The Art of Networking

Competences for networking in European education

Acting in networks -

A key professional competence of adult educators

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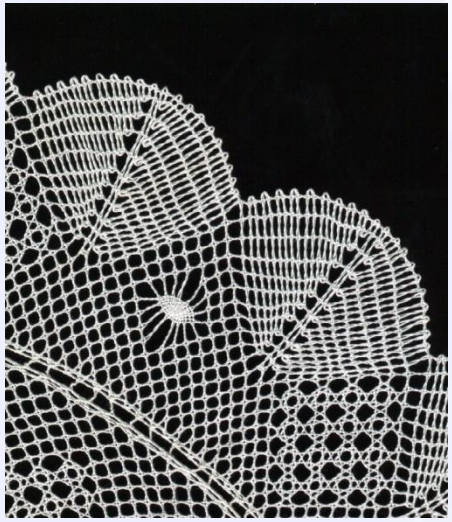
Overview

- Introduction to networking in adult education
- ComNet – Project Background
- Project activities: Course development
- Exemplary module
- Experiences and perspectives

Networks



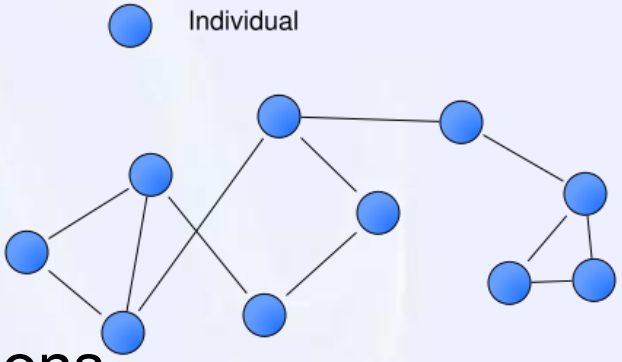
Artificial structures…

…carefully arranged…

…with a clear purpose…

Introduction - Networking in education

Networks play an increasingly important role in European lifelong learning policies.



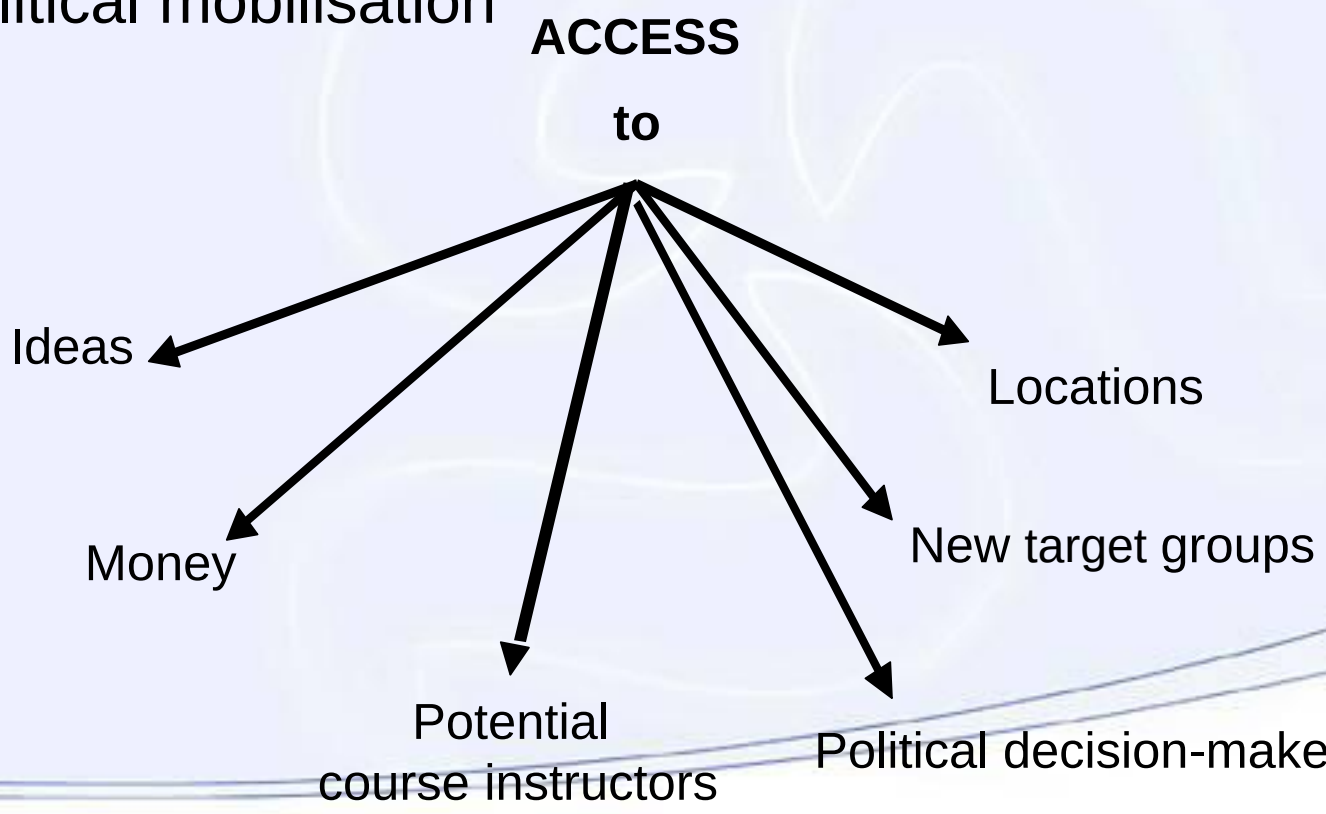
Networking in this context means:

