Transcending or confining?
How knowledge sharing among multi-embedded members transcends the boundaries between networks

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Collaboration with GaLa, questions and initial impressions.

The Games and Learning Alliance (GaLa) is a network which connects organizations, involved in research and development of Serious Games.

One of GaLa’s aims is to encourage collaboration between different groups and networks working on Serious Games throughout Europe.

How to promote collaboration and encourage knowledge sharing between separate work groups?

Impressions from the web platform

Initial interviews
Identifying problems
Lack of between-group collaboration
Members of GaLa remain confined to their current workgroups/networks

Technological affordance and group identification.

Experiment 1
Information sharing task: Find and share relevant information with a group (superordinate and subordinate). Shared information to be discussed with the group at a later stage of the study.

DV1: number of items shared with each group
DV2: sharing effort: high vs. low

DV3: group identification: high superordinate vs. high subordinate

Technological affordance
Perceived ease of sharing, e.g. “I found it easy to share information”

Group identification
No difference in self-reported identification between conditions
Highly correlated super- and subordinate identification

In-depth interviews with GaLa management and key stakeholders.

Interviewing Dutch partners
Interviewing key international stakeholders (Madrid)
Observations during formal and informal meetings
20 interviews (transcribed)
Developing a coding scheme (in progress)
Coding all interviews (in progress)

Preliminary results
Fragmentation and lack of collaboration due to
- Roles
- Practice
- Context
- Obligations
- Culture

Gala General Assembly meeting

Feedback and meaningfulness of collaboration.

Experiment 2
Information sharing task: Find and share relevant information with a group (primary and secondary). Shared information to be discussed with the primary group at a later stage of the study. The purpose of collaborating with the secondary group is manipulated. During the sharing task, participants receive unexpected feedback.

DV1: purpose of collaboration: meaningful vs. random
DV2: feedback: horizontal vs. vertical vs. none (control)

Meanfulness of collaboration
Perceived meaningfulness of collaboration (self-report) did not differ between collaboration conditions, t(183) = 3.55, p = .023
The number of shares did not differ between meaningful and random collaboration, t(5) = .435

Feedback
The total number of shares did not differ between the 3 feedback conditions, F(2,179) < 1.02, p > .349
Post-feedback shares were higher in the vertical than in the horizontal condition (marginally significant)