E-portfolio

jules buvens

Robotics

Vision impairment



**Onboarding week 1:**

My name is Jules Buvens and I am 20 years old. I live in Beringen, which is in Belgium. I study finance & insurance in Diepenbeek at UCLL. After my studies, I might want to continue studying but I'm not sure yet. In my spare time I do a lot of sports, I often go jogging and in summer I cycle a lot. My interests are very much in football and cars but also in stocks and crypto. My favorite car brand is BMW and my favorite football club is KRC Genk, which is a Belgian club. In my spare time, I also like to party with my friends.



I have also a cat, her name is Billie. She looks very sweet but sometimes she can also be naughty.

Afbeelding met kat, overdekt, zwart

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

My strengths are mainly that I am flexible and reliable but also organized and entrepreneurial.

I signed up for an I living lab because it seems very interesting for me to collaborate with people I don't know and from other countries on a topic I don't have much knowledge about.

What motivates me hard is that I have to work on a totally different topic from my field of study. And this is only going to expand my knowledge. After all, I know almost nothing about this subject yet either.

**Onboarding week 2:**

The kick-off was interesting because I didn't know much about the living lab before and this give me more clarity. I also liked that we could get to know our little group. We got to know each other already and this was very cool.

My reflection partners are Zack and Geovana. I will observe Zack and Geovana will observe me.

The self-elevation about my future skills went well, but it was difficult at times. I found this very informative because it helps you get to know yourself a bit more.

I chose communication because I want to speak better English but also listen to people better. I also chose design thinking because I am not creative at all and I want to get stronger at this and you do need to be a bit creative to succeed in this ILL. The last skill I chose is self determination. A third skill was difficult to choose but I chose this one because I want to tell the group more about my own choices.

My current level for communication is not bad but my English is very basic and I want to feel more comfortable speaking another language. I can't think design very well at the moment so I want to become more creative and really help come up with ideas. The last skill was self determination, I can make my own choices at the moment but not enough yet I want to be able to do this perfectly and always tell my ideas to the group.

I have already started looking for info on robotics and there are a lot of possibilities but first we need to start thinking what our target audience is. This could be blind people but also deaf people as well as people with autism.

I will mainly focus on good and fun cooperation in my group.

**Week 1:**

*How was the 2. Onboarding Week for me? How did we as a Team begin?*

The onboarding weeks are behind us and I found them very interesting. We got to know each other better using fun basic questions like what did you eat this morning or what 3 things would you take with you to an island. So we got to know each other better in a fun way. In the beginning, I found it a bit difficult to get used to speaking English all the time but once you get started, it goes more smoothly. I think we have a very nice group and everyone dares to talk and that's good. I am definitely looking forward to the next few weeks and I am curious about our final result. we first got to know each other and now we start thinking about what target group we want to come up with something for.

*Who is my new reflection partner?*

My reflection partners are Zack and Geovana. I will observe Zack and Geovana will observe me.

*Which skills, knowledge, strengths will help me with the DT Process?*

I am someone who always completes his tasks on time and also tries to do it the best he can. I also really like helping people so if someone is in trouble with something I am always happy to help. I don't have that much knowledge about robotics for disabled people but I do like looking things up on the internet for example. That's the most important thing I think, I like to help people so also people who are disabled for example and can't do something very well anymore. I’m going to do everything I can to help that person so I would also like to come up with something nice for this ILL.

*What did I learn?*

I learned this week what it's like to work in a group with people you don't know. It is super important to have respect for each other and to listen to each other. Group work goes much better when everyone feels at ease because then everyone dares to share their ideas.

*What surprised me?*

I thought beforehand that we were being taught and that it was all super serious and a bit boring. None of this is. Our teacher says it himself "I'm not here as a teacher but as a coach". This did reassure me because you are already in class all day during the day and then again in the evening but this is totally different.

*My sparkling moment*

While coming up with rules in our group, I made a little joke and many had to laugh and that was a nice moment though.

