

MESH

# MULTIPLE TYPES OF NETWORKS

# EGO-CENTRIC AND SOCIO-CENTRIC NETWORKS

**Ego-centric networks** are connected with a single node (individual).  
You are the **node** in a network of your close friends.

**Socio-centric networks** are networks by default.

For example, students of the same degree programme in the same university or workers inside an organisation are a socio-centric network.

Both ego-centric and socio-centric networks are **closed**. This means that they have entry criteria



## OPEN SYSTEM NETWORKS

- Open-system networks are formed by connections of people or organisations
- sharing the same interest and willingness to collaborate.
- In open-system networks, the boundary lines are not clearly defined.
- **LinkedIn** is an open-system network in a digital form.

## Concept

The network concept can refer to **inter-personal** and/or **inter-organisational** relations.



## Inter-personal networks can consist of

- personal networks
- professional networks
- digital networks



## PERSONAL NETWORKS

Personal networks are at the core of everyone's life: family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Personal networks include people with whom you interact informally, in everyday life.

You first turn to your personal networks when you encounter problems and need assistance.

Network relations between personal networks do not last if there is no reciprocity.

Friendships break if someone is feeling that the relationship is just fulfilling the other person's needs.

The closest personal network is your immediate family.



## PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Professional networks are formed throughout your professional career, starting from education and building up through different jobs and organisations.

Important and long-lasting professional networks are often formed during college or university education where students share the same professional interests and start building up their professional identity.

Professional networks are enhanced in professional associations and their activities, such as conferences, seminars and labour union activities.

Key professional networks include past and present work colleagues and employers.

# DIGITAL NETWORKS

Digital networks include both personal and professional networks.

Especially young people form network relations via social media and virtual gaming.

Originally digital networks can change into real-life relations.

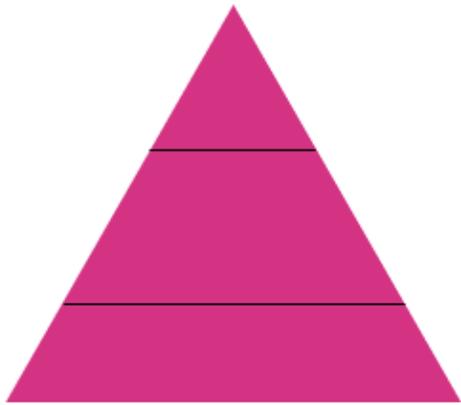
Digital networks can include neighbourhood or hobby groups but also professional groups.

The most used and perhaps important professional virtual networking tool is LinkedIn, but also Facebook has more and more professional network groups that you can join.

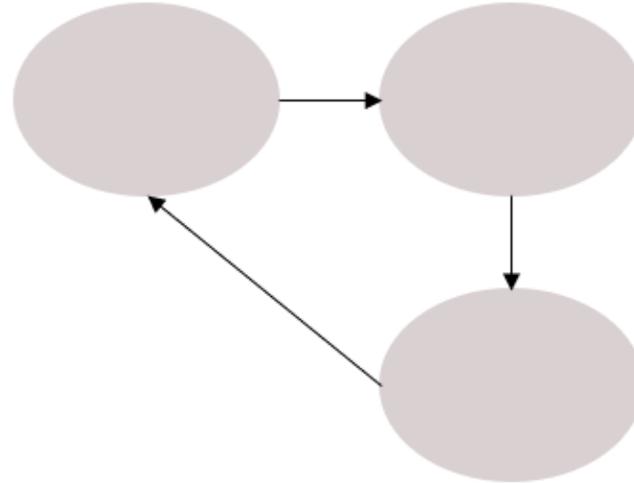


# INTER-ORGANISATIONAL NETWORKS

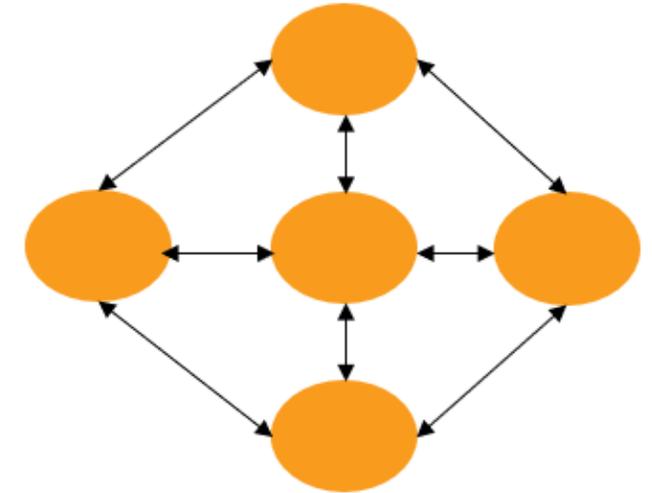
# THREE FORMS OF INTER-ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONS:



**Hierarchy**



**Market**



**Network**

# INFORMAL INTER-ORGANISATIONAL NETWORKS

Informal inter-organisational networks are created by staff members working with similar issues and sharing the same interest.

Participation in the network is voluntary and the forms of collaboration are versatile, often limited to exchange of information and organisation of occasional events together.

Such informal inter-organisational networks can be long-lasting and very fruitful for developing work methods and collaborative learning.

# FORMAL INTER- ORGANISATIONAL NETWORKS

Formal inter-organisational networks have a set , predesigned purpose, agenda and roles.

- They can have a network leader or steering group.
- They have regular meetings and a plan of action.
- They evaluate their work.

But organisations in the network are not in hierarchical relation with each other.

Every organisation takes part in the network voluntarily and is autonomous in its decisions.