

# **Are you interested in taking part in the research project ”The Governance of Interorganizational Project Networks”?**

This is an inquiry about participation in a research project where the main purpose is to develop a framework of interorganizational network governance practices and theories, and their situational contingencies, for improved governance of these networks. In this letter we will give you information about the purpose of the project and what your participation will involve.

## **Purpose of the project**

The purpose of the study is to:

- Identify the variety of network designs and their governance approaches for long-term interorganizational networks established for multi-project execution over time.
- Identify the situational and contextual contingencies in the design of these networks and their governance approaches, their strengths and weaknesses, as well as related performance implications.
- Develop a practitioner-ready framework of practices and theories, together with their contextual contingencies, to better understand, design, adjust, and govern these networks for the benefit of the organizations and their projects.

Through that the following research questions are addressed:

1. How are longer-term interorganizational networks governed for sequences of joint projects?
2. Which structural designs, governance practices, and principles/theories are used in different contexts?
3. What are the implications of different network governance approaches for project and network governance performance?

The results will allow practitioners to design and fine-tune their governance practices to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their project delivery, taking into account the nature and practices of their organizations.

The study is funded by the Project Management Institute (PMI®).

## **Who is responsible for the research project?**

BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo, Norway in collaboration with University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada; University of Iceland, Reykjavik; Dalian University of Technology, China; and University of Technology Sydney, Australia.

## **Why are you being asked to participate?**

We are asking managers with experience and/or a good overview of interorganizational networks for joint projects. This can be project managers of this type of projects, or managers in organizations that network for joint project execution. The questions require a good understanding of the way the organization links with other organizations into a network, how this network is governed, and how it developed over time.

## **What does participation involve for you?**

We give you access to an online questionnaire, where we ask questions about:

*General and context questions:*

- The size (in number of employees) of your organization
- Your role and your projects
- The network of organizations in your current/past project

*Network design questions:*

- The design of the interorganizational network
- The interaction between organizations in the network

*Network governance questions:*

- How the network is governed
- Underlying principles for governance
- Context parameters that may influence the setup of the governance

*Network performance questions:*

- The performance of the last finished project with networked participants
- The performance of the governance structure used in the project

### **Participation is voluntary**

Participation in the project is voluntary. If you chose to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time without giving a reason. All information about you will then be made anonymous. There will be no negative consequences for you if you chose not to participate or later decide to withdraw.

### **Your personal privacy – how we will store and use your personal data**

We will only use your personal data for the purpose(s) specified in this information letter. We will process your personal data confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation (the EU General Data Protection Regulation and Personal Data Act).

- Only the project manager (Prof Ralf Müller) will have access to your personal data, which are: your organization's size (in employees), your role in one of your projects, and tenure in this role. If you wish to have a summary of the study results we will also ask you for an email address to which we can send the summary
- The data are held on a computer of the project manager's (Prof Ralf Müller) organization, which is password protected and only accessible by the project manager. Data on your role will be indexed and held on a separate computer.
- All personal data (your organization's size, your role and tenure in the organization, your email address) will be deleted latest by April 1, 2022.

As participant in this study, you or your organization will not be recognizable in publications or presentations.

### **What will happen to your personal data at the end of the research project?**

The project is scheduled to end December 31, 2021. As described above, the personal data will be deleted latest by April 1, 2022.

### **Your rights**

So long as you can be identified in the collected data, you have the right to:

- access the personal data that is being processed about you
- request that your personal data is deleted

- request that incorrect personal data about you is corrected/rectified
- receive a copy of your personal data (data portability), and
- send a complaint to the Data Protection Officer of the ethics approval committee of the researcher's University.

### **What gives us the right to process your personal data?**

We will process your personal data based on your consent.

Based on an agreement with BI Norwegian Business School, the Norwegian Centre for Research Data has assessed that the processing of personal data in this project is in accordance with data protection legislation.

### **Where can I find out more?**

If you have questions about the project, or want to exercise your rights, contact:

- BI Norwegian Business School via Prof Ralf Müller ([ralf.muller@bi.no](mailto:ralf.muller@bi.no))
- Our Data Protection Officer: Vibeke Nesbakken
- NSD – The Norwegian Centre for Research Data AS, by email: ([personvern@nsd.no](mailto:personvern@nsd.no)) or by telephone: +47 55 58 21 17.

Yours sincerely,

Ralf Müller

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### **Consent form**

I have received and understood information about the project Governance of Inter-organizational Project Networks and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I give consent:

☐ to participate in an interview

I give consent for my personal data to be processed until the end date of the project, approx. April 1, 2022.

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(Signed by participant, date)