*What have I found out in my desktop research?*

I have been looking for possible target groups that we can think of something for. There are many possibilities for blind people but also for deaf people or people with autism.

*What will I focus on next week?*

Next week I am going to focus on communication and especially listening. Next week we are going to think about what our target audience is few people will have different ideas so that is why it is important that we listen to each other respectfully so we can choose the best idea.

**Week 2:**

*How was the 1. ILL Week for me?*

I found this week an interesting and instructive one. We did some introductory questions again in group of 2 at the beginning of the session. Through these questions, you get to know each other better and better each week.

We had been instructed to give feedback on your reflection partner's portfolio. I got feedback from Geovana and I gave feedback on Zack. Everyone makes this in their own way and that makes it fun because everyone's portfolio looks different.

Then we discussed together with the group what our target group is going to be and how we are going to approach it. So we are now really going to start our design soon because we now know roughly who we want to design something for, namely people with visual impairment. This discussion went really well, I think we have the perfect group to bring this to a good end.



*What did I learn while reading other Portfolios?*

Everyone's portfolio looked different, which makes it fun to read them. Reading other people's portfolios also did give me inspiration of how to mention certain things next time.

I got to know my group better by reading the portfolios because everyone presents their own and you can also immediately see who is very creative and who is a little less so. This only makes it easier to work together because that way you know what someone is a little less strong at and that can be taken care of by those who are strong at it.

*What did I learn?*

I have already learned a bit of design thinking this week. This is something I am going to focus a lot on in the coming weeks to get better at it. We had to think about a target audience and also come up with ideas already. These were, for example, smart walking sticks or glasses where text comes in for the deaf so they can read it.

The ideas I came up with, already have to do with design thinking so this is what I mostly learned this week.

*What surprised me?*

What I have really noticed this week is that everyone in our group is very passionate and enthusiastic about the project. That only makes it more fun to work together. This also means that everyone is going to do their best.

During the session, we were talking about family members or any acquaintances who have disabilities and what struck me there again is that everyone knew someone like that. This conversation made everyone even more driven to design something good.

*What will I focus on next week?*

I am going to focus mainly on design thinking next week. This is something I want to get stronger at. Next weeks we are going to have to think about our design because we now know what our target audience is. When we start thinking and discussing a particular design, it's helpful that you can do good design thinking so that's why my focus is on that.

*Which creative methods have I / we applied last week? How did that go?*

We sat down with the whole group to **brainstorm** a target group and also possible ideas for that target group. This went really well because everyone had already done their research a bit so everyone could tell us an idea.

I did research by looking for information on the internet. I wanted inspiration because I am not the most creative person. By also watching YouTube videos, I got a little better at it. Because we discussed with the group, I also started to **think** better about **design**.

**Week 3:**

*How was the 2. ILL Week for me?*

This has been the most interesting and instructive week for me. On Monday, we thought together as a group about how we are going to approach it in terms of interviews. We decided that we would look for people who have an eye impairment and interview them. Once we have conducted the interviews, we will find out more about these people and then we can use the answers to think about what we are going to design.

We have created a document where everyone can put in their questions that we are going to use for the interview. The next step is to pick out the best 8 or 9 questions and we will then use these.

This week we have already made a lot of progress in the project because we are now really moving on to the practical side, namely conducting the interviews. Once these are done we can really start designing.

The meetings were fun and informative because everyone is very motivated to work on it and we also know each other better by now so that makes it more fun to work together.



*What have I found out about my reflection partner?*

My reflection partner is Zack and I immediately realised that he is very creative. He makes very good portfolios and he articulates everything very clearly.

He cooperates very well from the beginning and he comes up with good ideas. Zack is very motivated to design something well and that is very good for group work.

