

Having asked around 15 people about an experience where I was at my best, a pattern emerges of three core social and emotional competencies start to appear that I consider to be my main strengths. These three competencies are: achievement oriented, adaptability and pattern recognition. These competencies will be discussed separately before combining them into a single summary.

The first strength I have is being adaptable. In the light of unexpected changes I am comfortable. I can switch gears quickly to meet the new needs of clients and supervisors. An example of this is that during my role as a scout leader in a local group I switch from helping an individual kid to explaining a new game for the whole group in a fraction of a moment. Another example is that as a freelancer in the service professions industry I sometimes get request from customers which have a very short timeframe. In order to fulfill their requests I have to be able to reallocate my resources to meet their needs.

The second strength is being achievement oriented. I feel a strong need to achieve something in everything that I do. Whether it is completing 2 degree programs, starting my company or being an active volunteer I always try to have an lasting impact. This is only possible by focusing on results and achieving those. A good example of this is from my internship in Brussels where I had to organize an one day seminar at the client premises. By checking with stakeholders from both the client and internal stakeholders I made sure the event met the criteria of both groups. This resulted in the event being very successful and multiple follow-up projects between the organization I interned for and the client.

The third element is pattern recognition. To me this is very characteristic for me as I try to find order in the chaos. My educational background helps in this (postgraduate studies in Library- and Information Science). However, even before I started this degree program, I was already looking for patterns in other domains. In Bachelor my final assignment consisted of restructuring a user-interface and my final project for my Master included the development of a classification system for RPL in youth work. To spot patterns quickly is extremely useful as it allows me to learn things relatively fast (which is very useful). Furthermore, this is also appreciated by customers and friends as helping them to see patterns brings them or their business forward.

Combined these three skills make for a very powerful combination. Being adaptable while remaining oriented on achievements makes you keep the goal in mind throughout the process but allows the road towards it to be flexible. Being adaptable while seeing pattern allows you to avoid the same mistakes again as you steer away from the unfavorable roads. Finally, achievement oriented while seeing patterns helps in optimizing yourself and others towards the successes you want to work towards. Therefore, this specific combination makes for an individual with high potential.