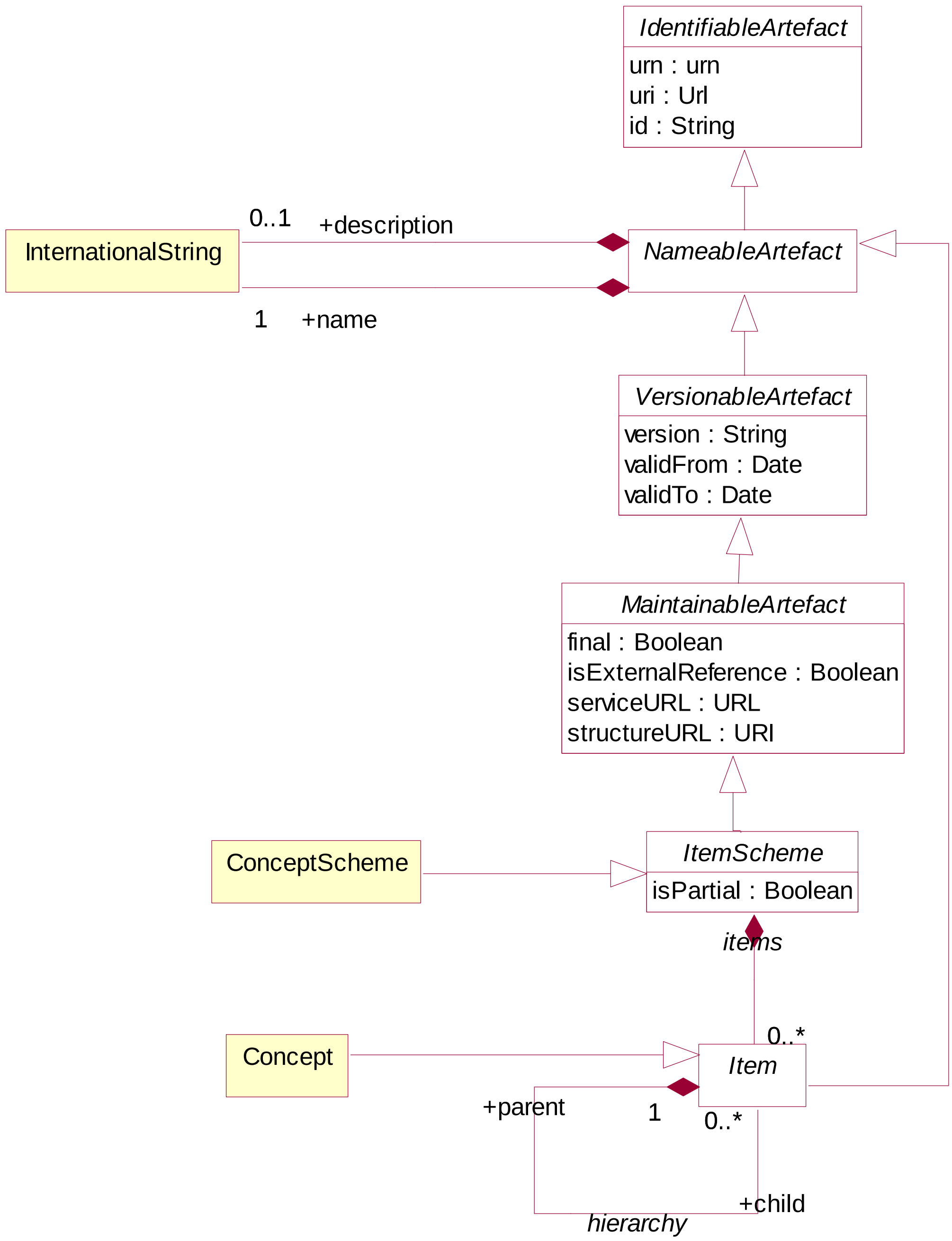

Figure 16 Class diagram of the Concept Scheme

4.4.2 Explanation of the Diagram

The `ConceptScheme` inherits from the *`ItemScheme`* and therefore has the following attributes:

- `id`
- `uri`
- `urn`
- `version`
- `validFrom`
- `validTo`
- `isExternalReference`
- `registryURL`
- `structureURL`
- `repositoryURL`
- `final`
- `isPartial`

`Concept` inherits from `Item` and has the following attributes:

- `id`
- `uri`
- `urn`

Through the inheritance from *`NameableArtefact`* both `ConceptScheme` and `Concept` have the association to `InternationalString` to support a multi-lingual name, an optional multi-lingual description, and an association to `Annotation` to support notes (not shown).

Through the inheritance from *`ItemScheme`* the `ConceptScheme` comprise one or more `Concept`s, and the `Concept` itself can have one or more child `Concept`s in the (inherited) `hierarchy` association. Note that a child `Concept` can have only one parent `Concept` in this association.

A partial `ConceptScheme` (where `isPartial` is set to "true") is identical to a `ConceptScheme` and contains the `Concept` and associated names and descriptions, just as in a normal `ConceptScheme`. However, its content is a sub set of the full `ConceptScheme`. The way this works is described in section 3.5.3.1 on `ItemScheme`.

4.4.3 Class Diagram - Relationship

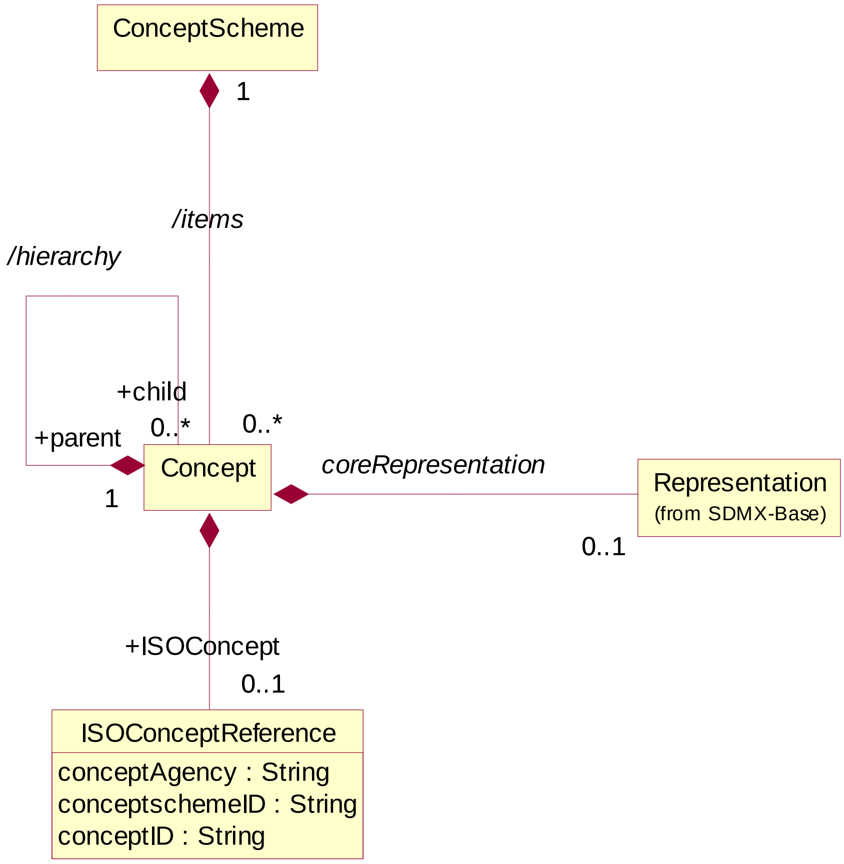

Figure 17: Relationship class diagram of the Concept Scheme

4.4.4 Explanation of the diagram

4.4.4.1 Narrative

The `ConceptScheme` can have one or more `Concept`s. A `Concept` can have zero or more child `Concept`s, thus supporting a hierarchy of `Concept`s. Note that a child `Concept` can have only one parent `Concept` in this association. The purpose of the hierarchy is to relate concepts that have a semantic relationship: for example a Reporting_Country and Vis_a_Vis_Country may both have Country as a parent concept, or a CONTACT may have a PRIMARY_CONTACT as a child concept. It is not the purpose of such schemes to define reporting structures: these reporting structures are defined in the `MetadataStructureDefinition`.

The `Concept` can be associated with a `coreRepresentation`. The `coreRepresentation` is the specification of the format and value domain of the `Concept` when used on a structure like a `DataStructureDefinition` or a `MetadataStructureDefinition`, unless the specification of the `Representation` is overridden in the relevant structure definition. In a hierarchical `ConceptScheme` the

Representation is inherited from the parent Concept unless overridden at the level of the child Concept.

Note that the ConceptScheme is used as the Representation of the MeasureDimension in a DataStructureDefinition (see 5.3.2). Each Concept in this ConceptScheme is a specific measure, each of which can be given a coreRepresentation. Thus the valid format of the observation for each measure when reported in a data set for the MeasureDimension is specified in the Concept. This allows a different format for each measure. This is covered in more detail in 5.3.

The Representation is documented in more detail in the section on the SDMX Base.

The Concept may be related to a concept described in terms of the ISO/IEC 11179 standard. The ISOConceptReference identifies this concept and concept scheme in which it is contained.

4.4.4.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
ConceptScheme	Inherits from *ItemScheme*	The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of concepts into groups based on characteristics, which the objects have in common.
Concept	Inherits from *Item*	A concept is a unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics.
	/hierarchy	Associates the parent and the child concept.
	coreRepresentation	Associates a Representation.
	+ISOConcept	Association to an ISO concept reference.
ISOConceptReference		The identity of an ISO concept definition.
	conceptAgency	The maintenance agency of the concept scheme containing the concept.
	conceptSchemeID	The identifier of the concept scheme.
	conceptID	The identifier of the concept.

4.5 Category Scheme

4.5.1 Context

This package defines the structure that supports the definition of and relationships between categories in a category scheme. It is similar to the package for concept scheme. An example of a category scheme is one which categorises data – sometimes known as a subject matter domain scheme or a data category scheme. Importantly, as will be seen later, the individual nodes in the scheme (the "categories") can be associated to any set of `IdentiableArtefacts` in a `Categorisation`.

4.5.2 Class diagram - Inheritance

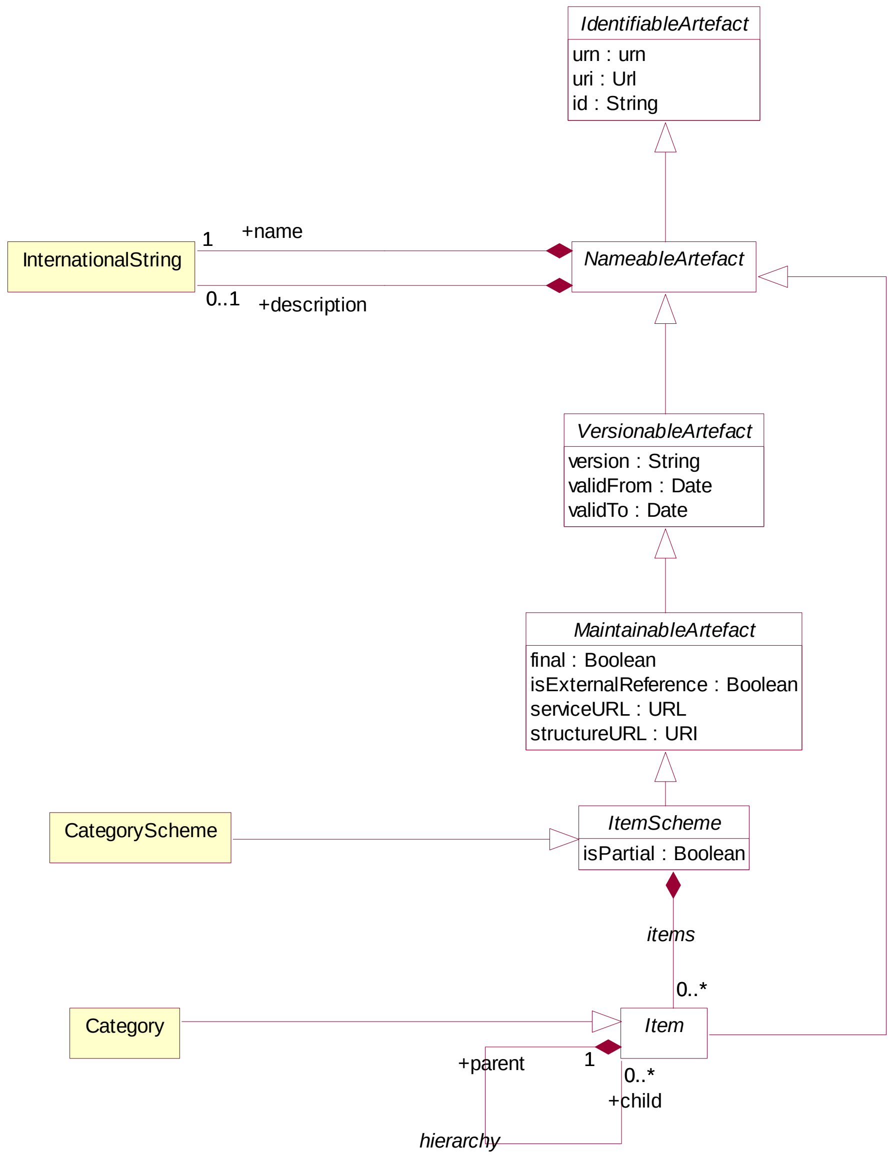

Figure 18 Inheritance Class diagram of the Category Scheme

4.5.3 Explanation of the Diagram

4.5.3.1 Narrative

The categories are modelled as a hierarchical *ItemScheme*. The CategoryScheme inherits from the *ItemScheme* and has the following attributes:

- id
- uri
- urn
- version
- validFrom
- validTo
- isExternalReference
- structureURL
- serviceURL
- final
- isPartial

Category inherits from *Item* and has the following attributes:

- id
- uri
- urn

Both CategoryScheme and Category have the association to InternationalString to support a multi-lingual name, an optional multi-lingual description, and an association to Annotation to support notes (not shown on the model).

Through the inheritance the CategoryScheme comprise one or more Categorys, and the Category itself can have one or more child Category in the (inherited) hierarchy association. Note that a child Category can have only one parent Category in this association.

A partial CategoryScheme (where isPartial is set to "true") is identical to a CategoryScheme and contains the Category and associated names and descriptions, just as in a normal `CategoryScheme`. However, its content is a sub set of the full `CategoryScheme`. The way this works is described in section 3.5.3.1 on `ItemScheme`.

4.5.4 Class diagram - Relationship

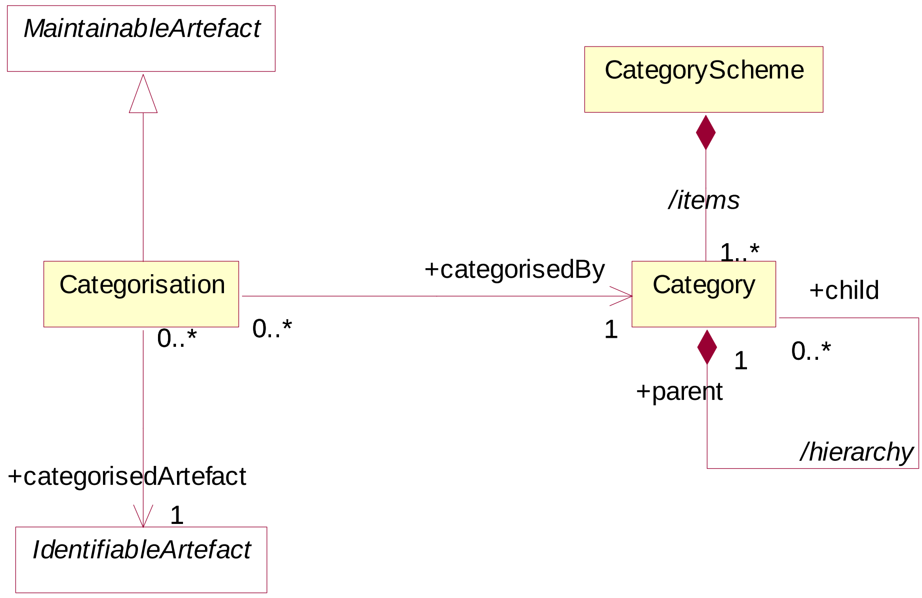

Figure 19: Relationship Class diagram of the Category Scheme

The `CategoryScheme` can have one or more `Category`s. The `Category` is Identifiable and has identity information. A `Category` can have zero or more child `Category`s, thus supporting a hierarchy of `Category`s. Any `IdentifiableArtefact` can be `+categorisedBy` a `Category`. This is achieved by means of a `Categorisation`. Each `Categorisation` can associate one `IdentifiableArtefact` with one `Category`. Multiple `Categorisations` can be used to build a set of `IdentifiableArtefact`s that are `+categorisedBy` the same `Category`. Note that there is no navigation (i.e. no embedded reference) to the `Categorisation` from the `Category`. From an implementation perspective this is necessary as `Categorisation` has no affect on the versioning of either the `Category` or the `IdentifiableArtefact`.

4.5.4.1 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`CategoryScheme`	Inherits from *`ItemScheme`*	The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of categories into groups based on characteristics, which the objects have in common.
	`/items`	Associates the categories.

Class	Feature	Description
Category	Inherits from *Item*	An item at any level within a classification, typically tabulation categories, sections, subsections, divisions, subdivisions, groups, subgroups, classes and subclasses.
	/hierarchy	Associates the parent and the child Category.
Categorisation	Inherits from MaintainableArtefact	Associates an IdentifableArtefact with a Category.
	+categorisedArtefact	Associates the IdentifableArtefact.
	+categorisedBy	Associates the Category.

4.6 Organisation Scheme

4.6.1 Class Diagram

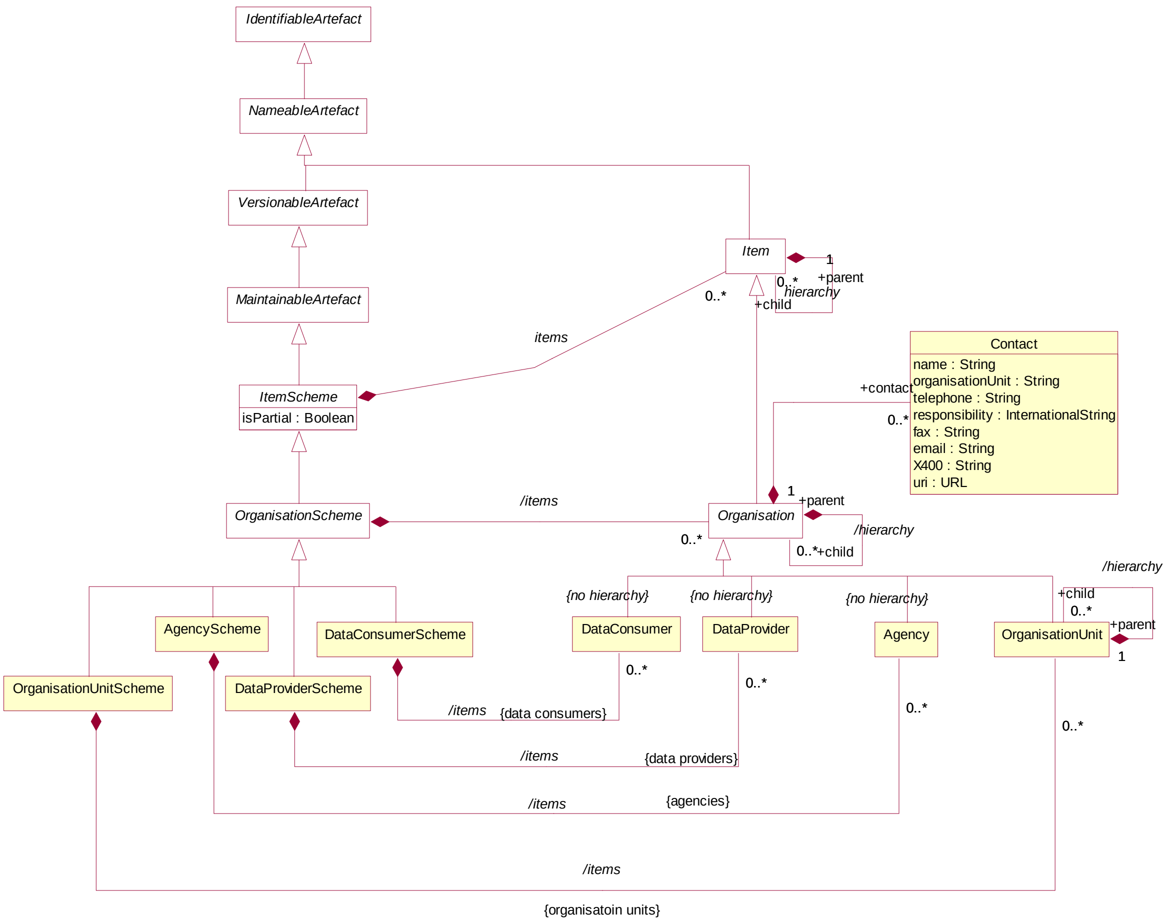

Figure 20 The Organisation Scheme class diagram

4.6.2 Explanation of the Diagram

4.6.2.1 Narrative

The *`OrganisationScheme`* is abstract. It contains *`Organisation`* which is also abstract. The `Organisation` can have child `Organisation`.

The *`OrganisationScheme`* can be one of four types:

1. `AgencyScheme` – contains `Agency` which is restricted to a flat list of agencies (i.e. there is no hierarchy). Note that the SDMX system of (Maintenance) Agency can be hierarchic and this is explained in more detail in the separate document "Technical Notes".
2. `DataProviderScheme` – contains `DataProvider` which is restricted to a flat list of agencies (i.e. there is no hierarchy).

3. `DataConsumerScheme` – contains `DataConsumer` which is restricted to a flat list of agencies (i.e. there is no hierarchy).
4. `OrganisationUnitScheme` – contains `OrganisationUnit` which does inherit the `/hierarchy` association from `Organisation`.

Reference metadata can be attached to the *Organisation* by means of the metadata attachment mechanism. This mechanism is explained in the Reference Metadata section of this document (see section 7). This means that the model does not specify the specific reference metadata that can be attached to a `DataProvider`, `DataConsumer`, `OrganisationUnit` or `Agency`, except for limited `Contact` information.

A partial *OrganisationScheme* (where `isPartial` is set to "true") is identical to a *OrganisationScheme* and contains the `Organisation` and associated names and descriptions, just as in a normal *OrganisationScheme* However, its content is a sub set of the full *OrganisationScheme*. The way this works is described in section 3.5.3.1 on `ItemScheme`.

4.6.2.2 Definitions

Class	**Feature**	**Description**
OrganisationScheme	Abstract Class Inherits from *ItemScheme* Sub classes are: AgencyScheme DataProviderScheme DataConsumerScheme OrganisationUnitScheme	A maintained collection of Organisations.
	/items	Association to the Organisations in the scheme.
Organisation	Inherits from *Item* Sub classes are: Agency DataProvider DataConsumer OrganisationUnit	An organisation is a unique framework of authority within which a person or persons act, or are designated to act, towards some purpose.
	+contact	Association to the Contact information.
	/hierarchy	Association to child Organisations.

Class	Feature	Description
Contact		An instance of a role of an individual or an organization (or organization part or organization person) to whom an information item(s), a material object(s) and/or person(s) can be sent to or from in a specified context.
	name	The designation of the Contact person by a linguistic expression.
	organisationUnit	The designation of the organisational structure by a linguistic expression, within which Contact person works.
	responsibility	The function of the contact person with respect to the organisation role for which this person is the Contact.
	telephone	The telephone number of the Contact.
	fax	The fax number of the Contact.
	email	The Internet e-mail address of the Contact.
	X400	The X400 address of the Contact.
	uri	The URL address of the Contact.
AgencyScheme		A maintained collection of Maintenace Agencies.
	/items	Association to the Maintenance Agency in the scheme.
DataProviderScheme		A maintained collection of Data Providers.
	/items	Association to the Data Providers in the scheme.
DataConsumerScheme		A maintained collection of Data Consumers.

Class	Feature	Description
	/items	Association to the Data Consumers in the scheme.
OrganisationUnitScheme		A maintained collection of Organisation Units.
	/items	Association to the Organisation Units in the scheme.
Agency	Inherits from *Organisation*	Responsible agency for maintaining artefacts such as statistical classifications, glossaries, structural metadata such as Data and Metadata Structure Definitions, Concepts and Code lists.
DataProvider	Inherits from *Organisation*	An organisation that produces data or reference metadata.
DataConsumer	Inherits from *Organisation*	An organisation using data as input for further processing.
OrganisationUnit	Inherits from *Organisation*	A designation in the organisational structure.
	/hierarchy	Association to child Organisation Units

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4.7 Reporting Taxonomy

4.7.1 Class Diagram

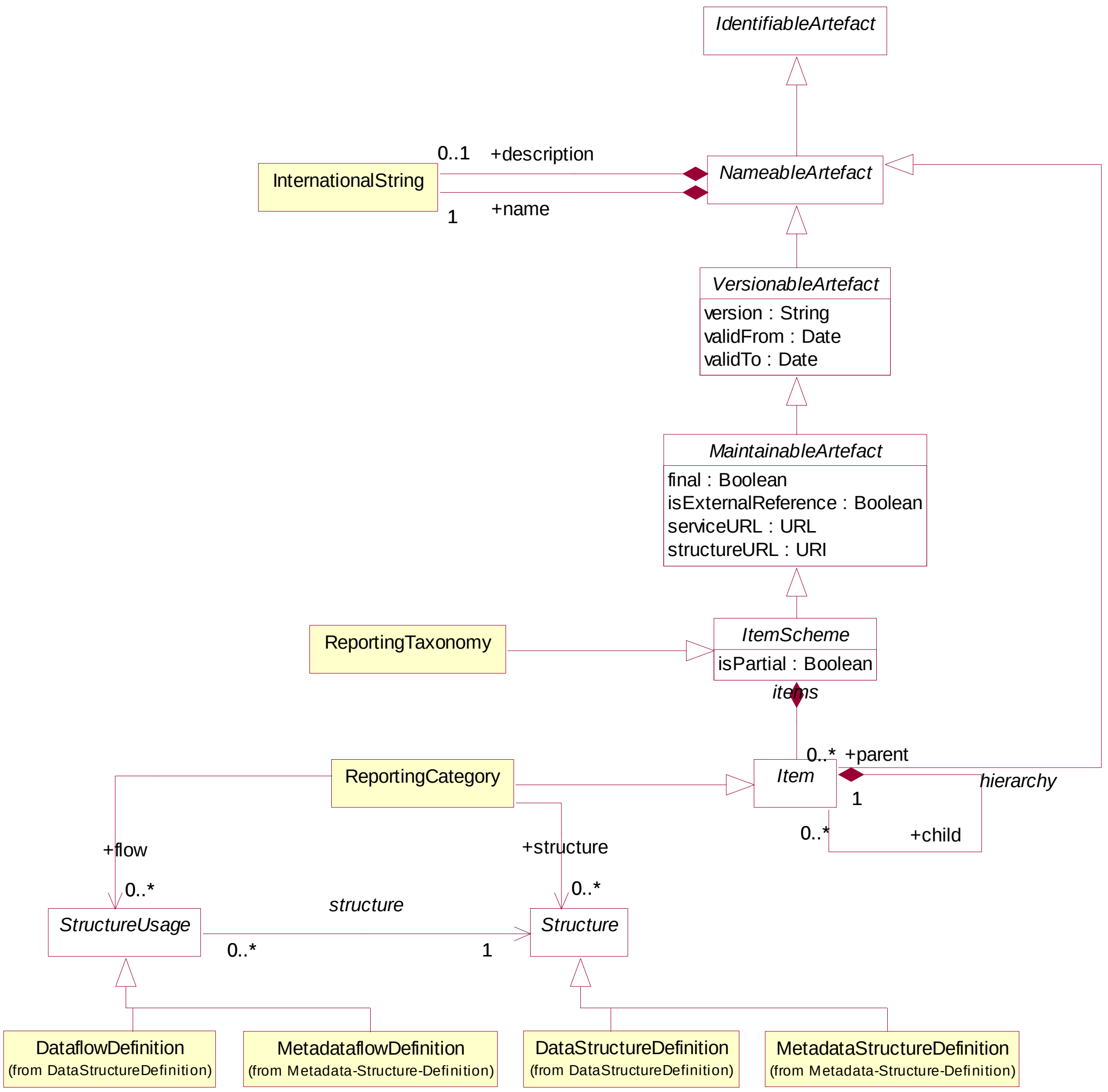

Figure 21: Class diagram of the Reporting Taxonomy

4.7.2 Explanation of the Diagram

4.7.2.1 Narrative

In some data reporting environments, and in particular those in primary reporting, a report may comprise a variety of heterogeneous data, each described by a different `Structure`. Equally, a specific disseminated or published report may also comprise a variety of heterogeneous data. The definition of the set of linked sub reports is supported by the `ReportingTaxonomy`.