*Which skills, knowledge, strengths have I used already in the DT process?*

* Brainstorming
* Do some research
* Communication/ listening
* Work in group

*What did I learn?*

This week, I learnt more about different disabilities you can have on the eyes. Our project is about blind people or people with eye impairments. While looking up information, I learnt a lot about different forms of eye impairments. It's not just being blind but there are many other disabilities like colour-blind but also blurred vision and much more. Most of all, I have been learning what exactly these impairments are and based on this info, I have prepared questions.

*What surprised me?*

It still amazes me how cooperative everyone is. A month ago, we didn't know each other and now we are working together on a project about something completely unrelated to our fields of study.

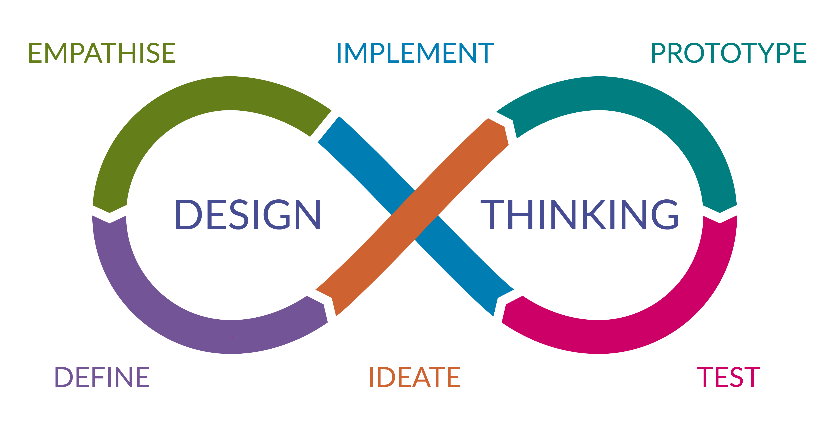
We had already come up with quite a few questions for the interview and the teachers gave positive feedback on these, they thought these were very good questions. I also thought these were very good questions but it is still always exciting, what the teachers think of them. We are also told every week that we are a super good group and this is nice to hear. This gives us more self-confidence and this makes us work together even better.

*What feedback did I get until now?*

My reflection partner is Geovana and she has already given feedback on my portfolio a few times. My portfolio looked good, everything was clear. It was short but clear. I had in the second week, improved the layout. I had added a lot of photos and also a start sheet and I got positive feedback on this too. It looks much more professional now.

*What will I focus on next week?*

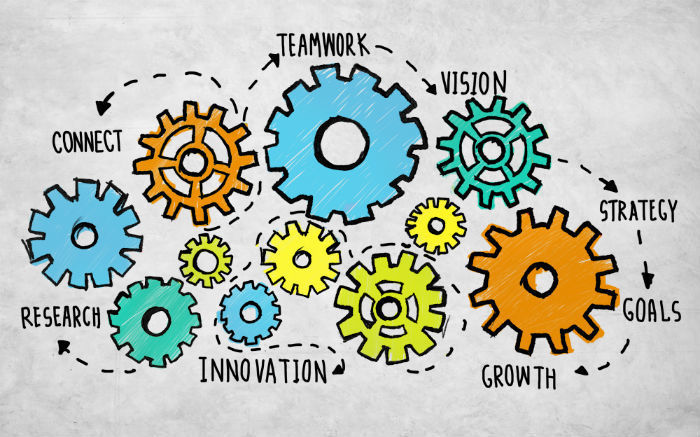
I am going to focus on research and brainstorming next week. We are now at a stage where research is very important. First, we need to have good questions for the interview and, of course, we also need to learn more about certain designs that already exist.

Brainstorming is also very important right now both for questions and design.

Design thinking is also something I will focus on in the coming weeks. The whole project revolves around design thinking so this is where my focus is also hard.

*How did Define phase go for me and for my team?*

This went very well, everyone helped and reflected on a particular disability.



**Week 4:**

*What progress did we make in the previous week?*

This week we discussed the results of the interviews we did and also the information we found on the internet. Now we can start coming up with a problem, because before we come up with a solution, it is of course important to have a problem first.

