

# **Process Report**

## **Group 1**

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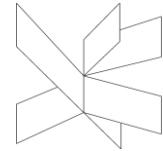
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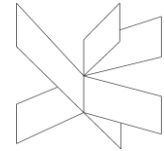
**First semester**

**4th of June 2021**



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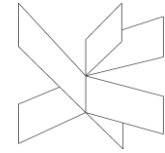
## 1 Introduction

In the following report, our team reflects upon the process of making the first-semester project. We focused on how the group works based on cultural differences, challenges, communication, and time management.

Our team started the project by forming a group and establishing some basic rules for weekly team meetings to discuss problems or the next steps to do. This is mentioned in the group contract as well.

We followed the contract plan for time-schedule but also managed to stay flexible if something happened. In the last two weeks of doing the project, we worked daily by holding online meetings or monitoring the activity using GitHub for the application. The meetings were held on the Discord application because with the COVID-19 situation we are not allowed to work on VIA's campus.

As a group, we decided to discuss with a supervisor and explain the progress that has been made on the project.



## 2 Group Description

### 2.1 Cultural background

Our team has representatives from Romania, Denmark and Spain. We used tools such as the Hofstede method and E-Stimate profiles to analyse our cultural differences. The group roles and personalities were examined with the help of those two platforms.

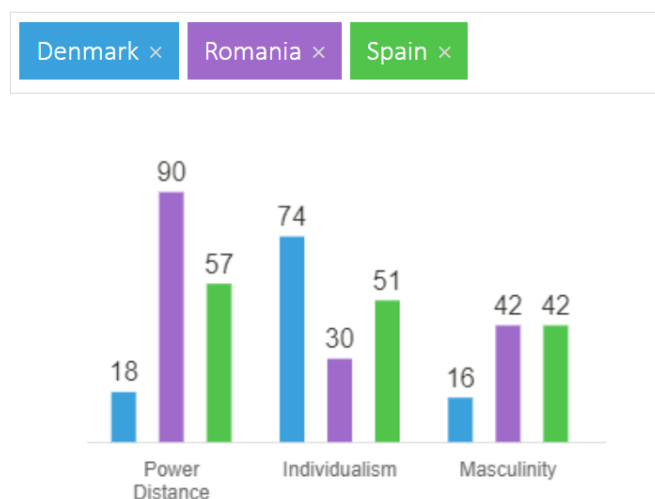
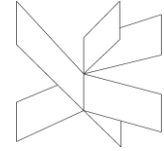


Figure 1 .source: Hofstede Insights, 2021

As per the graph from figure 1, the first difference in national culture was the power of distance. According to figure1, Romania is higher than Denmark with 72 points and higher than Spain with 33 points.

This dimension deals with the fact that all individuals in societies are not equal – it expresses the attitude of the culture towards these inequalities amongst us. Power Distance is defined as the extent to which the less powerful members of



institutions and organizations within a country expect and accept that power is distributed unequally. (Hofstede Insights, 2021)

In contrast, it was concluded that all members of our team have different expectations than what the graph represents. We all believe in equality. Also, the formality in our relations and communication between us was much higher than the power distance.

The next dimension of national culture our group analysed was individualism. This refers to whether a person is focused on doing a specific task given by other members in our weekly team meeting.

Although the individualism in Denmark, with a score of 74 is an Individualist society. This means there is a high preference for a loosely knit social framework in which individuals are expected to take care of themselves and their immediate families only. It is relatively easy to start doing business with the Danes. Small talk is kept at a minimum and you do not need to create relationships first. Danes are also known for using a very direct form of communication. (Hofstede Insights, 2021)

The final dimension discussed was masculinity. The main rules in our team were to use quality and mutual support besides the sharing of knowledge in some specific fields.

## **2.2 Group roles E-stimate**

After we analysed our cultural differences using the Hofstede theory, we looked at our individual E-stimate profiles. This platform helps us understand our cultural differences and understand each other's expectations and build the base of our communication as a team.

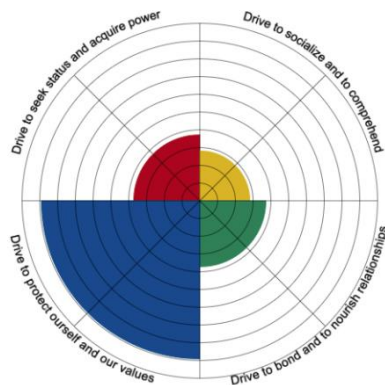
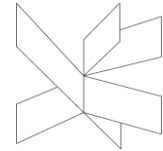