Process of building up ties
…between either individuals or institutions
…over a longer period of time
…in order to attain joint objectives
…and to generate added value for its members.

Introduction - Networking in education

Networking for multiple reasons:

- Access to information, ideas or funds
- Support or mutual assistance in professional crisis situations
- Compensate structual deficits
- Political mobilisation
- …



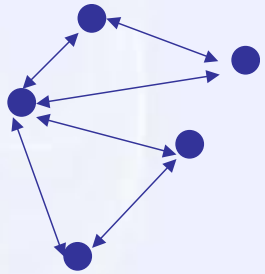
NETWORKS are

- about networking

  bring together practitioners, experts and policy-makers in a specific field and create an organisational framework for intensive contacts and exchange

- about learning

  provide ample implicit and explicit learning opportunities



- about policy making

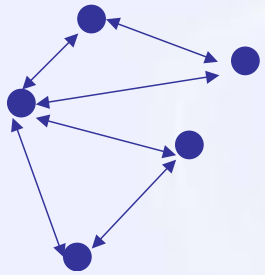
  measurable impact in the educational field concerned

Introduction – Networking in education

Increasing networked character of educational work requires network competences,

i.e. ability to act effectively in networks and to coordinate complex and multiple network processes.

Networking as key competence is not altogether new but needs fresh perspective on a range of socio-personal, management and technical skills (Web 2.0).



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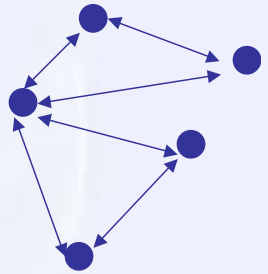
ComNet - Project Background

ComNet - Follow-up project of European project *EUROWEAVING*

EUROWEAVING analyed success criteria in European network projects.



Motivation:
Prominent role of networks in Europe

Results of some of the funded networks were below expectations in terms of contribution to the educational field concerned

