

Critical events

I would like to share three important stages in my life. The stages are not that long but I'm still young (24).

The first stage consists of the first 3 years of my studies. I was studying for my Bachelor in Industrial Design and was not a very good student. I did not participate in student societies, my grades were average and I was not really enjoying my studies that much. I did not know if I wanted to pursue a master degree and in which field (at least not Industrial Design). Looking back these three years were one of adjustment. I moved to the other side of the country but came back to my parents each week (the Netherlands is not that big). I did not value anything that much and was happy as long as I passed classes. Near the end of this stage I joined the board of my study association. This was not successful at all: I could not handle the responsibility and found it extremely hard to adjust from my relaxed life to the busy student life. It ended with me quitting and leaving the board after 6 months (usual term is one year). Everything seemed messed up: personally and with my studies.

The second stage begins after I became a national volunteer at the Scouts. I became involved in a national project on learning in Scouting. I followed a course on personal effectiveness and realized I deeply cared about learning and teaching. As a result of this I decided to switch majors after I completed my Bachelor. As I had a clearer purpose I started to work harder and became more effective. My grades were still average but the number of university courses I completed sky-rocketed. Although my studies were going well, I still felt not really appreciated as the different worlds I was in (Scouting, teacher training program, premaster program and bachelor program) did not understand each other. This was mostly because the links were only obvious to me but I could not communicate them.

The third stage begins with the start of my master in educational science. The way I was seen changed. I did very well in the program (I will soon graduate 'with honours' which is something that does not happen that often here), started to challenge professors (in a good way), did an international internship and am now seen as real expert on my graduation topic by some of the EU institutions. Looking back to stage 1 described here I value this a lot. I also developed some very strong values in this stage. I strongly believe science should help to solve social problems. This can be through education but also by combining different fields of science together. I still feel I am in this specific stage but also that I will move soon to a next one as I almost finished my studies and thus start my working life. It is therefore the challenge to find something that is right for me at this point. At this moment it is my greatest fear this won't happen (not because I am not qualified but rather because I do not know what to focus on).

Leadership vision

In 15 years I will be seen in Europe as one of the leading experts in the field of Recognition of Prior Learning. As a result of my work more (young) people more than ever will be using the skills they learn in various ways (formal, non-formal) to fully develop their potential. Through intense collaboration with the EU institutions, the private sector and youth organizations formal education and employers widely accept the skills gained through other means than formal education. I feel I will be playing a key contribution in this field as the number of people who can combine different perspective is limited.

I will probably be as busy as I am now, continually trying to solve problems and make an impact on the different levels (local, national and international). Learning is something I will continue doing as I believe you never know enough and new knowledge can bring with it a new perspectives to solve problems that become ever more complex. This personal development allows me to help me in my work which I consider to be important as well.

I hope that besides all this activity I will be in a relationship with someone I love. I do not necessarily see myself being married but do not want to exclude it either. I hope I will still be seeing my siblings frequently as well as have an improved relation with my father (not that my relationship is bad but it could be better) (my relationship with my mother is good so I hope it will be at least the same). Especially I hope I feel a lesser need to prove myself to myself.

A typical day will start early (I'm a morning person) with either a physical or intellectually challenging activity after which I work on structuring the social problem that I try to solve. This can be alone but preferably with others (maybe the person I'm in a relationship with). In the afternoon I will be working on the implementation of developed solution. This can either be on a high policy level or a low level (eg talking to youth workers they face with the implementation of a specific program/instrument. Evenings will be filled either with gaining new knowledge or a significant other.

Four circles

<http://bit.ly/RfoOng>

Four way attention chart & satisfaction

| Domain | Importance | Focus | Satisfaction |
|------------|------------|-------|--------------|
| Work/Study | 35% | 50% | 5 |
| Home | 25% | 15% | 6 |
| Community | 15% | 10% | 5 |
| Self | 25% | 25% | 7 |

Consequences of the choices

The consequence of my focus on work is that I lose out in the home domain and community domain. I believe if the focus could be more aligned with the other domains, the satisfaction in all areas will improve.