Figure 2. Adrian-Cristian Militaru

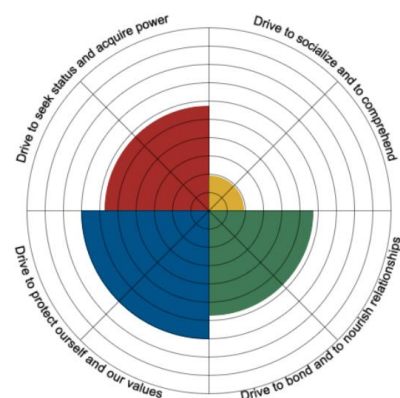


Figure 3. Adrian Pompierescu

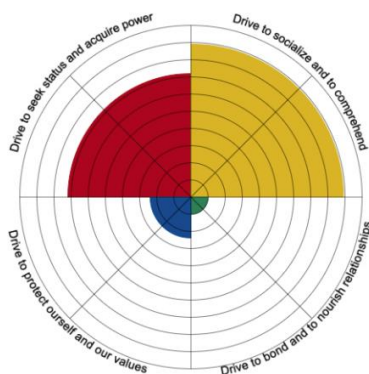


Figure 4. Gabriel Moutinho Tristan

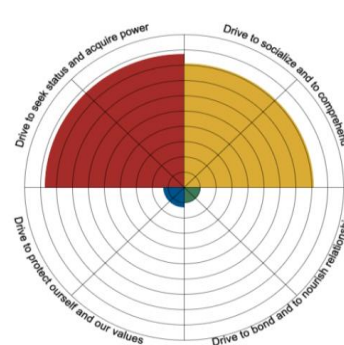
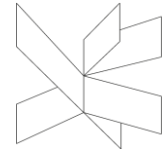


Figure 5. Freja Hansen

Our team covers mainly the blue and red with yellow, as well as green to only for one of us (Figure 3) (Wendel, 2021)

In general, the tendencies are well balanced between all the members of our group are from extreme blue to extreme red and extreme yellow (Figure 4)

Inside our group even if there are differences in tendencies, we still worked well together, and we have not encountered any negative experience.



In our opinion, this can be because, even though the green colour is not dominant in any of us, we all took very seriously to communicate respectfully to each other's and keeping a good atmosphere inside the group.

The fact that two members are clearly blue predominant helped a lot with the structure, the organization, and the discipline of the group.

In general, we think that the fact that all member's personalities are kind of complementary to each other's made the group work an easier task.

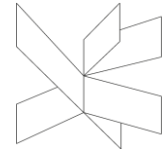
### **3 Project Initiation**

The topic of the project was provided to us in the form of an interview with the VIAClub Manager Bob Oldenuff, our potential customer.

The group was formed at the request of all the members and later approved by the supervisor.

We did our initial plan for the project description, and we set a series of milestones. Almost all of them had to be postponed, except for the last milestone about writing the reports.

We think that when we did the initial planning, we did not have the experience to know the workload required at every step and we were being taught along the way about the concepts, but the overall planning was realistic.



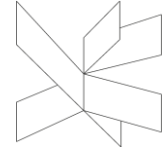
## **4 Project Description**

The provided interview with VIAClub manager included all the client's requirements for the system we were supposed to develop, but in a format that was not easy to work with.

After studying the interview carefully, we were able to convert that information into a project description, which provided our team with a better understanding of the customer requests, and we were able to use the project description as a base for the project.

The final version of the project description was evaluated by our supervisors before starting to analyse.





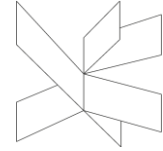
## 5 Project Execution

During the first part of the analysis, it was difficult to see the meaning behind it. Without any experience with subtracting information from interviews and making the needs and requirements more functional than subjective needs, some things seemed unnecessary at the time. With help from the supervisors, it was chosen that it would be better to have all the informational requirements. The team used the waterfall method which is a hard method to follow up on unless there are no mistakes made during the process (however, some minor changes on the class diagrams were made after the implementation), which is why we had to move away from our original plan and therefore couldn't continue using the waterfall method.

In the second stage of the analysis, the information that was gained and compressed was now to be used in the class diagram, which made the analysis useful. In this state, it was clear why it is better to have all the information as some things that might have been deemed unimportant are rather important for the project to be complete.

After clearing out all the analysis and design, it was time to use all the compressed information that has been gained up until the making of the program. The program was written using GitHub for the team to be able to work together without compromising each other's work. GitHub has made working together as a team more effective.

The program was successful, as it follows the Class diagram as well as fulfils all the requirements that the client needed.



## **6 Personal Reflections**

### **6.1 Adrian Militaru's reflections**

#### **6.1.1 Project development**

Developing the project using the waterfall methodology, our team started out by following all the steps from waterfall methodology which later results in the best way to coordinate our work as a team and re-evaluate a step before the main result.