The `ReportingTaxonomy` is a specialised form of `ItemScheme`. Each `ReportingCategory` of the `ReportingTaxonomy` can link to one or more

StructureUsage which itself can be one of DataflowDefinition, or MetadataflowDefinition, and one or more *Structure*, which itself can be one of DataStructureDefinition or MetadataStructureDefinition. It is expected that within a specific ReportingTaxonomy each Category that is linked in this way will be linked to the same class (e.g. all Category in the scheme will link to a DataflowDefinition). Note that a ReportingCategory can have child ReportingCategory and in this way it is possible to define a hierarchical ReportingTaxonomy. It is possible in this taxonomy that some ReportingCategory are defined just to give a reporting structure. For instance:

Section 1
    1. linked to DatafowDefinition_1
    2 linked to DatafowDefinition_2
Section 2
    1 linked toDatafowDefinition_3
    2 linked to DatafowDefinition_4

Here, the nodes of Section 1 and Section 2 would not be linked to DataflowDefinition but the other would be linked to a DataflowDefinition (and hence the DataStructureDefinition).

A partial ReportingTaxonomy (where isPartial is set to “true”) is identical to a ReportingTaxonomy and contains the ReportingCategory and associated names and descriptions, just as in a normal ReportingTaxonomy However, its content is a sub set of the full ReportingTaxonomy The way this works is described in section 3.5.3.1 on ItemScheme.

4.7.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
ReportingTaxonomy	Inherits from *ItemScheme*	A scheme which defines the composition structure of a data report where each component can be described by an independent Dataflow Definition or Metdataflow Definition.
	items	Associates the Reporting Category
ReportingCategory	Inherits from *Item*	A component that gives structure to the report and links to data and metadata.
	hierarchy	Associates child Reporting Category.

Class	Feature	Description
	+flow	Association to the data and metadata flows that link to metadata about the provisioning and related data and metadata sets, and the structures that define them.
	+structure	Association to the Data Structure Definition and Metadata Structure Definitions which define the structural metadata describing the data and metadata that are contained at this part of the report.

5 Data Structure Definition and Dataset

5.1 Introduction

The `DataStructureDefiniton` is the class name for a structure definition for data. Some organisations know this type of definition as a “Key Family” and so the two names are synonymous. The term Data Structure Definition (also referred to as DSD) is used in this specification.

Many of the constructs in this layer of the model inherit from the SDMX Base Layer. Therefore, it is necessary to study both the inheritance and the relationship diagrams to understand the functionality of individual packages. In simple sub models these are shown in the same diagram, but are omitted from the more complex sub models for the sake of clarity. In these cases, the inheritance diagram below shows the full inheritance tree for the classes concerned with data structure definitions.

There are very few additional classes in this sub model other than those shown in the inheritance diagram below. In other words, the SDMX Base gives most of the structure of this sub model both in terms of associations and in terms of attributes. The relationship diagrams shown in this section show clearly when these associations are inherited from the SDMX Base (see the Appendix “A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model” to see the diagrammatic notation used to depict this).

The actual SDMX Base construct from which the concrete classes inherit depends upon the requirements of the class for:

- Annotation - *AnnotableArtefact*
- Identification - *IdentifiableArtefact*
- Naming - *NameableArtefact*
- Versioning – *VersionableArtefact*
- Maintenance - *MaintainableArtefact*

5.2 Inheritance View

5.2.1 Class Diagram

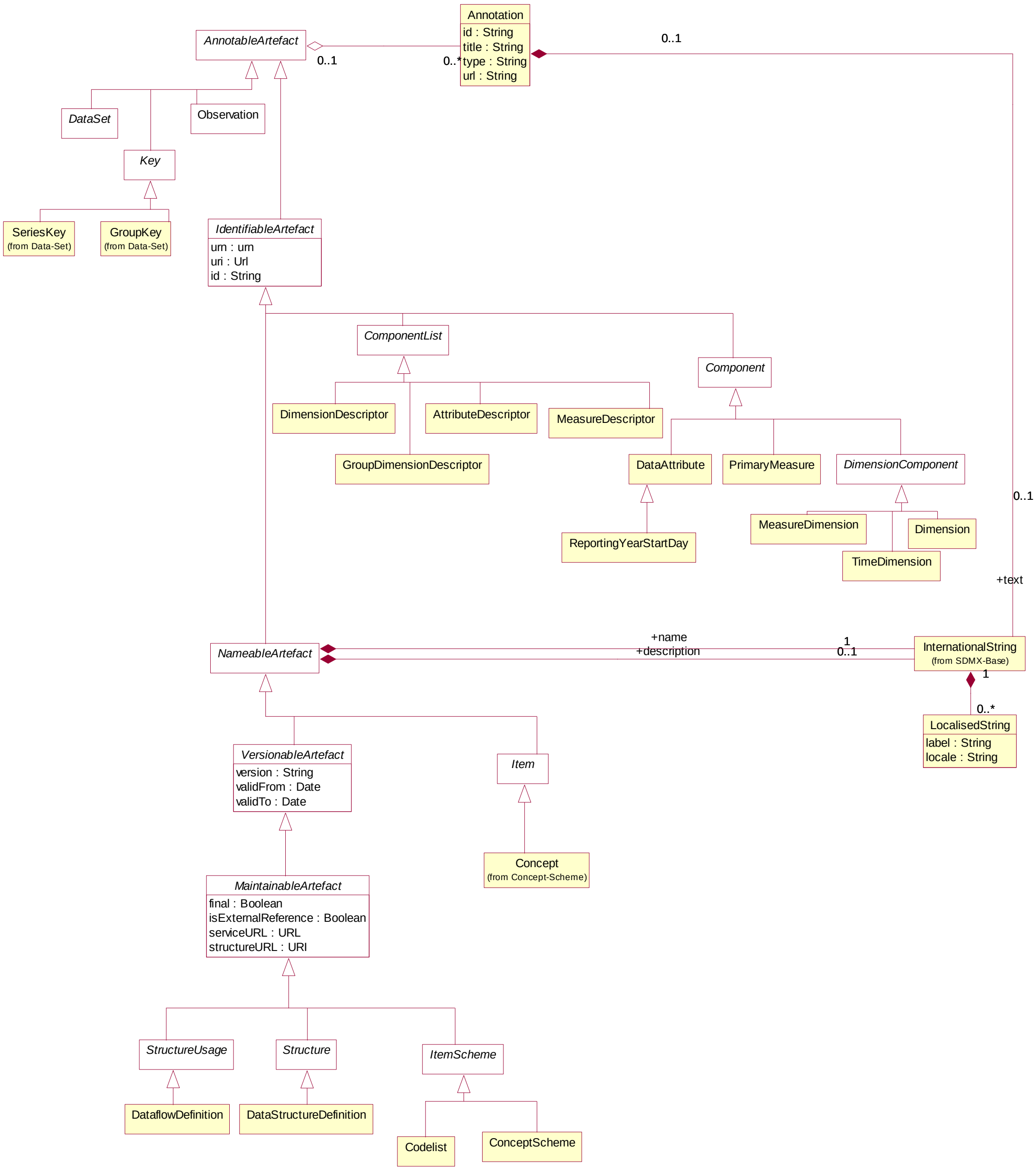

Figure 22 Class inheritance in the Data Structure Definition and Data Set Packages

5.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

5.2.2.1 Narrative

Those classes in the SDMX metamodel which require annotations inherit from *AnnotableArtefact*. These are:

- *IdentifiableArtefact*
- DataSet (and therefore StructureSpecificDataSet, GenericDataSet, GenericTimeSeriesDataSet StructureSpecificTimeSeriesDataSet)
- *Key* (and therefore SeriesKey and GroupKey)

Those classes in the SDMX metamodel which require annotations and global identity are derived from *IdentifiableArtefact*. These are:

- *NameableArtefact*
- *ComponentList*
- *Component*

Those classes in the SDMX metamodel which require annotations, global identity, multilingual name and multilingual description are derived from *NameableArtefact*. These are:

- *VersionableArtefact*
- *Item*

The classes in the SDMX metamodel which require annotations, global identity, multilingual name and multilingual description, and versioning are derived from *VersionableArtefact*. These are:

- *MaintainableArtefact*

Abstract classes which represent information that is maintained by Maintenance Agencies all inherit from *MaintainableArtefact*, they also inherit all the features of a *VersionableArtefact*, and are:

- *StructureUsage*
- *Structure*
- *ItemScheme*

All the above classes are abstract. The key to understanding the class diagrams presented in this section are the concrete classes that inherit from these abstract classes.

Those concrete classes in the SDMX Data Structure Definition and Dataset packages of the metamodel which require to be maintained by Agencies all inherit (via other abstract classes) from *`MaintainableArtefact`*, these are:

- `DataflowDefinition`
- `DataStructureDefinition`

The component structures that are lists of lists, inherit directly from *`Structure`*. A *`Structure`* contains several lists of components. The concrete class that inherits from `Structure` is:

- `DataStructureDefinition`

A `DataStructureDefinition` contains a list of dimensions, a list of measures and a list of attributes.

The concrete classes which inherit from *`ComponentList`* and are sub components of the `DataStructureDefinition` are:

- `DimensionDescriptor` – content is `Dimension`, `MeasureDimension` and `Time Dimension`
- `DimensionGroupDescriptor` – content is an association to `Dimension`, `MeasureDimension`, `TimeDimension`
- `MeasureDescriptor` – content is `PrimaryMeasure`
- `AttributeDescriptor` – content is `DataAttribute`

The classes that inherit from *`Component`* are:

- `PrimaryMeasure`
- `DimensionComponent` and thereby its sub classes of `Dimension`, `MeasureDimension`, and `TimeDimension`
- `DataAttribute`

The class that inherit from `DataAttribute` is:

- `ReportingYearStartDay`

The concrete classes identified above are the majority of the classes required to define the metamodel for the `DataStructureDefinition`. The diagrams and explanations in the rest of this section show how these concrete classes are related in order to support the functionality required.

5.3 Data Structure Definition – Relationship View

5.3.1 Class Diagram

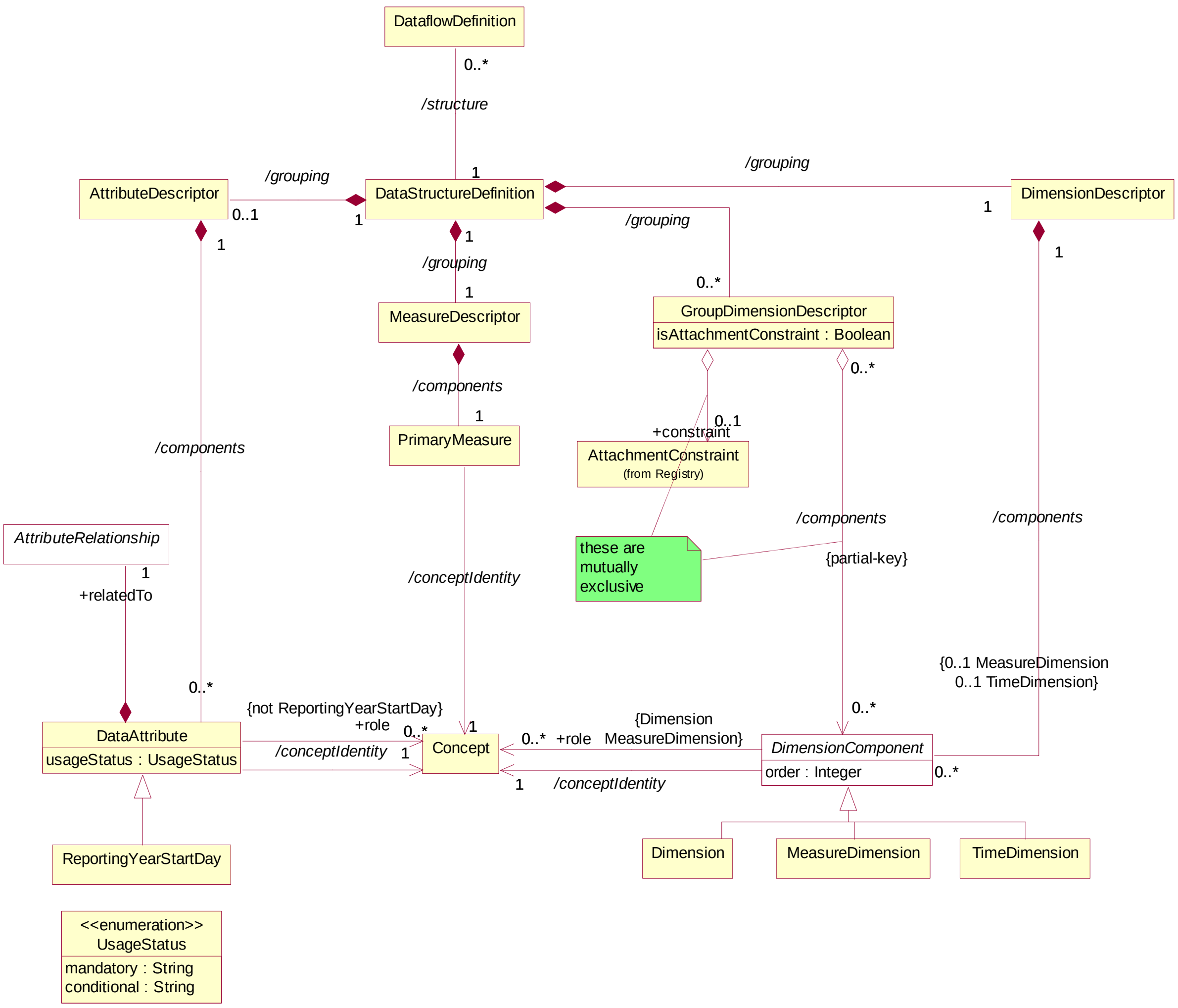

Figure 23 Relationship class diagram of the Data Structure Definition excluding representation

5.3.2 Explanation of the Diagrams

5.3.2.1 Narrative

A DataStructureDefinition defines the Dimensions, MeasureDimension, TimeDimension, DataAttributes, and PrimaryMeasure, and associated Representation that comprise the valid structure of data and related attributes that are contained in a DataSet, which is defined by a DataflowDefinition.

The DataflowDefinition may also have additional metadata attached that defines qualitative information and Constraints on the use of the DataStructureDefinition such as the sub set of Codes used in a Dimension (this is covered later in this document –

see “Data Constraints and Provisioning” section 9). Each DataflowDefinition has a maximum of one DataStructureDefinition specified which defines the structure of any DataSets to be reported/disseminated.

There are three types of dimension each having a common association to Concept:

- Dimension
- MeasureDimension
- TimeDimension

Note that In the description here *DimensionComponent* can be oany or all of its sub classes i.e. Dimension, MeasureDimension, TimeDimension., and the term “DataAttribute” refers to both DataAttribute and its sub class ReportingYearStartDate.

The *DimensionComponent*, DataAttribute, and PrimaryMeasure link to the Concept that defines its name and semantic (/conceptIdentity association to Concept). The DataAttribute, Dimension, and MeasureDimension (but not TimeDimension) can optionally have a +conceptRole association with a Concept that identifies its role in the DataStructureDefinition. Therefore, the allowable roles of a Concept are maintained in a ConceptScheme. Examples of roles are: geography, entity, count, unit of measure. The use of these roles is to enable applications to process the data in a meaningful way (e.g. relating a dimension value to a mapping vector). It is expected that communities (such as the official statistics community) will harmonise these roles with their community so that data can be exchanged and shared in a meaningful way in the community.

The valid values for a *DimensionComponent*, PrimaryMeasure, or DataAttribute, when used in this DataStructureDefinition, are defined by the Representation. This Representation is taken from the Concept definition (coreRepresentation) unless it is overridden in this DataStructureDefinition (localRepresentation) – see Figure 23. Note that for the MeasureDimension the Representation must be a ConceptScheme and this must always be referenced from the MeasureDimension and cannot therefore be defaulted to the Representation of the Concept associated by the/conceptIdentity. Note also that TimeDimension and ReportingYearStartDate are constrained to specific FacetValueTypes

There will always be a DimensionDescriptor grouping that identifies all of the Dimension comprising the full key. Together the Dimensions specify the key of an Observation.

The *DimensionComponent* can optionally be grouped by multiple GroupDimensionDescriptors each of which identifies the group of Dimensions that can form a partial key. The GroupDimensionDescriptor must be identified (GroupDimensionDescriptor.id) and this is used in the GroupKey of the DataSet to declare which DataAttributes are reported at this group level in the DataSet.

There may be a maximum of one MeasureDimension specified in the DimensionDescriptor. The purpose of a MeasureDimension is to specify formally the meaning of the measures (because the PrimaryMeasure typically has a generic meaning e.g. observation value) and to enable multiple measures to be defined and reported in a StructureSpecificDataSet. Note that the MeasureDimension references a

ConceptScheme as its Representation (see later) whereas a Dimension can have either an enumerated (Codelist) or non-enumerated (Facet) representation. For a MeasureDimension the Concepts in the ConceptScheme comprise the list of allowable measures. This enables the representation for each individual measure (Concept) to be declared as the coreRepresentation of the Concept, thus overriding the Representation specified for the PrimaryMeasure for the observation value of this MeasureDimension Concept.

There can be a maximum of one TimeDimension specified in the DimensionDescriptor. The TimeDimension is used to specify the Concept used to convey the time period of the observation in a data set. The TimeDimension must contain a valid representation of time and cannot be coded

The PrimaryMeasure is the observable phenomenon, and, although there can be only one PrimaryMeasure, for consistency with the ComponentList/Component pattern it is grouped by a MeasureDescriptor.

The DataAttribute defines a characteristic of data that are collected or disseminated and is grouped in the DataStructureDefinition by a single AttributeDescriptor. The DataAttribute can be specified as being mandatory, or conditional, as defined in usageStatus. The DataAttribute may play a specific role in the structure and this is specified by the +role association to the Concept that identifies its role.

A DataAttribute is specified as being +relatedTo an AttributeRelationship which defines the constructs to which the DataAttribute is to be reported present in a *DataSet*. The DataAttribute can be specified as being related to one of the following artefacts:

- DataSet (NoSpecifiedRelationship)
- Dimension or set of Dimensions (DimensionRelationship)
- Set of Dimensions specified by a GroupKey (GroupRelationship – this is retained for compatibility reasons – or +groupKey of the DimensionRelationship)
- Observation (PrimaryMeasureRelationship)

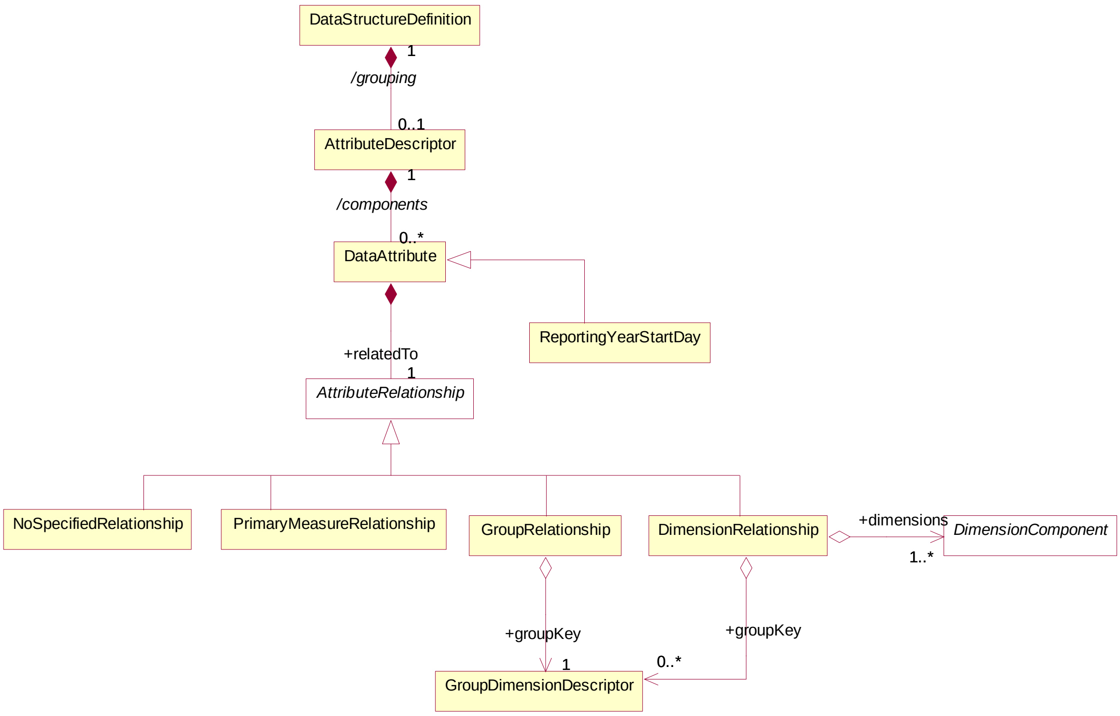

Figure 24: Attribute Attachment Defined in the Data Structure Definition

The following table details the possible relationships a `DataAttribute` may specify. Note that these relationships are mutually exclusive, and therefore only one of the following is possible.

Relationship	**Meaning**	**Location in Data Set at which the Attribute is reported**
None	The value of the attribute does not vary with the values of any other Component.	The attribute is reported at the level of the Dataset Attribute.
Dimension (1..n)	The value of the attribute will vary with the value(s) of the referenced Dimension(s). In this case, Group(s) to which the attribute should be attached may optionally be specified.	The attribute is reported at the lowest level of the Dimension to which the Attribute is related, otherwise at the level of the Group if Attachment Group(s) is specified.

Relationship	**Meaning**	**Location in Data Set at which the Attribute is reported**
Group	The value of the Attribute varies with combination of values for all of the Dimensions contained in the Group. This is added as a convenience to listing all Dimensions and the attachment Group, but should only be used when the Attribute value varies based on all Group Dimension values.	The attribute is reported at the level of Group.
Primary Measure	The value of the Attribute varies with the observed value.	The attribute is reported at the level of Observation.

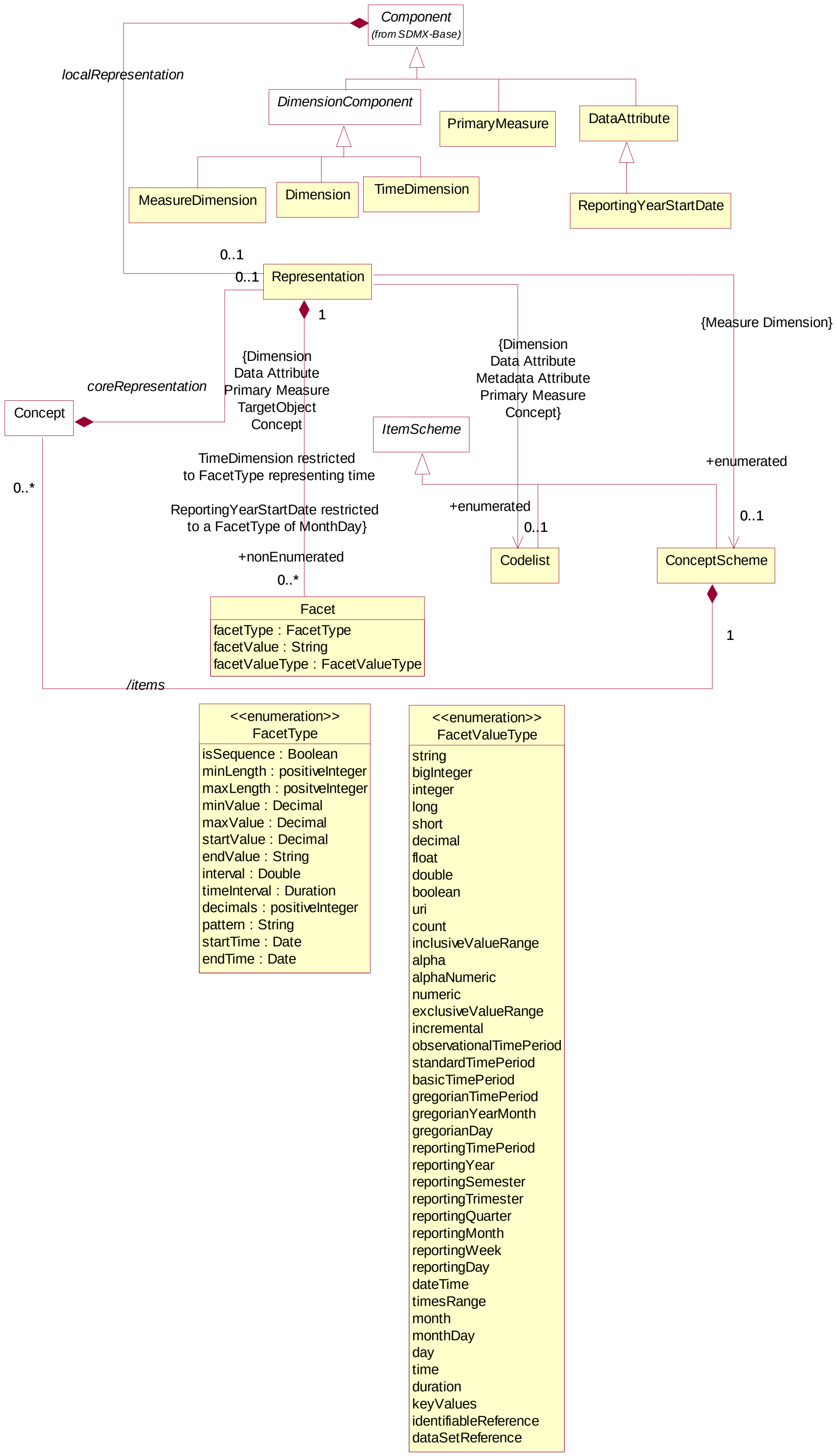

Figure 25: Representation of DSD Components

Each of `Dimension`, `MeasureDimension`, `TimeDimension`, `PrimaryMeasure`, and `DataAttribute` can have a `Representation` specified (using the `localRepresentation` association). If this is not specified in the `DataStructureDefinition` then the representation specified for `Concept` (`coreRepresentation`) is used. For the `MeasureDimension` the representation for the individual measures is specified for the `Concept` in the `ConceptScheme` referenced by the `MeasureDimension`.

