

A JOURNEY THROUGH A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)



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What is a CoP?

A CoP is a **gathering of individuals** motivated by the desire:

- To **share and learn** from one another - either face-to-face or virtually;
- To **exchange** experiences, insights, problems, and tolls on a specific topic.
- To **cross** organizational (unit) boundaries;
- To build a body of actionable knowledge through **collaboration**.

What does a CoP contribute to?

A CoP contributes to



**KNOWLEDGE
SHARING**

and



COLLABORATION



KNOWLEDGE SHARING



COLLABORATION

By involving members from **different disciplines** and **geographic areas**, a CoP:



- **multiplies knowledge flows**
- **fosters partnerships**
- **creates new solutions**

How does a CoP benefit you?

Through a CoP you can:

CONNECT

EXCHANGE

COLLABORATE

Difference between a CoP and other types of communities

A CoP is different from:

NETWORK

WORK TEAM

**OTHER
COMMUNITIES**

...in the sense that a CoP:

- Focuses on a **substantive topic** and is not just a set of relationships.
- The **shared interest and vision** of its members keep it together.
- Exists because **participation** has value to its members.
- Its members are more likely to share a **common profession or work situation**.

Critical building blocks of a CoP

Although every CoP is unique in how it creates a sense of community among its members...

...all CoPs share essential traits:

Topic focus

Clear target audience

Leader/coordinators

Resources (e.g. technology, logistics...)

Critical mass of active members

Why are COPs important?

CoPs are important because:

They serve as an **ongoing learning forum** for development practitioners ;





Why are COPs important?

CoPs are important because:

- They serve as an **ongoing learning forum** for development practitioners ;
- They **influence development outcomes** by promoting greater and better informed dialogue;
- They **develop and transfer best practices** on specific topics;
- They **promote innovative approaches** to address specific development challenges.



*"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and
I may remember.
Involve me and I will learn"*

- Benjamin Franklin -

