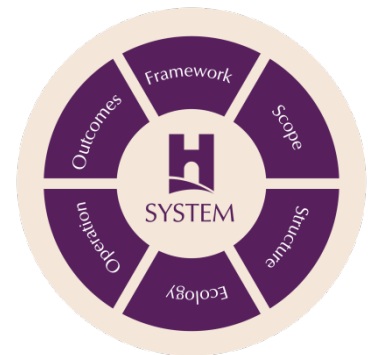




# System Schema

A systemic institution is organized in accordance with a six-dimensional system\* schema that specifies the institution's framework, scope, structure, ecology, operation and outcomes.

1. The **framework** of a systemic institution consists of all premises (assumptions, principles, value system, etc. that are often spelled out in a charter) and strategic choices that guide the specification and reification of all other five dimensions.
2. The **scope** of a systemic institution specifies its domain, or operation field or area, and its function, or the specific purposes it serves in that field or area.
3. The **structure** of a systemic institution specifies the living and non living constituents of the institution (system members and elements, or human and physical resources, the latter including everything available on the institution grounds from buildings and facilities to equipment and tools), and how these constituents interact with each other under its governance.
4. The **ecology** of a systemic institution specifies all living and non-living agents in its environment, and how institution and environment interact with each other.
5. The **operation** of a systemic institution is about all processes which members are engaged in with each other and with available resources (from buildings to various hard and soft tools) in order to serve the institution purposes following specific rules of engagement.
6. The **outcomes** of a systemic institution consist of all actual products and/or services generated by the institution (reified purposes) and made available to the intended recipients in the local environment.



\* A system consists of interacting members or elements all of which contribute to, and affect, the state and performance of the system. A system can be natural (e.g., an atom, a human body, a forest, a solar system) or human-made; the latter can be, among others, physical (e.g., a house, a school, a computer, a factory) or conceptual (e.g., a narrative text, an economic model, a mathematical model, a scientific theory).

Every system is governed by broad paradigmatic premises and serves specific purposes within a given domain. It functions or operates in interaction with a particular environment (unless isolated) so as to bring about specific outcomes. The environment that affects and is affected by the system can be divided or graded in two levels of influence, local and global. Local or immediate environment includes everyone and everything outside the system that are served and affected by that system and/or that affect it the most. Global or distant environment includes everyone and everything outside the system that are not necessarily served by that system and that may somewhat affect it and be affected by it.