A `DataStructureDefinition` can be extended to form a derived `DataStructureDefinition`. This is supported in the `StructureMap`.

5.3.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`StructureUsage`		See "SDMX Base".
`DataflowDefinition`	Inherits from *`StructureUsage`*	Abstract concept (i.e. the structure without any data) of a flow of data that providers will provide for different reference periods.
	`/structure`	Associates a Dataflow Definition to the Data Structure Definition.
`DataStructureDefinition`		A collection of metadata concepts, their structure and usage when used to collect or disseminate data.
	/grouping	An association to a set of metadata concepts that have an identified structural role in a Data Structure Definition.
`Group DimensionDescriptor`	Inherits from *`ComponentList`*	A set metadata concepts that define a partial key derived from the Dimension Descriptor in a Data Structure Definition.
	`+constraint`	Identifies an Attachment Constraint that specifies the sub set of Dimension, Measure, or Attribute values to which an Attribute can be attached.
	`/components`	An association to the Dimension and Measure

Class	Feature	Description
		Dimension components that comprise the group.
DimensionDescriptor	Inherits from *ComponentList*	An ordered set of metadata concepts that, combined, classify a statistical series, and whose values, when combined (the key) in an instance such as a data set, uniquely identify a specific observation.
	/components	An association to the Dimension, Measure Dimension, and Time Dimension comprising the Key Descriptor.
AttributeDescriptor	Inherits from *ComponentList*	A set metadata concepts that define the attributes of a Data Structure Definition.
	/components	An association to a Data Attribute component.
MeasureDescriptor	Inherits from *ComponentList*	A metadata concept that defines the measure of a Data Structure Definition.
	/components	An association to a measure component.
Dimension	Inherits from Component	A metadata concept used (most probably together with other metadata concepts) to classify a statistical series, e.g. a statistical concept indicating a certain economic activity or a geographical reference area.
	/role	Association to the Concept that specifies the role that that the Dimension plays in the Data Structure Definition.
	/conceptIdentity	An association to the metadata concept which defines the semantic of the Dimension.
MeasureDimension	Inherits from Dimension	A statistical concept that identifies the component in the key structure that

Class	Feature	Description
		has an enumerated list of measures. This dimension has, as its representation the Concept Scheme that enumerates the measure concepts.
TimeDimension	Inherits from Dimension	A metadata concept that identifies the component in the key structure that has the role of “time”.
DataAttribute	Inherits from Component Sub class ReportingYear StartDay	A characteristic of an object or entity.
	/role	Association to the Concept that specifies the role that that the Data Attribute plays in the Data Structure Definition.
	usageStatus	Defines the usage status which is constrained by the data type Usage Status.
	+relatedTo	Association to a Attribute Relationship.
	/conceptIdentity	An association to the Concept which defines the semantic of the component.
ReportingYearStartDay	Inherits from DataAttribute	A specialised Data Attribute whose value is used in conjunction with the predefined reporting periods in the Time Dimension. If this is not present, then by default all reporting period values for the Time Dimension will be assumed to be based on a reporting year start day of January 1.

Class	Feature	Description
PrimaryMeasure	Inherits from *Component*	The metadata concept that is the phenomenon to be measured in a data set. In a data set the instance of the measure is often called the observation.
	/conceptIdentity	An association to the Concept which carries the values of the measures.
AttributeRelationship	Abstract Class Sub classes NoSpecified Relationship PrimaryMeasure Relationship GroupRelationship Dimension Relationship	Specifies the type of artefact to which a Data Attribute can be attached in a Data Set.
NoSpecifiedRelationship		The Data Attribute is not related to any specific construct.
PrimaryMeasure Relationship		The Data Attribute is related to the Primary Measure construct.
GroupRelationship		The Data Attribute is related to a Group Dimension Descriptor construct.
	+groupKey	An association to the Group Dimension Descriptor
DimensionRelationship		The Data Attribute is related to a set of Dimensions.
	+dimensions	Association to the set of Dimensions to which the Data Attribute is related.
	+groupKey	Association to the Group Dimension Descriptor which specifies the set of Dimensions to which the Data Attribute is attached.

The explanation of the classes, attributes, and associations comprising the Representation is described in the section on the SDMX Base.

5.4 Data Set – Relationship View

5.4.1 Context

A data set comprises the collection of data values and associated metadata that are collected or disseminated according to a known `DataStructureDefinition`.

5.4.2 Class Diagram

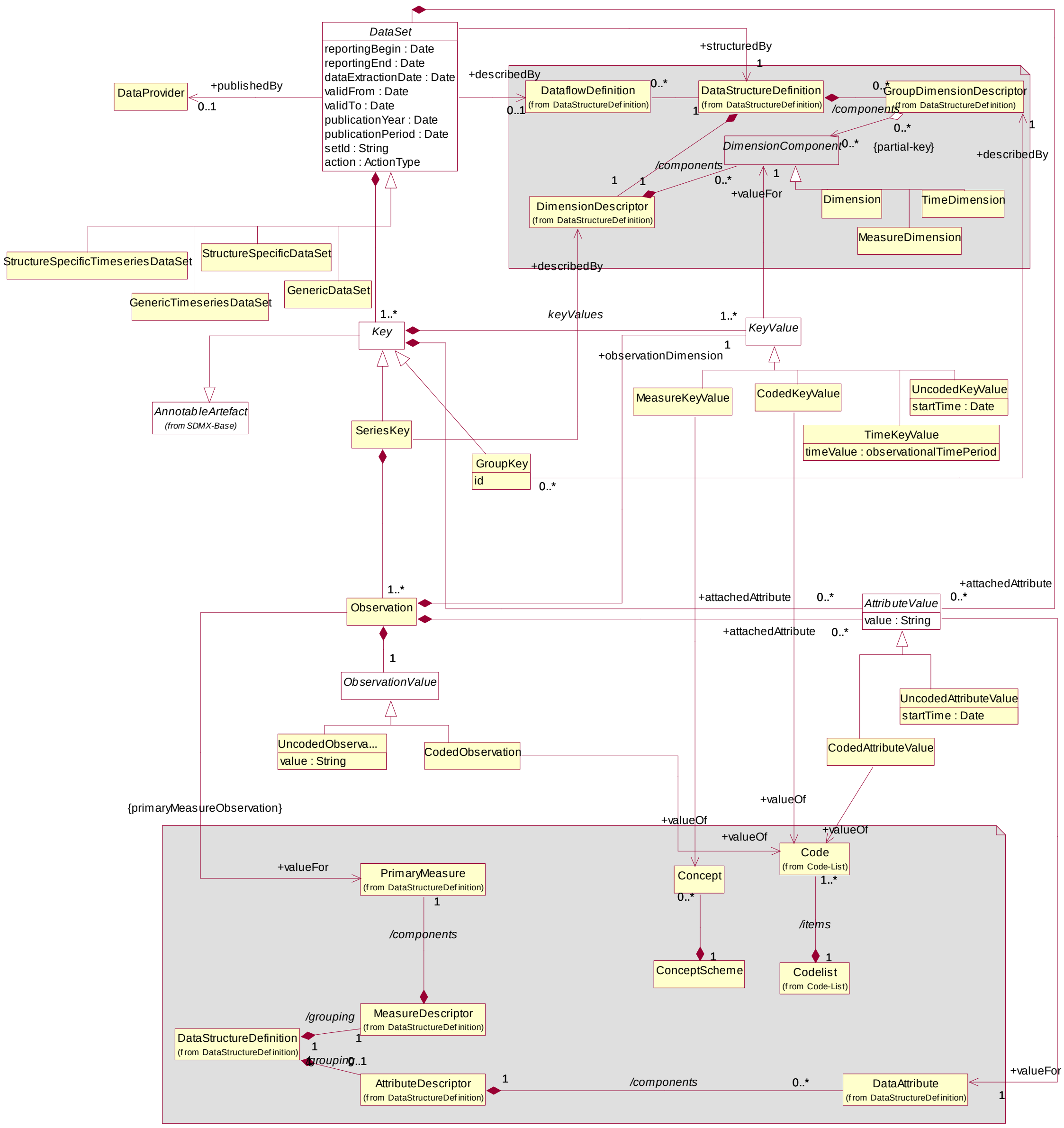

Figure 26 Class Diagram of the Data Set

5.4.3 Explanation of the Diagram

5.4.3.1 Narrative – Data Set

Note that the *DataSet* must conform to the DataStructureDefinition associated to the DataflowDefinition for which this DataSet is an "instance of data". Whilst the model shows the association to the classes of the DataStructureDefinition, this is for conceptual purposes to show the link to the DataStructureDefinition. In the actual DataSet as exchanged there must, of course, be a reference to the DataStructureDefinition and optionally a DataflowDefinition, but the DataStructureDefinition is not necessarily exchanged with the data. Therefore, the DataStructureDefinition classes are shown in the grey areas, as these are not a part of the *DataSet* when the DataSet is exchanged. However, the structural metadata in the DataStructureDefinition can be used by an application to validate the contents of the *DataSet* in terms of the valid content of a *KeyValue* as defined by the Representation in the DataStructureDefinition.

An organisation playing the role of DataProvider can be responsible for one or more *DataSet*.

A *DataSet* can be formatted either as a generic data set (GenericDataSet, GenericTimeseriesDataSet) or a DataStructureDefinition specific data set (StructureSpecificDataSet, StructureSpecificTimeseriesDataSet). The generic data set is structured in exactly the same way no matter which DataStructureDefinition the DataSet expresses. The structured data set is structured according to one specific DataStructureDefinition. Depending on the syntax chosen for the implementation the structured data set should support better validation at the syntax level.

A *DataSet* is a collection of a set of *Observation*s that share the same dimensionality, which is specified by a set of unique components (Dimension, MeasureDimension, TimeDimension) defined in the DimensionDescriptor of the DataStructureDefinition, together with associated *AttributeValue*s that define specific characteristics about the artefact to which it is attached. - DataSet, Observation, set of Dimensions. It is structured in terms of a SeriesKey to which *Observation*s are reported.

The Observation can be the value of the variable being measured for the Concept associated to the PrimaryMeasure in the MeasureDescriptor of the DataStructureDefinition. This is true when there is no MeasureDimension that specifies the precise meaning of each Observation. Each Observation associates an ObservationValue with a KeyValue (+observationDimension) which is the value for the "Dimension at the Observation Level". Any dimension can be specified as being the "Dimension at the Observation Level", and this specification is made at the level of the *DataSet* (i.e. it must be the same dimension for the entire *DataSet*).

If the "Dimension at the Observation Level" is the MeasureDimension it is possible (but not mandatory) that an Observation can be reported with an explicit identification of one or more Concept in the ConceptScheme referenced by the MeasureDimension as its Representation. In other words, the actual Concepts are explicitly stated in the Observation.

If it is required to specify explicitly that the DataSet is time series then one of GenericTimeSeriesDataSet or StructureSpecificTimeSeriesDataSet is used and the *KeyValue* for the +observationDimension must be a TimeKeyValue. In a GenericDataSet and a StructureSpecificDataSet it is permissible to have any dimension as the +observationDimension including the TimeDimension.

The *KeyValue* is a value for one of MeasureDimension, TimeDimension, or Dimension specified in the DataStructureDefinition. If it is a Dimension it can be coded (CodedKeyValue) or uncoded (UncodedKeyValue). If it is a MeasureDimension then it is MeasureKeyValue. If it is TimeDimension then it is a TimeKeyValue. The actual value that the CodedDimensionValue can take must be one of the Codes in the Codelist specified as the Representation of the Dimension in the DataStructureDefinition. The actual value that the MeasureDimensionValue can take must be a valid representation specified for the Concept in the ConceptScheme to which this MeasureDimensionValue is related (+valueFor).

The ObservationValue can be coded - this is the CodedObservation – or it can be uncoded – this is the UncodedObservation.

The GroupKey is a sub unit of the *Key* that has the same dimensionality as the SeriesKey, but defines a subset of the KeyValues of the SeriesKey. Its sub dimension structure is defined in the GroupDimensionDescriptor of the DataStructureDefinition identified by the same id as the GroupKey. The id identifies a "type" of group and the purpose of the GroupKey is to report one or more AttributeValue that are contained at this group level. The GroupKey is present when the GroupDimensionDescriptor is related to the GroupRelationship in the DataStructureDefinition. There can be many types of groups in a *DataSet*. If the Group is related to the DimensionRelationship in the DataStructureDefinition then the AttributeValue will be reported with the appropriate dimension in the SeriesKey or Observation.

In this way each of *DataSet*, SeriesKey, GroupKey, and Observation can have zero or more AttributeValue that defines some metadata about the object to which it is associated. The allowable Concepts and the objects to which these metadata can be associated (attached) are defined in the DataStructureDefinition.

The *AttributeValue* links to the object type (DataSet, SeriesKey, GroupKey, Observation,) to which it is associated.

5.4.3.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description

Class	Feature	Description
DataSet	Abstract Class Sub classes GenericDataSet StructureSpecificDataSet GenericTime SeriesDataSet StructureSpecificTime SeriesDataSet	An organised collection of data.
	reportingBegin	A specific time period in a known system of time periods that identifies the start period of a report.
	reportingEnd	A specific time period in a known system of time periods that identifies the end period of a report.
	dataExtractionDate	A specific time period that identifies the date and time that the data are extracted from a data source.
	validFrom	Indicates the inclusive start time indicating the validity of the information in the data set.
	validTo	Indicates the inclusive end time indicating the validity of the information in the data set.
	publicationYear	Specifies the year of publication of the data or metadata in terms of whatever provisioning agreements might be in force.
	publicationPeriod	Specifies the period of publication of the data or metadata in terms of whatever provisioning agreements might be in force.
	setId	Provides an identification of the data set.
	action	Defines the action to be taken by the recipient system (update, append, delete)

Class	Feature	Description
	describedBy	Associates a data flow definition and thereby a Data Structure Definition to the data set.
	+structuredBy	Associates the Data Structure Definition that defines the structure of the Data Set. Note that the Data Structure Definition is the same as that associated (non-mandatory) to the Dataflow Definition.
	+publishedBy	Associates the Data Provider that reports/publishes the data.
	+attachedAttribute	Association to the Attribute Values relating to the Data Set
GenericDataSet		A data format structure that is able to contain data corresponding to any Data Structure Definition.
StructureSpecific DataSet		A data format structure that contains data corresponding to one specific Data Structure Definition.
GenericTimeseries DataSet		A data format structure that is able to contain timeseries data corresponding to any Data Structure Definition.
StructureSpecific TimeseriesDataSet		A data format structure that contains timeseries data corresponding to one specific Data Structure Definition.
Key	Abstract class Sub classes SeriesKey GroupKey	Comprises the cross product of values of dimensions that identify uniquely an Observation.
	keyValues	Association to the individual Key Values that comprise the Key.

Class	Feature	Description
	+attachedAttribute	Association to the Attribute Values relating to the Series Key or Group Key.
KeyValue	Abstract class Sub classes MeasureKeyValue TimeKeyValue CodedKeyValue UncodedKeyValue	The value of a component of a key such as the value of the instance a Dimension in a Dimension Descriptor of a Data Structure Definition.
	+valueFor	Association to the key component in the Data Structure Definition for which this Key Value is a valid representation. Note that this is conceptual association as the key component is identified explicitly in the data set.
MeasureKeyValue	Inherits from *KeyValue*	The value of the Measure Dimension component of the key. The value is the Concept to which this class is associated.
	+value	Association to the Concept. Note that this is a conceptual association showing that the Concept must exist in the Concept Scheme associated with the Measure Dimension in the Data Structure Definition. In the actual Data Set the value of the Concept is placed in the Key Value.
TimeKeyValue	Inherits from *KeyValue*	The value of the Time Dimension component of the key.
CodedKeyValue	Inherits from *KeyValue*	The value of a coded component of the key. The value is the Code to which this class is associated.

Class	Feature	Description
	+value	Association to the Code. Note that this is a conceptual association showing that the Code must exist in the Code list associated with the Dimension in the Data Structure Definition. In the actual Data Set the value of the Code is placed in the Key Value.
UnCodedKeyValue	Inherits from *KeyValue*	The value of an uncoded component of the key.
	value	The value of the key component.
	startTime	This attribute is only used if the textFormat of the attribute is of the Timespan type in the Data Structure Definition (in which case the value field takes a duration).
	+valueFor	Associates Dimension, Measure Dimension, or Time Dimension to the Key Value, and thereby to the Concept that is the semantic of the Dimension, or Time Dimension.
GroupKey	Inherits from Key	A set of Key Values that comprise a partial key, of the same dimensionality as the Time Series Key for the purpose of attaching Data Attributes.
	+describedBy	Associates the Group Dimension Descriptor defined in the Data Structure Definition.
SeriesKey	Inherits from Key	Comprises the cross product of values of all the Key Values that, together with the Key Value of the +observation Dimension identify uniquely an Observation.

Class	Feature	Description
	+describedBy	Associates the Dimension Descriptor defined in the Data Structure Definition.
Observation		The value of the observed phenomenon in the context of the Key Values comprising the key.
	+valueFor	Associates the Primary Measure defined in the Data Structure Definition.
	+attachedAttribute	Association to the Attribute Values relating to the Observation.
	+observationDimension	Association to the Key Value that holds the value of the "Dimension at the Observation Level".
ObservationValue	Abstract class Sub classes UncodedObservation CodedObservation	
UncodedObservation	Inherits from ObservationValue	An observation that has a text value.
	value	The value of the Uncoded Observation.
CodedObservation	Inherits from ObservationValue	An Observation that takes its value from a code in a Code list.
	+value	Association to the Code that is the value of the Observation. Note that this is a conceptual association showing that the Code must exist in the Code list associated with the Primary Measure or the Concept of the Measure Dimension in the Data Structure Definition. In the actual Data Set the value of the Code is placed in the Observation.

Class	Feature	Description
AttributeValue	Abstract class Sub classes *UncodedAttributeValue* *CodedAttributeValue*	The value of an attribute, such as the instance of a Coded Attribute or of an Uncoded Attribute in a structure such as a Data Structure Definition.
	value	The value of the attribute.
	+valueFor	Association to the Data Attribute defined in the Data Structure Definition. Note that this is conceptual association as the Concept is identified explicitly in the data set.
UncodedAttribute Value	Inherits from *AttributeValue*	An attribute value that has a text value.
	startTime	This attribute is only used if the textFormat of the attribute is of the Timespan type in the Data Structure Definition (in which case the value field takes a duration).
CodedAttribute Value	Inherits from *AttributeValue*	An attribute that takes it value from a Code in Code list.
	+value	Association to the Code that is the value of the Attribute Value. Note that this is a conceptual association showing that the Code must exist in the Code list associated with the Data Attribute in the Data Structure Definition. In the actual Data Set the value of the Code is placed in the Attribute Value.

6 Cube

6.1 Context

Some statistical systems create views of data based on a “cube” structure. In essence, a cube is an n-dimensional object where the value of each dimension can be derived from a hierarchical code list. The utility of such cube systems is that it is possible to “roll up” or “drill down” each of the hierarchy levels for each of the dimensions to specify the level of granularity required to give a “view” of the data – some dimensions may be rolled up, others may be drilled down. Such systems give a dynamic view of the data, with aggregated values for rolled up dimension positions. For example, the individual countries may be rolled up into an economic region such as the EU, or a geographical region such as Europe, whilst another dimension, such as “type of road” may be drilled down to its lower level. The resulting measure (such as “number of accidents”) would then be an aggregation of the value for each individual country for the specific type of road.

Such cube systems rely, not on simple code lists, but on hierarchical code sets (see section 8).

6.2 Support for the Cube in the Information Model

Data reported using a Data Structure Definition structure (where each dimension value, if coded, is taken from a flat code list) can be described by a cube definition and can be processed by cube aware systems. The SDMX-IM supports the definition of such cubes in the following way:

- The `HierachicalCodelist` defines the (often complex) hierarchies of codes
- If required, the `StructureSet` can
  - group `DataStructureDefinition` that describe the cube
  - provide a mapping mechanism between the codes in the flat code lists used by the `DataStructureDefinition` and a `HierarchicalCodelist` where the `HierarchicalCodelist` uses code lists that are not used in the `DataStructureDefinition`

7 Metadata Structure Definition and Metadata Set

7.1 Context

The SDMX metamodel allows metadata:

1. To be exchanged without the need to embed it within the object that it is describing.

2. To be stored separately from the object that it describes, yet be linked to it (for example, an organisation has a metadata repository which supports the dissemination of metadata resulting from metadata requests generated by systems or services that have access to the object for which the metadata pertains. This is common in web dissemination where additional metadata is available for viewing (and eventually downloading) by clicking on an "information" icon next to the object to which the metadata is attached).

3. To be indexed to aid searching (example: a registry service can process a metadata report and extract structural information that allows it to catalogue the metadata in a way that will enable users to query for it).

4. To be reported according to a defined structure.

In order to achieve this, the following structures are modelled:

- metadata structure definition which has the following components:
  - the object types to which the metadata are to be associated (attached)
  - the components that, together, comprise a unique key of the object type to which the metadata are to be associated
  - the reporting structure comprising the metadata attributes that can be attached to the various object types (these attributes can be structured in a hierarchy), together with any constraints that may apply (e.g. association to a code list that contains valid values for the attribute when reported in a metadata set)
- the metadata set, which contains reported metadata

7.2 Inheritance

7.2.1 Introduction

As with the Data Structure Definition Structure, many of the constructs in this layer of the model inherit from the SDMX Base layer. Therefore, it is necessary to study both the inheritance and the relationship diagrams to understand the functionality of individual packages. The diagram below shows the full inheritance tree for the classes concerned with the `MetadataStructureDefinition` and the `MetadataSet`.

There are very few additional classes in the `MetadataStructureDefinition` package that do not themselves inherit from classes in the SDMX Base. In other words, the SDMX Base gives most of the structure of this sub model both in terms of associations and in terms of attributes. The relationship diagrams shown in this section show clearly when these associations are inherited from the SDMX Base (see the Appendix "A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model" to see the diagrammatic notation used to depict this). It is important to note that SDMX base structures used for the `MetadataStructureDefinition` are the same as those used for the `DataStructureDefinition` and so, even though the usage is slightly different, the underlying way of defining a `MetadataStructureDefinition` is similar to that used for defining a `DataStructureDefinition`.

7.2.2 Class Diagram - Inheritance

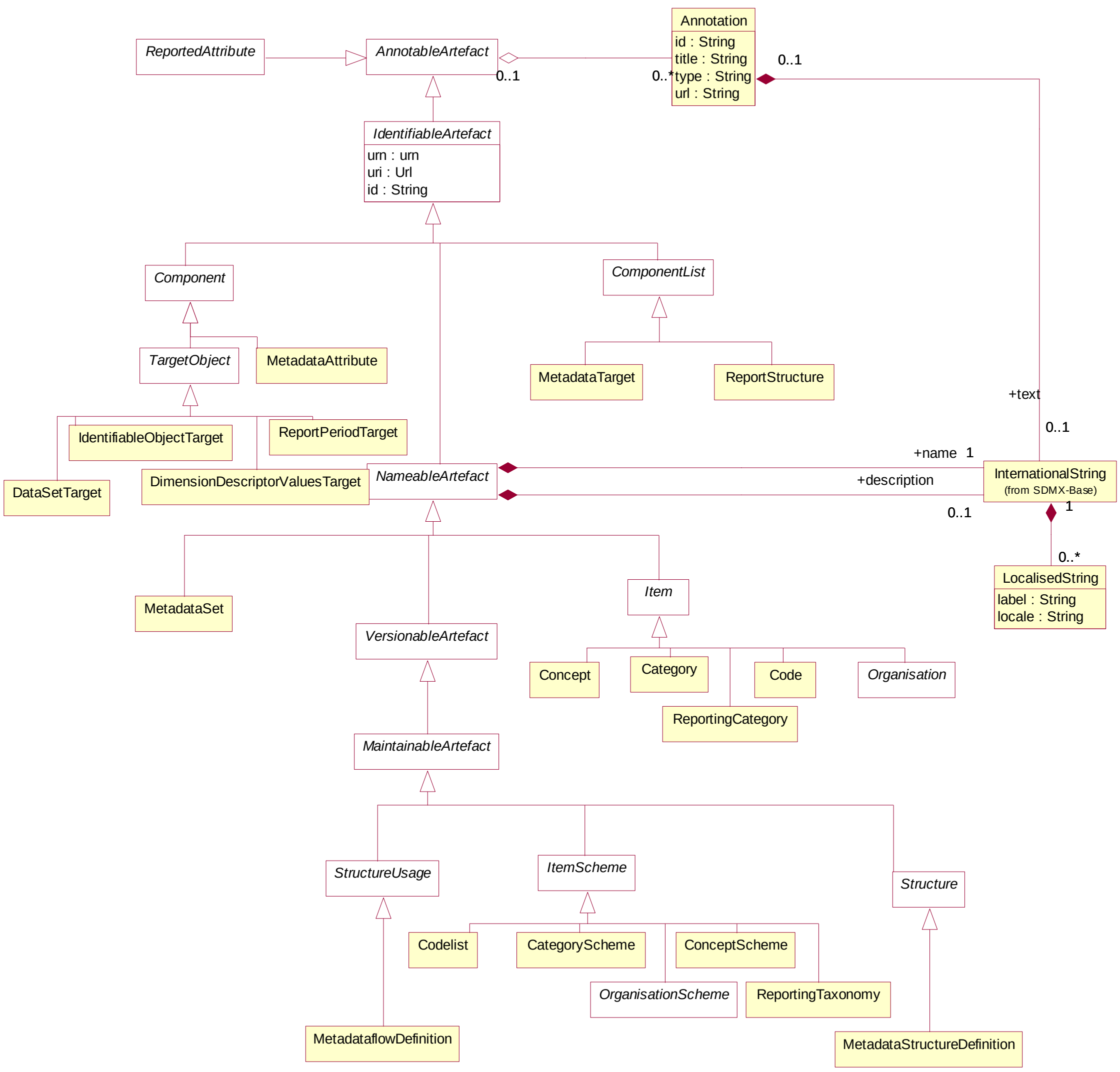

Figure 27: Inheritance class diagram of the Metadata Structure Definition

7.2.3 Explanation of the Diagram

7.2.3.1 Narrative

It is important to the understanding of the relationship class diagrams presented in this section to identify the concrete classes that inherit from the abstract classes.

The concrete classes in this part of the SDMX metamodel which require to be maintained by Maintenance Agencies all inherit from MaintainableArtefact. These are:

- *StructureUsage* (concrete class is MetadataflowDefinition)
- *Structure* (concrete class is MetadataStructureDefinition)

These classes also inherit the identity and versioning facets of *IdentifiableArtefact, NameableArtefact,* and *VersionableArtefact*.

A *Structure* contains several lists of components. The concrete classes which inherit from *ComponentList* and in themselves are sub components of the MetadataStructureDefinition are:

- MetadataTarget
- ReportStructure

ComponentList contains Components. The classes that inherit from *Component* are:

- Sub Classes of *TargetObject*
- MetadataAttribute

7.3 Metadata Structure Definition

7.3.1 Introduction

The diagrams and explanations in the rest of this section show how these concrete classes are related so as to support the functionality required.

