

Friday 06/02/2009

Minute on Workshop "Building a sustainable network"

Central questions of this workshop:

- a) For what could a sustainable network be good? Is it a network for support on the practical level, for example for improving practical concepts or more on a political level?
- b) How should it work? Website based?
- c) What would be needed?
- d) Structure of communication?

Participants: two academics, one practitioner, two practitioners / researchers.

The workshop discussed along the line of:

- WHY and WHAT ?
- HOW ?
- WHO ?

Why and What:

Maintain contacts

Information on ongoing research

Information on projects ("good practice")

Information on specific conferences

Information for politicians / decision makers

Disposal of tools for projects / proposals etc. -> Knowledge-Base

Horizontal exchange:

 between researchers / academics

 between practitioners

Vertical exchange¹:

 researchers -> practitioners

 basic research results

 understandable inputs orientated towards practical matters

 practitioners -> researchers

 to put forward specific needs for research (p.e. field, action-research)

How:

Website based information

 p.e. newsletter on projects, research, announcements of upcoming conferences....

Moderated discussion Forum / Blogs

Compulsory subscription to the Forum as a filter

 Subscribers have to identify themselves (name, address, e-mail, company and express their specific interest in the issue.....)

Who :

Webmaster (entering the above information)

Forum moderator

¹ A very old problem might partially be overcome:

- Practitioners often deplore the lack of time and instruments to do research on top of day to day work.
- Researchers sometimes risk to be too detached from practical work.
Better co-ordination might be gained by closer communication on needs and practices.