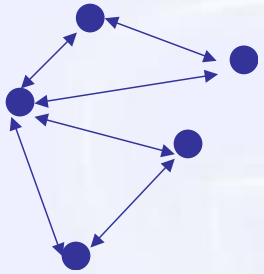
ComNet – Project Background

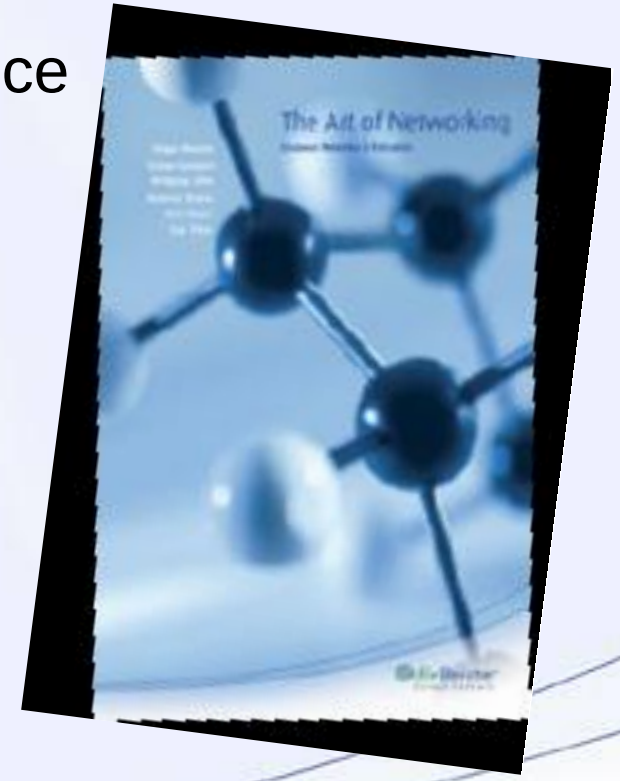
Results EUROWEAVING

Publication with examples of good practice and tips for networkers

Findings and results relevant for all kind of networks (not necessarily LLP)

Basis for ComNet project





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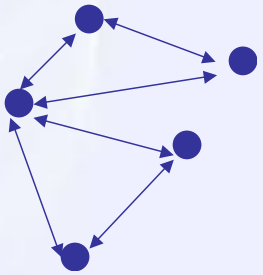
ComNet - Competences for Networking

> LLP GRUNDTVIG MP

Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

> DIE BERATER (AT) coordinator
  - Holger Bienzle
> Alden Biesen (BE)
  - Guy Tilki
> BUPNET (DE)
  - Sabine Wiemann
> European Cultural Interactions (GR)
  - Katerina Kolyva
> B&EC (ES)
  - Esther Gelabert
> NIACE (UK)
  - Nick Meyer



> Scientific consultant and evaluator
> Wolfgang Jütte & Tim Scholze

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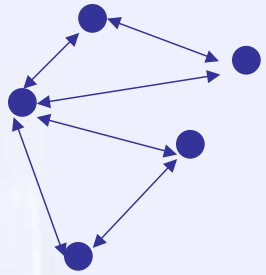
ComNet – Main objectives

Project aims:

1. To enhance education practitioners' networking knowledge and competences for acting effectively in professional networks at local, regional, national or European level.



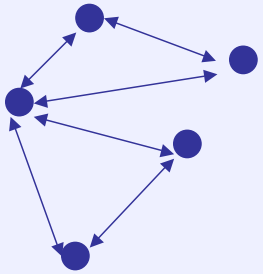
2. To increase the number and quality of Grundtvig networks in the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Development of a Grundtvig Course

ComNet – Course Development

European course for Comenius and Grundtvig target groups

- Blended Learning Approach



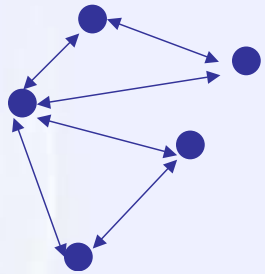
  - 4 weeks preliminary phase as e-Learning
  - 5-day seminar
  - Follow-up as e-Learning

- Main focus on practice orientation to ensure relevance for participants' professional practice
- Theoretical input combined with action-oriented methods to promote peer-to-peer learning.
- Networking competences dealt with are put into practice during the seminar.

