Public Self-reflection

**Summary from each student with an analysis of one’s learning experience and contribution to the project. With up to 150 words describe the experience gained during the project and evaluate the achievement of project goals.**

*What was your experience with the project, what were your roles and how did you achieve them?*

| **Eva Dyachuk** | As someone interested in sociology and social media, I took immediate interest in this project as soon as I saw it on the LIFE website. I volunteered to be team leader and coordinated preparation of my group for the mid-term presentation (assignment of tasks, design and content of the presentation), where I also was one of the presenters. Apart from that, I worked with another group member to study theoretical materials, write a theoretical overview, and make a prototype for a social media platform idea. A high degree of cooperation and a well-structured time frame and action plan were detrimental in helping me complete my tasks and achieve my goals within the project. |
| --- | --- |
| **Ivan Strigin** | I always thought of myself as not being a team-oriented player, it always seemed to me that I am more effective while working alone. Still due to multiple group activities (to be honest, not only during my participation in LIFE project, but also during my studies at TU) I see how group work can make me more effective as a part of a team. I think that could have been my most important experience so far. With another member of the group I wrote the theoretical overview for the project and proposed an idea of a social media platform. I guess that the well-structured timeframe helped me a lot to achieve my goals within the project. |
| **Sohrab Quraishi** | As long as am software engineer and doing my master at Human-Computer Interaction and I had design fiction in my first semester almost the same as ELU – Meaningful Connections through social media called Emotion Connection, Where I already had a technical with some ethical and social consideration on how to connect people with having same feeling using the system and smart band with an in-built microchip that could collect and process emotion and current situation of the user to suggest the people nearby with the same interests. The app could suggest some activities where both a set of users may be interested in. So, I wanted to benefit from the ELU project to get more insight and develop my idea while contributing to the ELU – Meaningful Connection project.  I really find the team is multi-cultural and even diverse in the area of studies that really had a noticeable impact on the study plan and protocols on how to define, plan and implement the research background for the ELU – Meaningful Connection through online social media apps. The diversity in area of study and cultural dynamisms brought us room for refinement of our idea and unify it for the target study. |
| **Anneli Põldaru** | It all started when I gathered up my courage and wrote the motivation letter. I wouldn't normally do something like that, but I really wanted to participate in this LIFE project.  I had the opportunity to conduct three interviews and one short follow-up interview. Our supervisor gave me some advice on how to ask different questions to get all the necessary details from the interviewees. I transcribed two interviews and the follow-up interview with the help of Zoom's Live Transcript feature. I really enjoyed the task when we had to think about our own idea of a better social media platform. Although I'm pretty shy, I managed to present my idea in front of the whole group. Also, I helped other team members with creating the mid-term and final presentation slides.  I'm really glad that I got the opportunity to work on this project and with this team! |
| **Maria Miriame Russo** | This LIFE project seemed the most reasonable to me, given that I’m planning on moving abroad soon and I have no one waiting for me there. It was really interesting to hear everybody’s ideas and see different approaches to one task. My role was taking part in weekly meetings, conducting interviews and editing them, and helping with the mid-term and final presentations. My favourite part was coming up with my own social media idea and it was really interesting to see others’ ideas. Participating in the project gave me some new ideas and also confidence because I am not used to talking about my ideas in front of strangers. |
| **Lisandra Kask** | I’m glad I had the opportunity to take part in this project and got the chance to work with and get to know other students from different programs. My role in this project was taking part in weekly meetings, conducting and transcribing interviews, helping with PowerPoints for midterm and final presentations. With this project I have gained more confidence with interviewing people and more skills in working in a group and time management. I feel like we have gathered a lot of useful information with interviews and theoretical part and have got some answers to some questions. Overall, this experience has been great, thanks to our great teamwork and communication with each other and to our supervisor. |
| **Geily Nurmeots** | I am glad that had the chance to be a part of this project. Got to know other students from different institutes and work with them. This project forced me step outside of my comfort zone but in a good way. Had an opportunity to develop and even notice new skills about myself. My roles were a team leader and an interviewer using qualitative research method, and transcribing the interviews. Also, was actively involved all other activities throughout this project. Due to my high motivation, great time planning skills and real interest about this project made this experience really enjoyable. |