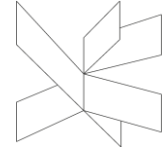
During the analysis part, our group gathered and categorized all the requirements for our system based on the interview with the customer and extracting some specific statements or keywords.

The classification of requirements made us understand what is necessarily important for the customer and what is irrelevant or optional. This step helps us to proceed into the design, implementation, and test phases.

The design phase consisted of creating the class and sequence diagram even the use case diagrams for every functionality that the customer is required.

During the implementation phase, we implement everything that we did in the design phase and edit some of the elements from the class diagram to offer an optimized version.

As our team went through the stages of development, I have improved my understanding of how each phase from the waterfall methodology works and contributes to the development of a system. In the future, it will be a base approach to contact or inform the customer about every phase and what is the evolution of the project for better communication between the team and the customer.



### **6.1.2 Group cooperation**

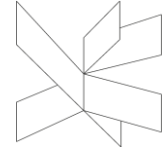
After the group was formed, we spent time getting to know each other. The team was formed based on a wish to work together, which helped us easily establish some ground rules and goals that must be achieved by the end of the first semester and helped us create the group contract.

For me, the most important part of working with a team is to understand and see new options or opinions for a specific subject that helped us later in the project development.

On the other hand, sometimes some internal conflicts can appear, but hopefully, we pass everything and work as a team to finish the project on time.

### **6.1.3 Future improvements**

As a future improvement for our group is that see every member getting more knowledge in programming and for an easy approach in the developing for the future projects



## **6.2 Gabriel Moutinho's reflections**

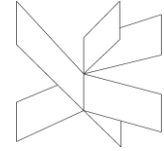
We started the project by defining a group contract at the very beginning and now that the project is finished, we can look back and say that we respected all the initial agreements. The contract, in my opinion, covered the minimum terms of group conduct and cooperation required for a group to function. Luckily, we did not have to refer to it during the project because all the members participated actively in group meetings and we split all the tasks, everybody delivered on time.

When it comes to working together, I must thank Adrian Militaru, because he helped us a lot configuring and using GitHub so we could effectively collaborate programming the website and the application and he also took kind of a “manager” role in the group that helped us a lot with coordination issues and to work all in the same direction.

Since the group contract worked well for us, I do not suggest any major changes for future group contracts. I think that the success of our group working together is because we all respected the terms of the contract, even without thinking about it. Breaking any of the rules of the contract would have negatively affected our performance as a group.

All members of the group, in my opinion, contributed satisfactorily to the project. Some of us had more experience in the fields than others, but I have to say that we all contributed with our effort in all areas of the project.

The motivation of the group changed over time because at the beginning of the semester we were all very motivated, but we did not have the knowledge



to start the project, and for some weeks it was on stand-by, only working on the website as a part of the RWD curriculum.

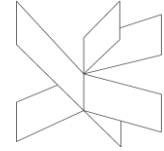
Then, after some Wednesdays working on analysis and design, we found ourselves two weeks before the deadline with all the reports to write and all the Java programming to do. Luckily, these two weeks were full-time, and we were able to make it. We worked these last days together over discord and that really motivated us to keep working.

About the benefits and challenges of being a multicultural group, I must say that we were all working in the same direction, we did not encounter any challenge because of this situation and neither there were not any direct benefits.

I learned a lot during this project, more exactly, how to cooperate in a group context, and I think that being organized as a group is key to having all members working towards the same goals. Next time I am involved in group work I will check that we are well organized, even if in my personality the colour yellow is dominant and it is not a yellow characteristic, but I realized that it is crucial.

In my opinion, the advantages of group work and problem-based learning are that the students can apply knowledge to solve problems that can be like ones in real life and that they must solve them together, and in the process, the students can learn even more.

The disadvantages are that sometimes it is difficult for people to work together, but I think that it is an ability that can be trained.



### **6.3 Freja Kammersgaard Hansen's reflections**

After we got split into our SEP1 groups we wrote a group contract stating how we wanted to work together as a group as well as set up some demands that we expected of each other such as that we wanted to keep each other informed if we were unable to meet up and how the tone should be in the group as well as when it is okay to set up meetings.

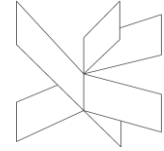
I feel responsible for my part of the project as I respect my team members and their time, I feel like we all had an equal part in the project and the workload.

We all tried our best to deliver good results while some cultural differences have made the group work interesting and both easier and harder. An example of this can be that hand-ins need to follow the exact requirements, in some countries the student is always supposed to write more than the requirement and is applauded for such, while in the Danish school system this is not the case, and you should always stay within the limit of the requirement.

