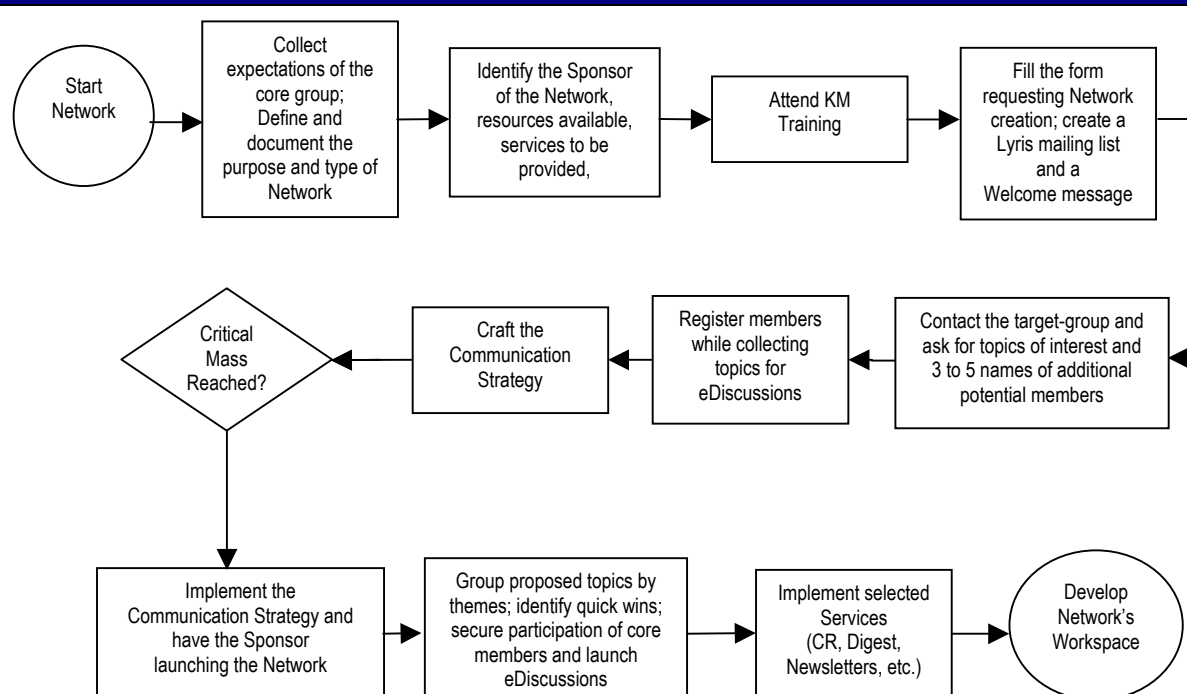


How to launch a Network?	Key Success Factors and Tips
<p>The aim of leveraging a paved track when launching a network is to increase the likelihood of success.</p> <p>Various means can be invoked to assess the rationale of launching a network, from supporting a corporate decision to set up a new Practice or sub-practice, formalizing an on-going email discussions around a common body of interest between a community of UNDP staff, anchoring the willingness of a group of staff to easily stay in contact and carry on focused collaborations after a face-to-face workshop, etc. Regardless of the emergence process, some networks won't generate enough momentum to have a continuous traffic and will rather appear to have been a valuable time bounded eDiscussion. Whereas others will require up to several months before seeing the discussions really kicking-off and becoming mostly self-generated.</p> <p>In any case, UNDP's experience shows that launching a network is a process requiring proper planning and a proper commitment of resources. For instance, it usually takes up to 3 months of back office work to launch a global network.</p>	<p>UNDP experience provides several milestones and various tips helping to increase the chance to have a successful network launch, among which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Identify the sponsor of the network: successful networks are owned by their members, not by their sponsor. ❑ Identify a moderator and train this person for being faster up to speed and increase the chances of success: even if the network is not moderated, there's a need to have someone being familiar with the technology, registering new members, deleting old ones, making the network known across other relevant communities, etc. ❑ Identify the services that will be provided to the network and the time required to run each service: concentrate on the value added services if time is a constraint or get support if resources permit from external experts to moderate time-bounded discussions. ❑ Identify the processes invoked and affected by the network: networks can slightly change the communication structure across communities and members might require some guidance to maximize the benefits of global, sub-thematic and regional networks. ❑ Identify the technology matching the purpose of the network: email groups are great for communication but not always the best way to collaborate virtually and a portal or a dedicated collaborative technology can sometimes prove to be more effective for the later.

Main Steps



UNDP Standards

Lyris name:

- ☐ BDP generated global networks feature the surf prefix, e.g. surf-pov
- ☐ BDP generated regional networks feature a regional surf prefix, e.g. surf-wa-pov
- ☐ BDP generated sub-practice networks feature surf and practice prefixes, e.g. surf-pov-semfin

Forms:


- ☐ Application for the Creation of a Lyris Network


Additional References



[Members of Surf-ny](#)

 Communication Strategy for Networks

 Tips and Lessons Learned for Successful Moderation

 KM Learning and Training Programme

Practitioner's Corner

Network Facilitation: Where to Start?

Elham Seyedsayamdost – Evaluation Network Facilitator

1. Process:

- Be clear on the objective of the network:
 - Interview staff in your office
 - Interview other UN agencies dealing with similar issues, ex. OSG
 - Contact experts in the field
- Have a strategy/work plan identifying the next steps
- Assess expectations, excitement and anticipation in community
- Communicate with other Network Facilitators
- Define framework for membership
- Send a pre-launch e-mail announcing the coming of the network and ask for topics of interest
- Until launch register members, get to know the competencies of members, set up the resource corner, prepare a substantive topic to launch the network with
- Launch network with a question, addressing issues mentioned by network members

2. Target group:

- Who are your members?
- What are their expectations of the network?
- What are their core competencies and expertise?

3. Challenges:

- HQ Office staff's understanding/knowledge of the purpose of the network
- Prioritizing the network
- Expectations in your office