# Results: use of narrative elements

**Note:** This suggestion is in response to a consultation driven by Monitoring and Evaluation experts from UK CSOs Jan – Mar 2017 – see <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/>. Technical suggestions were devised by technology specialists at the Nethope Athens conference March 2017.

Currently the narrative element in results is used for a number of different purposes, making it awkward to specify and find specific information relating to results, and is leading to poor quality and confusing data. These purposes include:

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| **type of narrative information** |
| URL - to link to documents (see Principle 1 and 2 of <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/>) |
| lesson - how and why IATI results were or were not achieved (see Principle 2 of <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/>) |
| change - reason for modifying/deprecating particular result, indicator, baseline, target or actual (see Principle 5 of <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/>) |
| provenance of indicators (multiple different types including method, sources, audience etc. - final list to be determined by consultation) (see Principle 3 of <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/>) |

technical suggestion:

1. Update iatistandard.org to clarify what result narratives should be used for, particularly updating the examples to be more informative.
2. Preferred suggestion:

To be consistent with approach for iati-activity/description element (where just the iati-activity/description has a *type* attribute but the other description elements do not) add optional *type* attribute to:

* 1. result/description/narrative
	2. result/indicator/description/narrative
	3. result/indicator/baseline/comment/narrative
	4. result/indicator/period/target/comment/narrative
	5. result/indicator/period/actual/comment/narrative

where *type* can be any value from the *resultNarrativeType*, define as:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **code** | **resultNarrativeType** |
| 1 | lesson - how and why IATI results were or were not achieved |
| 2 | change - reason for modifying/deprecating particular result, indicator, baseline, target or actual |
| 3 onwards | provenance of indicators (multiple different types including method, sources, audience etc. - final list to be determined by consultation – see Principle 3 of <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/> ) |

Alternative suggestion:

instead of an attribute, have additional elements at the level above each *narrative*, one for each *resultNarrativeType* code. Each of these additional elements would contain a standard *narrative* element