ComNet – Course Development

Pilotkurs Nov 2008 + Grundtvig course Sep 2009

Preparation	Seminar	Follow-up
Online	Face-to-face	Online
Course 1: Pilot course		
10/2008-11/2008	**24/11/2008-29/11/2008**	11/2008 – 01/2009
Course 2: Grundtvig training course		
08/2009-09/2009	**28/09-/2009-04/10/2009**	10/2009-12/2009

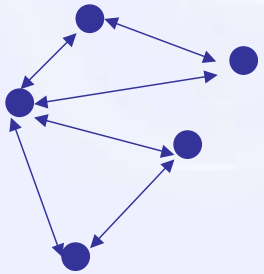


Network theory	Network and networking: definitions and concepts – Network analysis - Driving forces of networks - Organisational forms of networks
Social networking skills	Basic interpersonal competences - Approaching people - Identifying networking potential - Creating trust – Managing relationships
Networks in EU programmes	EU policies on Lifelong Learning - The mission of networks in EU funding programmes - Applying for EU funding – Promotion, dissemination, valorisation - Reporting
Setting up a network	Mapping own networking needs - Needs analysis - Network typology and strategy - Planning the network - Selecting network members - Creating a financial basis
Network management	Challenges of network management - Diversity - Intercultural aspects - Organisation, management and decision-making- Network coordinator profile - Leadership and management styles
ICT tools for networks	Role of ICT in social networks - Group dynamics and ICT Media culture - Overview of ICT tools for social networks - Analysis and application of ICT tools for networking
Learning in a network	Types of learning in a network - Methods to promote learning in a network - Reflection on learning - Large group learning methods Methods of visualizing, mapping and evaluating learning
Network evaluation	Planning network evaluation - Evidencing and gathering information - Evaluation indicators and tools – Social context and change management
Policy and advocacy	Mapping the policy context of a network - Developing a policy action plan - Approaching key actors - Advocacy methods Links with media
Sustainability	Network promotion and dissemination – Identifying sustainable aspects of the network- Creating a sustainability plan - Social capital

Exemplary module – ICT tools for Networks

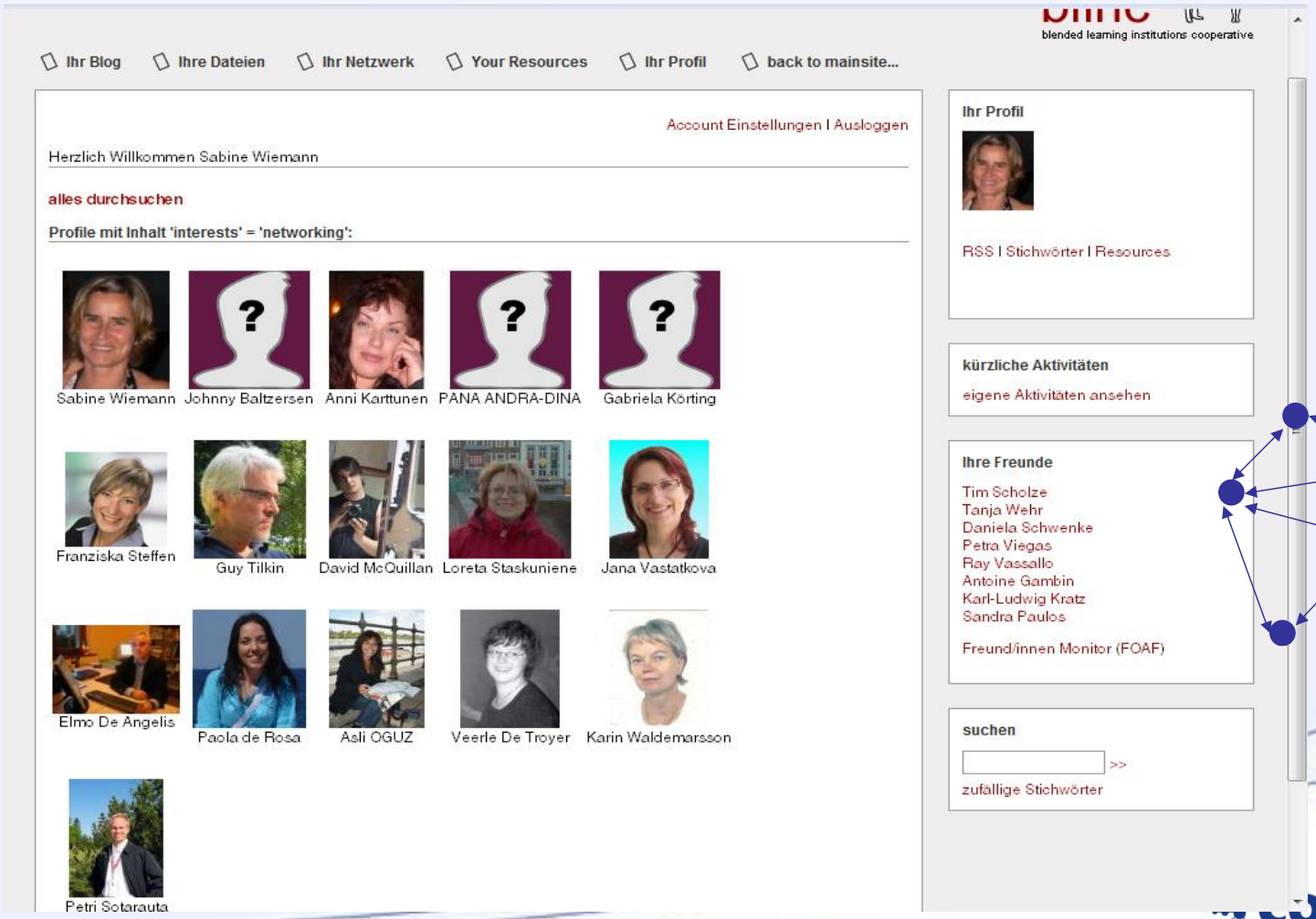
- **Networking competences to be enhanced**

