

Project management system



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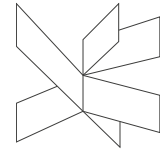
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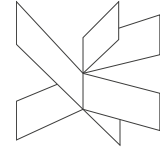
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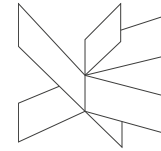


1 Introduction

Group 5 consists of 4 members. Three out of four members are Lithuanians, and one is Romanian. All the communication was in English with the idea that even if it was sometimes hard to explain certain things, but still try not to exclude certain members of the group because of their nationality.

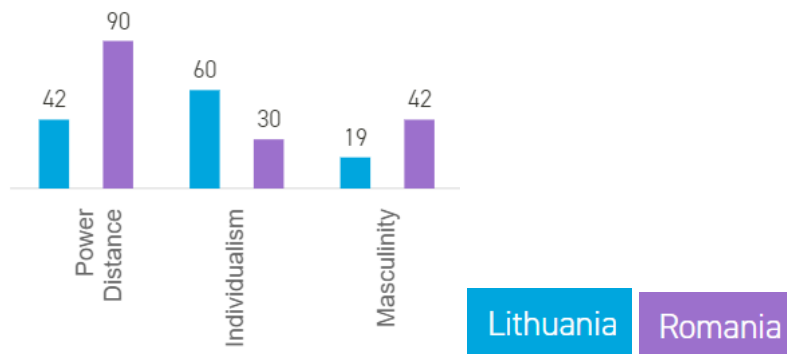
Our group's serious and regular work started from 2nd December. From that day, all of the group members were working approximately 4-5 hours a day 6 days a week. That comes to 60 – 75 hours for each person on group. All hours combined our group spend 240 – 300 hours on the project in total.

Supervisor meetings were quite rare and very constructive. Our group focus on direct questions and resolving of certain problems that were noted beforehand. With the supervisors we spent approximately 2 hours in total. We did not spend much time with supervisors, but we managed to clear all the uncertainties that we had. Our group tried to take as much data and information from templates and lectures as possible to stay efficient and productive without supervision.



2 Group Description

Culture:



Power distance:

The graph displays that Romanians and Lithuanians have different tendencies.

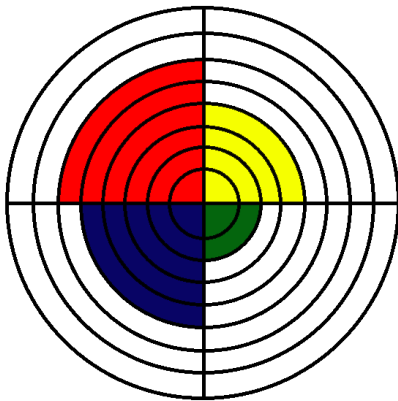
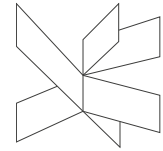
Lithuanians have more desire of equality, while Romanians are more accepting of harsher hierarchy. Our team showed tendency of more balanced workload and making group decisions instead of one of few persons leading. Power distance factor did not create any inconveniences among our group.

Individualism:

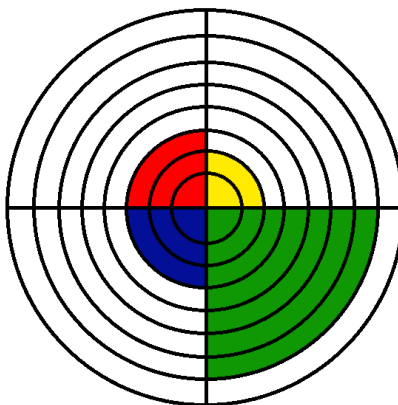
The individualism in Romanian culture is much lower than in Lithuanian's. This created atmosphere showed more collectivistic behavior. Although we work as a team, we still could feel that most of the members, Lithuanians in particular, were more self-focused in the way that we have our own tasks, and we must do it. In the other hand, the Romanian was pushing more of the group work which created a more group-friendly environment. Our group put it's best effort to work as a team and remove individualism as much as possible. We tried to adopt the policy of more collective and less individualistic work.

