

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 exchange<sup>1</sup>:

    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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.