| **Julia Sidorova** | All my expectations from the project were justified, and even more. I gained a lot of experience working in a well-coordinated team, prepared and conducted my first interview, created a sample of an application. My role in the project was to actively participate in all meetings and calls, do my part of the work and brainstorm with others when needed. All stages of the project were completed on time and the work went moderately and according to plan. All this was thanks to a well-established team and an excellent project coordinator. Everyone worked smoothly, clearly and approached the tasks responsibly. But the main thing that I liked about this project is that everyone was sincerely involved in the process and interested in the topic and the achievement of results. It seems to me that we motivated each other throughout the entire project, because everyone saw that everyone really gave all their best. Once again I want to say that it was an amazing experience, and I am grateful to this project and people for such a wonderful and productive time. |
| **Ilea Liidia Peckham** | I found this project very interesting and informative. I don’t have a background in social media studies or technology, so this project was eye-opening and thought provoking. I learned about technology and was able to work with others from different backgrounds. We all were able to bring new perspectives to the project since we are all from differing programs of study. As part of this team, I conducted and transcribed interviews, acted as text and presentation editor for Mango group, and was a general team member for the project as a whole. I believe that as a team, we worked together cohesively and successfully. We all shared the workload and had a good group dynamic. |
| **Sifat-E- Afzal** | The project titled, “Social Media Potentials for Meaningful Connection” was attractive to me because of my course focus on digital tools and human rights. While I had a significant background in the subject of law, I had almost no formal coursework in digital tools, especially social media. I am glad to have an opportunity to work for this project. My role on the team was both as a learner and where possible, a contributor to the outputs.  During the project I developed skills in conducting interviews and how to manage time in order to conduct the interviews in different time zones. My communication skills improved along with my confidence in talking and interacting with people over various platforms. In communicating with people from different cultures, I gained an understanding of some of the challenges they faced in using social media platforms. Sharing these challenges with my team, collectively we explored ways to help them overcome some of their problems. This was a huge learning experience for me as some of the issues were relevant to me as well. I also learned how to develop a prototype related to science fiction along with designing an app screen for a new social media idea.  The most challenging part of the project for me was the development of the prototype for the science fiction app. With no previous experience in app development, I initially felt overwhelmed and somewhat apprehensive about the task. However, with the support of teammates and reliance on external online resources, I was able to identify a uniform design element of human computer interactions that enabled me to complete the task. This was a very interesting and productive experience for me, and I am grateful for the new friends I have met and will stay in touch with for some time. |
| **Isabella Shuxin Savela** | My main tasks are presenter in presentations and conducting and transcribing interviews. The more I interviewed the more I grew confidence and knowledge in what follow-up questions to ask to get more insight into the interviewee’s personal story. I also improved my skills in differentiating relevant and irrelevant information from the interviews we had. I would say the most difficult and important part of the project has been conducting interviews as that is the core of this project - understanding human communication. Throughout the project we’ve managed to balance everybody’s workload very well and in a fair way. We always communicated very openly with each other and we were equally passionate about this project. |
| **Helena Jõgi** | My role in the project was to interview individuals who all have made connections virtually, also transcribe the interviews, and present the results. I am thankful that I was in this project because my teammates were all passionate about the topic we were studying. Everyone did what they were supposed to do and helped each other out when it was needed. I mostly learned about different forms of academic work and thinking outside of the box. Also, my language skills improved during the project. I enjoyed Prof. Katrin Tiidenberg s workshop and I am sure I can use this knowledge not only in the ELU project but also in my final thesis.  The most challenging part about the project for me was conducting and transcribing interviews because I had never done that before. I never realized how much time and effort these kinds of tasks will take, but I am proud of what I have done and learned. |