7.3.2 Structures Already Described

The MetadataStructureDefinition makes use of the following *ItemScheme* structures either as explicit concrete classes in the model, or as possible lists which comprise the value domain of a TargetObject.

- CategoryScheme
- ConceptScheme
- Codelist
- *OrganisationScheme*
- Reporting Taxonomy

7.3.3 Class Diagram – Relationship

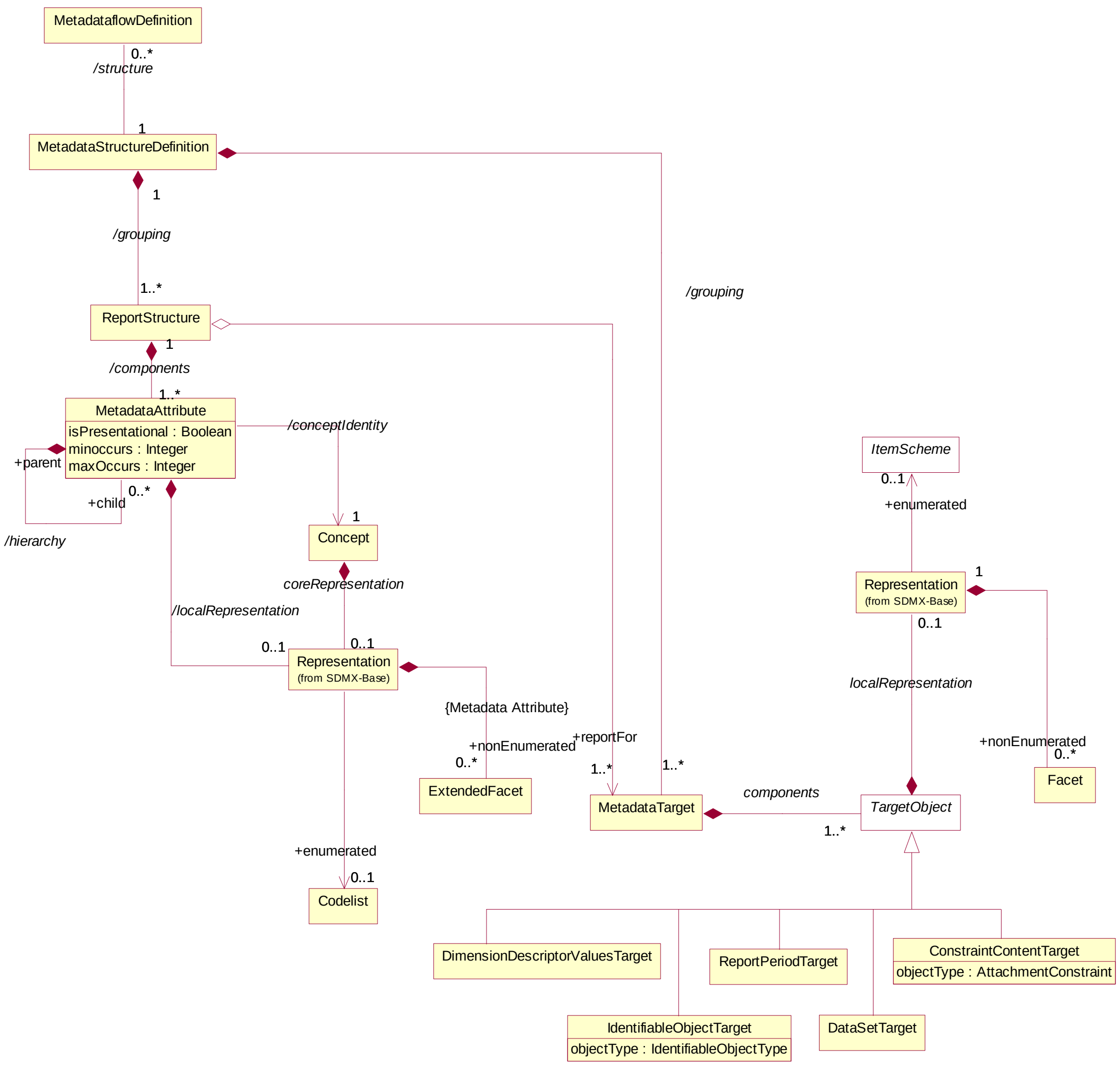

Figure 28: Relationship class diagram of the Metadata Structure Definition

7.3.4 Explanation of the Diagram

7.3.4.1 Narrative

In brief a `MetadataStructureDefinition` (MSD) defines:

- The `MetadataTarget` which defines the components (*`TargetObject`*) and their `Representation` which are valid for this `MetadataStructureDefinition`, and which are the metadata target object of one or more `ReportStructure`

- The `ReportStructure`s comprising the `MetadataAttribute`s that can be associated with the object type identified in the referenced `MetadataTarget`s, and hierarchical structure of the attributes

The MetadataTarget comprises one or more *TargetObject*s. The combination of *TargetObject*s identifies a specific object type to which metadata can be attached in a MetadataSet.

The *TargetObject* is one of the following:

- DimensionDescriptorValuesTarget - this allows the specification of a full or partial key (as used in a dataset) to be specified in a MetadataSet as the target object
- IdentifiableObjectTarget – this defines a specific object type, which can be any IdentifiableArtefact
- DataSetTarget – this specifies that the target object is a DataSet
- ReportPeriodTarget – this specifies that the report period must be present in the MetadataSet
- ConstraintContentTarget – this specifies that target object is the content of an AttachmentConstraint i.e. the part of the data set or metadata set identified by the content of an AttachmentConstraint

The valid content of a *TargetObject* when reported in a MetadataSet is defined in the Representation. This can be an enumerated representation (i.e. a reference to one of the sub clases of ItemScheme – these are Codelist, ConceptScheme, *OrganisationScheme*, CategoryScheme, or ReportingTaxonomy) or non-enumerated.

Thus a single MetadataStructureDefinition can be defined for a discrete set of related object types. For example, a single definition can be constructed to define the metadata that can be attached to any part of a Data Structure Definition, or that can be attached to any artefact concerned with the reporting of quality metadata (such as data provider and (data) category). The MetadataTarget specifies the identification properties of a specific object type to which metadata can be attached in a MetadataSet. For example, in a DataStructureDefinition the MetadataTarget might be a Dimension, and therefore the *TargetObject*s are those that uniquely identify a Dimension. This will include both the DataStructureDefinition and the Dimension (both of these are an *IdentifiableArtefact* and will use the IdentitifableObjectTarget) as both *TargetObject*s are required in order to identify uniquely a Dimension).

The ReportStructure comprises a set of MetadataAttributes - these can be defined as a hierarchy. Each MetadataAttribute identifies a Concept that is reported or disseminated in a MetadataSet (/conceptIdentity) that uses this MetadataStructureDefinition. Different MetadataAttributes in the same ReportStructure can use Concepts from different ConceptSchemes. Note that a MetadataAttribute does not link to a Concept that defines its role in this MetadataStructureDefinition (i.e. the MetadataAttribute does not play a role).

The MetadataAttribute can be specified as having multiple occurrences and/or specified as being mandatory (minOccurs=1 or more) or conditional (minOccurs=0). A hierarchical ReportStructure can be defined by specifying a hierarchy for a MetadataAttribute.

The ReportStructure is associated to one or more of the MetadataTargets which specify to which object the MetadataAttributes specified in the ReportStructure are attached when reported in a MetadataSet.

It can be seen from this that the specification of the object types to which a MetadataAttribute can be attached is indirect: the MetadataAttributes are defined in a ReportStructure which itself is attached to one or more MetadataTarget and the actual object is identified by the *TargetObject*s comprising the MetadataTarget. This gives a flexible mechanism by which the actual object types need not be defined in concrete terms in the model, but are defined dynamically in the MetadataStructureDefinition, in much the same way as the keys to which data observation are “attached” in a DataStructureDefinition. In this way the MetadataStructureDefinition can be used to define any set of MetadataAttributes and any set of object types to which they can be attached.

Each MetadataAttribute can have a Representation specified (using the /localRepresentation association). If this is not specified in the MetadataStructureDefinition then the Representation is taken from that defined for the Concept (the coreRepresentation association).

The definition of the various types of Representation can be found in the specification of the Base constructs. Note that if the Representation is non-enumerated then the association is to the ExtendedFacet (which allows for xhtml as a FacetValueType). If the Representation is enumerated then is must use a Codelist.

The MetadataStructureDefinition is linked to a MetadataflowDefinition. The MetadataflowDefinition does not have any attributes in addition to those inherited from the Base classes.

7.3.4.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
StructureUsage		See “SDMX Base”.
Metadataflow Definition	Inherits from: *StructureUsage*	Abstract concept (i.e. the structure without any metadata) of a flow of metadata that providers will provide for different reference periods.
	/structure	Associates a Metadata Structure Definition.

Class	Feature	Description
MetadataStructure Definition		A collection of metadata concepts, their structure and usage when used to collect or disseminate reference metadata.
	/grouping	An association to a Metadata Target or Report Structure.
MetadataTarget	Inherits from *ComponentList*	A set of components that define a key of an object type to which metadata may be attached.
	/components	Associates the Target Object components that define the key of the Metadata Target.
TargetObject	Abstract Class Sub Classes DimensionDescriptorValues Target IdentifiableObjectTarget DataSetTarget ReportPeriodTarget	
	/localRepresentation	Associates a Representation to the Target Object that must be respected when the object is identified in a Metadata Set. This may be enumerated or non-enumerated.
DimensionDescriptor ValuesTarget	Inherits from *TargetObject*	The target object is the key of a data series.
IdentifiableObject Target	Inherits from *TargetObject*	The target object is a specified object type.
	objectType	Identifies the object type.
DataSetTarget	Inherits from *TargetObject*	The target object is a Data Set.

Class	Feature	Description
ReportPeriodTarget	Inherits from *TargetObject*	The target is a report period. Note that this does not describe the use of an object, but rather serves as a unique metadata key for metadata reports. Metadata reports attached to a particular object may vary over time, and this time identifier component can be used to disambiguate the reports, much like the time dimension disambiguates observations in a data series.
ConstraintTarget	Inherits from *TargetObject*	The target object is the data or reference metadata that is identified in the content of an Attachment Constraint.
ReportStructure	Inherits from: *ComponentList*	Defines a set of concepts that comprises the Metadata Attributes to be reported.
	/components	An association to the Metadata Attributes relevant to the Report Structure.
	+reportFor	Associates the Metadata Targets for which this Report Structure is used.
MetadataAttribute		Identifies a Concept for which a value may be reported in a Metadata Set.
	/hierarchy	Association to one or more child Metadata Attribute.
	/conceptIdentity	An association to the concept which defines the semantic of the attribute.

Class	Feature	Description
	isPresentational	Indication that the Metadata Attribute is present for structural purposes (i.e. it has child attributes) and that no value for this attribute is expected to be reported in a Metadata Set using this Report Structure.
	minOccurs maxOccurs	Specifies how many occurrences of the Metadata Attribute may be reported at this point in the Metadata Report.
ConceptUsage		The use of a Concept as Metadata Attribute.
	concept	Association to a Concept in a ConceptScheme.
	/localRepresentation	Associates a Representation that overrides any core representation specified for the Concept itself.
Representation		The representation of the Metadata Attribute.

7.4 Metadata Set

7.4.1 Class Diagram

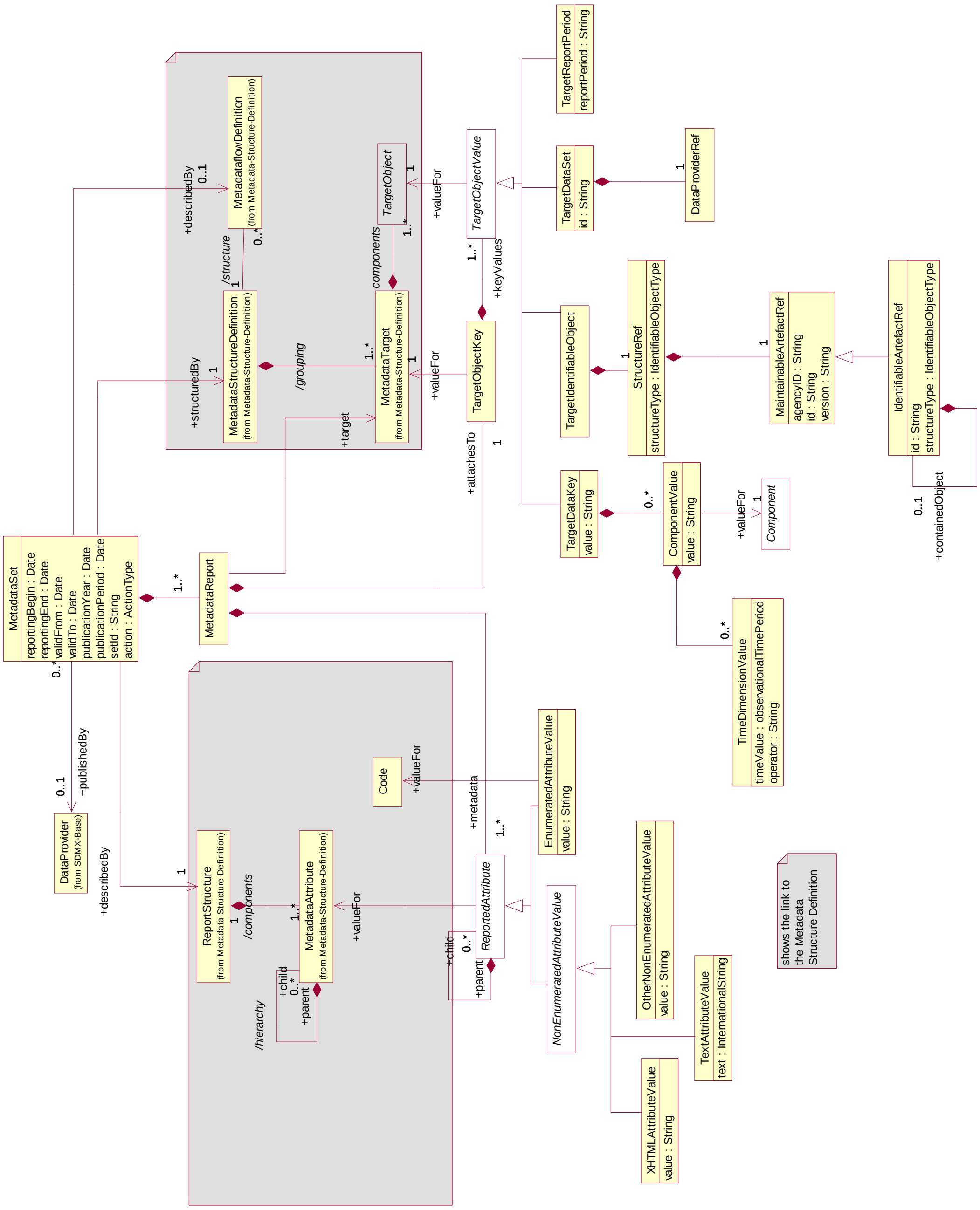

Figure 29: Relationship Class Diagram of the Metadata Set

7.4.2 Explanation of the Diagram

7.4.2.1 Narrative

Note that the `MetadataSet` must conform to the `MetadataStructureDefinition` associated to the `MetadataflowDefinition` for which this `MetadataSet` is an "instance of metadata". Whilst the model shows the association to the classes of the `MetadataStructureDefinition`, this is for conceptual purposes to show the link to the `MetadataStructureDefinition`. In the actual `MetadataSet` as exchanged there must, of course, be a reference to the `MetadataStructureDefinition` and the `ReportStructure`, and optionally a `MetadataflowDefinition`, but the `MetadataStructureDefinition` is not necessarily exchanged with the metadata. Therefore, the `MetadataStructureDefinition` classes are shown in the grey areas, as these are not a part of the `MetadataSet` itself.

An organisation playing the role of `DataProvider` can be responsible for one or more `MetadataSet.`

A `MetadataSet` comprises one or more `MetadataReport`, each of which must be for the same `ReportStructure`. It references both a `MetadataTarget`, defined in the `MetadataStructureDefinition`, and contains a `TargetObjectKey` and `ReportedAttribute`s.

The identified `ReportStructure` specifies which `MetadataAttributes` are expected as *`ReportedAttribute`*s. The identified `MetadataTarget` specifies the expected content of the `TargetObjectKey` i.e. it specifies the information required to identify the object for which the *`ReportedAttribute`*s are reported.

The `TargetObjectValue` can be one of:

- `TargetDataKey` – this can contain:
  - a `SeriesKey` (set of dimension values)
  - a `SeriesKey` plus a value or values (giving time range) for the `TimeDimension` (`TimeDimensionValue`)
  - a value of values for the `TimeDimension`
- `TargetIdentifiableObject` –this identifies any identifiable object (which includes both Maintainable and Identifiable objects
- `TargetDataSet` – this identifies a `DataSet`
- `TargetReportPeriod` – this specifies the report period for the `Report`

A simple text value for the *`ReportedAttribute`* uses the *`NonEnumeratedAttributeValue`* sub class of *`ReportedAttribute`* whilst a coded value uses the `EnumeratedAttributeValue` sub class.

The *`NonEnumeratedAttributeValue`* can be one of:

- `XHTMLAttributeValue` – the content is XHTML
- `TextAttributeValue` – the content is textual and may contain the `text` in multiple languages

- `OtherNonEnumeratedAttributeValue` – the content is a string value that must conform to the `Representation` specified for the `MetadataAttribute` in the `MetadataStructureDefinition` for the relevant `ReportStructure`

The `EnumeratedAttributeValue` contains a value for a `Code` specified as the `Representation` for the `MetadataAttribute` in the `MetadataStructureDefinition` for the relevant `ReportStructure`.

7.4.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
MetadataSet		Any organised collection of metadata.
	reportingBegin	A specific time period in a known system of time periods that identifies the start period of a report.
	reportingEnd	A specific time period in a known system of time periods that identifies the ebd period of a report.
	dataExtractionDate	A specific time period that identifies the date and time that the data are extracted from a data source.
	validFrom	Indicates the inclusive start time indicating the validity of the information in the data set.
	validTo	Indicates the inclusive end time indicating the validity of the information in the metadata set.
	publicationYear	Specifies the year of publication of the data or metadata in terms of whatever provisioning agreements might be in force.
	publicationPeriod	Specifies the period of publication of the data or metadata in terms of whatever provisioning agreements might be in force.
	setId	Provides an identification of the metadata set.

Class	Feature	Description
	action	Defines the action to be taken by the recipient system (update, replace, delete)
	+describedBy	Associates a Metadataflow Definition to the Metadata Set.
	+structuredBy	Associates the Metadata Structure Definition that defines the structure of the Metadata Set. Note that the Metadata Structure Definition is the same as that associated (non-mandatory) to the Metadataflow Definition.
	+publishedBy	Associates the Data Provider that reports/publishes the metadata.
	+describedBy	Reference to the Report Structure.
MetadataReport		A set of values for Metadata Attributes defined in a Report Structure of a Metadata Structure Definition.
	+attachesTo	Associates the object key to which metadata is to be attached.
	+target	Associates the Metadata Target that defines the target object to which the metadata are to be associated.
	+metadata	Associates the Reported Attribute values which are to be associated with the object or objects identified by the Target Object Key.
TargetObjectKey		Identifies the key of the object to which the metadata are to be attached.

Class	Feature	Description
	+valueFor	Associates the Metadata Target that identifies the object type and the component structure of the Target Object Key. Note that this is a conceptual association showing the link to the MSD construct.
	+keyValues	Associates the Target Object Values of the Target Object Key.
TargetObjectValue	Abstract class Sub classes are TargetDataKey TargetIdentifiableObject TargetDataSet TargetReportPeriod	The key of an individual object of the type specified in the Metadata Target of the Metadata Structure Definition.
	+valueFor	Associates the Target Object for which this value is provided. Note that this is a conceptual association showing the link to the MSD construct.
TargetDataKey	Inherits from *TargetObjectValue*	The identification of the components and the values that form the data or metadata key.
ComponentValue		Collectively contain the identification of the components and the values that form the data key.
value		The key value.
	+valueFor	Associates the Component for which the value is declared.
TimeDimensionValue		Contains identification of the Time Dimension and the value.
TargetIdentifiable Object	Inherits from *TargetObjectValue*	Specifies the identification of an Identifiable object.

Class	Feature	Description
StructureRef		Contains the identification of an Identifiable object.
	structureType	The object type of the target object.
MaintainableArtefactRef IdentifiableArtefactRef		Identification of the target object by means of its identifier constructs i.e agency ID, id, version for Maintainable Object plus, for Identifiable Object, the id.
	+containedObject	Association to a contained object in a hierarchy of Identifiable Objects such as a Transition in a Process Step.
TargetDataSet	Inherits from *TargetObjectValue*	Contains the identification of a Data Set
TargetReportPeriod	Inherits from *TargetObjectValue*	Contains the period covered by the Metadata Report.
ReportedAttribute	Abstract class Sub classes are: *NonEnumeratedAttributeValue* EnumeratedAttributeValue	The value for a Metadata Attribute.
	+valueFor	Association to the Metadata Attribute in the Metadata Structure Definition that identifies the Concept and allowed Representation for the Reported Attribute. Note that this is a conceptual association showing the link to the MSD construct. The syntax for the Reported Attribute will state, in some form, the id of the Metadata Attribute.
	+child	Association to a child Reported Attribute consistent with the hierarchy defined in the Report Structure for the Metadata Attribute for which this child is a Reported Attribute.

Class	Feature	Description
NonEnumerated AttributeValue	Inherits from *ReportedAttribute* Sub class: *XHTMLAttributeValue* *TextAttributeValue* *OtherNonEnumerated AttributeValue*	The content of a Reported Attribute where this is textual.
XHTMLAttributeValue		This contains XHTML.
	value	The string value of the XHTML.
TextAttributeValue		This value of a Reported Attribute where the content is human-readable text.
	text	The string value is text. This can be present in multiple language versions.
OtherNonEnumerated AttributeValue		The value of a Reported Attribute where the content is not of human-readable text.
	value	A text string that is consistent in format to that defined in the Representation of the Metadata Attribute for which this is a Reported Attribute.
EnumeratedAttribute Value	Inherits from *MetadataAttributeValue*	The content of a Reported Attribute that is taken from a Code in a Code list.
	value	The Code value of the Reported Attribute.

Class	Feature	Description
	`+value`	Association to a Code in the Code list specified in the Representation of the Metadata Attribute for which this Reported Attribute is the value Note that this shows the conceptual link to the Item that is the value. In reality, the value itself will be contained in the Enumerated Attribute Value.

8 Hierarchical Code List

8.1 Scope

The `Codelist` described in the section on structural definitions supports a simple hierarchy of `Codes`, and restricts any child `Code` to having just one parent `Code`. Whilst this structure is useful for supporting the needs of the `DataStructureDefinition` and the `MetadataStructureDefinition`, it may not sufficient for supporting the more complex associations between codes that are often found in coding schemes such as a classification scheme. Often, the `Codelist` used in a `DataStructureDefinition` is derived from a more complex coding scheme. Access to such a coding scheme can aid applications, such as OLAP applications or data visualisation systems, to give more views of the data than would be possible with the simple `Codelist` used in the `DataStructureDefinition`.

Note that a hierarchical code list is not necessarily a balanced tree. A balanced tree is where levels are pre-defined and fixed, (i.e. a level always has the same set of codes, and any code has a fixed parent and child relationship to other codes). A statistical classification is an example of a balanced tree, and the support for a balanced hierarchy is a sub set, and special case, of the hierarchical code list.

The principal features of the Hierarchical Codelist are:

1. A child code can have more than one parent.

2. There can be more than one code that has no parent (i.e. more than one “root node”).

3. There may be many hierarchies (or “views”) defined, in terms of the associations between the codes. Each hierarchy serves a particular purpose in the reporting, analysis, or dissemination of data.

4. The levels in a hierarchy can be explicitly defined or they can be implicit: (i.e. they exist only as parent/child relationships in the coding structure).

8.2 Inheritance

8.2.1 Class Diagram

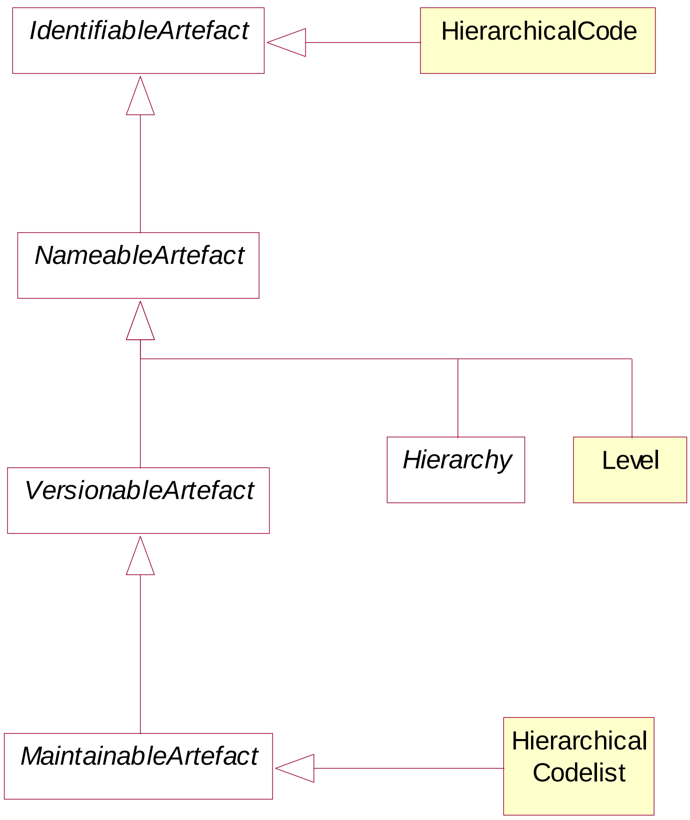

Figure 30: Inheritance class diagram for the Hierarchical Codelist

8.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

8.2.2.1 Narrative

The `HierarchicalCodelist` inherits from *`MaintainableArtefact`* and thus has identification, naming, versioning and a maintenance agency. Both *`Hierarchy`* and `Level` are a *`NameableArtefact`* and therefore have an Id, multi-lingual name and multi-lingual description. A `HierachicalCode` is an *`IdentifiableArtefact`*.

It is important to understand that the `Code`s participating in a `HierarchicalCodelist` are not themselves contained in the list – they are referenced from the list and are maintained in one or more `Codelists`. This is explained in the narrative of the relationship class diagram below..

8.2.2.2 Definitions

The definitions of the various classes, attributes, and associations are shown in the relationship section below.

