SFFF Partnerships session

The team was asked to:

1. discuss strengths and weaknesses of partnerships of partnerships in R4D projects"
   Identify up to 3 'critical success factors' that make partnerships effective
   Identify one 'killer' issues that destroys partnerships

2. Zoom in on the SFFF project carrying out a partnership 'health check' – what aspects of the partnership are going well (healthy) and which need more attention (risky)

3. Finally, the team worked on some actions that could be taken, by all, to maintain and build on the strengths and address the weaker areas. These would become part of the follow up actions of the meeting (and be revisited again next year)

Critical Success Factors (summarized)

Each partner to have common interests , strong motivation and commitment to succeed in achieving the aims and objectives of the collaboration

The partners collectively to:
- Build trust in each other, over time, with transparency
- Work towards a fair distribution of responsibilities (according to different capacities, interests, etc.)
- Have mutual respect for each other (avoiding over-dominance by one partner and delivering on commitments)

Killer issues to avoid

Lack of effective communication

Partners working on their own (individual) agendas

Unrealistic expectations of partners roles and responsibilities - not clearly spelled out (and agreed) at the start of the project

Critical Success

1. Common interests
2. Motivation to ~~Success~~ (shared)
3. Respect (avoid dominance) (natural)
4. building trust over time +transparency
5. fair distribution of responsibilities
6. interest & motivation in topic commitment
7. COMMON UNDERSTANDING of PROJECT AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Killers

LACK OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

PARTNERS HAVING OWN AGENDAS (lack of transparency)

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT PARTNERS' ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES → NOT SPELLED OUT SUFFICIENTLY AT THE START OF PROJECT

SFFF
Partnership

Diagnosis - healthy ✓

Common interests and motivation to shared success
Building respect over time
Common understanding
Linking with other projects and research programs
Many outputs (very productive)
Respectful and very supportive of team members
External communications – helpful

These need to be built upon and sustained!

Diagnosis – risky?

Distribution of roles and responsibilities - a bit unbalanced
Commitments and expected standards not always met

Mutual respect and equity – needs attention
Sometimes challenging to create an atmosphere of respect

These need to be worked on!

✔

✘

Common Interests ④
Motivation to shared Success ④
Building respect overtime ④
Interests + motivation ④
Common understanding ④

- Linking w. other proj. / CRP
- many outputs
- respectful team (supportive)
- external communications - helpful

1. Fair distribution of ③
   responsabilities
2. mutual respect and equity ③

3 Expectations sometimes not well aligned
   (still need to work at internat. standards)

4. Stick to commitments

5. Sometimes challenging to
   create an atmosphere for **respect**

Actions

More frequent (informal) meetings
Share attribution for products and outputs