

Personal Development Plan

Jeroen Rood

Where am I now?

Having done two semesters, I developed most of the competencies to awareness level. Though, I still miss awareness for the competency **Descriptive and Mathematical Modeling**. Besides, I didn't apply **User Focus and Perspective** and **Socio-Cultural Awareness** to such a great extent to my projects so far.

Where do I want to be?

Next semester I want to have awareness over **Descriptive and Mathematical Modeling** as well. Besides, I would like to have covered the competencies **User Focus and Perspective** and **Socio-Cultural Awareness** in at least one of my projects this year.

How am I going to achieve that?

Assignments I chose, are: "*Mathematics of Sound*" and "*Designing Visual Information*". I would have liked the combination of UFP basics and Mathematics of Sound better, but these assignments had overlap, so I wasn't able to do them both. Mathematics of Sound had my priority, as I would do User Focus in the project.

This semester I was allocated to the project "*Innovate Dementia*", my first preference. With this projects, I would like to integrate some more user focus and socio-cultural awareness to the design process. My project, Innovate Dementia, is within Light.Time.Space.Move, and I think this will enable me to integrate quite some User Focus and Socio-cultural Awareness.

Goals

Learning to work with Adobe InDesign

Last semesters I used Word to make my report. I encountered some problems, as Word doesn't give me the freedom of customization I am looking for. I think Adobe InDesign will be a more appropriate tool to make such documents with. I would like to use it as soon as possible, say in the upcoming SDL weeks. It will improve the overall quality of my work. I found some online tutorials I could walkthrough in order to find more out about InDesign. Besides, I think this is a good SDL-activity. Maybe I can make a request on idshare for a workshop by someone who is more knowledgeable with InDesign.

Act more proactive

Last semester was quite okay in terms of achievements, but sometimes I lacked proactivity and went after things too late in the semester. Being more active and stepping up more to take any chances and actively go after solutions is another goal for me through this semester. I already showed some proactive attitude during the pressure cooker and the role division in the team. I also took initiative to be the team leader. This will be a starting point for my goal to act even more proactive. I could for example make a planning of the tasks I need to complete, which would help me get an overview of tasks I still need to do, and helps me for taking direct action without hesitation or too much reconsiderations.

Become better at idea generation

During the pressure cooker, I found out that I was able to come up with ideas, but whenever I got stuck I wouldn't be able to generate more novel ideas. I did the workshop "Creatief Denken", so the things I learned in this workshop should be more actively applied. The next iteration I will apply these things.

Stepping out of my comfort zone

During my projects in the first year, I tended to do the safe thing, go for the safe option. This was sometimes slowing down the process or even making me miss opportunities. I want to change that. I want to step out of my comfort zone to become more assertive, and being proactive in more disciplines. I already started with this by volunteering for team leader, but now I must carry on with it, and try new things that are outside of my comfort zone, or take steps faster and without hesitation. Doing new things like going to the "Alzheimer Café" or more spontaneous things like a team night will help extend this comfort zone.

Don't be too helpful to others

I noticed I am quite responsible, which is a pro. But besides, I also have the tendency to prioritize other people's requests above my own work. I am always pausing my work for other requests instead of letting the requests wait for another time. I would like to change that. I don't think it is really that bad, but it is delaying my own tasks. I could let people send me reminders via email, and if it is of real importance, I would still help them. If not, I don't have to take effort for them. Besides I could look into my planning (see the proactivity goal), to search for a "timeslot" where I have time to help them. Involving people in that would make them realize I am busy and I would need to take extra effort for them. This helps as well in becoming "less helpful".

Improve on my pitching skills

During the first weeks of the semester, I found myself not content about the results of the elevator pitches I gave. They just didn't give the right result. Last year I did the workshop "Pitching your project", of which I still have study material. I will go through this before my next pitch. Besides, I think it is about preparations. I need to be prepared before I actually give an elevator pitch.

Improve my sketching: in preparation for my internship

For my (potential) internship, it is good to make a portfolio. Improving my sketches is a major part of that. I am quite competent in sketching, but it is still not perfect. It would be an advantage if I could really show good-looking sketches in a portfolio for my internship. What's more, I need to apply more of an "automotive" style of sketching, which is more in context with the company I would like to do my internship at. Besides, I think I need an expert for sketching to monitor my sketching techniques, and give me tips on how to improve my sketching.