



## Annual monitoring survey Key Findings on the September 2018 to August 2019 period

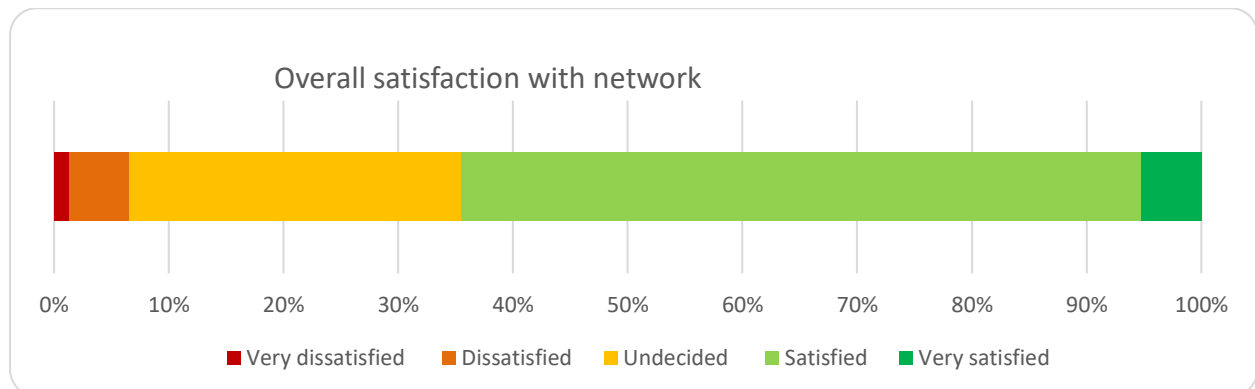
### Survey Shareweb and Newsletter analysis

(76 people did the survey, 46 answered all questions)

Dear A+FS Network members

We have the pleasure to present you the results of our annual A+FS network monitoring survey on the period September 2018 to 2019 (compare also with our [A+FS dashboard](#) and the [previous period 2017/2018](#)). - We especially want to **thank all those among you** who filled out our annual monitoring questionnaire of this year, already in busier October this year. We will learn as much from the monitoring as we will from the comments and suggestions that you made to improve the usage of the network for all members and lurkers!

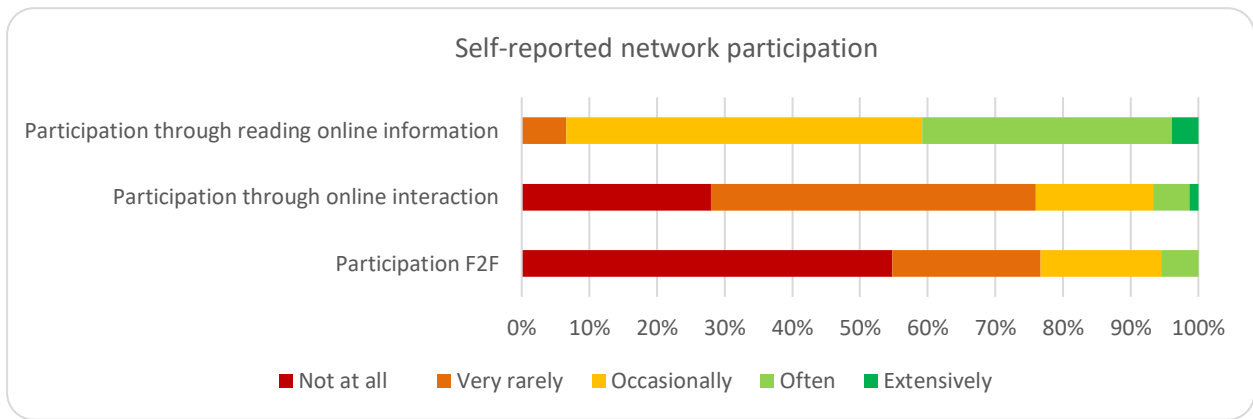
The average **overall network satisfaction** was 3.6 (1 is very dissatisfied and 5 is very satisfied). The median is 4, which suggests that the average participant has been satisfied with the network. This measurement regarding general satisfaction was taken the first time in 2019 and thus there is no comparison available. Yet 3.6 is, with the exception of the *clarity of the scope* of the network (3.8), the highest value obtained in the data.



Overall, participation (2.4 out of 5), application of network knowledge (2.3) and improvement of work through network participation (2.3) achieved very similar levels compared with the previous year (2.4, 2.1 and 2.6 respectively.)

### PARTICIPATION

Self-reported network participation has reached again medium values. Most participants indicated that they **participated through reading online / email information** (3.4 out of 5). This was followed by online interaction (2.0) and Face-to-Face meetings with the lowest value of 1.7. These values are very similar to the previous year.