- Awareness that the IT-tools can only support the networking – Technology is only a vehicle!
- Ability to identify the working needs in networks and the supporting technology
- Practical skills to use the tools



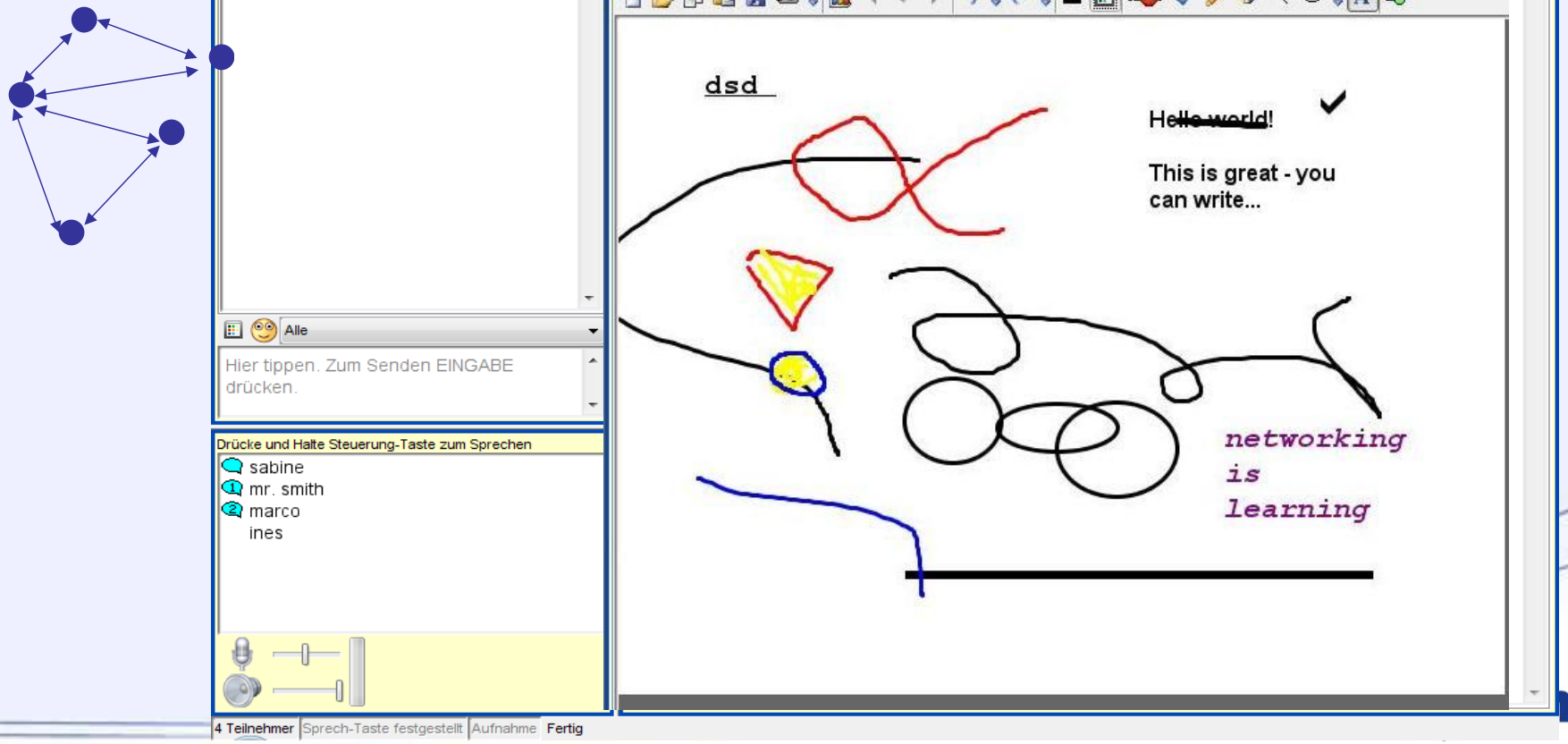
Exemplary module – ICT tools - ePortfolio