8.3 Relationship

8.3.1 Class Diagram

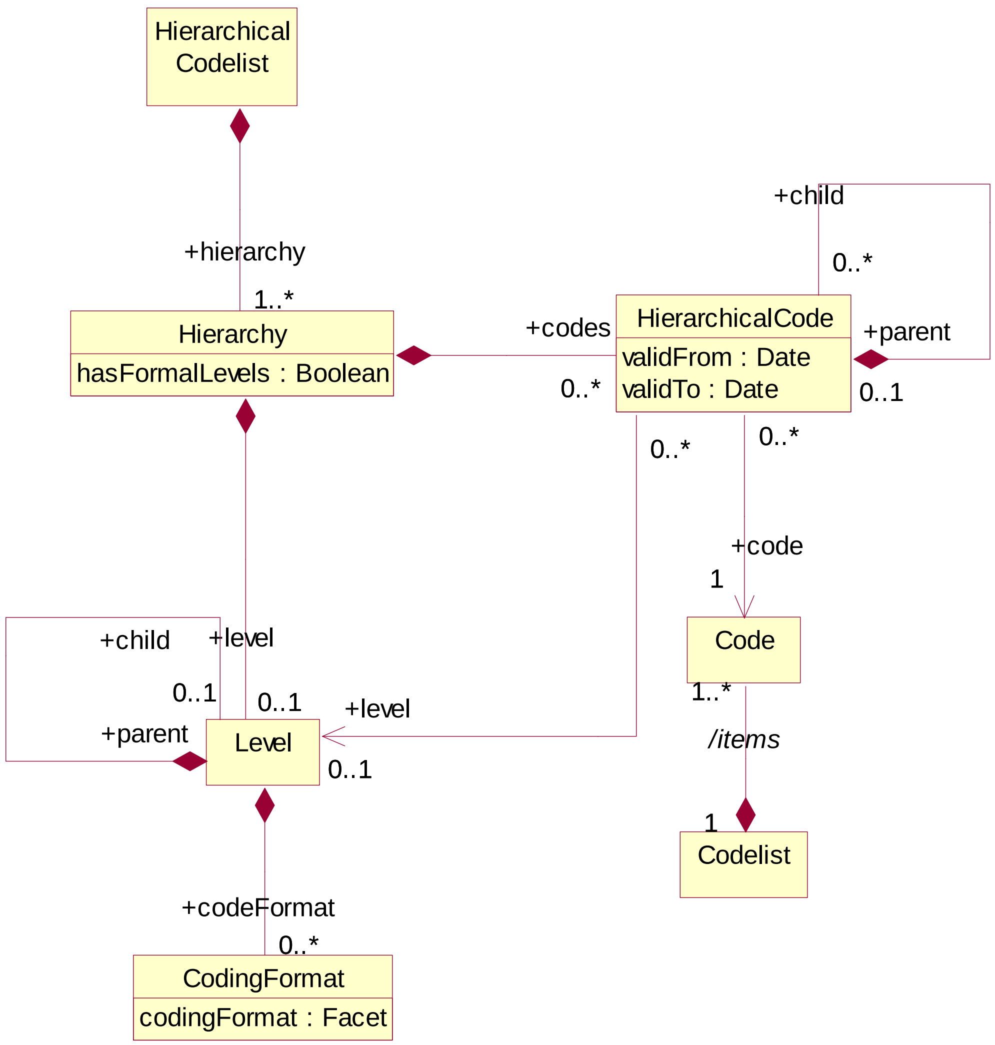

Figure 31: Relationship class diagram of the Hierarchical Code Scheme

8.3.2 Explanation of the Diagram

8.3.2.1 Narrative

The basic principles of the `HierarchicalCodelist` are:

1. The `HierarchicalCodelist` is a specification of the `Code`s comprising the scheme and the specification of the structure of the `Code`s in the scheme in terms of one or more `Hierarchy`.

2. The `Code`s in the `HierarchicalCodelist` are not themselves a part of the scheme, rather they are references to `Code`s in one or more external `Codelist`s.

3. Any individual `Code` may participate in many `Hierarchy`s, in order to give structure to the `HierarchicalCodelist`.

4. The `Hierarchy` of `Code`s is specified in `HierarchicalCode`. This references the `Code` and its immediate child `HierarchicalCode`s.

A `Hierarchy` can have formal levels (`hasFormalLevels=”true`”). However, even if `hasFormalLevels=”false”` the `Hierarchy` can still have one or more `Level`s associated in order to document information about the `HierarchicalCode`s.

If `hasFormalLevels=”false` the `Hierarchy` is “value based” comprising a hierarchy of codes with no formal `Level`s. If `hasFormalLevels=”true`” then the hierarchy is “level based” where each `Level` is a formal `Level` in the `HierarchicalCodeList`, such as those present in statistical classifications. In a “level based” hierarchy each `HierarchicalCode` is linked to the `Level` in which it resides (which must be in the same `Hierarchy` as the `HierarchicalCode`). It is expected that all `HierarchicalCode`s at the same hierarchic level defined by the `+parent/+child` association will be linked to the same `Level`. Note that the +level association need only be specified if the HierarchicalCode is at a different hierarchical level ((implied by the HierarchicalCode parent/child association) than the actual Level in the level hierarchy (implied by the Level parent/child association).

[Note that organisations wishing to be compliant with accepted models for statistical classifications should ensure that the `Id` is the number associated with the `Level`, where `Level`s are numbered consecutively starting with level 1 at the highest `Level`].

The Level may have `CodingFormat` information defined (e.g. coding type at that level).

8.3.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`HierarchicalCodelist`	Inherits from: *`MaintainableArtefact`*	An organised collection of codes that may participate in many parent/child relationships with other Codes in the scheme, as defined by one or more Hierarchy of the scheme.
	`+hierarchy`	Association to Hierarchies of Codes.
`Hierarchy`	Inherits from: *`NameableArtefact`*	A classification structure arranged in levels of detail from the broadest to the most detailed level.

Class	Feature	Description
	hasFormalLevels	If “true” this indicates a hierarchy where the structure is arranged in levels of detail from the broadest to the most detailed level. If “false” this indicates a hierarchy structure where the items in the hierarchy have no formal level structure.
	+codes	Association to the top-level Hierarchical Codes in the Hierarchy.
	+level	Association to the top Level in the Hierarchy.
Level	Inherits from *NameableArtefact*	In a “level based” hierarchy this describes a group of Codes which are characterised by homogeneous coding, and where the parent of each Code in the group is at the same higher level of the Hierarchy. In a “value based’ hierarchy this describes information about the HierarchicalCodes at the specified nesting level.
	+codeFormat	Association to the Coding Format.
	+child	Association to a child Level of Level.
CodingFormat		Specifies format information for the codes at this level in the hierarchy such as whether the codes at the level are alphabetic, numeric or alphanumeric and the code length.
HierarchicalCode		A hierarchic structure of code references.
	validFrom	Date from which the construct is valid

Class	Feature	Description
	validTo	Date from which construct is superseded.
	+code	Association to the Code that is used at the specific point in the hierarchy.
	+child	Association to a child Code in the hierarchy.
	+level	Association to a Level where levels have been defined for the Hierarchy.
Code		The Code to be used at this point in the hierarchy.
	/items	Association to the Code list containing the Code.
Codelist		The Code list containing the Code.

9 Structure Set and Mappings

9.1 Scope

A `StructureSet` allows components in one structure to be mapped to components in another structure of the same type. In this context the term "structure" is used loosely to include types of *`ItemScheme`*, types of *`Structure`*, and types of *`StructureUsage`*. The allowable structures that can be mapped, and the components that can be mapped within these structures are:

Structure Type	**Component type**
Codelist	Code
Category Scheme	Category
Concept Scheme	Concept
Organisation Scheme	Organisation – this allows mapping any type of Organisation to any type of Organisation (e.g. a Data Provider to an Organisation Unit)
Hierarchical Codelist	Hierachical Code to Code or vice-versa
Data Structure Definition	Dimension, Measure Dimension, Time Dimension. Data Attribute, Primary Measure
Metadata Structure Definition	Target Object, Metadata Attribute
Dataflow Definition	None
Metadataflow Definition	None

The `StructureSet` can contain one or more "maps" and can define related structures (via the association `+relatedStructure`) which group related `DataStructureDefinition`s, `MetadataStructureDefinition`s, `DataflowDefinintion`s, `MetadataflowDefinintion`s.

9.2 Structure Set

9.2.1 Class Diagram – Inheritance

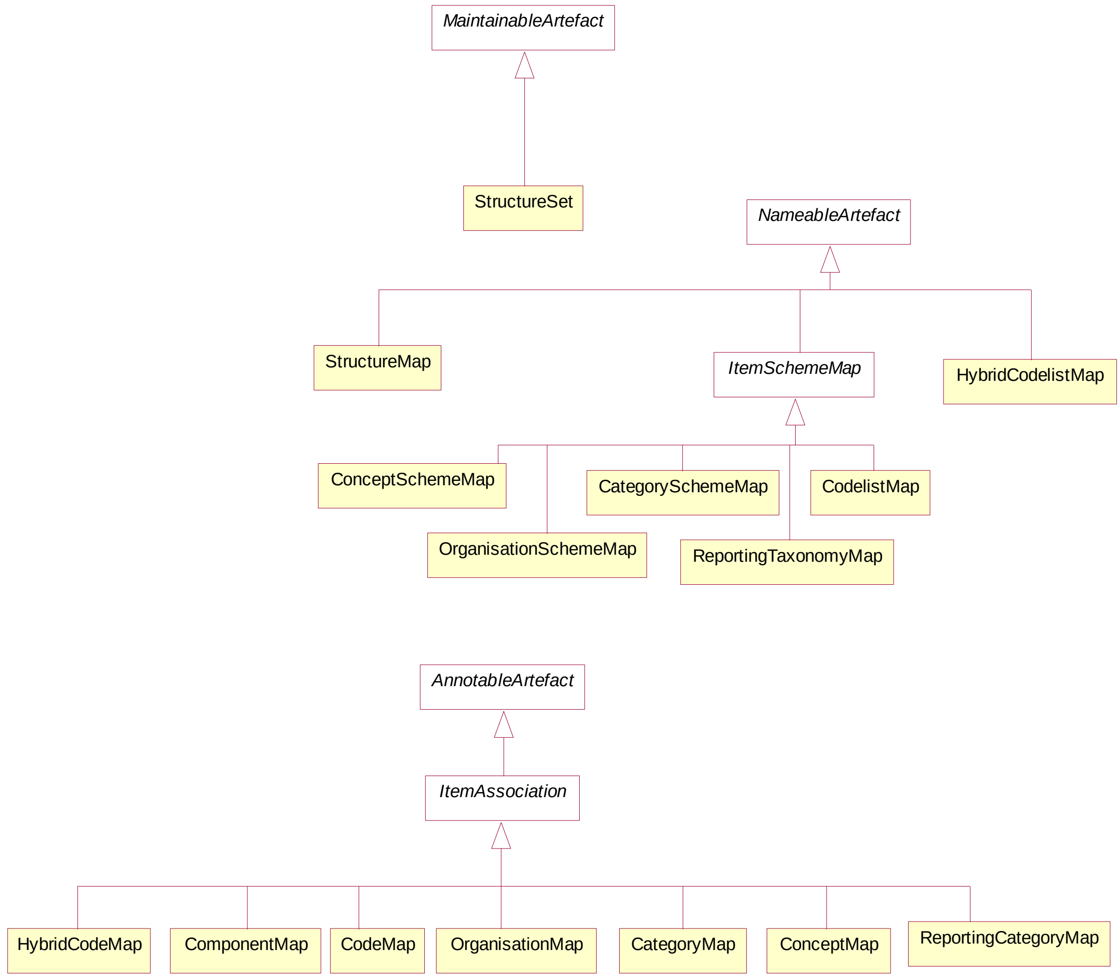

Figure 32: Inheritance Class Diagram of the Structure Set

9.2.2 Class Diagram – Relationship

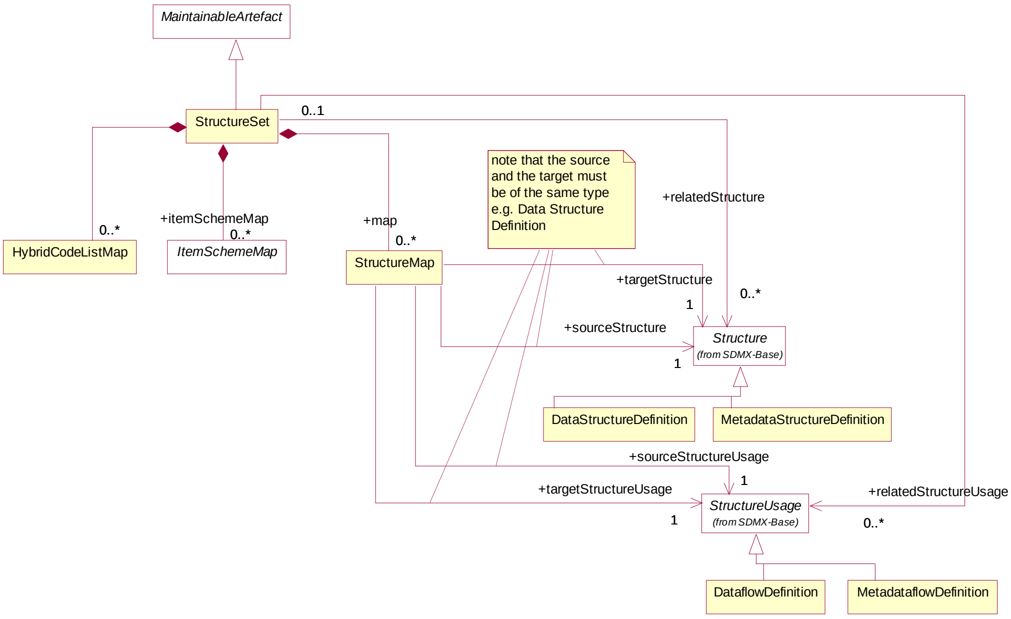

Figure 33: Relationship Class diagram of the Structure Set

9.2.3 Explanation of the Diagram

9.2.3.1 Narrative

The `StructureSet` is a *`MaintainableArtefact`*. It can contain:

1. A set of references to concrete sub-classes of *`Structure`* and *`StructureUsage`* (`DataStructureDefinition`, `MetadataStructureDefinition`, `DataflowDefinition` or `MetadataflowDefinition`) to indicate that a relationship exists between them. For example there may be a group of `DataStructureDefinition` which, together, form the definition of a cube, each `DataStructureDefinition` defining a part of the cube.
2. A set of `StructureMap`s which define which components of one structure are equivalent to those in another in a `ComponentMap`.
3. A set of `ItemSchemeMap`s which define the mapping between two concrete classes of `ItemScheme`, and the mapping of the `Item`s in these schemes, such as the mapping of `Codes` in two `Codelist`s..
4. A set of `HybridCodelistMap`s which define the mapping between a `Codelist` and a `HierachicalCodelist`.

The `StructureMap` references two *`Structure`*s or *`StructureUsage`*s. In concrete terms these references will be to `DataStructureDefinition`s, `MetadataStructureDefinition`s, `DataflowDefinition`s or `MetadataflowDefinition`s.

1825 **9.2.3.2 Definitions**

Class	Feature	Description
StructureSet	Inherits from *MaintainableArtefact*	A maintainable collection of structural maps that link components together in a source/target relationship where there is a semantic equivalence between the source and the target components.
	+relatedStructure	Association to a set of Data Structure Definitions and Metadata Structure Definitions.
	+relatedStructureUsage	Association to a set of Dataflow Definition and Metadataflow Definition.
	+map	Association to Structure Map.
	+itemSchemeMap	Association to Item Scheme Map
StructureMap	Inherits from *NameableArtefact*	Links a source and target structure where there is a semantic equivalence between the source and the target structures.
	sourceStructure	Association to the source Structure.
	targetStructure	Association to the target Structure which must be of the same type as the source Structure.
	sourceStructureUsage	Association to the source Structure Usage.
	targetStructureUsage	Association to the target Structure Usage which must be of the same type as the source Structure Usage.

9.3 Structure Map

9.3.1 Class Diagram

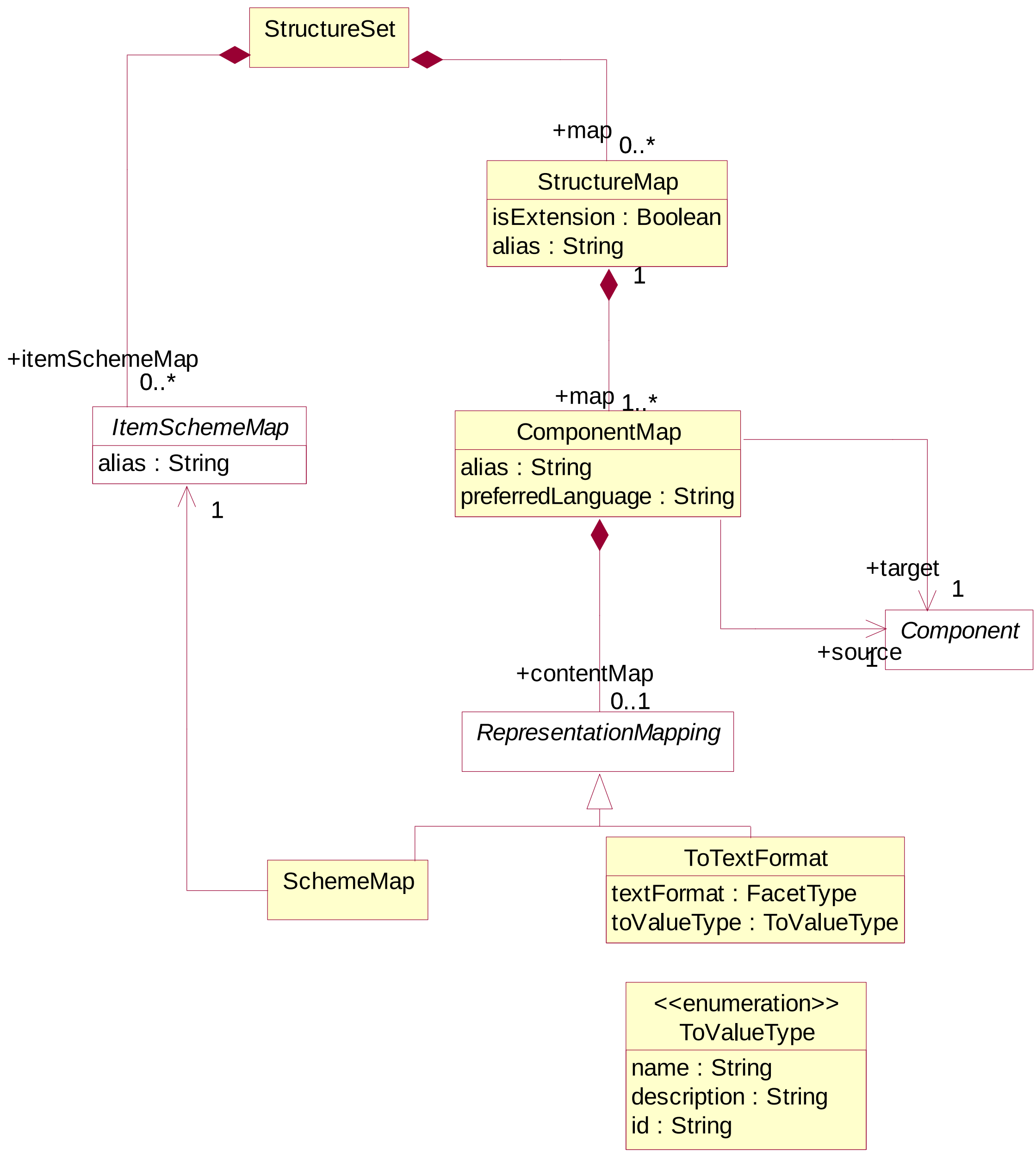

Figure 34: Class diagram of the Structure Map

9.3.2 Explanation of the Diagram

9.3.2.1 Narrative

The `StructureMap` contains a set of `ComponentMap`s, each one indicating equivalence between `Components` of the referenced *`Structure`*. `ComponentMap` has a *`RepresentationMapping`* which can be one of the concete classes of *`ItemSchemeMap`* (e.g. for a `Dimension` this would be a `CodelistMap`) or `ToTextFormat` which takes values: `id`, `name`, `description`. This instructs mapping tools to use the id, name or description of a coded component to determine equivalence with an uncoded component's value.

An example of a `ComponentMap` is linking the source *`Component`* that is a `Dimension` in the source `DataStructureDefinition` (identified in the `StructureMap`) to the equivalent target *`Component`* that is a `Dimension` in the target `DataStructureDefinition`).

9.3.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`StructureMap`	Inherits from *`NameableArtefact`*	Links a source and target structure where there is a semantic equivalence between the source and the target structures.
	`alias`	An alternate identification of the map, that allows the relation of multiple maps to be expressed by the sharing of this value.
	`+map`	Association to the Component Map.
`ComponentMap`	Inherits from *`AnnotableArtefact`*	Links a source and target Component where there is a semantic equivalence between the source and the target Components.
	`alias`	An alternate identification of the map, that allows the relation of multiple maps to be expressed by the sharing of this value.
	`preferredLanguage`	Specifies the language to use for the content of the To Text Format option of RepresentationMap
	`+source`	Association to the source Component.
	`+target`	Association to the target Component.
	`+contentMap`	Association to the constructs that map the content of the Components – this will be either one of sub classes of Item Scheme or a mapping to text.

Class	Feature	Description
RepresentationMapping	AbstractClass Sub classes: SchemeMap ToTextFormat	Defines the mapping of the content of the source Component to the content of the target Component.
SchemeMap	Inherits from *RepresentationMapping*	Associates an Item Scheme Map
ToTextFormat	Inherits from *RepresentationMapping*	Defines the text format
	textFormat	Text format type.
	toValueType	Identifies the construct to be taken from the Item of the source Component when mapping the content of the source Component to the content of the target Component.
ToValueType		Enumeration of the construct in the Item.

9.4 Item Scheme Map

9.4.1 Context

The ItemSchemeMap is used to associate the *Item*s in two different *ItemSchemes*. This is a generic mechanism that can be used to map *Item*s. Specific models exist for mapping schemes where there is a semantic equivalence between *Item*s in the *ItemScheme*. The model supports the mapping of any two *ItemScheme*s of the same type. These are:

- ConceptScheme
- CategoryScheme
- *OrganisationScheme*
- Codelist
- ReportingTaxonomy

9.4.2 Class Diagram

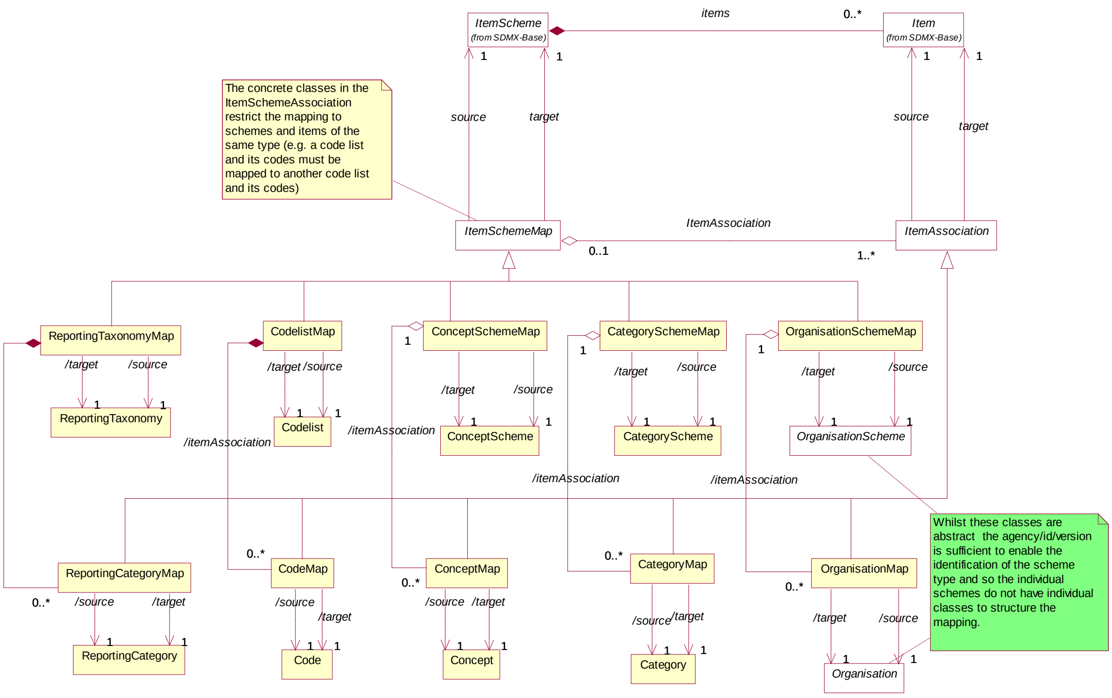

Figure 35: Class diagram of the Item Scheme Map

9.4.3 Explanation of the Diagram

9.4.3.1 Narrative

Both the `ItemSchemeMap` and the `ItemAssociation` inherit from `NameableArtefact`.

Each of `ConceptSchemeMap`, `CategorySchemeMap`, `CodelistMap` and *`OrganisationSchemeMap`*, `ReportingTaxonomyMap` provides a mechanism for specifying semantic equivalence between the items (`Concept`, `Category`, `Code`, *`Organisation`*, `ReportingCategory`) in the scheme. Note that any type of *`OrganisationScheme`* and *`Organisation`* can be mapped (e.g. an `Agency` in an `AgencyScheme` can be mapped to an `OrganisationUnit` in an `OrganisationUnitScheme`).

Each scheme map identifies a `+source` and `+target` scheme whose content is to be mapped. Note that many schemes can be joined together via a set of pair-wise mappings. The `ConceptMap`, `CategoryMap`, `CodelistMap`, `OrganisationMap`, and `ReportingTaxonomyMap` denotes which `Concept`s, `Category`s, `Code`s, `Organisation`s, and `ReportingCategory`s are semantically equivalent and a shared alias can be specified to refer to a set of mapped concepts to facilitate querying.

9.4.3.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`ItemSchemeMap`	Inherits from	Associates two Item Schemes

Class	Feature	Description
	NameableArtefact *Sub Classes* ConceptSchemeMap CategorySchemeMap CodelistMap OrganisationSchemeMap ReportingTaxonomySchemeMap	
	source	Association to the source Item Scheme.
	target	Association to the target Item Scheme.
	ItemAssociation	Association to the Item Association.
ItemAssociation	Inherits from *AnnotableArtefact* *Sub Classes* ConceptMap CategoryMap CodeMap OrganisationMap ReportingCategoryMap	
	source	Association to the source Item.
	target	Association to the target Item.
ConceptSchemeMap	Inherits from *ItemSchemeMap*	Associates a source and target Concept Scheme
	/source	Association to the source Concept Scheme.
	/target	Association to the target Concept Scheme.
ConceptMap	Inherits from *ItemAssociation*	Associates a source and target Concept.
	/source	Association to the source Concept.
	/target	Association to the target Concept.
CodelistMap	Inherits from *ItemSchemeMap*	Associates a source and target Code list.
	/source	Association to the source Code list.
	/target	Association to the target Code list.

Class	Feature	Description
CodeMap	Inherits from *ItemAssociation*	Associates a source and target Code.
	/source	Association to the source Code.
	/target	Association to the target Code.
CategorySchemeMap	Inherits from *ItemSchemeMap*	Associates a source and target Category Scheme.
	/source	Association to the source Category Scheme.
	/target	Association to the target Category Scheme.
CategoryMap	Inherits from *ItemAssociation*	Associates a source and target Category.
	/source	Association to the source Category.
	/target	Association to the target Category.
OrganisationSchemeMap	Inherits from *ItemSchemeMap*	Associates a source and target Organisation Scheme.
	/source	Association to the source Organisation Scheme.
	/target	Association to the target Organisation Scheme.
OrganisationMap	Inherits from *ItemAssociation*	Associates a source and target Organisation.
	/source	Association to the source Organisation.
	/target	Association to the target Organisation.
ReportingTaxonomyMap	Inherits from *ItemSchemeMap*	Associates a source and target Reporting Taxonomy.
	/source	Association to the source Reporting Taxonomy.
	/target	Association to the target Reporting Taxonomy.
ReportingCategoryMap	Inherits from *ItemAssociation*	Associates a source and target Reporting Category.
	/source	Association to the source Reporting Category.
	/target	Association to the target Reporting Category.