Masculinity:

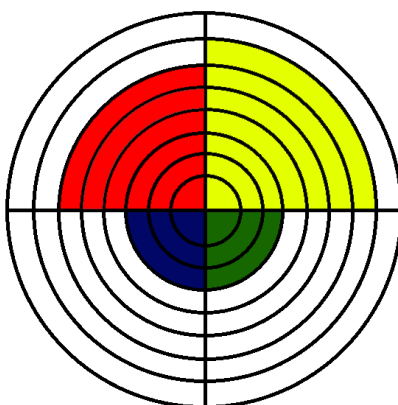
Both Romania and Lithuania are considered a relatively feminine countries. There was no conflict regarding this matter. Both sides are more focused on each other well-being and do not like to take credit for work or being above everyone else. This created a well-functioning atmosphere where every member was responsible for each other's comfort.



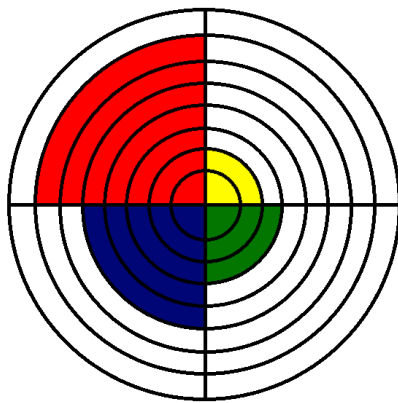
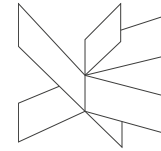
Ionut



Titas



Lukas



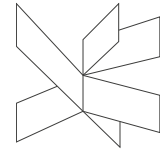
Rytis

As displayed in graphs we compliment each other well.

We have a lot of red color tendencies, so we understand each other. Almost everyone is goal oriented and determined to do their work as best as they can. Two main red color members were Ionut and Rytis. They always kept it cold and goal oriented, demanding more and more from the group. For example, our group stagnated on a single implementation problem and our project was not moving as fast as we wanted. They kept the rhythm and made it move forward even though everything might not be perfect. It helped to keep the pace of the project and not to stagnate on one single problem. But other colors display themselves too.

We have one person who is mostly green, which brought harmony to our group. Titas played a huge role in our group as a people's person. He was patient and understanding of the situation and reflected from everyone's point of view. For example, when the disagreement would arise, Titas was always there to make it fair for everyone and come with the solution that everybody would be happy with. This brought satisfaction to both conflict sides.

Blue color is average or above in two member's profiles. Rytis and Ionut were responsible for details and similar matters. It was not difficult for them to spot even smallest flaws in the program. It came naturally as expected from the diagrams. Also, they brought discipline and systematic work to the team. For example, when programming they kept in mind all the smallest details we need to implement, they made sure that the work flow would not stop and would keep it systematic.



Lastly, we have a yellow color. Lukas was the main representative of that. He always fulfilled our team with new ideas and optimism. For example, when we stagnated on the problem, Lukas would generate new and practical ideas how to solve the problem fast and easy. Also, the enthusiasm of his was very upbrining and stress-relieving. Because of him group's morale was higher than it would have been otherwise.

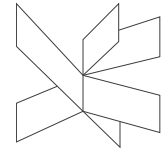
3 Project Initiation

Group formation:

At the very beginning we all did not know each other. This group formatted when we were assigned to the same table. We saw the great opportunity to work together when we noticed our programming level. It was somewhat the same. All people in our group agreed that it is best to choose people with similar programming knowledge and capabilities. With that decision came the advantage of equal work distribution. With similar programming experience we all worked equally and there was no problem with dividing tasks.

Case presentation:

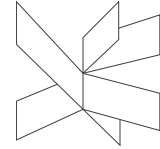
When we were presented with the case, our first approach was with a little confusion from several members. But it was easily solved with other members explaining the problem and the possible solution. At the start we were not fearful and thought of the solution to the problem quickly. We developed our design and made plans how we should implement the solution.