*What was my contribution to that progress?*

I looked up information on the internet because I didn't find anyone I could interview with right away. I found a lot of information about blind people and also possible problems. Next week we will put all the problems together and then we will decide which problem to choose.

*What did I learn?*

Through the information I found on the internet, I learned a lot about blind people. I never used to think about it but being involved in our project now has made me think more about blind people. I cannot imagine what it is like not to be able to see but through the information I have found I am finding out how many problems these people have and that they really need solutions.

So in a nutshell, what I learnt this week was mainly that blind people are in great need of solutions because there are so many problems.



*What surprised me?*

What surprised me again this week is that everyone is very motivated to work on this. Everyone looks for information and we often talk about the information found and so we get further and further every week because everyone says what they think and so we always put the most important information together so that we can easily find everything next time.

*What will I do differently next week?*

Next week, we will decide which problem to choose so that we can come up with a solution for it. So it is very important that everyone says their thoughts and wants to discuss this. I'm going to say my thoughts a bit more next week, I did this last weeks too but I didn't always do this. I'm going to say what I think more often because this is obviously important for the next steps.



**Week 5:**

*How is the cooperation with external stakeholder working?*

the external stakeholders we worked with were the blind people we interviewed. this went very well and we learnt a lot from this collaboration.

*What feedback did I get from my reflection partner?*

Geovana said she really liked my portfolio. My answers are sometimes short but always very clear and I also tell everything we did. She also said that the photos I add add value to my portfolio.

*Where & how am I going to apply this feedback in the future?*

I am very grateful to Geovana for the feedback I receive. I can definitely apply it in the future as well. I now know better how to write a good portfolio because of the feedback I got. It doesn't always have to be super elaborate but short and clear is also good. In the beginning, my layout was a bit boring and because of the feedback I've received, I've started getting more involved in the layout, so adding photos and things like that.

*What did I learn?*

This week we have been thinking about a problem we want to create a solution for. The problem we have taken is that blind people cannot read the information in bus and train stations so they cannot read which bus to take and what time it comes. So I have also been thinking a bit about a solution to this. I've been brainstorming and looking up information on the internet. So this week I really learned to think out of the box.

*What surprised me?*

What has surprised me this week is that everyone is creative. Everyone in the group comes up with original ideas. We are now in a phase where we have to come up with a solution to the problem we have and then we do have to start thinking creatively and I thought at first that this was not going to be so easy but this is going super well. Everyone is giving good ideas.



*What are we preparing for the final pitch?*

We first searched for a problem we were going to deal with. Once we had chosen this, everyone gathered possible solutions and from these we then chose the best idea. Now we can start designing.

**Week 6:**

*How was the last ILL week for me?*

Last week was very instructive. We brainstormed together as a whole group about possible solutions to our problem. The problem we are going to deal with is that blind people cannot read the information on bus and train stations and so do not know which train or bus to take. This week we worked very well together as a group because we finally found a solution. We made a lot of progress this week and we were able to work well on the poster and pitch.

*Which skills, knowledge, strengths have I used in Design Thinking (DT) process?*

