

Similarities and Differences of Communities of Practice and Special Interest Groups

Communities of Practice	Special Interest Group
Year-round engagement - formally minimum of 2 meetings a year (online or or AGM). Use of online platform to support engagement	Usually during AGM meetings only
Focused goals with outcomes that may be publishable	Focused goal(s) with specific outcomes ideally published in EJDE
Open call to select steering group who guide the COP direction with subsequent membership input.	Networked core team who guide direction of the SIG.
Content and process outcomes both vertically and horizontally engaged within the COP of members	Content and outcomes vertically distributed between SIG to membership and publishable (EJDE)
Top down and bottom up input on agreed goals/agenda/outcomes of by COP membership	Core team direction on agreed goals/agenda with Exec Committee.
Aim to improve knowledge and skills of members of COP	Aim to improve knowledge and insights on specific domain area to membership and beyond.
Members of COP can form specialist subgroups if sufficient interest that may be regional or language based	Members of SIG can have input into SIG outcomes.