Getting to know to each other, profile, expectations…



Exemplary module ICT- online conferencing

Introduction to synchronous communication



Exemplary module ICT- eLearning

Introduction of eLearning modules in preliminary phase

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Competences for Networking

Welcome Institut ComNet Team!

Description:

This course will present to you a relatively new scientific field: Social Network Analysis.

It will enable you to interprete network relations. This is important since the the "ties" between the partners are the main characteristics of a network.

Apart from the individual properties of the partners the major development potentials of a network can be described according to two indicators:

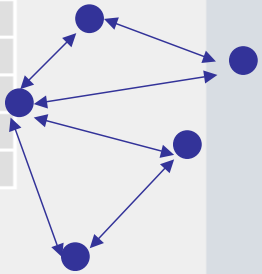
- Stability
- Efficiency

In the following units we will describe those indicators and development dimensions, deliver some more background knowledge and develop some prototypical network structures with you.

After a short excurse about network visualisation this course will start with an introduction about development dimensions and indicators of networks including an entry questionnaire about your ideas about networking. Subchapters about the specific stability and efficiency indicators will follow.

- Visualisation
- Introduction to SNA Theory
  - Quiz Network Gobbledygook ✓
- Stability
- Efficiency
- Prototype networks
  - Strengths and Weaknesses of Prototype Networks ✓
- Preparatory Task

Name of course:	Network Theory
Kind of course:	Telelearning
Field of study:	Networking
Place of event:	internet
Dates:	Preliminary course phase



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Competences for Networking

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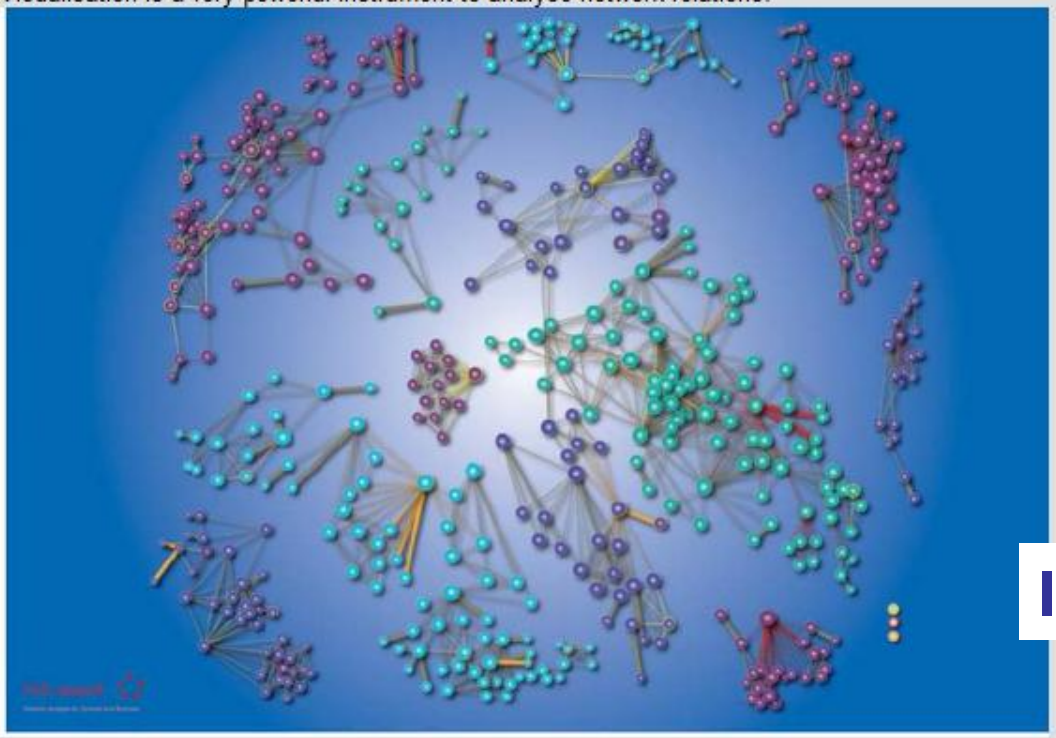
Visualisation