9.5 Hybrid Codelist Map

9.5.1 Class Diagram

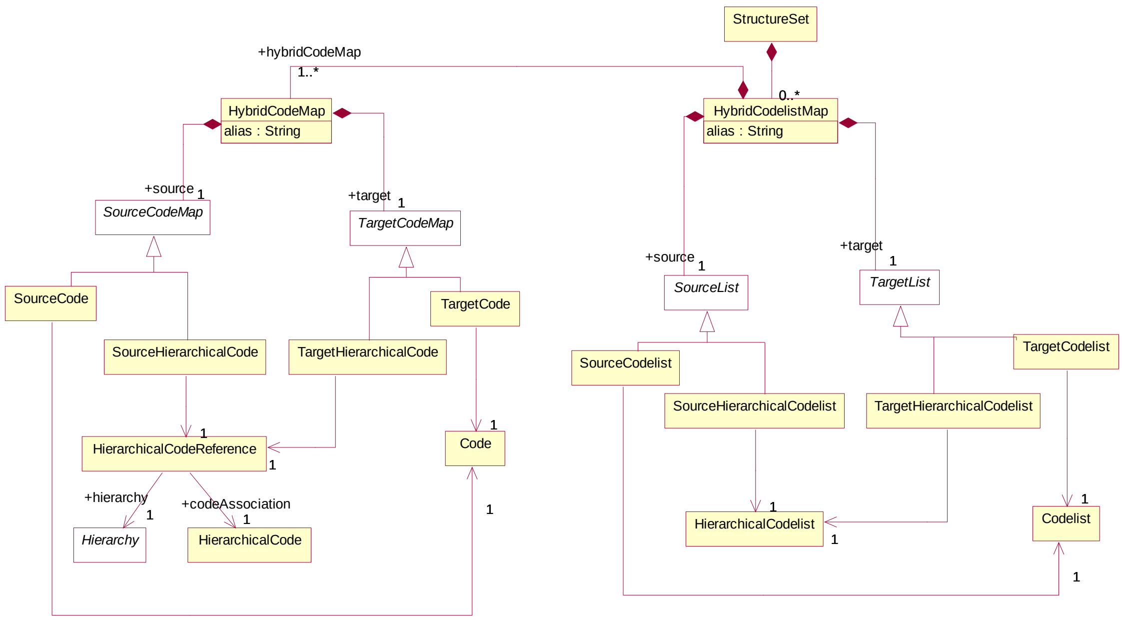

Figure 36: Class diagram of the Hybrid Codelist Map

9.5.2 Explanation of the Diagram

9.5.2.1 Narrative

The `HybridCodelistMap` maps the content of a `Codelist` and a `HierachicalCodelist`. It contains a mapping of the codes in the two schemes (`HybridCodeMap`). The `HybridCodeMap` maps either a `Code` or `HierachicalCode` to a `Code` or `HierarchicalCode`. The `HierarchicalCode` is identified by a combination of the `Hierarchy` and the `HierarchicalCode`.

9.5.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
`HybridCodelist Map`	Inherits from *`NameableArtefact`*	Associates a Codelist and a Hierarchical Codelist.
	`alias`	An alternate identification of the map, that allows the relation of multiple maps to be expressed by the sharing of this value.
	`+source`	Association to the source List.
	`+target`	Association to the target List.

Class	Feature	Description
	+hybridCodeMap	Association to the set of Hybrid Code Maps in the Hybrid Codelist Map.
SourceList	Abstract Class Sub classes SourceCodelist SourceHierarchical Codelist	
TargetList	Abstract Class Sub classes TargetCodelist TargetHierarchical Codelist	
SourceCodelist		Identifies the Codelist where this is the source of the map.
TargetCodelist		Identifies the Codelist where this is the target of the map.
SourceHierarchical Codelist		Identifies the Hierarchical Codelist where this is the source of the map.
TargetHierarchical Codelist		Identifies the Hierarchical Codelist where this is the target of the map.
HybridCodeMap	Inherits from *AnnotableArtefact*	Associates the source and target codes in Hybrid Codelist Map.
	+source	Associates the Source Code Map.
	+target	Associates the Target Code Map.
SourceCodeMap	Abstract Class Sub classes SourceCode SourceHierarchical Code	
TargetCodeMap	Abstract Class Sub classes TargetCode TargetHierarchical Code	
SourceCode		Identifies the Code where this is the source of the map.

Class	**Feature**	**Description**
TargetCode		Identifies the Code where this is the target of the map.
SourceHierarchical Code		Identifies the Hierarchical Code where this is the source of the map
TargetHierarchical Code		Identifies the Hierarchical Code where this is the target of the map.
HierarchicalCode Reference		References both the Hierarchy and the Hierarchical Code in a Hierarchical Codelist.
	+hierarchy +codeAssociation	Associates the Hierarchical Code in the Hierarchy of the Hierarchical Codelist.

10 Constraints

10.1 Scope

The scope of this section is to describe the support in the metamodel for specifying both the access to and the content of a data source. The information may be stored in a resource such as a registry for use by applications wishing to locate data and metadata which is available via the Internet. The Constraint is also used to specify a sub set of a Codelist which may used as a partial code list which is relevant in the context of the artefact to which the Constraint is attached e.g. Data Structure Definition, Dataflow, Provision Agreement.

Note that in this metamodel the term data source refers to both data and metadata sources, and data provider refers to both data and metadata providers.

A data source may be a simple file of data or metadata (in SDMX-ML format), or a database or metadata repository. A data source may contain data for many data or metadataflows (called `DataflowDefinition`, and `MetadataflowDefinition` in the model), and the mechanisms described in this section allow an organisation to specify precisely the scope of the content of the data source where this data source is registered (`SimpleDataSource`, `QueryDataSource`).

The `DataflowDefinition` and `MetadataflowDefinition`, themselves may be specified as containing only a sub set of all the possible keys that could be derived from a `DataStructureDefinition` or `MetadataStructureDefinition`.

These specifications are called *`Constraint`* in this model.

10.2 Inheritance

10.2.1 Class Diagram of Constrainable Artefacts - Inheritance

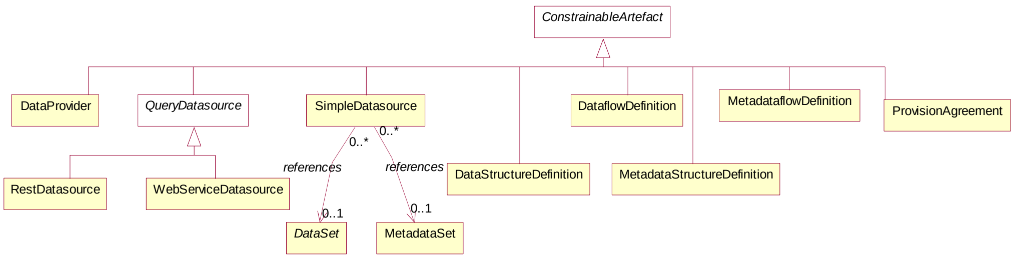

Figure 37: Inheritance class diagram of constrainable and provisioning artefacts

10.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

10.2.2.1 Narrative

Any artefact that is derived from *`ConstrainableArtefact`* can have constraints defined. The artefacts that can have constraint metadata attached are:

- `DataflowDefinition`
- `ProvisionAgreement`

- DataProvider – this is restricted to release calendar
- MetadataflowDefinition
- DataStructureDefinition
- MetadataStructureDefinition
- DataSet
- SimpleDataSource – this is a registered data source where the registration references the actual DataSet or MetadataSet
- QueryDataSource

Note that, because the Constraint can specify a sub set of the component values implied by a specific *Structure* (such a specific DataStructureDefinition or specific MetadataStructureDefinition), the *ConstrainableArtefact*s must be associated with a specific *Structure*. Therefore, whilst the Constraint itself may not be linked directly to a DataStructureDefinition or MetadataStructureDefinition, the artefact that it is constraining will be linked to a DataStructureDefinition or MetadataStructureDefinition. As a Data Provider does not link to any one specific DSD or MSD the type of information that can be contained in a Constraint linked to a DataProvider is restricted to Release Calendar.

10.3 Constraints

10.3.1 Relationship Class Diagram – high level view

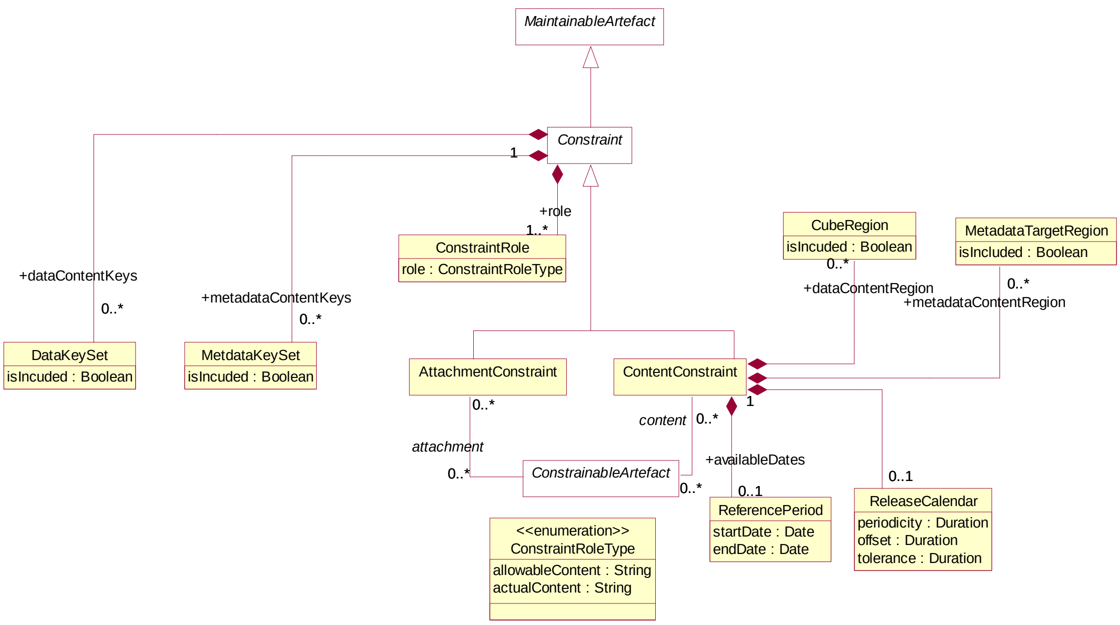

Figure 38: Relationship class diagram showing constraint metadata

10.3.2 Explanation of the Diagram

10.3.2.1 Narrative

The constraint mechanism allows specific constraints to be attached to a *`ConstrainableArtefact`*. With the exception of `ReferencePeriod`, and `ReleaseCalendar` these constraints specify a sub set of the total set of values or keys that may be present in any of the `ConstrainableArtefact`s.

For instance a `DataStructureDefinition` specifies, for each `Dimension`, the list of allowable code values. However, a specific `DataflowDefinition` that uses the `DataStructureDefinition` may contain only a sub set of the possible range of keys that is theoretically possible from the `DataStructureDefinition` definition (the total range of possibilities is sometimes called the Cartesian product of the dimension values). In addition to this, a `DataProvider` that is capable of supplying data according to the `DataflowDefinition` has a `ProvisionAgreement`, and the `DataProvider` may also wish to supply constraint information which may further constrain the range of possibilities in order to describe the data that the provider can supply. It may also be useful to describe the content of a datasource in terms of the `KeySet`s or `CubeRegion`s contained within it.

A *`ConstrainableArtefact`* can have two types of *`Constraint`*:

1. `ContentConstraint` – is used solely as a mechanism to specify either the available set of keys (`DataKeySet, MetadataKeySet`) or set of component values (`CubeRegion, MetadatTargetRegion`) in a *`DataSource`* such as a `DataSet` or a database (*`QueryDatasource`*), or the allowable keys that can be constructed from a `DataStructureDefinition`. Multiple such constraints may be present for a *`ConstrainableArtefact`*. For instance, there may be a `ContentConstraint` that specifies the values allowed for the *`ConstrainableArtefact`* (`role` is `allowableContent`) which can be used for validation or for constructing a partial code list, whilst another constraint can specify the actual content of a data or metadata source (`role` is `actualContent`).

2. `AttachmentConstraint` – is used as a mechanism to define slices of the full set of data and to which metadata can be attached in a Data Set or MetadataSet. These slices can be defined either as a set of keys (`KeySet`) or a set of component values (`CubeRegion`). There can be many `AttachmentConstraint`s specified for a specific `AttachableArtefact.`

In addition to (`DataKeySet, MetadataKeySet, CubeRegion, MetadataTargetRegion`, a `Constraint` can have a `ReferencePeriod` defining one of more date ranges (`ValidityPeriod`) specifying the time period for which data or metadata are available in the *`ConstrainableArtefact`* and a `ReleaseCalendar` specifying when data are released for publication or reporting.

10.3.3 Relationship Class Diagram – Detail

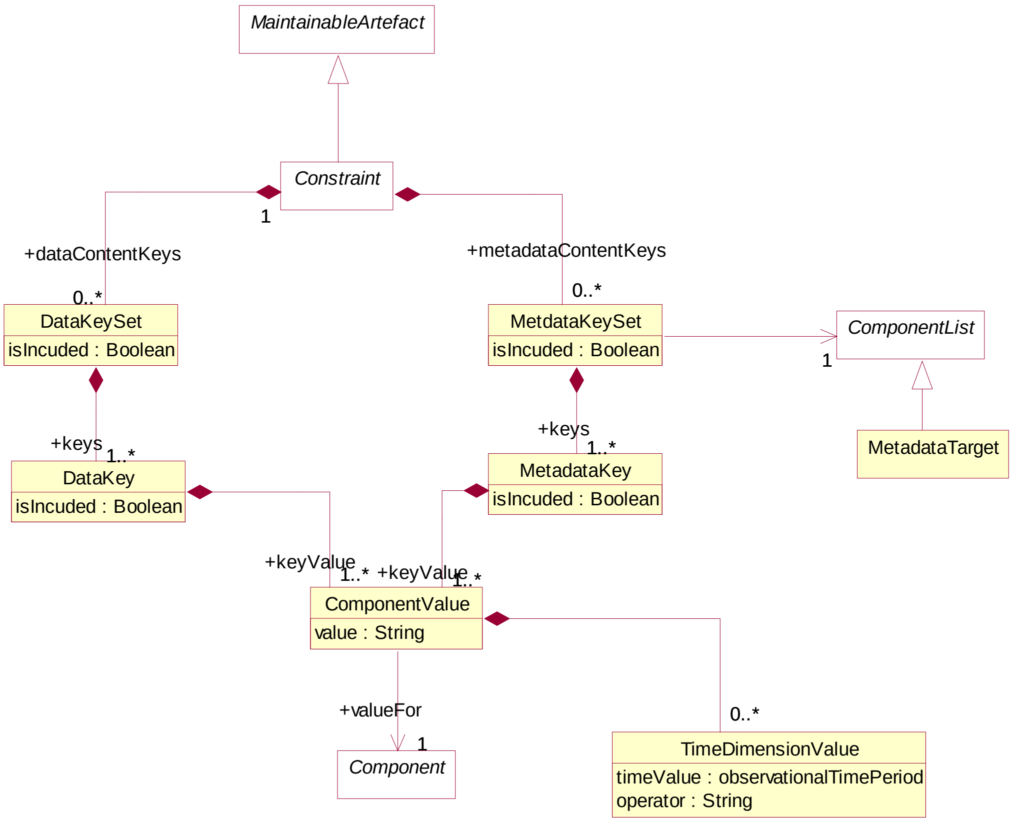

Figure 39: Constraints - Key Set Constraints

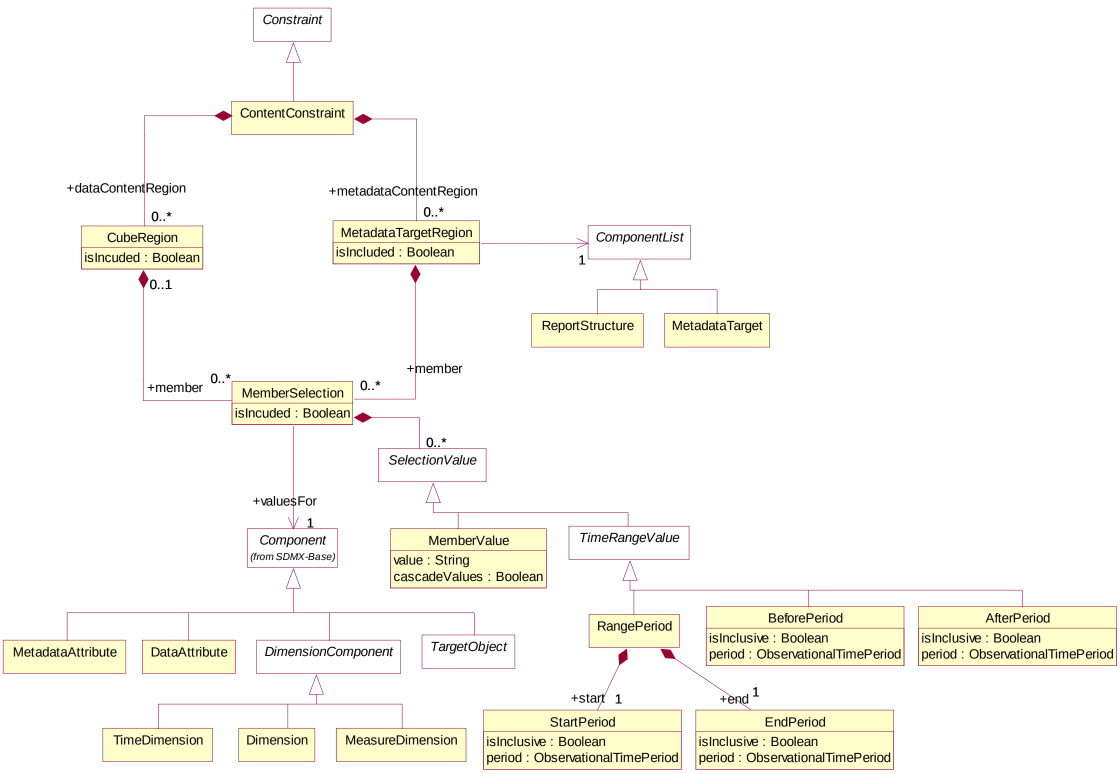

Figure 40: Constraints - Cube Region and Metadata Target Region Constraints

10.3.3.1 Explanation of the Diagram

A *Constraint* is a *MaintainableArtefact*.

A *Constraint* has a choice of two ways of specifying value sub sets:

1. As a set of keys that can be present in the DataSet (DataKeySet) or MetadataSet (MetadataKeySet). Each DataKey or MetadataKey specifies a number of ComponentValues each of which reference a *Component* (e.g. Dimension, TargetObject). Each ComponentValue is a value that may be present for a *Component* of a structure when contained in a DataSet or MetadataSet. The MetadataKeySet must also identify the MetadataTarget as there can be many of each of these in a MetadataStructureDefinition. For the DataKeySet the equivalent identification is not necessary as there is only one DimensionDescriptor and one AttributeDescriptor.

2. As a set of CubeRegions or MetadataTaregetRegions each of which defines a "slice" of the total structure (MemberSelection) in terms of one or more MemberValues that may be present for a *Component* of a structure when contained in a *DataSet* or MetadataSet.

The difference between (1) and (2) above is that in (1) a complete key is defined whereas in (2) above the "slice" defines a list of possible values for each of the *Component*s but does not specify specific key combinations. In addition, in (1) the association between *Component* and `DataKeyValue` or `MetadataKeyValue` is constrained to the components that comprise the key or identifier, whereas in (2) it can contain other component types (such as attributes). The value in `ComponentValue.value` and `MemberValue.value` must be consistent with the *`Representation`* declared for the *`Component`* in the `DataStructureDefinition` or `MetadataStructureDefinition`. Note that in all cases the "operator" on the `value` is deemed to be "equals". Furthermore, it is possible in a `MemberValue` to specify that child values (e.g. child codes) are included in the constraint by means of the `cascadeValues` attribute.

It is possible to define for the `DataKeySet`, `DataKey`, `MetadataKeySet`, `MetadataKey`, `CubeRegion`, `MetadataTargetRegion`, and `MemberSelection` whether the set is included (`isIncluded` = "true") or excluded (`isIncluded` = "false") from the constraint definition. This attribute is useful if, for example, only a small sub-set of the possible values are not included in the set, then this smaller sub-set can be defined and excluded from the constraint. Note that if the child construct is "included: and the parent construct is "excluded" then the child construct is included in the list of constructs that are "excluded".

10.3.3.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description

`Constrainable Artefact`	Abstract Class
	Sub classes are:
	
	`DataflowDefinition`
	`Metadataflow Definition`
	`ProvisionAgreement`
	`DataProvider`
	`QueryDatasource`
	`SimpleDatasource`
	`DataStructure Definition`
	`MetadataStructure Definition`
		An artefact that can have Constraints specified.

	`content`	Associates the metadata that constrains the content to be found in a data or metadata source linked to the Constrainable Artefact.
	`attachment`	Associates the metadata that constrains the valid content of a Constrainable Artefact to which metadata may be attached.

Class	Feature	Description
Constraint	Inherits from *MaintainableArtefact* Abstract class. Sub classes are: AttachmentConstraint ContentConstraint	Specifies a sub set of the definition of the allowable or actual content of a data or metadata source that can be derived from the Structure that defines code lists and other valid content.
	+availableDates	Association to the time period that identifies the time range for which data or metadata are available in the data source.
	+dataContentKeys	Association to a sub set of Data Key Sets (i.e. value combinations) that can be derived from the definition of the structure to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked.
	+metadataContentKeys	Association to a sub set of Metdata Key Sets (i.e. value combinations) that can be derived from the definition of the Structure to which the Constrainable Artefact is linke
	+dataContentRegion	Association to a sub set of component values that can be derived from the Data Structure Definition to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked.
	+metadataContentRegion	Association to a sub set of component values that can be derived from the Metadata Structure Definition to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked.

Class	Feature	Description
ContentConstraint	Inherits from *Constraint*	Defines a Constraint in terms of the content that can be found in data or metadata sources linked to the Constrainable Artefact to which this constraint is associated.
	+role	Association to the role that the Constraint plays
ConstraintRole		Specifies the way the type of content of a Constraint in terms of its purpose.
	allowableContent	The Constraint contains a specification of the valid sub set of the Component values or keys.
	actualContent	The Constraint contains a specification of the actual content of a data or metadata source in terms of the Component values or keys in the source.
Attachment Constraint	Inherits from *Constraint*	Defines a Constraint in terms of the combination of component values that may be found in a data source, and to which a Constrainable Artefact may be associated in a structure definition.
DataKeySet		A set of data keys.
	isIncluded	Indicates whether the Data Key Set is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	+keys	Association to the Data Keys in the set.
MetadataKeySet		A set of metadata keys.
	isIncluded	Indicates whether the Metadata Key Set is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	+keys	Association to the Metadata Keys in the set.

Class	Feature	Description
DataKey		The values of a key in a data set.
	isIncluded	Indicates whether the Data Key is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	+keyValue	Associates the Component Values that comprise the key.
MetadataKey		The values of a key in a metadata set.
	isIncluded	Indicates whether the Metdadata Key is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	+keyValue	Associates the Component Values that comprise the key.
ComponentValue		The identification of and value of a Component of the key (e.g. Dimension)
	value	The value of Component
	+valueFor	Association to the Component (e.g. Dimension) in the Structure to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked.
TimeDimensionValue		The value of the Time Dimension component.
	timeValue	The value of the time period.

Class	Feature	Description
	`operator`	Indicates whether the specified value represents and exact time or time period, or whether the value should be handled as a range. A value of greaterThan or greaterThanOrEqual indicates that the value is the beginning of a range (exclusive or inclusive, respectively). A value of lessThan or lessThanOrEqual indicates that the value is the end or a range (exclusive or inclusive, respectively). In the absence of the opposite bound being specified for the range, this bound is to be treated as infinite (e.g. any time period after the beginning of the provided time period for greaterThanOrEqual)
`CubeRegion`		A set of Components and their values that defines a sub set or "slice" of the total range of possible content of a data structure to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked.
	`isIncluded`	Indicates whether the Cube Region is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	`+member`	Associates the set of Components that define the sub set of values.

Class	Feature	Description
MetadataTargetRegion		A set of Components and their values that defines a sub set or "slice" of the total range of possible content of a metadata structure to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked.
	isIncluded	Indicates whether the Metadata Target Region is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	+member	Associates the set of Components that define the sub set of values.
MemberSelection		A set of permissible values for one component of the axis.
	isIncluded	Indicates whether the Member Selection is included in the constraint definition or excluded from the constraint definition.
	+valuesFor	Association to the Component in the Structure to which the Constrainable Artefact is linked, which defines the valid Representation for the Member Values.
SelectionValue	Abstract class. Sub classes are: MemberValue TimeRangeValue	A collection of values for the Member Selections that, combined with other Member Selections, comprise the value content of the Cube Region.
MemberValue	Inherits from SelectionValue	A single value of the set of values for the Member Selection.
	value	A value of the member.

Class	Feature	Description
	cascadeValues	Indicates that the child nodes of the member are included in the Member Selection (e.g. child codes)
TimeRangeValue	Inherits from SelectionValue Abstract Class Concrete Classes BeforePeriod AfterPeriod RangePeriod	A time value or values that specifies the date or dates for which the constrained selection is valid.
BeforePeriod	Inherits from *TimeRangeValue*	The period before which the constrained selection is valid.
	isInclusive	Indication of whether the date is inclusive in the period.
AfterPeriod	Inherits from *TimeRangeValue*	The period after which the constrained selection is valid.
	isInclusive	Indication of whether the date is inclusive in the period.
RangePeriod		The start and end periods in a date range.
	+start	Association to the Start Period.
	+end	Association to the End Period.
StartPeriod	Inherits from *TimeRangeValue*	The period from which the constrained selection is valid.
	isInclusive	Indication of whether the date is inclusive in the period.
EndPeriod	Inherits from *TimeRangeValue*	The period to which the constrained selection is valid.
	isInclusive	Indication of whether the date is inclusive in the period.

Class	Feature	Description
`ReferencePeriod`		A set of dates that constrain the content that may be found in a data or metadata set.
	`startDate`	The start date of the period.
	`endDate`	The end date of the period.
`ReleaseCalendar`		The schedule of publication or reporting of the data or metadata
	`periodicity`	The time period between the releases of the data or metadata
	`offset`	Interval between January 1st and the first release of the data
	`tolerance`	Period after which the data or metadata may be deemed late.

