Characteristics of a Healthy Network  
*(a work in progress)*

1) **A shared vision of the identity, purpose, and work of the network**  
- Good progress on creating a shared vision of the network amongst current members and partners  
- Good progress on creating a core group of institutions to provide a nucleus for the growth of the network  
- Vision for the expansion and further development of the network is emerging

2) **Support for real work and concrete contributions**  
- Very strong start-up in terms of exhibits, forums, programs, and web material  
- Design and implementation of meetings, courses, and professional development workshops  
- Good start-up on prototypes, models, or pilots  
- Early production and publication of research and evaluation studies, surveys, and guides

3) **Internal connections and coherency**  
- Working groups or partnerships are increasingly well-defined and making progress  
- Good cross-institutional collaborations within the working groups or partnerships  
- Beginnings of cross-partnership or cross-strand collaborations and contributions  
- Beginnings of larger sub-networks

4) **Mechanisms for drawing upon and contributing to participating members**  
- Respecting the differences in institutions and their varying strengths and perspectives  
- Taking advantage of natural variation to test and refine models and approaches  
- Need to go beyond production and dissemination approach

5) **Multiple opportunities for participation and interaction with the network**  
- Multiple opportunities generated for learning about the domain of the network  
- A few early and illuminative examples of including new institutions and people  
- Networks of existing partners invited to participate

6) **Recognized and valued by the broader field**  
- Good progress on making broader contacts in the domain  
- External perceptions of the network are positive  
- Initial interest in participation and interaction

7) **Development of network governance and administration**  
- Very good collaboration amongst core partners  
- Administrative team very strong with complementary skills and perspectives  
- Good ability to identify critical issues, problems, and emerging needs