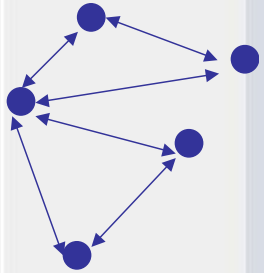
Before analysing the network criteria we want to lead you attention to an important analytical tool when characterizing networks: Visualisation.

Visualisation is a very powerful instrument to analyse network relations.



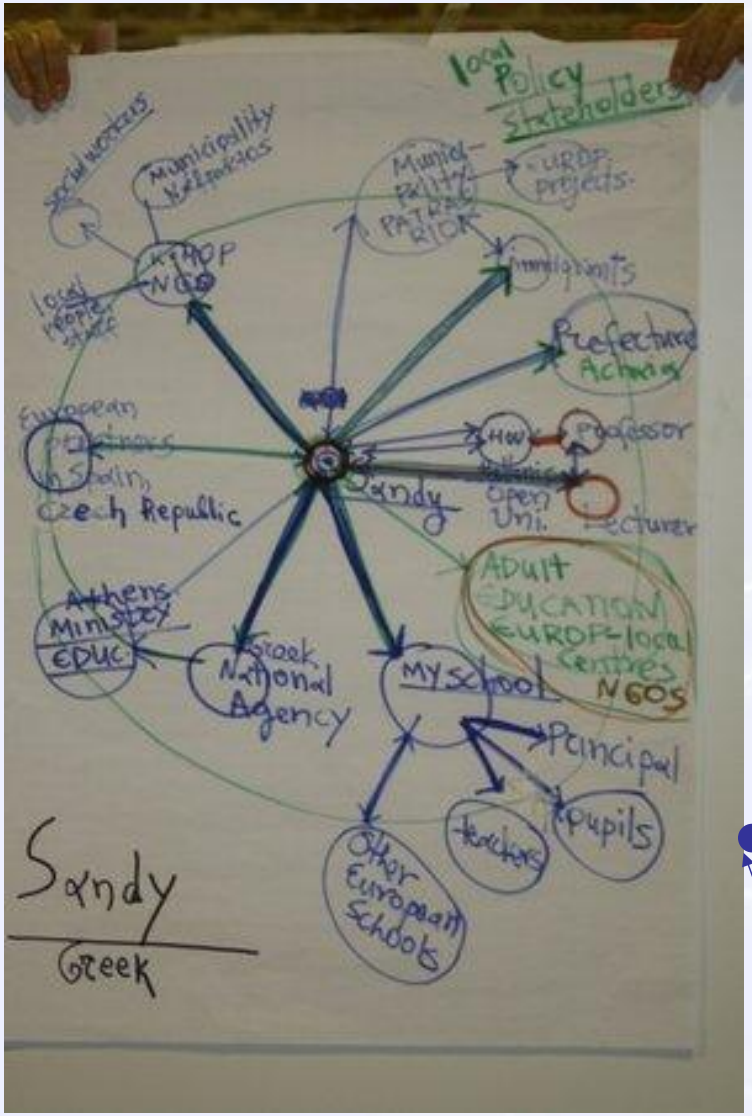
We will use the well known network graphs with circles to indicate the network partners and the connecting lines between them to indicate their relations.