11 Data Provisioning

11.1 Class Diagram

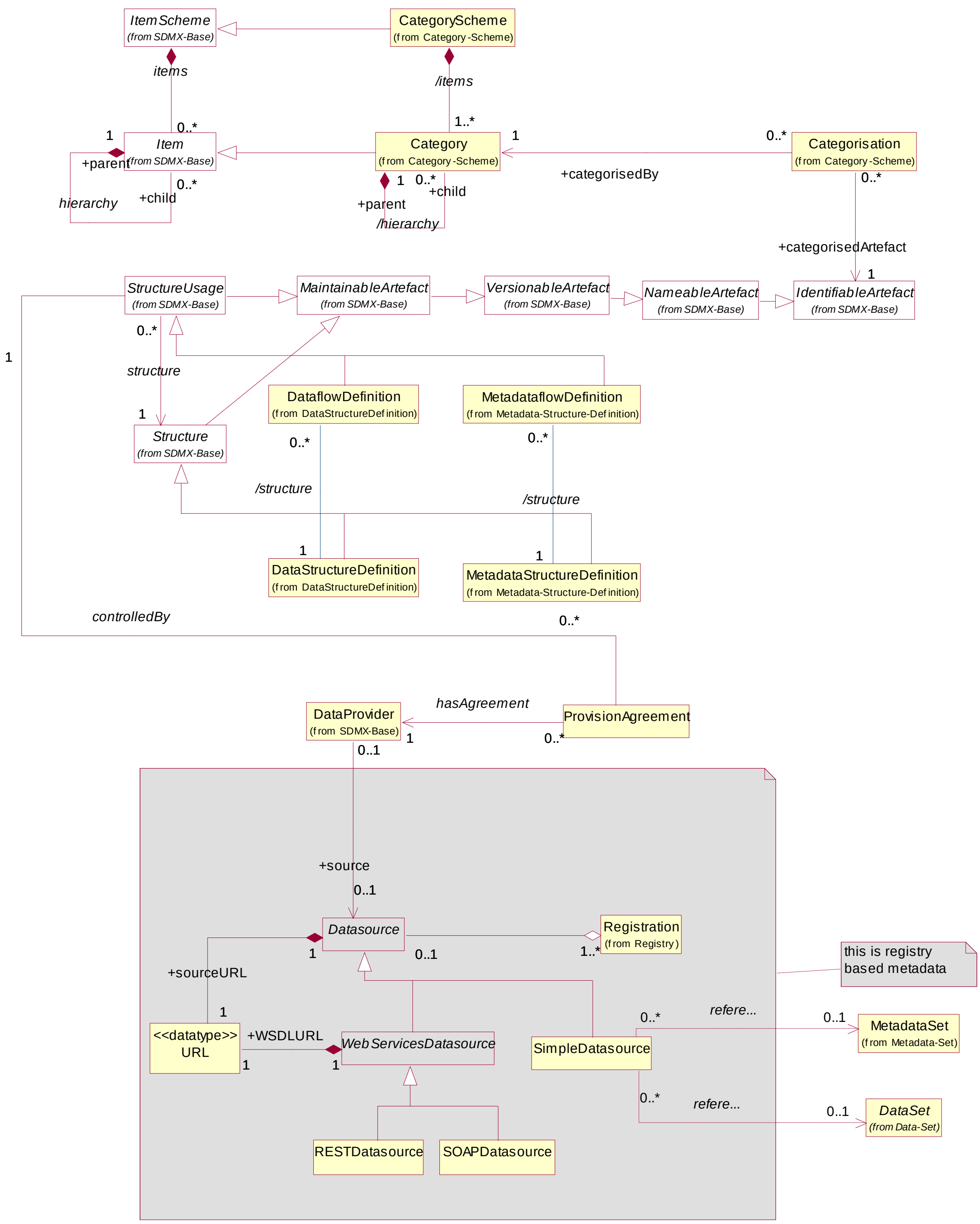

Figure 41: Relationship and inheritance class diagram of data provisioning

11.2 Explanation of the Diagram

11.2.1 Narrative

This sub model links many artefacts in the SDMX-IM and is pivotal to an SDMX metadata registry, as all of the artefacts in this sub model must be accessible to an application that is responsible for data and metadata registration or for an application that requires access to the data or metadata.

Whilst a registry contains all of the metadata depicted on the diagram above, the classes in the grey shaded area are specific to a registry based scenario where data sources (either physical data and metadata sets or databases and metadata repositories) are registered. More details on how these classes are used in a registry scenario can be found in the SDMX Registry Interface document. (Section 5 of the SDMX Standards).

A `ProvisionAgreement` links the artefact that defines how data and metadata are structured and classified (*`StructureUsage`*) to the `DataProvider`, and, by means of a data or metadata registration, it references the `Datasource` (this can be data or metadata), whether this be an SDMX conformant file on a website (`SimpleDatasource`) or a database service capable of supporting an SDMX query and responding with an SDMX conformant document (*`QueryDatasource`*).

The *`StructureUsage`*, which has concrete classes of `DataflowDefinition` and `MetadataflowDefinition` identifies the corresponding `DataStructureDefinition` or `MetadataStructureDefinition`, and, via `Categorisation`, can link to one or more `Category` in a `CategoryScheme` such as a subject matter domain scheme, by which the *`StructureUsage`* can be classified. This can assist in drilling down from subject matter domains to find the data or metadata that may be relevant.

The `SimpleDatasource` links to the actual `DataSet` or `MetadataSet` on a website (this is shown on the diagram as a dependency called "references"). The `sourceURL` is obtained during the registration process of the `DataSet` or the `MetadataSet`. Additional information about the content of the `SimpleDatasource` is stored in the registry in terms of a `ContentConstraint` (see 10.3) for the `Registration`.

The `QueryDatasource` is an abstract class that represents a data source which can understand an SDMX-ML query (`SOAPDatasource`) or RESTful query (`RESTDatasource`) and respond appropriately. Each of these different `Datasource`s inherit the `dataURL` from `Datasource`, and the `QueryDatasource` has an additional URL to locate a WSDL or WADL document to describe how to access it. All other supported protocols are assumed to use the `SimpleDatasource` URL.

The diagram below shows in schematic way the essential navigation through the SDMX structural artefacts that eventually link to a data or metadata registration.

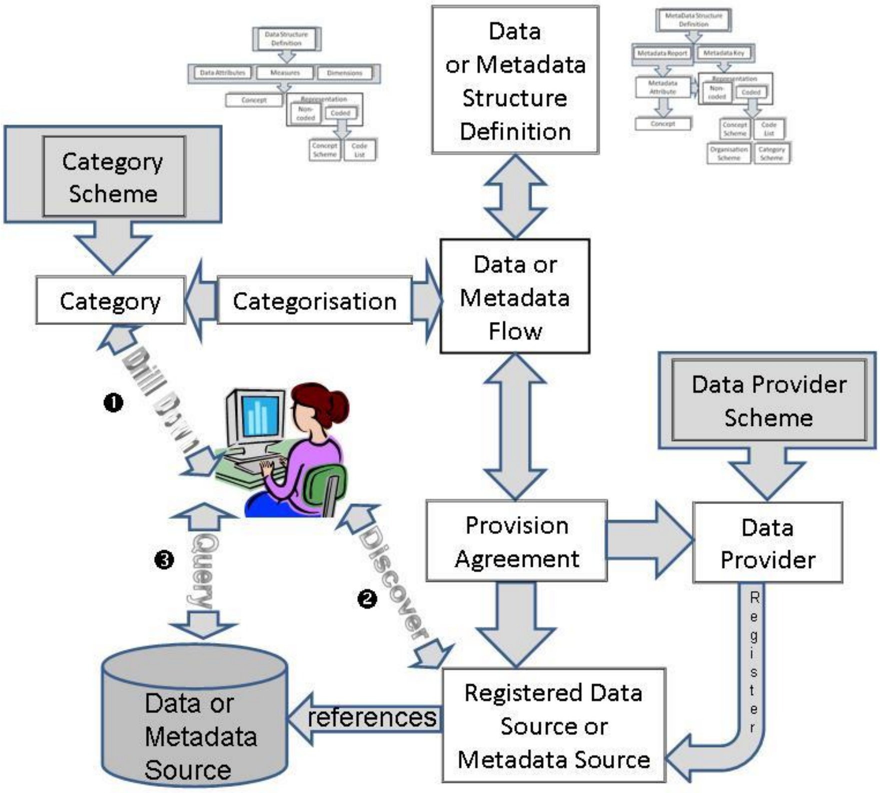

Figure 42: Schematic of the linking of structural metadata to data and metadata registration

11.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
StructureUsage	Abstract class: Sub classes are: DataflowDefinition MetadataflowDefinition	This is described in the Base.
	controlledBy	Association to the Provision Agreements that comprise the metadata related to the provision of data.
DataProvider		See Organisation Scheme.
	hasAgreement	Association to the Provision Agreements for which the provider supplies data or metadata.

Class	Feature	Description
	+source	Association to a data or metadata source which can process a data or metadata query.
ProvisionAgreement		Links the Data Provider to the relevant Structure Usage (e.g. Dataflow Definition or Metadataflow Definition) for which the provider supplies data or metadata The agreement may constrain the scope of the data or metadata that can be provided, by means of a Constraint.
	+source	Association to a data or reference metadata source which can process a data or metadata query.
Datasource	Abstract class: Sub classes are: SimpleDatasource *WebServices Datasource*	Identification of the location or service from where data or reference metadata can be obtained.
	+sourceURL	The URL of the data or reference metadata source (a file or a web service).
SimpleDatasource		An SDMX-ML data set accessible as a file at a URL.
WebServices Datasource	Abstract class: Inherits from: *Datasource* Sub classes are: RESTDatasource SOAPDatasource	A data or reference metadata source which can process a data or metadata query.

Class	Feature	Description
RESTDatasource		A data or reference metadata source that is accessible via a RESTful web services interface.
SOAPDatasource		A data or reference metadata source that conforms to a SOAP web service interface.
	+WSDLURL	Association to the URL of the Web Service Definition Language (SOAP) or Web Service Application Language (REST) profile of the web service.
Registration		This is not detailed here but is shown as the link between the SDMX-IM and the Registry Service API. It denotes a data or metadata registration document.

12 Process

12.1 Introduction

In any system that processes data and reference metadata the system itself is a series of processes and in each of these processes the data or reference metadata may undergo a series of transitions. This is particularly true of its path from raw data to published data and reference metadata. The process model presented here is a generic model that can capture key information about these stages in both a textual way and also in a more formalised way by linking to specific identifiable objects, and by identifying software components that are used.

12.2 Model – Inheritance and Relationship view

12.2.1 Class Diagram

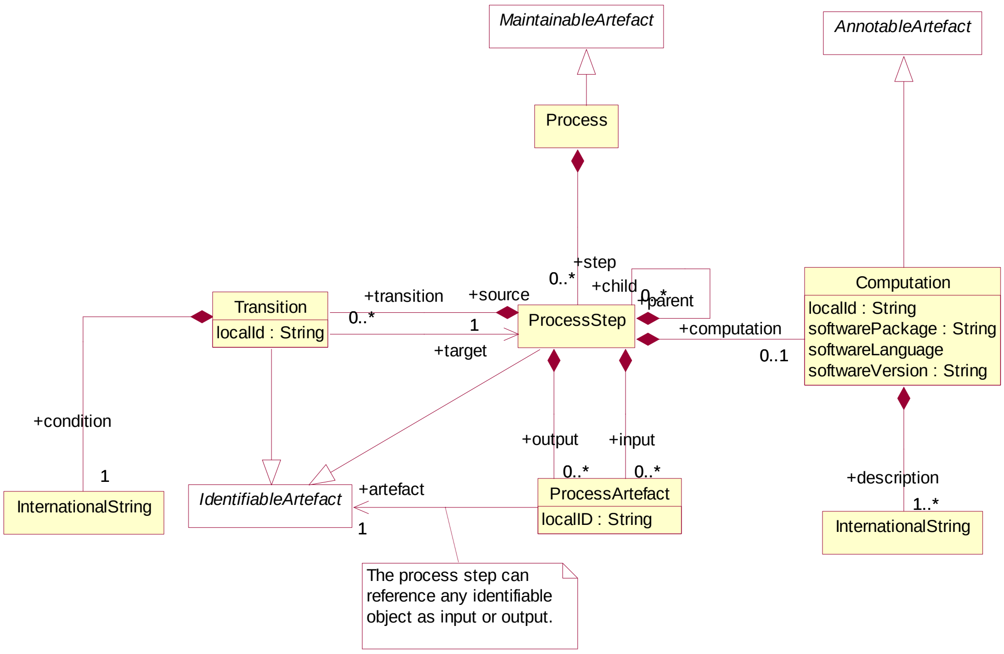

Figure 43: Inheritance and Relationship class diagram of Process and Transitions

12.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

12.2.2.1 Narrative

The `Process` is a set of hierarchical `ProcessStep`s. Each `ProcessStep` can take zero or more *`IdentifiableArtefact`*s as input and output. Each of the associations to the input and output *`IdentifiableArtefact`*s (`ProcessArtefact`) can be assigned a `localID`.

The computation performed by a `ProcessStep` is optionally described by a `Computation`, which can identify the software used by the `ProcessStep` and can also be described in textual form (`+description`) in multiple language variants. The `Transition` describes the execution of `ProcessStep`s from `+source ProcessStep` to `+target ProcessStep` based on the outcome of a `+condition` that can be described in multiple language variants.

2110 #### 12.2.2.2 Definitions

Class	Feature	Description
+Process	Inherits from *Maintainable*	A scheme which defines or documents the operations performed on data or metadata in order to validate data or metadata to derive new information according to a given set of rules.
	+step	Associates the Process Steps.
ProcessStep	Inherits from *IdentifiableArtefact*	A specific operation, performed on data or metadata in order to validate or to derive new information according to a given set of rules.
	+input	Association to the Process Artefact that identifies the objects which are input to the Process Step.
	+output	Association to the Process Artefact that identifies the objects which are output from the Process Step.
	+child	Association to child Processes that combine to form a part of this Process.
	+computation	Association to one or more Computations.
	+transition	Association to one or more Transitions.
Computation		Describes in textual form the computations involved in the process.
	localId	Distinguishes between Computations in the same Process.
	softwarePackage softwareLanguage softwareVersion	Information about the software that is used to perform the computation.

Class	Feature	Description
	+description	Text describing or giving additional information about the computation. This can be in multiple language variants.
Transition	Inherits from *IdentifiableArtefact*	An expression in a textual or formalised way of the transformation of data between two specific operations (Processes) performed on the data.
	+target	Associates the Process Step that is the target of the Transition.
	+condition	Associates a textual description of the Transition.
ProcessArtefact		Identification of an object that is an input to or an output from a Process Step.
	+artefact	Association to an Identifiable Artefact that is the input to or the output from the Process Step.

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13 Validation and Transformation Language

13.1 Introduction

This SDMX model package supports the definition of Transformations, which are algorithms to calculate new data starting from already existing ones, written using the Validation and Transformation Language (VTL)[2].

The purpose of this model package is to enable the:

- definition of validation and transformation algorithms by means of VTL, in order to specify how to calculate new SDMX data from existing ones;
- exchange of the definition of VTL algorithms, also together the definition of the data structures of the involved data (for example, exchange the data structures of a reporting framework together with the validation rules to be applied, exchange the input and output data structures of a calculation task together with the VTL transformations describing the calculation algorithms);
- execution of VTL algorithms, either interpreting the VTL transformations or translating them in whatever other computer language is deemed as appropriate;

This model package does not explain the VTL language or any of the content published in the VTL guides. Rather, this is an illustration of the SDMX classes and attributes that allow defining VTL transformations applied to SDMX artefacts.

The SDMX model represented below is consistent with the VTL 2.0 specification. However, the former uses the SDMX terminology and is a model at technical level (from which the SDMX implementation artefacts for defining VTL transformations are built), whereas the latter uses the VTL terminology and is at conceptual level. The guidelines for mapping these terminologies and using the VTL in the SDMX context can be found in a dedicated chapter ("*Validation and Transformation Language*") of the Section 6 of the SDMX Standards ("*SDMX Technical Notes*"), often referenced below.

2 The Validation and Transformation Language is a standard language designed and published under the SDMX initiative. VTL is described in the VTL User and Reference Guides available on the SDMX website https://sdmx.org.

13.2 Model - Inheritance view

13.2.1 Class Diagram

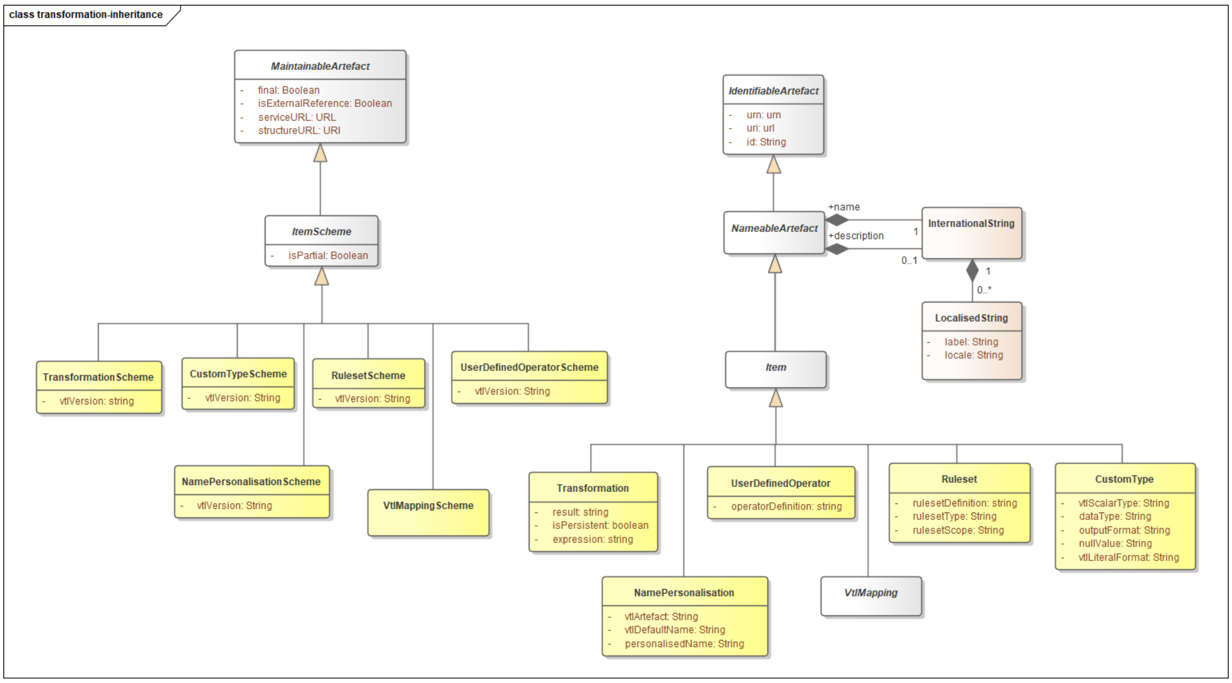

Figure 44: Class inheritance diagram in the Transformations and Expressions Package

13.2.2 Explanation of the Diagram

13.2.2.1 Narrative

The model artefacts `TransformationScheme`, `RulesetScheme`, `UserDefinedOperatorScheme`, `NamePersonalisationScheme`, `CustomTypeScheme`, and `VtlMappingScheme` inherit from `ItemScheme`

These `schemes` inherit from the *`ItemScheme`* and therefore have the following attributes:

- `id`
- `uri`
- `urn`
- `version`
- `validFrom`
- `validTo`
- `isExternalReference`
- `registryURL`
- `structureURL`
- `repositoryURL`

- `final`
- `isPartial`

The model artefacts `Transformation`, `Ruleset`, `UserDefinedOperator`, `NamePersonalisation`, *`VtlMapping`*, `CustomType` inherit the attributes and associations of `Item` which itself inherits from `NameableArtefact`. They have the following attributes:

- `id`
- `uri`
- `urn`

The multi-lingual name and description are provided by the relationship to `InternationalString` from `NameableArtefact`.

13.3 Model - Relationship View

13.3.1 Class Diagram

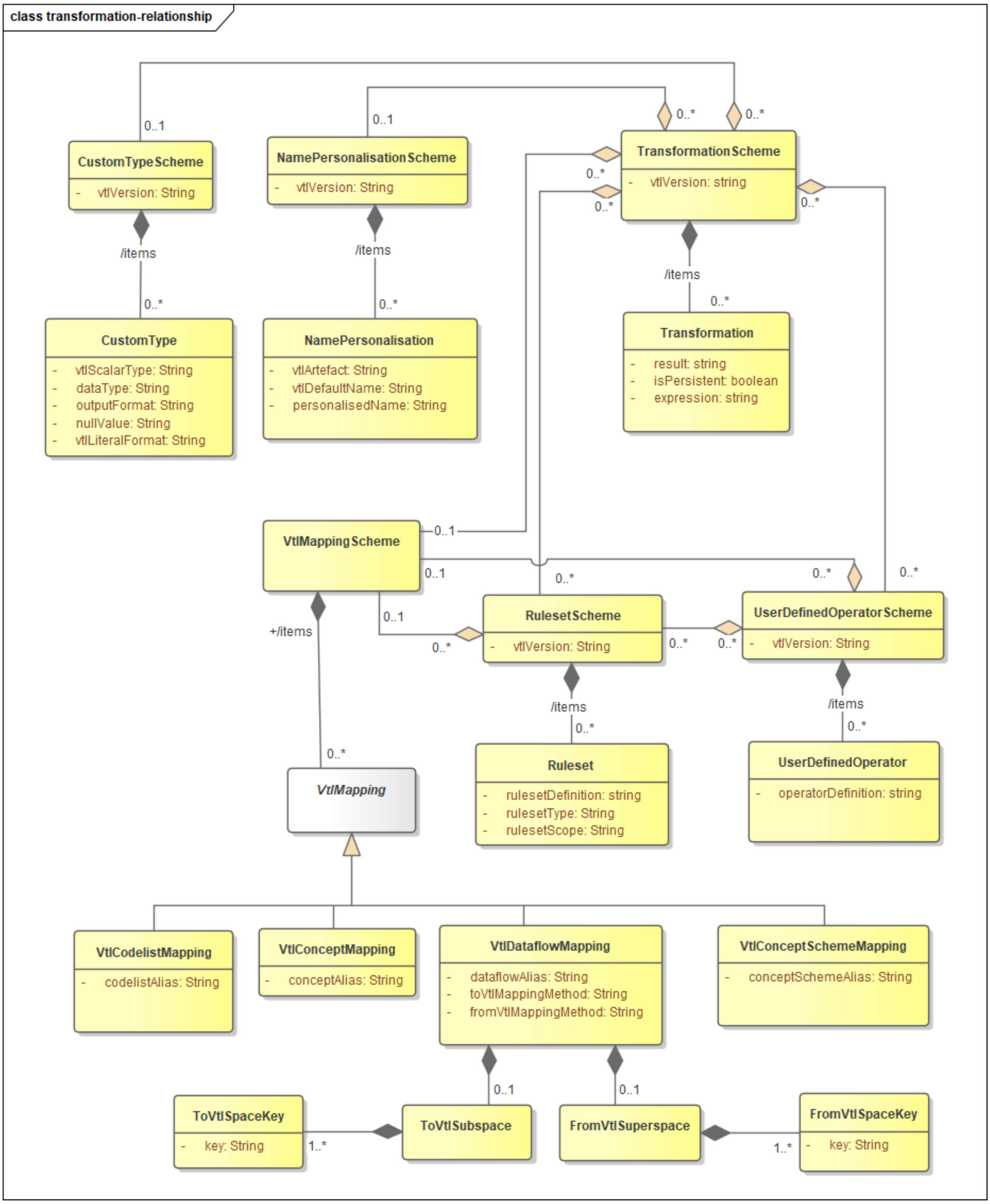

Figure 45: Relationship diagram in the Transformations and Expressions Package

13.3.2 Explanation of the Diagram

13.3.2.1 Narrative - Overview

Transformation Scheme

A `TransformationScheme` is a set of `Transformations` aimed at obtaining some meaningful results for the user (e.g. the validation of one or more Data Sets). This set of `Transformations` is meant to be executed together (in the same run) and may contain any number of `Transformations` in order to produce any number of results. Therefore, a `TransformationScheme` can be considered as a VTL program.

The `TransformationScheme` must include the attribute `vtlVersion` expressed as a string (e.g. "2.0"), as the version of the VTL determines which syntax is used in defining the transformations of the scheme.

A `Transformation` consists of a statement which assigns the outcome of the evaluation of a VTL `expression` to a `result` (an artefact of the VTL Information Model, which in the SDMX context can be a persistent or non-persistent `Dataflow`[3]).

For example, assume that D1, D2 and D3 are SDMX `Dataflows` (called Data Sets in VTL) containing information on some goods, specifically: D3 the current stocks, D1 the stocks of the previous date, D2 the flows in the last period. A possible VTL `Transformation` aimed at checking the consistency between flows and stocks is the following:

Dr := If ((D1 + D2) = D3, then "true", else "false")

In this `Transformation`:

• Dr	is the result (a new dataflow)
• :=	is an assignment operator
• If ((D1 + D2) = D3, then "true", else "false")	is the expression
• D1, D2, D3	are the operands
• If, ( ), +, =	are VTL operators

The `Transformation` model artefact contains three attributes:

1. `result`
   The left-hand side of a VTL statement, which specifies the Artefact to which the outcome of the expression is assigned. An artefact cannot be result of more than one `Transformation`.

2. `isPersistent`

[3] Or a part of a `Dataflow`, see also the chapter "Validation and Transformation Language" of the Section 6 of the SDMX Standards ("SDMX Technical Notes"), paragraph "Mapping dataflow subsets to distinct VTL data sets".

An assignment operator, which specifies also the persistency of the left-hand side. The assignment operators are two, namely **:=** for non-persistent assignment (the result is non-persistent) and **<-** for persistent assignment (the result is persistent).

3. `expression`
The right-hand side of a VTL statement, which is the expression to be evaluated. An `expression` consists in the invocation of VTL operators in a certain order. When an operator is invoked, for each input parameter, an actual argument is passed to the operator, which returns an actual argument for the output parameter. An `expression` is simply a text string written according the VTL grammar.

Because an Artefact can be the `result` of just one `Transformation` and a `Transformation` belongs to just one `TransformationScheme`, it follows also that a derived Artefact (e.g. a new `Dataflow`) is produced in just one `TransformationScheme`.

The `result` of a `Transformation` can be input of other `Transformations`. The VTL assumes that non-persistent results are maintained only within the same `TransformationScheme` in which they are produced. Therefore, a non-persistent result of a `Transformation` can be the operand of other `Transformations` of the same `TransformationScheme`, whereas a persistent result can be operand of transformations of any `TransformationScheme`[4].

The `TransformationScheme` has an association to zero of more `RulesetScheme`, zero or more `UserDefinedOperatorScheme`, zero or one `NamePersonalisationScheme`, zero or one `VtlMappingScheme`, and zero or one `CustomTypeScheme`

The `RulesetScheme`, `UserDefinedOperatorScheme` `NamePersonalisationScheme` and `CustomTypeScheme` have an attribute `vtlVersion`. Thus, a `TransformationScheme` using a specific version of VTL can be linked to such schemes only if they are consistent with the same VTL version.

The `VtlMappingScheme` associated to a `TransformationScheme` must contain the mappings between the references to the SDMX artefacts from the `TransformationScheme` and the structured identifiers of these SDMX artefacts.

