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Squad: UPTS Coach: Annika Hupfeld

Together with my team I wrote a paper about modular connectivity for garments. We researched connection methods for modules, from which a garment can be created.

I developed my **professional skills** and the **Teamwork and Communication** competency within the cooperation with my team. From the start of this project we had difficulties to focus on a clear research direction. I felt like we did not make progress and it was hard to make appointments with my team members. When I discussed with Marina Toeters these difficulties in collaboration, she advised me to take the leading role and to develop myself in this direction. I wanted to take up this challenge, since sometimes I have difficulties presenting myself confidently towards others, I saw this as a good learning opportunity.

I discussed this with my group, they showed understanding when I told them that I did not enjoyed the way we were working. The first step I took was to develop the focus of our research, to know what we were working for. Next, I tried to make an overall planning and agenda's for the meetings, this did not really work, because my group members did not always produce the work what they promised to do. However, I discovered that it worked quite well when I gave them tasks they were really good at. So, in the end Job focussed on the analysis and Gilles on the graphic work for the modules and poster. Next to that I learned from this teamwork to continue by myself when my team members do not execute their tasks and to finish some of that work to be able to make progress. In the future I know that a way to get the best out of my team is to motivated them by addressing their individual skills.

Furthermore, I developed myself in the **Creativity and Aesthetics** competency. Getting to know different materials is something that fits my identity. I learned about different textiles when we explored these, visited the market and textile shops. I also learned to work with different sewing machines, I made modules C and D with the use of these machines. I already used this skill for the course Aesthetics of Interaction, where I made a bag for our prototype.



Image 1: using the sewing machine

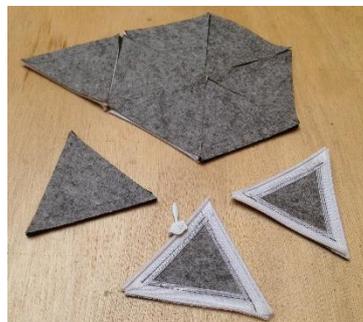


Image 2: module D



Image 3: module C

During my previous project assessment I was recommended to pay more attention to the academic level of my work, to develop my **design and research processes**. From the beginning of this semester I read a lot of papers to gain more knowledge about different research approaches. I decided that

the Repertory Grid Technique would work well for our research. I figured out the best way to make this method fit for our research, by reading about different approaches of this method in other papers. Furthermore, I paid a lot of attention to writing the paper, I wrote a large part of it. My team members helped me with improving formulations of sentences in English, because they are quite good in this.

To conclude, I figured out how to take the leading role, by addressing the tasks my team mates enjoyed and wanted to put effort in. Next to that, during this project I was able to develop my academic skills and skills in working with textile. In the end, I think we wrote a good paper and I am very satisfied about my learning process and our team results.