* Brainstorming
* Collaborate
* Doing Research
* Communication
* Creativity

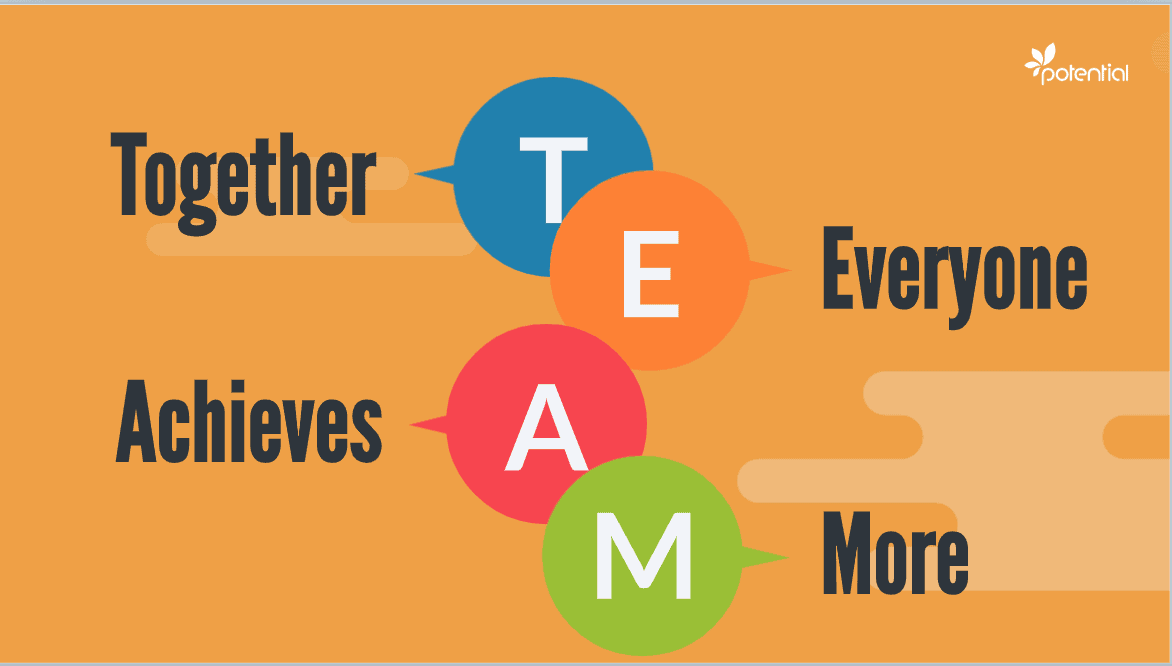
*What did I learn (about me, about our topic...)?*

I learnt a lot about our topic. I had never thought about what it is like to be blind before but after doing the interviews, I started thinking about this more. There are a lot of problems that these people experience but there are also a lot of solutions for this but not for everything yet. That's why it's fun to come up with a solution for these people. I learnt a lot while working together in the group because everyone has different ideas and so you learn a lot.

I learnt about myself that I shouldn't be insecure about my communication, i.e. talking in English. this went pretty well, you learn a lot if you just dare to speak.

*What surprised me?*

This week we have really had to do a lot of brainstorming and discussion as we are preparing for the final part of our project. It struck me hard this week how well we can work together as a group. We can discuss really hard without having a little argument among ourselves afterwards. This is very good because that way the best ideas come out because everyone says their thoughts. Everyone in the group shows a lot of respect towards each other, which is super important as a group.



*What is my part in creating a final pitch and a poster?*

I looked for a lot of information that we could use in the video and on the poster. Together with the group, we gave feedback on the different posters and that's how we chose the best one. We have very creative people in the group so that's why I looked for the info that the others could then incorporate nicely.

*How are we progressing as a team?*

We are very strong because we have worked very well together as a team. We have made a lot of progress in the last few weeks and we are getting closer and closer to the final product.



**Outboarding week:**

*How was the overall experience of the ILL for me?*

I learned a lot during this period, this was a very pleasant experience. I learned a lot about myself and of course about our chosen subject. We have a very nice group which made it always fun to work together.

*What was my contribution (in the process, in team, in meetings, in preparing the pitch/poster)?*

We always worked well together so everyone did a good job. I mainly looked up information on our topic both for the problem and the solution. Everyone expressed their opinions well in the group so we always got to the point fairly quickly during the meeting.

*Which skills, knowledge, strenghts have I gained, expand, used in last weeks?*

* Communication
* Do research
* Brainstorming
* Creativity
* Collaboration

*What did I learn (about me, about DT, about the challenge topic)?*

* I learnt a lot during this process, both about myself and about the subject. I also learned a lot about design thinking. Before the project, I didn't really know what it meant, but now I do. I have also become stronger at this because design thinking was something very important in this project. I now fully understand what this is and how to apply it.
* On our topic, I also learned a lot. This is about blind people and the solution we designed is smart glasses and cane. Because I looked up a lot of information, I learned a lot about already existing solutions and also about blind and visually impaired people. It is a topic that needs more attention, there are a lot of people who are partially sighted or blind and there are not many affordable solutions for this yet.
* What I learned about myself is that I should definitely not be afraid to speak in another language with people. In the beginning, I found it difficult to do everything in English but in the end, I got used to it and this already went much more smoothly.