4 Project Description

Writing project description for our group was frustrating and scary. It was due to the fact that we are doing it for the first time, and it is not clear how to do it properly. We did a lot of mistakes at first by following incorrect guideline. Also, it was hard to remember all the thing taught in class, because it was a long time ago. We also spent too much time developing the software itself and because of that we lost a lot of time to do project description. All team members were confused when doing the project description because of those reasons.

We tried to use project description as a support for our project. Project description helped us realize the missing parts and flaws of the program.



5 Project Execution

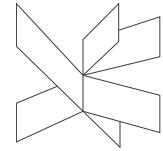
Project execution phase was clear. At first, we tried using the waterfall method. First step was analysis of the requirements. Analysis was in some way difficult, because at first it was hard to understand client needs. We also had to adapt to the fact that the customer is not a programmer and do not know how the program will be designed and what methods we are going to be able to use. But after figuring out all of the requirements with the help of teachers and supervisors we proceeded to system design.

System design was one of the most difficult tasks of the project. It was difficult because the programs we were using were new to us. We did not have had any practice with the software we were using. Also, the requirements for system design were hard to understand at first.

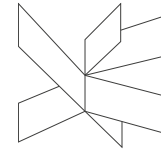
Implementation took most of our time as it was also one of the most challenging task. We had to adapt our knowledge from a little small program to a bigger and more complex system.

Testing comes next. After implementation we started to create test cases for our newly developed system. The testing part was not that difficult, but it revealed a lot of flaws that we did not notice before. This is the part where we had to use iterative approach. With the iterative approach we had to come back to the code and fix all the problems that occurred during testing. Then we did testing all over again and it revealed more problems on which we had to come back and fix. Also we got some new comments about our system from the customer while developing it which is also the iterative approach.

The waterfall methodology is plain and simple. Everything goes with a certain order. But it is useful when the program is relatively small and not complex. Iterative approach is more relative when the system is bigger. With waterfall approach it is hard to predict everything at the beginning. Iterative approach lets you manipulate work more easily with the approach of fixing the errors after test. Patching errors is easier when the whole project is not finished already. It saves time and lets the customer to give constant feedback about developers work.



But in this case waterfall method worked as intended because the size of the project is not that big and we knew all of the requirements beforehand.



6 Personal Reflections

Rytis

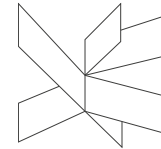
My personal reflection on the project is mostly positive. When we started to develop the project, I saw that everyone in my team is dedicated to the work and is ready to work hard. At first, I was expecting some cultural differences to get in our way, but later, when we resolved all the issues and agreed on fixed time when to work on the project everything went way better than expected. I did not notice that anyone would be left behind or left uncertain about something in the development of the project.

In recent three weeks I experienced a very high amount of work that needed to be done. Personally, I tried my best not to fail the team or leave them behind in any situation by saying "it is not my job" like we used to do in school projects. By doing this, I tried to be more collective and push away individualism as much as I can. The outcome of all of this was that I improved my skills when working in a team and trying to focus more on team than on myself(). Another topic that was bothering me was my lack of time. At the end of the project, sometimes I had to go to work and did not attend group meetings. But if I could not make it to the group meeting, I was trying to catch up with the workload in my free time alone. I do not think it is the best practice, but the work did not let me be in all meetings. There was an option to schedule the time a bit later in the evening, but it conflicted with other's work and plans, so I was left with independent personally assigned work. But I am not unsatisfied with the situation, because I still got to work with the team the majority of the times.

