

Activity 1: Understand the characteristics of a network and relation them with entrepreneurship

Objective:

- Understand how the characteristics that model a network can be used to model an entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Model the characteristics of an entrepreneurial ecosystem so that they can be streamlined later.

Instructions:

1. Individually: review the network characteristics provided in the list (15 minutes)

Each person must review the list provided (annex 1 of this task) and determinate how this characteristic can be associated with entrepreneurship. Use AI to have more ideas.

2. Team: Brainstorming (30 minutes)

Divide the class in teams from two to four components (depending on the size of the class). Each team should review the characteristics and associate them to their universities, schools, etc.

3. Full group: Sharing and Discussion (15 minutes)

Volunteers of each previous teams discuss about the ideas to implement in their universities, schools.

Assessment:

- Review of items evaluated in the list.
- Relevant ideas to adapt network characteristics to their universities

(annex 1 in the next page)¹

¹ Companies seeking to comply with the ESRS standard can find valuable resources on the official EFRAG website (<https://www.efrag.org/>). EFRAG has published several implementation documents and a detailed list of data points that must be reported under the ESRS. In addition, there are numerous guides and checklists offered by consulting firms and specialized ESG software that can be very useful in navigating the standard's requirements.

Annex 1. Network characteristics lists

- **Bandwidth:** Information Wealth and Opportunities. In Distributed Systems: Bandwidth refers to the amount of data that can be transmitted over a connection in each period. Higher bandwidth allows for faster and more voluminous information flow.
- **Scalability:** Growing with the Challenge. In Distributed Systems: Scalability is a system's ability to handle an increasing workload (more users, more data, more transactions) by adding resources or adapting its architecture without significantly degrading performance.
- **Resilience/Availability:** Overcoming Obstacles. In Distributed Systems: Resilience is a system's ability to recover from failures and maintain its functionality. Availability refers to the percentage of time the system is operational and accessible.
- **Security:** Protecting Your Assets. In Distributed Systems: Security involves protecting the system and its data from unauthorized access, attacks, and corruption. This includes authentication, authorization, encryption, and intrusion detection to maintain confidentiality, integrity, and availability.
- **Throughput:** The Rate of Value Creation. In Distributed Systems: Throughput is the number of units of information (e.g., transactions, requests, messages) that a system can process successfully per unit of time. It measures the effective work done by the system.
- **Interoperability:** Seamless Collaboration. In Distributed Systems: Interoperability is the ability of different systems, devices, applications, or products to connect and communicate in a coordinated way, without any special effort from the end-user. It relies on common standards and protocols.

Annex 2. Examples from AI (Copilot)

- **Bandwidth in University Entrepreneurial Networking:**
 - **Rich Connections:** It's not just about how many contacts you have, but the quality and diversity of those contacts. A high-bandwidth network includes investors, mentors, experts in different industries, potential clients, other founders, etc.
 - **Information Flow:** The quantity and quality of information, ideas, opportunities, and resources that flow through your network. A low-bandwidth network might give you only superficial contacts or irrelevant information.
 - **Access to Capital and Talent:** A robust, high-bandwidth network connects you to more sources of funding and valuable talent profiles.
 - **Impact:** Good network bandwidth ensures that information not only arrives quickly, but also is abundant, relevant, and diverse, maximizing your startup's growth opportunities.
- **Scalability In University Entrepreneurial Networking:**
 - **Network Growth:** As your startup grows, your networking needs change. You need a network that can expand to include international contacts, large corporations, different types of investors (Series A, B, etc.), and new markets.
 - **Adaptability:** The ability of your network to adapt to new phases of your startup. A "scalable" network allows you to pivot, explore new niches, or access new skills without having to build everything from scratch.
 - **Network Effect:** A well-built network has a multiplier effect. One contact connects you to ten others, and those ten to a hundred. This is the essence of social scalability.
 - **Impact:** A scalable network ensures that your startup doesn't get bogged down by a lack of adequate connections as it evolves. It allows you to access the resources and knowledge you need at every stage of your entrepreneurial journey.
- **Availability In University Entrepreneurial Networking:**
 - **Diversification of Contacts:** Don't rely on a single source of funding, a single mentor, or a single client. If one connection fails (an investor pulls out, a mentor leaves), your startup must have other avenues. This is like having redundant nodes in a distributed system.
 - **Support Network:** Have a diverse group of people you can turn to in times of crisis, whether for advice, emotional support, or resources.
 - **Continuous Access:** Ensure your key connections are always available when you need them, and that they are not overloaded or inaccessible.
 - **Impact:** A resilient network provides stability and security for your startup, allowing you to navigate unexpected challenges and maintain your path to success, even if temporary connections fail.