

## **Network for sustainability as a game changer in the building sector?**

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**Abstract (max. 300 words)**

Inter-organizational collaboration has proven to be an efficient way for companies to innovate and enhance sustainable development within the building sector. Such inter-organizational forms of collaboration are often referred to as networks. However, network is a word with many meanings, referring to several distinct forms of collaboration. Related to the construction industry at least three types of collaboration emerge: supply chain collaboration; project-based collaboration; and collaboration in managed, often publicly funded, networks. The role of the latter type of network collaboration is little explored in IMP, however now forcing their place into the business landscape. The paper thus aim to contribute to IMP practice and theory by positioning managed, publicly funded networks related to the construction industry in the network landscape.

As the construction industry is characterized as being mainly local, project based, with short-term interactions between the business actors, lack of arenas that facilitates learning across organizations and projects might compromise the potential for innovation. In a prior documented project that lasted for three years, a managed network attempt did not produce much innovation or change. Currently a new attempt to establish a managed, publicly funded sustainable building sector network is going on in the same region. Drawing from insights from the process of mobilizing actors and establishing a common platform for these network attempts combined with insights from literature, we post suggestions on how a managed, publicly funded be a game changer for introducing and implementing sustainable innovation approaches and practices in the building sector. These suggestions include focusing on innovation facilitated by learning and knowledge generation, consciously bridging the learning processes in the network and the local learning processes in the participating company.