The hardest parts for me were the implementation and documentation. Implementation was hard because it was only few lessons of JavaFX and I still had a lot of questions. With this problem I must be grateful to my group colleagues, because they help me understand the basic Java implementation into the design. This once again proven that collective work can be more beneficial than individual work. It took me a while to understand it, but at the end I was capable member of group who can do programming with JavaFX implementation and design solutions. Documentation was also not that simple as it looked. When I first glanced at the documentation requirements, I did not think that it can be so confusing. Searching for templates, discovering undone work and remembering every SSE class was irritating. I felt that I was trying my best but that was just not enough. Fortunately, after the meeting with supervisor, it became a little clearer what we need to do and fix, although the time resources were very limited. From this I can take the lesson, that I need to pay closer attention in classes and really look into the subject matter and not just glance at it with a short-sighted view.

From other point of view, I think that I can, and really put, enough effort into this. I do not think that we did not finish the project completely because of me or any other member in our group. The reason was the lack of time, resources and time awareness.

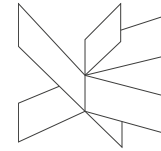
In conclusion I could say that from this project I learned and practiced my group work skills. Trying to ignore the individualistic nature was not easy, but it could be



destructive. The team morale depends on everyone's mood and how they feel in the group. I feel like individualistic approach in the group could demoralize a lost person, because if they do not know what to do and there is no support from others, they can give up and completely stop the progress of the project.

Titas

During this semester project, our group tried to create projects managing system. While creating this system, everyone did their part, contributed to the project and communicated. However, our group, and me personally experienced some difficulties like, distributing workload, reflecting on what we have done and what we will need to do. While working on semester project, I tried to contribute to the project as much as I can, but sometimes, because of miscommunication other team members received a bigger workload. Also, there were cases, when I lost track of our work progress, because of slightly unorganized work. Although, all team members including me, were expressing their opinions and I was listening to them. After hearing an opinion we discussed, what would be the best for us and moved forward. While making the project I and every other team member contributed to creating a webpage for this project equally. I also contributed to the project code part, created classes, controllers and FXML graphical user interfaces for the system. Nevertheless, I also contributed to documentation part of the project. During the process of making the semester project I tried to communicate with every team member, be nice, kind, cheer, give credit to others, encourage them, avoid conflicts and negative working atmosphere. Even though our group was not able to avoid conflicts, I tried to stop them from escalating into further, bigger conflicts and move on. Conflicts might be arisen, because of our group member's characters difference, but all in all, we managed to resolve everything calmly, and properly. There was a period when, project work started to move on and be difficult very quickly, and during this period I started to notice that I am not understanding every topic and problem that we face. My team members who understood the topic that we were encountering helped, explained what I was not understanding and encouraged me to move forward, which helped me a lot, later, during the project making process. The cultural difference was not a big deal in our group, because we had similar mindset, hobbies, purpose and got along the first time we all met. Although our group was mostly Lithuanian, I tried to communicate in English with others so, no one would be left out and would understand everything that is happening in our group. Sometimes I would catch myself, using Lithuanian language, but I quickly recognized this problem and tried my best to fix it. For me, the hardest part of this project was implementing the design for the system and making the documentation. The level of difficulty for design implementation escalated very quickly, but with common ground and by the help of our supervisors, our group managed to push through these problems. The difficulty in documentation for me showed that I did not spend enough attention at some lessons and didn't study enough for them. Ultimately, I am very happy with the group that I have and opportunity to work with my group members. Also, I understood that I should pay attention to all classes and not just to what I like, or what I would like to do. I learned that for a group to be more



effective, the groups work needs to be more organized, members should reflect on their progress and on their finished and unfinished tasks. Next time I will be more responsible, pay more attention to every lesson, try to be a better team member, by helping every one out, doing everything I can to stop escalating conflicts and encourage my team to arrange meetings for our work reflection and our methods of working.

Ionut

During the semester project, I learnt a lot of how to work in a team and how to manage my workload.

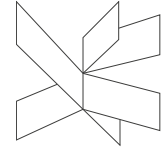
In the beginning it was a little bit stressful to me thinking that I am the only person that has another nationality. Because of lack of experience of making a project in a team, coming from another country where those type of workloads is hard to find, even in a real company, it was a challenging and I liked that. In the first lessons of SSE and SEP, during the period where we had to get to know each other, I have had a hard time to find my words and explain what my expectation were, but since then, I really want to say that I overcame myself.

