Technical sheet for mentors

14. THE NETWORK GENERATOR

Mentorvention Phase	Dimension	Duration (mins)	Number of participants (min/max)
Mentorvention circles	**Initiative & Ownership** **Engaging & Management**	30 mins	1-5

Learning-2-Learn dimension elements	- Understanding my learning limitations & possibilities - Taking responsibility for my own learning - Seeking input from others - Select & seek out resources available to me
Tags	Networking, seek support, role models, learning to learn from others

The aim of the activity
To help mentees achieve their learning goals by learning to locate the help available to them in their surroundings. The network generator helps to sort and select the people that she needs to either find ways to bring closer to her or from whom to create distance in order to stay motivated in her learning.

Preparation
Print the handout

Application

INSTRUCTIONS

Explain to the mentees that in order to achieve some goals, it is important to bring yourself closer to some people, and other times to create distance to others. In order to be supported, we need to focus on who can be the support that you need. Some may be to support your motivation, some may be to practise speaking with or someone you can learn new things from.

Step 1

Ask the mentees to go through their list of contacts (maybe from Social Media or people around them in their network from school, work or spare time activities). Ask them to think of the people from whom they get inspiration.

Step 2

Now they must try to identify the people from this list, which they think can be the most helpful to achieving their goals. Make a list of these people. Classify them according to which group you believe they belong to: friends, family, colleagues, or acquaintances.(you can change the categories if necessary)

Step 3

Next they should look at the diagram in the handout/draw a bull's eye circle with a cross going through it, just like the diagram. Write the names of the people in the diagram.

Step 4

Next they should visualise how close each of these persons are to them. Meaning how much access they have to them. If it was a teacher she once had, but sometimes talks to if she meets her in the street, then maybe she would not be considered too close to her. But a neighbour who often comes over for dinner, would be considered as being relatively close to her.
Ask the mentees to rate these contacts on a scale from 1 to 5.
How often do you meet them? How close are they connected? How much access do they have to them on a daily/weekly/monthly basis?

1 means *often/very close to me* - 5 means *very rarely/very small/no connection*.

Step 5

Ask them to look at the diagram of mapping network relations, and add the people from their network from the categories. Place them on the diagram based on how close they are to them.

Step 6

Ask the participants to read the questions in the handout and discuss their answers with their circles.

Direct link to the activity handout on the learning platform

https://upsim.aidlearn.eu/en/

Activity tool

You want to achieve some goals, but you will most likely need someone to support you along the way. Some may be to support your motivation, some may be to practise with or someone you can learn from.

Go through your list of contacts (maybe from your Social Media or people around you in your network from school, work or spare time activities). Think of the people from whom you get inspiration. Identify the people that you think can be the most helpful to achieving your goals and make a list of these people. Classify them according to which group you believe they belong to: friends, family, colleagues, or acquaintances (you can change the categories if necessary).

Now look at the diagram/draw a bull's eye circle with a cross going through it, just like the diagram. Write the names of the people in the diagram.
Now you must visualise how close each person is to you.
This means; on a scale from 1 to 5, how often do you meet them? 1 means *often/very close to me* - 5 means *very rarely/very small/no connection*.

1. Look at the diagram of mapping network relations, and add people from your network from the categories. Place them on the diagram based on how close they are to you.
2. Rate them from very close to me, to very far away. This rating relates to how much you interact with and have access to them.

