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Good Practice: The shortcut to re-invent a tailor-made wheel.

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Good Practice

The sharing of good practices is one of the first things carried out in a knowledge management initiative. In most organisations it is already being done to some degree. This often begins with common practices such as instruction manuals or 'how to' guidelines. The next step from there is to identify and share good practices.

The essence of identifying and sharing good practices is to learn from others and to re-use knowledge. The biggest benefit consists in well developed processes based on accumulated experience.

Most good practice programmes combine two key elements: explicit knowledge such as a good practices database (connecting people with information), and methods for sharing tacit knowledge such as communities of practice (connecting people with people).

The best way of sharing good practices is 'on the job' and so communities and personal contact with others who have used the good practice is a key to success.

How to go about it?

1. Identify users' requirements.
2. Identify good practices worth being shared.
3. Document good practices (title and short abstract, profile of the good practice, context, description of processes and steps, lessons learned, and links to resources and key people).
4. Validate good practices with convincing results in a new context.
5. Disseminate and apply good practices.
6. Develop a supporting infrastructure.

