

# EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RDI PROJECT NETWORKS

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## **Abstract**

With an ever-increasing number of research papers tackling diverse area of interests, covering all the project's lifecycles, from the strategic decision to participate in an inter-organisational RDI project, to the impact evaluation of the project's results, the research in the area of project management is far from being „unfashioned”. On the contrary, the significant number of the new theories arisen in the management field (e.g. collaborative networks, team science, implementation science) underlines the importance of the effective management of knowledge and values created in project's networks and highlights new challenges for both scholars and practitioners in the field.

Aimed at creating a more accurate vision of the project performance in RDI projects, based on an integrative approach scaffolding value network and collaboration benefits models through the social network analysis, here we propose an evaluation model for RDI projects in inter-organisational environments of both theoretical and practical utility.

The mixed method used for the evaluation of the research design and data obtained from the analysis of the project networks involving 33 organizations as distributed social networks participating in four RDI projects, have led us to propose a valuable method to visualize and evaluate the progress of the project's collaborative efficiency using accurate methods for social networks analysis. The model we propose can reduce the information asymmetry in RDI inter-organisational projects and increase the value network, fostering technical and allocative collaborative efficiency.

The results obtained verify our evaluation model for effective management of complex project networks, supporting efficient allocation of the network collaboration benefits and the effective development of reciprocal network links, as an effective method for increasing the value and stability of the RDI inter-organisational networks.

*Key words: project networks, network collaboration benefits, value network, RDI network performance*