UPSIM Mentoring Tool
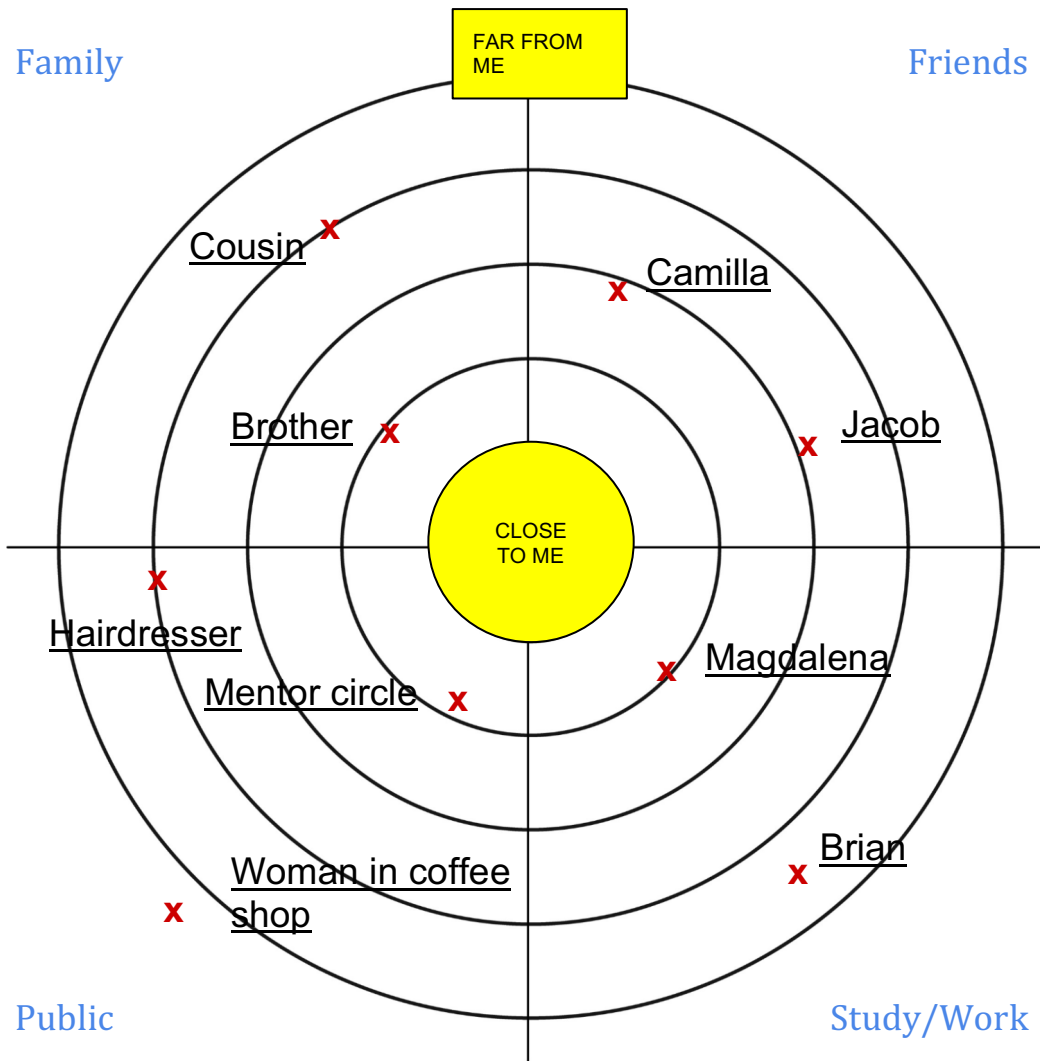
The graph illustrates your present network. The listed questions below will give you some insight as to what you might like to change in your network and to whom you can go for help or support.

1. Look at the diagram 'mapping my network'. What is your immediate impression of your network?

2. What is your impression of the balance (the number of people) in the 4 different squares? Too many people? Too few? Think about the quality of the relations. Can they support you in your project?

3. Are there some people that you would like to get closer to or get to know better? If so, what will you do to get closer to these people?

4. Are there people in your network of relations not supporting you in a meaningful way? If so, what will you do to create distance from these people?

5. Which actions will you need to take now in order to get closer to some relations that can support you in your project or future goals?

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6. Are you missing some people in your network who can help you achieve your learning goals? Which actions will you need to take in order to add these to your network?