

Networking and networks


Africa Evidence Network
AGM

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Networking

- ▶ Shared passion and interest
 - ▶ Learning
 - ▶ Social relationships
 - ▶ Means for establishing, maintaining and benefitting from trust relationships

 - ▶ Which came first: networking or the network?
 - ▶ Networking does not require an identifiable network; all networks require networking
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Trust
Values:
 sharing
 collaboration
Learning
Personality type

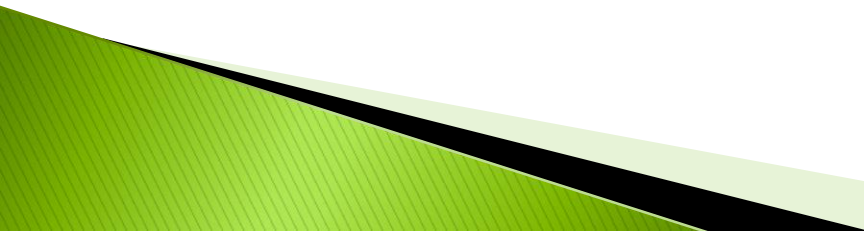
Definitions

- ▶ Network
 - ▶ Community of practice
 - ▶ Coalition
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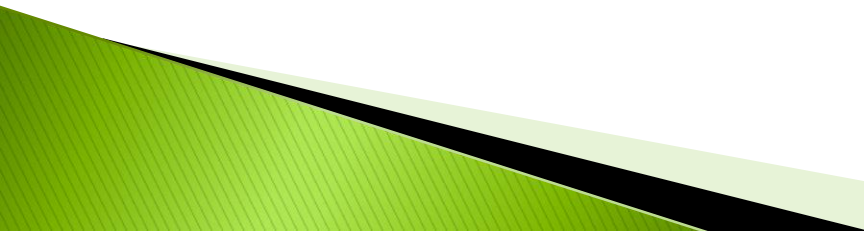
Types

- ▶ Open, closed
 - ▶ Flat, hierarchical, spider web, pyramid
 - ▶ Formal (membership and defined requirements)
 - ▶ Informal
 - attraction
 - Interest
 - no formal membership process
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Organisation

- ▶ Informal, main structure is the information and communication system
 - Voluntary, usually one person coordinating and moderating, infrastructure in-kind contribution
 - ▶ Secretariats
 - Organisation has provided infrastructure and staffing for network activities
 - ▶ Donor funding, self funding through member contributions
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What kind of network does AEN want to be?

- ▶ Focus and agenda will determine type
 - ▶ What the network gives and what members give back
 - ▶ What is needed to do whatever agenda is adopted
 - ▶ Organisation
 - ▶ Making a plan for the network for next 2–3 years. Focus on addressing risks, as well as objectives and activities
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Networks are born, live and die

- ▶ They are social, and change as participation changes
 - ▶ Issues and interests change
 - ▶ Trust and shared interests remain the connective tissue
 - ▶ Staying relevant means being flexible and being responsive to members' interests and needs
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Threats

- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Formalising entry and exit
- ▶ Hierarchy
- ▶ Losing touch with member interests
- ▶ Members join who do not have networking values or objectives