Ruleset Scheme

Some VTL Operators can invoke rulesets, i.e., sets of previously defined rules to be applied by the Operator. Once defined, a `Ruleset` is persistent and can be invoked as many times as needed. The knowledge of the rulesets' definitions (if any) is essential for understanding the actual behaviour of the `Transformation` that use them: this is achieved through the `RulesetScheme` model artefact. The `RulesetScheme` is the container for one or more `Ruleset`.

The `Ruleset` model artefact contains the following attributes:

[4] Provided that the VTL consistency rules are accomplished (see the "Generic Model for Transformations" in the VTL User Manual and its sub-section "Transformation Consistency").

1. **`rulesetType`** – the type of the ruleset according to VTL (VTL 2.0 allows two types: “datapoint” and “hierarchical” ruleset);
2. **`rulesetScope`** – the VTL artefact on which the ruleset is defined; VTL 2.0 allows rulesets defined on Value Domains, which correspond to SDMX `Codelists`, or to SDMX `Concept Schemes` and rulesets defined on Variables, which correspond to SDMX `Concepts` for which a definite `Representation` is assumed;
3. **`rulesetDefinition`** – the VTL statement that defines the ruleset according to the syntax of the VTL definition language.

The `RulesetScheme` can have an association with zero or more `VtlMappingScheme`. These mappings define the correspondence between the references to the SDMX artefacts contained in the `rulesetDefinition` and the structured identifiers of these SDMX artefacts.

The rulesets defined on Value Domains reference `Codelists` or `ConceptSchemes` (the latter in VTL are considered as the Value Domains of the variables corresponding to the SDMX Measure Dimensions). The rulesets defined on Variables reference `Concepts` (for which a definite `Representation` is assumed). In conclusion, in the VTL rulesets there can exist mappings for three kinds of SDMX artefacts: `Codelists`, `ConceptSchemes` and `Concepts`.

User Defined Operator Scheme

The `UserDefinedOperatorScheme` is a container for zero of more `UserDefinedOperator`. The `UserDefinedOperator` is defined using VTL standard operators. This is essential for understanding the actual behaviour of the `Transformations` that invoke them.

The attribute `operatorDefinition` contains the VTL statement that defines the operator according to the syntax of the VTL definition language.

Although the VTL user defined operators are conceived to be defined on generic operands, so that the specific artefacts to be manipulated are passed as parameters at the invocation, it is also possible that they reference specific SDMX artefacts like `Dataflows`, `Codelists` and `ConceptSchemes`. Therefore, the `UserDefinedOperatorScheme` can link to zero or one `VtlMappingScheme`, which must contain the mappings between the VTL references and the structured URN of the corresponding SDMX artefacts (see also the “*VTL mapping*” section below).

The definition of a `UserDefinedOperator` can also make use of VTL rulesets; therefore, the `UserDefinedOperatorScheme` can link to zero, one or more `RulesetScheme`, which must contain the definition of these `Rulesets` (see also the “*Ruleset Scheme*” section above).

Name Personalisation Scheme

In some operations, the VTL assigns by default some standard names to some measures and/or attributes of the data structure of the result[5]. The VTL allows also to personalise the names to be assigned. The knowledge of the personalised names (if any) is essential for understanding the actual behaviour of the `Transformation`: this is achieved through the `NamePersonalisationScheme`. A `NamePersonalisation` specifies a personalised name that will be assigned in place of a VTL default name. The `NamePersonalisationScheme` is a container for zero or more `NamePersonalisation`.

VTL Mapping

The mappings between SDMX and VTL can be relevant to the names of the artefacts and to the methods for converting the data structures from SDMX to VTL and vice-versa. These features are achieved through the `VtlMappingScheme,` which is a container for zero or more `VtlMapping`.

The VTL assumes that the operands are directly referenced through their actual names (unique identifiers). In the VTL transformations, rulesets, user defined operators, the SDMX artefacts are referenced through VTL aliases. The `alias` can be the complete URN of the artefact, an abbreviated URN, or another user-defined name, as described in the Section 6 of the SDMX Standards.[6]

The *`VTLmapping`* defines the correspondence between the VTL alias and the structured identifier of the SDMX artefact, for each referenced SDMX artefact. This correspondence is needed for four kinds of SDMX artefacts: `Dataflows`, `Codelists`, `ConceptSchemes` and `Concepts`. Therefore, there are four corresponding mapping subclasses: `VtlDataflowMapping`; `VtlCodelistMapping`; `VtlConceptSchemeMapping`; `VtlConceptMapping`.

As for the `Dataflows`, it is also possible to specify the method to convert the Data Structure of the `Dataflow`. This kind of conversion can happen in two directions, from SDMX to VTL when a SDMX `Dataflow` is accessed by a VTL Transformation (`toVtlMappingMethod`), or from VTL to SDMX when a SDMX derived `Dataflow` is calculated through VTL (`fromVtlMappingMethod`).[7]

The default mapping method from SDMX to VTL is called “Basic”. Three alternative mapping methods are possible, called “Pivot”, “Basic-A2M”, “Pivot-A2M” (“A2M” stands for “Attributes to Measures”, i.e. the SDMX Data Attributes become VTL Measures).

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[5] For example, the **check** operator produces some new components in the result called by default **bool_var**, **errorcode**, **errorlevel**, **imbalance**. These names can be personalised if needed.

[6] SDMX Technical Notes, chapter “Validation and Transformation Language”, section “References to SDMX artefacts from VTL statements”.

[7] For a more thorough description of these conversions, see the Section 6 of the SDMX Standards (“SDMX Technical Notes”), chapter “Validation and Transformation Language”, section “Mapping between SDMX and VTL”.

The default mapping method from VTL to SDMX is also called “Basic”, and the two alternative mapping methods are called “Unpivot” and “M2A” (“M2A” stands for “Measures to Attributes”, i.e. one VTL Measure becomes the SDMX `PrimaryMeasure` and the other VTL Measures become a SDMX `DataAttribute`).

In both the mapping directions, no specification is needed if the default mapping method (Basic) is used. When an alternative mapping method is applied for some `Dataflow`, this has to be specified in `toVtlMappingMethod` or `fromVtlMappingMethod`.

ToVtlSubspace, ToVtlSpaceKey, FromVtlSuperspace, FromVtlSpaceKey

Although in general one SDMX Dataflow is mapped to one VTL dataset and vice-versa, it is also allowed to map distinct parts of a single SDMX Dataflow to distinct VTL data sets according to the rules and conventions described in the Section 6 of the SDMX Standards.[8]

In the direction from SDMX to VTL, this is achieved by fixing the values of some predefined Dimensions of the SDMX Data Structure: all the observations having such combination of values are mapped to one corresponding VTL dataset (the Dimensions having fixed values are not maintained in the Data Structure of the resulting VTL dataset). The `ToVtlSubspace` and `ToVtlSpaceKey` classes allow to define these Dimensions. When one SDMX Dataflow is mapped to just one VTL dataset these classes are not used.

Analogously, in the direction from VTL to SDMX, it is possible to map more calculated VTL datasets to distinct parts of a single SDMX Dataflow, as long as these VTL datasets have the same Data Structure. This can be done by providing, for each VTL dataset, distinct values for some additional SDMX Dimensions that are not part of the VTL data structure. The `FromVtlSuperspace` and `FromVtlSpaceKey` classes allow to define these dimensions. When one VTL dataset is mapped to just one SDMX Dataflow these classes are not used.

Custom Type Scheme

As already said, a `Transformation` consists of a statement which assigns the outcome of the evaluation of a VTL `expression` to a `result`, i.e. an artefact of the VTL Information Model, which in the SDMX context can be a persistent or non-persistent `Dataflow`[9]. Therefore, the VTL data type of the outcome of the VTL `expression` has to be converted into the SDMX data type of the resulting `Dataflow`. A default conversion table from VTL to SDMX data types is assumed[10]. The `CustomTypeScheme` allows to specify custom conversions that override the default conversion table. The `CustomTypeScheme` is a container for zero or more `CustomType`. A `CustomType` specifies the custom conversion from a VTL scalar type that will override the default conversion. The overriding SDMX data type is specified by means

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8 SDMX Technical Notes, chapter “Validation and Transformation Language”, section “Mapping dataflow subsets to distinct VTL data sets”.

9 Or a part of a Dataflow, as described in the previous paragraph.

10 The default conversion table from VTL to SDMX is described in the the Section 6 of the SDMX Standards (“SDMX Technical Notes”), chapter “Validation and Transformation Language”, section “Mapping VTL basic scalar types to SDMX data types”.

of the `dataType` and `outputFormat` attributes (the SDMX data type assumes the role of external representation in respect to VTL[11]).

Moreover, the `CustomType` allows to customize the default format of VTL literals and the (possible) SDMX value to be produced when a VTL measure or attribute is NULL.

VTL `expression` can contain literals, i.e. specific values of a certain VTL data type written according to a certain format. For example, consider the following `Transformation` that extracts from the dataflow D1 the observations for which the “reference_date” belongs to the years 2018 and 2019:

Dr := D1 [filter between (reference_date, 2018-01-01, 2019-12-31)]

In this expression, the two values 2018-01-01 and 2019-12-31 are literals of the VTL “date” scalar type expressed in the format YYYY-MM-DD.

The VTL literals are assumed to be written in the same SDMX format specified in the default conversion table mentioned above, for the conversion from VTL to SDMX data types. If a different format is used for a certain VTL scalar type, it must be specified in the `vtlLiteralFormat` attribute of the `CustomType`

Regarding the management of NULLs, in the conversions between SDMX and VTL, by default a missing value in SDMX in converted in VTL NULL and vice-versa, for any VTL scalar type. If a different value is needed, after the conversion from SDMX to VTL, proper VTL operators can be used for obtaining it. In the conversion from VTL to SDMX the desired value can be declared in the `nullValue` attribute (separately for each VTL basic scalar type).

13.3.2.2 Definitions

Class	**Feature**	**Description**
`TransformationScheme`	Inherits from *`ItemScheme`*	Contains the definitions of transformations meant to produce some derived data and be executed together
	`vtlVersion`	The version of the VTL language used for defining transformations
`Transformation`	Inherits from *`Item`*	A VTL statement which assigns the outcome of an expression to a result.

[11] About VTL internal and external representations, see also the VTL User Manual, section “Basic scalar types”, p.53.

Class	Feature	Description
	`result`	The left-hand side of the VTL statement, which identifies the result artefact.
	`isPersistent`	A boolean that indicates whether the result is permanently stored or not, depending on the VTL assignment operator.
	`expression`	The right-hand side of the VTL statement that is the expression to be evaluated, which includes the references to the operands of the Transformation.
`RulesetScheme`	Inherits from *`ItemScheme`*	Container of rulesets.
	`vtlVersion`	The version of the VTL language used for defining the rulesets
`Ruleset`	Inherits from *`Item`*	A persistent set of rules which can be invoked by means of appropriate VTL operators.
	`rulesetDefinition`	A VTL statement for the definition of a ruleset (according to the syntax of the VTL definition language)
	`rulesetType`	The VTL type of the ruleset (e.g., in VTL 2.0, datapoint or hierarchical)
	`rulesetScope`	The model artefact on which the ruleset is defined (e.g., in VTL 2.0, valuedomain or variable)
`UserDefinedOperatorScheme`	Inherits from *`ItemScheme`*	Container of user defined operators
	`vtlVersion`	The version of the VTL language used for defining the user defined operators
`UserDefinedOperator`	Inherits from *`Item`*	Custom VTL operator (not existing in the standard library) that extends the VTL standard library for specific purposes.

Class	Feature	Description
	operatorDefinition	A VTL statement for the definition of a new operator: it specifies the operator name, its parameters and their data types, the VTL expression that defines its behaviour.
NamePersonalisation Scheme	Inherits from *ItemScheme*	Container of name personalisations.
	vtlVersion	The VTL version which the VTL default names to be personalised belong to.
NamePersonalisation	Inherits from *Item*	Definition of personalised name to be used in place of a VTL default name.
	vtlArtefact	VTL model artefact to which the VTL default name to be personalised refers, e.g. variable, value domain.
	vtlDefaultName	The VTL default name to be personalised.
	personalisedName	The personalised name to be used in place of the VTL default name.
VtlMappingScheme	Inherits from *ItemScheme*	Container of VTL mappings.
VtlMapping	Inherits from *Item* Sub classes are: VtlDataflowMapping VtlCodelistMapping VtlConceptSchemeMapp ing VtlConceptMapping	Single mapping between the reference to a SDMX artefact made from VTL transformations, rulesets, user defined operators and the corresponding SDMX structure identifier.
VtlDataflowMapping	Inherits from *VtlMapping*	Single mapping between the reference to a SDMX dataflow and the corresponding SDMX structure identifier

Class	Feature	Description
	`dataflowAlias`	Alias used in VTL to reference a SDMX dataflow (it can be the URN, the abbreviated URN or a user defined alias). The alias must be univocal: different SDMX artefacts cannot have the same VTL alias.
	`toVtlMappingMethod`	Custom specification of the mapping method from SDMX to VTL data structures for the dataflow (overriding the default "basic" method).
	`fromVtlMappingMethod`	Custom specification of the mapping method from VTL to SDMX data structures for the dataflow (overriding the default "basic" method).
`VtlCodelistMapping`	`Inherits from` *`VtlMapping`*	Single mapping between the VTL reference to a SDMX codelist and the SDMX structure identifier of the codelist.
	`codelistAlias`	Name used in VTL to reference a SDMX codelist. The name/alias must be univocal: different SDMX artefacts cannot have the same VTL alias.
`VtlConceptSchemeMapping`	`Inherits from` *`VtlMapping`*	Single mapping between the VTL reference to a SDMX concept scheme and the SDMX structure identifier of the concept scheme.
	`conceptSchemeAlias`	Name used in VTL to reference a SDMX concept scheme. The name/alias must be univocal: different SDMX artefacts cannot have the same VTL alias.

Class	Feature	Description
VtlConceptMapping	Inherits from *VtlMapping*	Single mapping between the VTL reference to a SDMX concept and the SDMX structure identifier of the concept.
	conceptAlias	Name used in VTL to reference a SDMX concept. The name/alias must be univocal: different SDMX artefacts cannot have the same VTL alias.
ToVtlSubspace		Subspace of the dimensions of the SDMX dataflow used to identify the parts of the dataflow to be mapped to distinct VTL datasets
ToVtlSpaceKey		A dimension of the SDMX dataflow that contributes to identify the parts of the dataflow to be mapped to distinct VTL datasets
	Key	The identity of the dimension in the data structure definition of the dataflow that contributes to identify the parts of the dataflow to be mapped to distinct VTL datasets
FromVtlSuperspace		Superspace composed of the dimensions to be added to the data structure of the VTL result dataset in order to obtain the data structure of the derived SDMX dataflow (in case the latter is a superset of distinct VTL datasets calculated independently)
FromVtlSpaceKey		A SDMX dimension to be added to the data structure of the VTL result dataset in order to obtain the data structure of the derived SDMX dataflow

Class	Feature	Description
	Key	The identity of the dimension to be added to the data structure of the VTL result dataset in order to obtain the data structure of the derived SDMX dataflow
CustomTypeScheme	Inherits from *ItemScheme*	Container of custom specifications for VTL basic scalar types.
	vtlVersion	The VTL version which the VTL scalar types belong to.
CustomType	Inherits from *Item*	Custom specification for a VTL basic scalar type.
	vtlScalarType	VTL scalar type for which the custom specifications are given.
	outputFormat	Custom specification of the VTL formatting mask needed to obtain to the desired representation, i.e. the desired SDMX format (e.g. YYYY-MM-DD, see also the VTL formatting mask in the VTL Reference Manual and the SDMX Technical Notes). If not specified, the "Default output format" of the default conversion table from VTL to SDMX is used. [12]

12 See "Mapping VTL basic scalar types to SDMX data types" in the SDMX Technical Notes, chapter "Validation and Transformation Language".

Class	Feature	Description
	`datatype`	Custom specification of the external (SDMX) data type in which the VTL data type has to be converted (e.g. the GregorianDay). If not specified, the “Default SDMX data type” of the default conversion table from VTL to SDMX is used. [13]
	nullValue	Custom specification of the SDMX value to be produced for the VTL NULL values, with reference to the `vtlScalarType` specified above. If no value is specified, no value is produced.
	vtlLiteralFormat	Custom specification of the format of the VTL literals belonging to the vtlScalarType used in the VTL program (e.g. YYYY-MM-DD)[14]. If not specified, the “Default output format” of the default conversion table from VTL to SDMX is assumed.[15]

13 See “Mapping VTL basic scalar types to SDMX data types” in the SDMX Technical Notes, chapter “Validation and Transformation Language”.

14 See also the VTL formatting mask in the VTL Reference Manual and the SDMX Technical Notes.

15 See “Mapping VTL basic scalar types to SDMX data types” in the SDMX Technical Notes, chapter “Validation and Transformation Language”.

14 Appendix 1: A Short Guide To UML in the SDMX Information Model

14.1 Scope

The scope of this document is to give a brief overview of the diagram notation used in UML. The examples used in this document have been taken from the SDMX UML model.

14.2 Use Cases

In order to develop the data models it is necessary to understand the functions that require to be supported. These are defined in a use case model. The use case model comprises actors and use cases and these are defined below.

The **actor** can be defined as follows:

> *"An actor defines a coherent set of roles that users of the system can play when interacting with it. An actor instance can be played by either an individual or an external system"*

The actor is depicted as a stick man as shown below.

Figure 46 Actor

The **use case** can be defined as follows:

> *"A use case defines a set of use-case instances, where each instance is a sequence of actions a system performs that yields an observable result of value to a particular actor"*

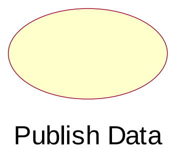

Figure 47 Use case

Figure 48 Actor and use case

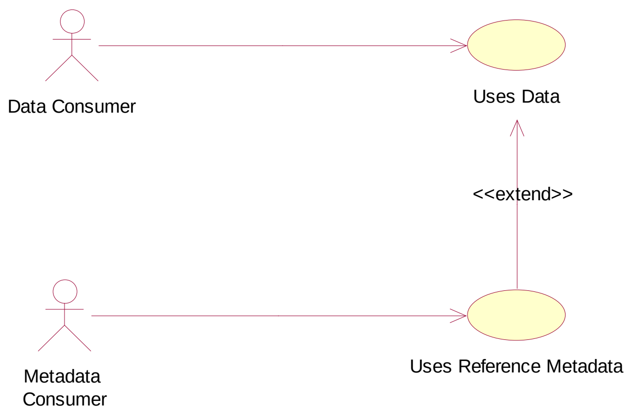

Figure 49 Extend use cases

An extend use case is where a use case may be optionally extended by a use case that is independent of the using use case. The arrow in the association points to he owning use case of the extension. In the example above the Uses Data use case is optionally extended by the Uses Metadata use case.

14.3 Classes and Attributes

14.3.1 General

A class is something of interest to the user. The equivalent name in an entity-relationship model (E-R model) is the entity and the attribute. In fact, if the UML is used purely as a means of modelling data, then there is little difference between a class and an entity.

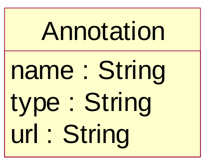

Figure 50 Class and its attributes

Figure 50 shows that a class is represented by a rectangle split into three compartments. The top compartment is for the class name, the second is for attributes and the last is for operations. Only the first compartment is mandatory. The name of the class is `Annotation`, and it belongs to the package SDMX-Base. It is common to group related artefacts (classes, use-cases, etc.) together in packages. . `Annotation` has three “String” attributes – `name`, type, and url. The full identity of the attribute includes its class e.g. the name attribute is Annotation.name.

Note that by convention the class names use UpperCamelCase – the words are concatenated and the first letter of each word is capitalized. An attribute uses lowerCamelCase - the first letter of the first (or only) word is not capitalized, the remaining words have capitalized first letters.

14.3.2 Abstract Class

An abstract class is drawn because it is a useful way of grouping classes, and avoids drawing a complex diagram with lots of association lines, but where it is not foreseen that the class serves any other purpose (i.e. it is always implemented as one of its sub classes). In the diagram in this document an abstract class is depicted with its name in italics, and coloured white.

Figure 51 Abstract and concrete classes

14.4 Associations

14.4.1 General

In an E-R model these are known as relationships. A UML model can give more meaning to the associations than can be given in an E-R relationship. Furthermore, the UML notation is fixed (i.e. there is no variation in the way associations are drawn). In an E-R diagram, there are many diagramming techniques, and it is the relationship in an E-R diagram that has many forms, depending on the particular E-R notation used.

14.4.2 Simple Association

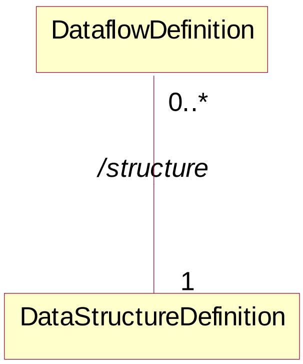

Figure 52 A simple association

Here the DataflowDefinition class has an association with the DataStructureDefinition class. The diagram shows that a DataflowDefinition can have an association with only one DataStructureDefinition (1) and that a

DataStructureDefinition can be linked to many DataflowDefinitions (0..*). The association is sometimes named to give more semantics.

In UML it is possible to specify a variety of “multiplicity” rules. The most common ones are:

- Zero or one (0..1)
- Zero or many (0..*)
- One or many (1..*)
- Many (*)
- Unspecified (blank)

14.4.3 Aggregation

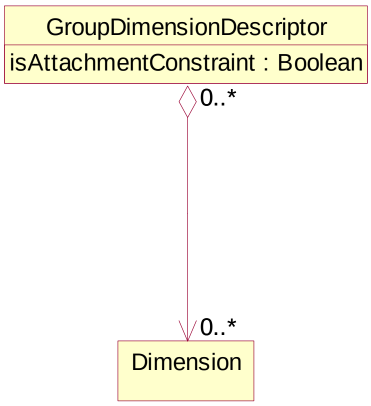

Figure 53: A simple aggregate association

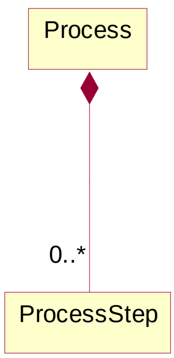

Figure 54 A composition aggregate association

An association with an aggregation relationship indicates that one class is a subordinate class (or a part) of another class. In an aggregation relationship. There are two types of aggregation, a simple aggregation where the child class instance can outlive its parent class, and a composition aggregation where the child class's instance lifecycle is dependent on the parent class's instance lifecycle. In the simple aggregation it is usual, in the SDMX Information model, for this association to also be a reference to the associated class.

14.4.4 Association Names and Association-end (role) Names

It can be useful to name associations as this gives some more semantic meaning to the model i.e. the purpose of the association. It is possible for two classes to be joined by two (or more) associations, and in this case it is extremely useful to name the purpose of the association. Figure 55 shows a simple aggregation between `CategoryScheme` and `Category` called */items* (this means it is derived from the association between the super classes – in this case between the *`ItemScheme`* and the *`Item`*, and another between `Category` called */hierarchy*.

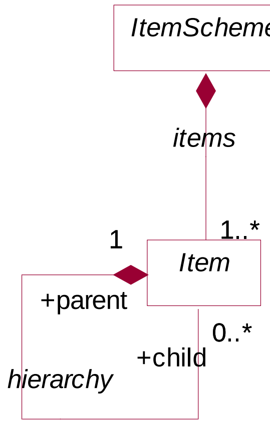

Figure 55 Association names and end names

Furthermore, it is possible to give role names to the association-ends to give more semantic meaning – such as parent and child in a tree structure association. The role is shown with "+" preceding the role name (e.g. in the diagram above the semantic of the association is that a `Item` can have zero or one parent `Items` and zero or many child `Item`).

In this model the preference has been to use role names for associations between concrete classes and association names for associations between abstract classes. The reason for using an association name is often useful to show a physical association between two sub classes that inherit the actual association between the super class from which they inherit. This is possible to show in the UML with association names, but not with role names. This is covered later in "Derived Association".

Note that in general the role name is given at just one end of the association.

14.4.5 Navigability

Associations are, in general, navigable in both directions. For a conceptual data model it is not necessary to give any more semantic than this.

However, UML allows a notation to express navigability in one direction only. In this model this "navigability" feature has been used to represent referencing. In other words, the class at the navigable end of the association is referenced from the class at the non-navigable end. This is aligned, in general, with the way this is implemented in the XML schemas.

Figure 56 One way association

Here it is possible to navigate from A to B, but there is no implementation support for navigatation from B to A using this association.

14.4.6 Inheritance

Sometimes it is useful to group common attributes and associations together in a super class. This is useful if many classes share the same associations with other classes, and have many (but not necessarily all) attributes in common. Inheritance is shown as a triangle at the super class.

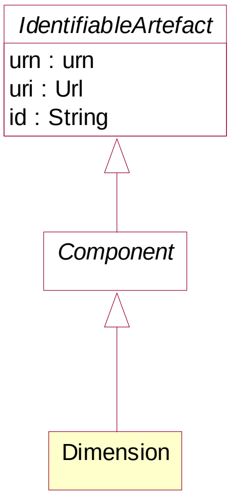

Figure 57 Inheritance

Here the `Dimension` is derived from `Component` which itself is derived from *`IdentifiableArtefact`*. Both `Component` and `IdentifiableArtefact` are abstract superclasses. The `Dimension` inherits the attributes and associations of all of the the super classes in the inheritance tree. Note that a super class can be a concrete class (i.e. it exists in its own right as well as in the context of one of its sub classes), or an abstract class.

14.4.7 Derived association

It is often useful in a relationship diagram to show associations between sub classes that are derived from the associations of the super classes from which the sub classes inherit. A derived association is shown by "/" preceding the association name e.g. *`/name`*.

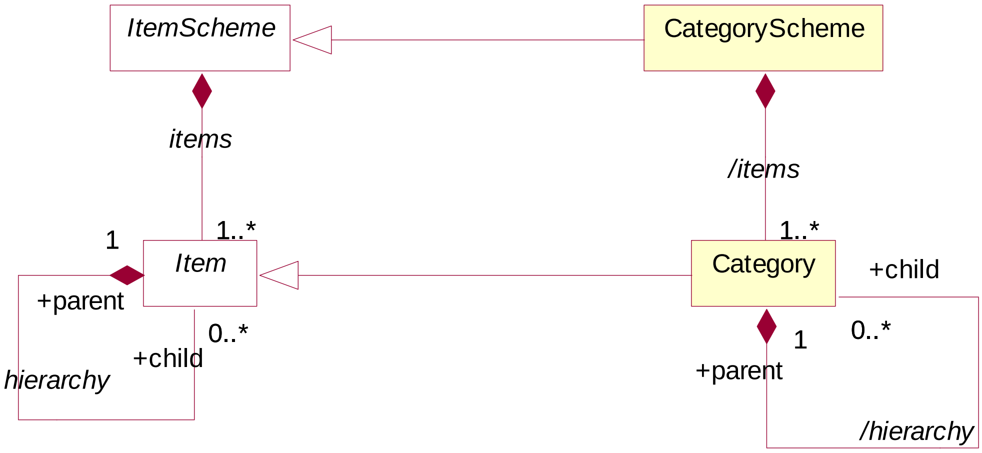

Figure 58 Derived associations

2558