I suggest for a new contract that when choosing a working schedule that everyone's wishes are aligned to avoid creating issues with private life. For the group to be multicultural along with working with completely new people it has been a delight to learn about different ways of solving the same issue, how we all have different values and how to put our values together to get a good perspective which helped us to learn how to work together to achieve a goal.

I have learned for myself to put others before my own needs in the group, to help each other. This can be by accommodating a member's suggestion for a time even though I would rather at another time.

The motivation in the group always peaks in the beginning when we start on a new part as it is new and exciting but fades rather quickly after. We work hard and effectively for us to still maintain a private life and not wanting to work on the weekends.



I believe that the project description was a great way to analyse all the information and process the information to make sure we remember but also can go back to and reread to check up if the data is correct and that we made sure everything was accounted for and fulfilled.

## **6.4 Adrian Pompierescu' s Reflections**

### **6.4.1 Group work**

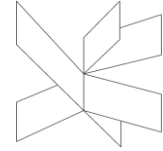
Our group contract was like a mandatory thing for us. I just want to think that we had to puzzle each other. We firmly did respect every criteria according to our group contract, like the deadlines, time plans, meetings and the most important was that we communicate respectfully with each other.

As I started working on the project, I felt overwhelmed by all the things that I had to put together to deliver my best performance and made me anxious and uncomfortable.

Nevertheless, this was the first project for me that comes with a lot of question marks but in this way, I realized that the waterfall methodology is a step-by-step method to be followed because each step is the foundation for the next step.

As a group we tried to split the task between us so everybody can contribute fairly to the project, of course, we are from different countries, and we do not have the same level of experience. Like some of us had more packages of knowledge and different education standards.

But in the end, our group members manage every task maybe because we show that we are very serious about this project and school in general.



I believe being in an international group did not affect us at all, after all, we all have learned under the same curriculum, the only thing we had to do was to comply with every need and was not hard at all.

The motivation of our group was like a roller-coaster with ups and downs. Some of us had work to go to and of course the private life. I do not believe I felt demotivated like a lack of motivation at all, but sometimes maybe a lack of focusing but we never did cancel a meeting or workflow.

I can say I have learned a lot this semester and doing this project group, but it is not only this project, but I also felt like all the other assignments that we have as a group turn out to solidify our group and make us stronger to surpass every challenge that we had so far.

In other words, I had come with zero knowledge about all the curriculum and finished with being part of an great group and full with knowledge and motivation to go further.

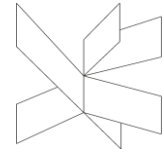
In my vision, each member has worked hard to define the problem, develop hypotheses, gather information, and arrive at a clear solution. I think that collaboration in the group makes it strong and keeps it evolving.

In the future, I would like to adopt the discussions to develop much further and to negotiate the establishment of quality criteria and construct a common solution.

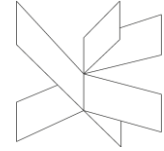
#### **6.4.2 Project organized studies and problem-based learning.**

I personally think that collaboration in our group was so superb. We plan to gather more information, then do the necessary research and reconvene to share and summarize new knowledge in the group, even if there may or may





not be a product. And that means we had adequate time for reflection and self-evaluation, collaboration is an essential component of PBL, Collaboration versus Individual Learning (Hoffman & Ritchie, 1997)



## **7 Supervision**

The supervision of our project was held via Discord and e-mails or on the Zoom meeting. Most of the meetings with the supervisors were not scheduled in advance. In some cases, only one member of the group was present to talk with a supervisor regarding a specific part that was assigned by the team. After every meeting, all the other members from the group were informed of the discussion to ensure the group was on track and helped us make the right decisions until the next meeting with a supervisor.

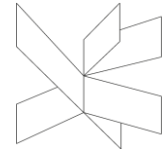
All the group members were presented in a meeting, especially when they are multiple questions and problems regarding the project and the documentation that we need to provide.

## **8 Conclusions**

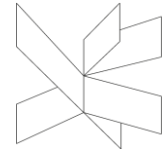
To conclude the process and group work there have been a few complications from time to time, but the group has succeeded in working together and using the given tools to comprehend and successfully ensure that the project is completed and is living up to our own expectations. The given tools and material have been a great help in achieving the group's goals.

Some tools have been more helpful than others, such as the group contract has not really been brought up due to no intern fights in the group and everyone doing their best to succeed.

Our recommendations for a group to be successful based on our experience are respect each other's members and communicate respectfully,



take responsibility for the assigned tasks, help each other's when needed, and have a high level of structure within the group. Organization is very important because at the end simplifies the tasks.



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