Whereas the **support from supervisors for the network was relatively high** (3.3), participants indicated having **limited time and resources available for network participation** (2.4 out of 5), which constrained their participation.

A number of 453 monthly **Shareweb visitors** (i.e., external visitors and network members) viewed 2309 pages per month, which is **remarkable increase compared to the last monitoring period** (Sept. 2017 to Oct 2018) with 281 unique monthly visitors who viewed 1938 pages on average.

Most of the visitors were from Swiss Servers, i.e. members from Switzerland itself and organisations, whose servers are based in Switzerland (52%).

The continental comparison is therefore topped by Europe (67%, although many of these people might have their working office in a Swiss organisation in another continent - *Bias might be caused by VPNs used by regional offices of SDC and collaboration partners*), followed by Asia (14%), Africa (10%) and America (8%).

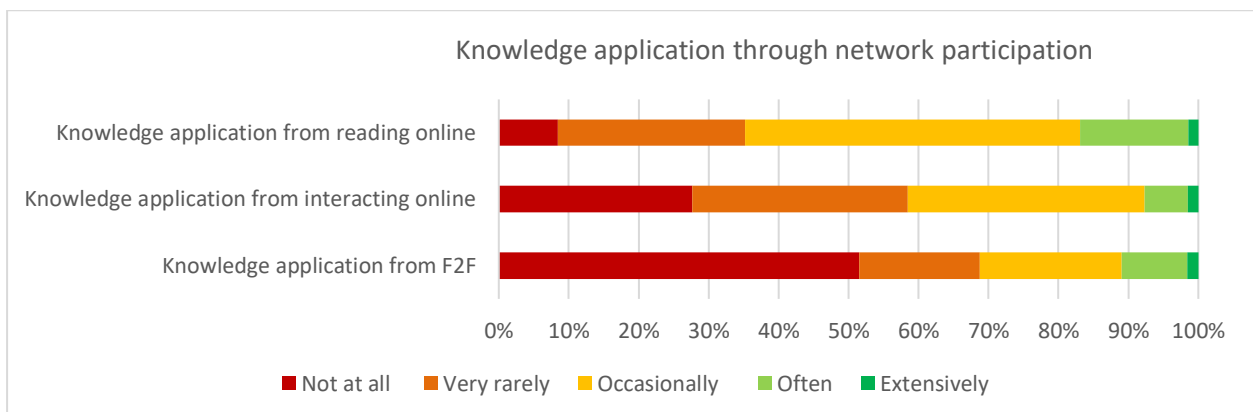
The newsletters **reached on average 311 network participants** (326 in 2018), of which a number of 117 (128 in 2019) accessed further information through links provided in the newsletter.

In terms of online interaction, the number of **overall Shareweb contributions increased from 130 to 162**. Most of these were made by the core team (N=109); 53 messages (+16) which were shared by 40 (+17) network members.

The number of webinars increased from one in the last period to **six in this period**. The webinars were **followed by a total number of 196 participants**.