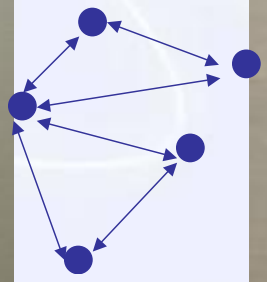
You will be astonished how many interesting findings you may get only by interpreting these visualisations of networks.

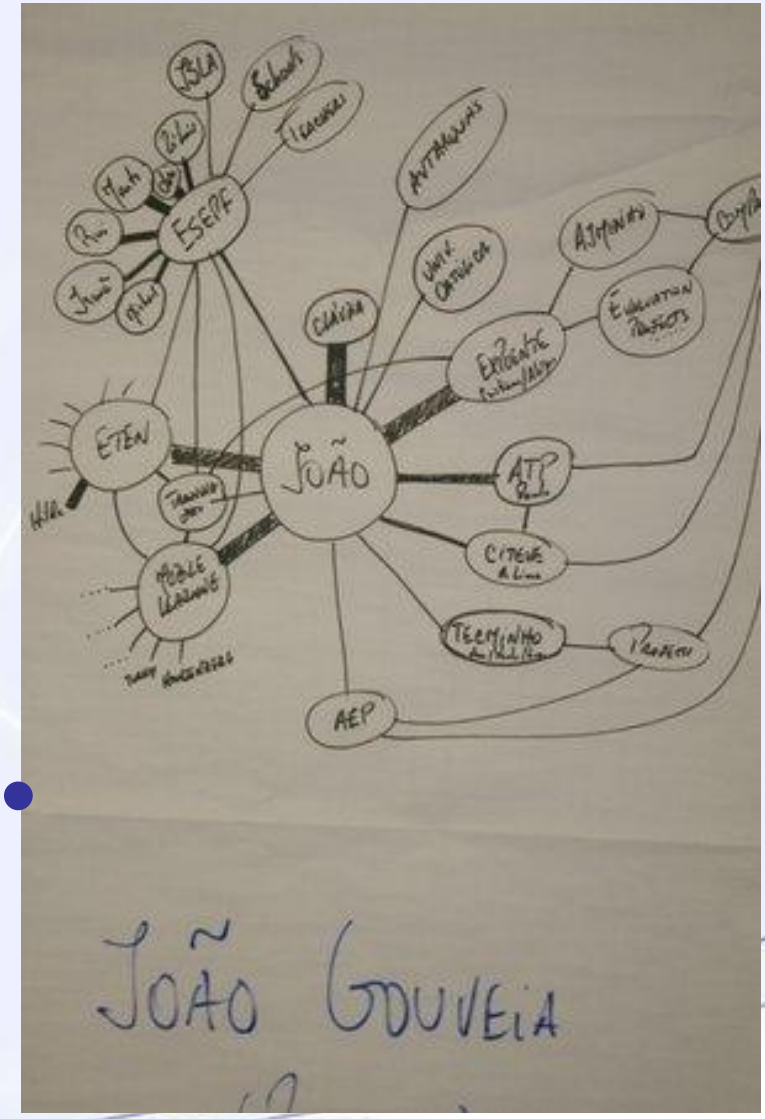


Intro: Network theory

Visualise one of your networks







ALDEN BIESEN IN EUROPE

ComNet course material will be published in September 2009 and courses will be run on a regular basis.

First edition:

The Art of Networking
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Landcommanderij Alden Biesen
Kasteelstraat 6
B-3740 Bilzen, Belgium

The Art of Networking - International course

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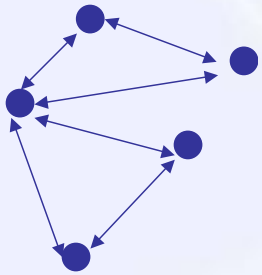

Further Information
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