We were all trying to get our workload at a high level. In the first part of making a project we were asking ourselves why we have to do those appendix. We did not understand at all in the beginning. Then I was asking myself what I should do for my team because every time when we were working for the project, I ended up looking to them how they are continues working after 5 or more hours of meeting. I was disappointed because I was not used to implement such a complex system.

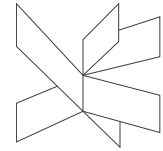
In my opinion, I am very grateful for my teammates and for my knowledge after a long semester. When we started the implementation, I was sure that we have to do, but we had a hard time during the implementation of the code and we did not know how to manage our time. I was disappointed in the beginning because I thought that we started with the left leg, but no. It was all just in my head. Every teammate was struggling and came with a lot of ideas about how our project should work. Because, as I said, in the begging of the whole project, we were not sure about what we had to write and hand in, in the last part we have put our knowledge together and we made all our ideas about project happened. I had moments when I did not understand what we had to do or I was late for the meetings, and they were always supporting me and trying to not get me disappointed.

Lukas

My first Semester Project went fairly the same way as I thought it would go, only with a few exceptions. The only thing I was worried about was not finding the right team to work with, but luckily, I've met the right people and never felt out of place working with them. The first month or even two months, were the getting comfortable period you could say, and I overcame that kind of easily by going to do activities after the lectures with my group. It was a fun period because the learning part was easy and I had a lot



of time on my hands to go out and make new friendships, get to know people. The only thing that frustrated me was that we were only getting to make all sorts of documentations and I could not wait for the programming part of SEP1, but I was still a joyful feeling that I have found the right team. And that is how almost the whole semester went on until December. It was almost the time to start coding, so we figured to start a bit early and that was a good choice seeing that the only thing holding us from implementing every single requirement was the lack of time. When we started the implementation part, I was not very good at JavaFX so the first days I did the work I understood how to and just kept watching others work with JavaFX while they explain what and why they are doing and from my point of view it was very stressful time for me because I was kind of holding the team back from progressing at a faster rate. With that and a bit of learning on my own I have seen started to see a huge difference and was able to catch up to my group members. After that, long days of work followed for two weeks with not a single person being lazy and that shows what a great team I have. In summary, my expectations met the reality and that cultural difference between me and others was not even noticed by me and that is probably for the reason that we always had good atmosphere working.

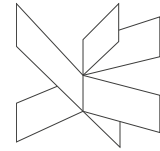


7 Supervision

Our group's meetings with supervisors were very direct and short. Usually we communicated with our supervisors through Discord. The supervisors were very helpful and answered all of our questions directly and indirectly (by showing where to find necessary information).

The agendas were usually simple and constructive. We had few uncertainties with implementation (how should we implement requirements) and documentation (where and how to find templates for description documentation).

We had 3 meetings with supervisors.



8 Conclusions

In conclusion, we have learned and improved on a lot of things working together. Not only on programming and documentation but also on teamwork which is as important as those two mentioned. Not all of us were used to this much teamwork on a project, so at first it was hard to distribute the workload, to constantly communicate and most importantly to work efficiently. We also learned all sorts of things from each other, for example Ionut taught us how to handle the frustration, Titas how to be patient, Rytis how to be goal oriented and Lukas how to stay positive no matter what. With every single day we were growing as a team and that lead us to almost having the product we imagined making in the beginning. For the future SEP1 students we would have a few recommendations but the ones having the most impact from our perspective. First of all, set your groups expectations and try to set the estimated time to finish it, then multiply it by two and you will have the realistic estimated time. By that we mean to always start earlier then required and by doing that you will always have time left in case you will spend a major part of your time on some error. It is also a good practice to set yourself deadlines a day or a few before the real one. Also try to distribute the workload properly and equally. There is not secret method on this, you just need to try and see what goes for your team.

