## STEP 2 - TOOL E2 – Social Network Analysis

The Social Network Analysis is a method to do an actor analysis. The actor analysis aims to identify the most relevant actors in the system, how they relate to each other and to the system. It provides an overview of who plays what role in a particular system, and in the envisaged transition. The actor analysis is going to be fundamental when you will organise participatory transition settings (e.g. a transition arena). For such settings you will have to understand what actors to engage and for which kind of role or activity

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| Purpose | To track and understand social networks & relationships at a variety of levels in a certain system. It also assists in creating a better understanding of the social fabric you are operating in |
| C:\Users\sara.giovannini\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\paper.pngDescription | A social network is made of actors that are connected by specific types of interdependencies, such as friendship, common interest, financial exchange, common beliefs, knowledge, ethnicity, etc. The mapping and categorisation of such interdependencies gives an overview of actors in a certain system and the (type of) relations between them. A social network analysis can help answering questions such as: Who is the most influential or connected to the most individuals? And who acts as a bridge between different parts of the system? |
| C:\Users\sara.giovannini\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\checklist.pngInstructions | 1. Define your focus. In completing a network analysis, it is beneficial to set your focus. This will involve considering various elements of the analysis. 2. Decide what data you will use. Social network analysis can be applied to any data that highlights relationships between things (e.g. individuals, objects, events, interactions via different platforms etc.). 3. Collect data: This can be done based on certain software programmes processing a lot of data, but also by hand, making an overview of the most interesting date you have.:  * What stakeholders relate to another? who knows who? * What type of relation is this? (work, personal, family etc) * The strength of relations: (e.g. frequency of interactions, reciprocity of interactions, type of interaction) * Structure of relations: who hasmutual friends?  1. Analyse your findings.  * Who are centrally placed in this network? * Who have the most relations and who the least? * Can you identify certain clusters of stakeholders within the social network? * Who are important key players? * What are strong and weak ties? * How strong is the cohesion in this network?   5. Formulate conclusions:   * How would you describe the qualities of this social network? * Do you think your overview is complete? |
| ` | There are a variety of tools you can use to conduct SNA;  SNA can be used in groups or also individually.  How to get started with social network analysis: <https://towardsdatascience.com/how-to-get-started-with-social-network-analysis-6d527685d374>  <https://www.uva.nl/binaries/content/documents/personalpages/n/o/w.denooy/en/tab-one/tab-one/cpitem%5B26%5D/asset?1355372751494> |
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Figure 1: example of a social network analysis where different type of relations between stakeholders are visualised using different colours