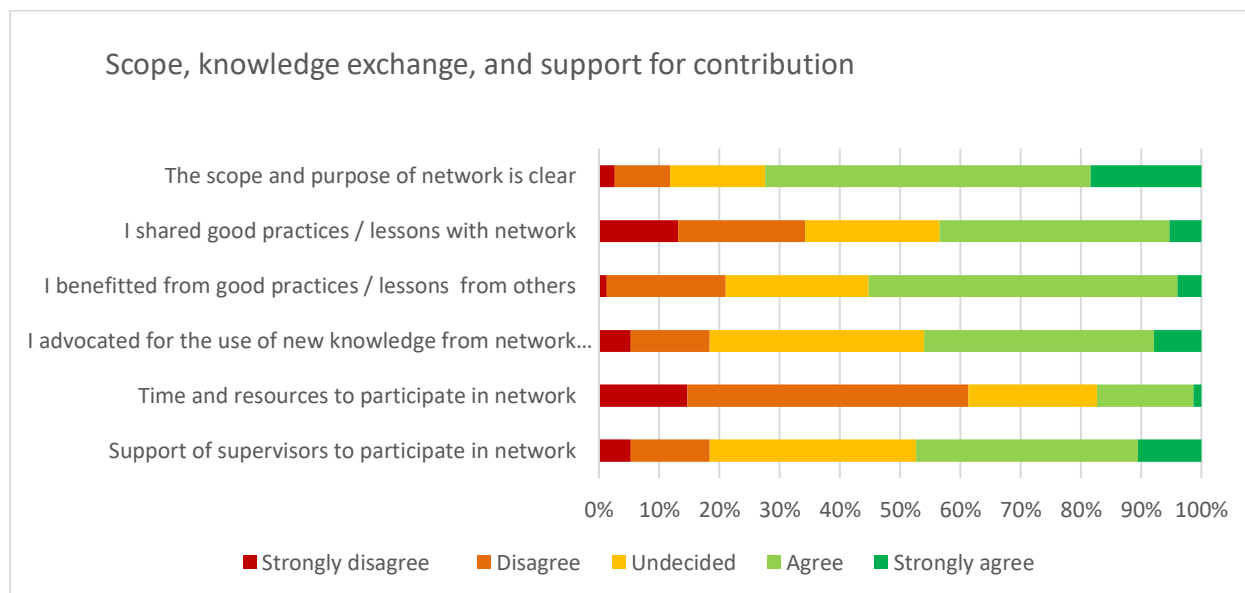
## BENEFITS FROM NETWORK PARTICIPATION

**Knowledge application through network participation** was higher for reading (2.7 out of 5) compared to interacting (2.2) and f2f (1.9) meetings. In these categories, the values are **slightly higher in this period than in the last monitoring period**, but this might be attributed to the simplification of the question.



**Improvement of work through network participation** was caused through reading (2.6) and to a slightly lesser extent through interacting (2.2) and f2f participation (2.0). The values are **slightly lower compared with 2018 (with 2.7, 2.5 2.5 respectively)**

Participants indicated having **benefited from good practices and lessons shared through the network** (3.4), and to a lesser extent, contributed with such experience (3.0), and advocated for the use of knowledge gained from the network in their own organisations (3.3). Concretely, information from network contributed to the **improvement of Ecological sustainability (2.8), income generation (2.3), job creation (2.2), and inclusiveness (2.3)**, measured the first time in 2019).



## Qualitative analysis (with selected quotes)

### Benefits – how knowledge from the network enhanced participants work

#### Gaining knowledge and broadening perspectives

Some participants referred in the answers to the ways in which network participation has contributed to making them more knowledgeable and widening their horizons with regard to topics such as climate resilience, public private partnership and rural-urban linkages.

*Exchanges and documents in relation to the learning journey "rural urban linkages" have deepened my insights in challenges, potentials and ways to conceive support of IC*

#### Application: methods and skills

Other respondents provided concrete examples how information from the network has helped them to develop concrete skills and methodological knowledge which they would apply in their work. This covered areas such as value chain mapping and management, outcome and impact evaluation and proposal writing.

*Value chain mapping learnt in F2F Workshop was used in designing M&E system for my organization.*

#### Information Sharing and networking

Three persons stated that they had shared information and knowledge that they gained from the network further. And one respondent highlighted the benefit of network participation to be able to access relevant professional connections (consultants) for specific work tasks

*I shared information from the network with a program that works on the subject and it was very well valued. (Compartí información de la red con un programa que trabaja en la temática y fue muy bien valorada.)*

### **Staying up-to date**

Respondents acknowledged the value of the network in helping them to stay updated and informed regarding new developments in the domain of A+FS. The low threshold of accessing information was outlined:

*As a Head of Office, I don't get to interact closely within the Network. I nonetheless sense that my quick reading of the posts is useful for remaining up to date.*

## **Qualitative analysis (with selected quotes)**

### **Suggestions for the improvement of the network (N= 23)**

#### **Moderation & activities**

There was a range of suggestions for improvement. Suggestions for moderation and activation centred on strengthening the support and facilitation of peer activities.

*By encouraging members to propose themes, this will encourage participation.  
Proactive initiation of exchange between members on specific topics  
Regular exchanges among members*

#### **Topical / content**

The range of suggestions regarding the topical orientation of the network was also broad. There was, however, a tendency towards more practice-oriented materials to be shared, including tools, development-oriented topics and support for the programmatic work of SDC

*Development oriented topics rather than academic/scientific papers  
More discussion of Tools,  
Following the information by e-mail is very interesting, at times a bit too technical for the programmatic work of SDC (that includes also questions on how to set-up and monitor programmes, socials dynamics, etc.)*

#### **Language and scope**

Three participants acknowledged language issues, one referring to webinars and others more in general. In addition, one person mentioned webinar participation to be hindered by the time zones. Finally, two comments were made on the scope of the network, one demanding the specification of the goals, and the other the inclusion of external participants.

*Organize more often webinar in French because the linguistic barrier does not facilitate the participation of francophones in exchanges; language has been a barrier to my full participation in the exchanges.*

*Your A+FS Focal Point Team  
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