*What surprised me the most?*

I have said this many times before but the group I was in surprised me the most. I have never been in a group that worked together as well as this group. Nobody knew each other and that makes it difficult at the beginning but this did not bother us at all. Another thing that surprised me was our teachers. They didn't really feel like teachers but more like coaches who helped us along when we had problems and guided us.

*My sparkling moment?*

I don't really have an individual sparkling moment but kind of in common with the group and that was when the poster and pitch were finished. Everyone was very happy that we brought it to a good end. And especially when we had good feedback from Zoltan & Valentin, everyone was very happy.

*What was most challenging for me in the past weeks?*

I have said this many times before but for me this was communication in English. I can speak English but I have never done group work with people who all speak a different language. In the beginning, I did have stress about this but this stress did disappear as it became a habit. Also, the subject did present a challenge for me. My field of study in school is something completely different from Robotics, so this took some adjusting. I looked up a lot of info on this and this did help me further.

*How will this experience help me in the future?*

If I'm going to be honest, I'm not going to do anything with designing robots for people with disabilities in the future but I don't think that's really the purpose of this project either. The intention is to step out of the comfort zone. Working together is the most important thing here. I will definitely think back to this project in the future. I have learnt a lot here in a short time. This experience will definitely help me in the future. I have learned to work together even better, my English has improved and what is also important is that I have met new people so new connections. Having connections abroad is never a bad thing, you never know when you will need them.

*What have I learned about myself?*

This I have already beat answered is the previous questions but most importantly, I should definitely not be insecure about speaking a foreign language. Another thing I have learned about myself is that I prefer working in a group than I first thought. I always liked working in a group but mostly with people I knew well. If it was a group work with people I didn't know, I liked to work alone, but now I have found out that I also really like working with people I don't know. After all, you learn a lot from this.

*Which grade do I deserve and why?*

I think I deserve 6.5/10 because I was always at the meeting and also because I submitted my portfolio on time every week. I have always been very busy with my internship and my bachelor thesis so I have not always been able to help much with the poster and pitch. However, I did always try my best to help and seek information as much as possible. Therefore, this is the reason that I do not give myself an 8 or 9 because I was not always able to give 100% due to my busy schedule.

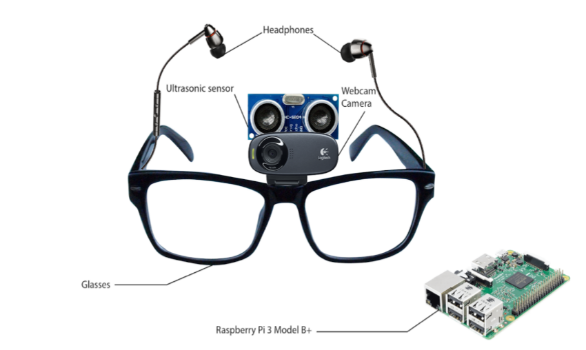
*Have I achieved my personal goal(s)?*

Yes, I achieved my personal goals. During the first meeting, everyone had to write down 3 things they wanted to become stronger/better at. For me, these were: communication, design thinking, self determination. These are 3 things in which I have become stronger and therefore my personal goal has been achieved. I have worked hard on these goals during this project and I am therefore very happy to have achieved my goal.

*Have we as a team achieved our common goal?*

Yes, we achieved our goal. Our goal was to design something that would make life a little easier for visually impaired people. This we have done, we have designed something beautiful for this so therefore our common goal has been met.



*Jules Buvens*

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