

Workshop Reflective Practice; Cultural Differences

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Abstract

Systems Engineers have to be aware of differences in culture. Cultural differences can be geographical, but also organizational. This workshop prepares the students for the project during the international semester, where cultural differences have to be observed and studied.

Distribution

This article or presentation is written as part of the Gaudí project. The Gaudí project philosophy is to improve by obtaining frequent feedback. Frequent feedback is pursued by an open creation process. This document is published as intermediate or nearly mature version to get feedback. Further distribution is allowed as long as the document remains complete and unchanged.

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draft

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logo
TBD

Colophon

Merete Faanes from Buskerud University College created the educational flow *Reflective Practice* .
Reflective Practice is a thread throughout the entire master Systems Engineering to stimulate students to relate *Education* and *Practice* .

These workshops are the result of the cooperation of Merete Faanes and Gerrit Muller

Pre-assignment

Position yourself on the *national cultural dimensions*

and position your company on the *organizational cultural dimensions* .

Use the dimensions as described by Geert Hofstede

<http://www.geerthofstede.nl/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geert_Hofstede

deliver report (max 4 A4's) at least one week before the workshop

Cultural Dimensions (Geert Hofstede)

National cultures

Small vs. large power distance

Individualism vs. collectivism

Masculinity vs. femininity

Weak vs. strong uncertainty avoidance

Long vs. short term orientation

Indulgence versus Restraint

Organizational cultures

process-oriented vs. results-oriented

job-oriented vs. employee-oriented

professional vs. parochial

open systems vs. closed systems

tightly vs. loosely controlled

pragmatic vs. normative

<http://www.geerthofstede.nl/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geert_Hofstede

Agenda

- 9:00 welcome, last workshop, introduction this workshop
- 9:10 block 1: Introduction to Cultural Differences
- 10:20 block 2: Relevance of Culture for Systems Engineering
- 11:30 block 3: Preparing the Project
- 12:40 plenary discussion
- 12:50 pre-assignment next workshop, close

Block 1: Introduction to Cultural Differences

- + List the 3 most surprising cultural differences
- + Give examples of other cultural differences from your own experience.

> be specific

> give examples

Results on flipover

Block 2: Relevance of Culture for Systems Engineering

+ What cultural dimensions are relevant for Systems Engineering?

+ Why are these dimensions relevant?

be specific and concrete, provide examples

Results on flipover

Block 3: Preparing the Project

+ How can you study the local culture (when you are at Stevens)?

+ Make an initial plan: What, when, who, and how.

+ What do you expect as outcome?

Be specific, give examples.

Results on flipover

Post Assignment

Make a plan how to approach cultural research during the international semester

What, when, who, and how are the main questions.

What do you expect as outcome of the research?

Assume that Stevens Institute will support your cultural research.

Deliver report (max 2 A4's) within one week after the workshop

Communicate the report to `eirik.hole @stevens.edu`

Submit an updated reported, agreed with Eirik, within four weeks

Deliver an individual max 1 A4 reflection report about the workshop itself.

Post Study Assignment

Describe the cultural differences that you observed during your study.

Use Hofstede's model for guidance.

Add a section with your observations that do not fit in Hofstede's model.

Describe what cultural aspects have impact on your daily work in your company.

What specific cultural-related actions or attention points will you implement in the near future?

Max report size: 4 A4s

Due date: Mid-June directly after the international semester.

Describe how communication takes place in your daily job.

What communication works well, when does the communication fail?

Be specific, give examples.