

Group reflection

Tourism map

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Our job was to create a tourism map of the Pakleni islands. The first step was to collect all the needed open source data. For the map making process we used QGIS and Adobe illustrator, for the inner data exchange we used email and Facebook Messenger. Our map was almost done before we went on the field trip, but the group experience had not even begun.

After communicating through mail and different Messenger services some of us first personally met in Split at the beginning of our field trip, at least we had already checked each others profiles on social media to get a first impression.

After a first dinner together we went from Split to Hvar the next day and then further to our final destination Pakleni islands (island Sveti Klement).

At the beginning of our field trip, we decided which data was missing or what we needed to check. In our case, we needed to add all missing beaches, caves, archaeological sites, and other missing important tourist information. We needed to check all the paths, restaurants and bars, docks, the church and the water well, because those tourist information was already in our map.

It was already 95% prepared when we came to the island, but there was still a lot of work to do. We explored around the Islands on foot and also used kayaks for the exploration.

The first day of exploring we split into 2 groups. Our group went to the east part of the biggest island (Sveti Klement), because this is where most of the points of interest for tourists are located. We were a little bit surprised, that there were ATM machines and two markets, a fitness park and a playground, that we had not included in our pre-prepared map.

We surveyed the area, tracking missing paths and saving point features with two Garmin GPS devices. At the end of surveying, our first assignment was to import the tracked data and combine it with the pre-prepared map.

Collecting the missing data in the field on the Islands was an experience which showed the quality of the data, we had gathered, which was generally quite good, and had a very positive effect on our group building.

Every day our task was also to make a plan for the next day. Planning within the group had to be very strict about every part of the day. The first day it took us a little bit longer, but the next days we got better and planning was much easier and faster.

At the end of the day, we made a presentation for all participants of the trip about our plan for the next day, checked the weather and talked about the purpose of exploring the planned area of the Islands. Then we discussed our plan and made the decision together.

It took a day or two to really come together so we could work on our product without any further barriers. The connection within our group was built fast, the communication was easy and the work was done without any problems.

On our way back to Hvar we made a stop on Island Marinkovac to check data on our pre-prepared map, especially paths and tourist information. We think that – considering the short time frame we had – it would have been better to survey Marinkovac Island on the first day, when we made just a quick stop there on our way to Vlaka, but we had not really come together as a group at that point. That had changed when we had our last team meeting there.

Before we went separate ways we agreed about our further tasks. We had to edit all the data from the field survey and put it all together, then we shared it on the cloud, so each

group had everything they needed and we were able to finish our maps and also the documentation of our work.

This joined field trip was the perfect combination of preparation work, field work and international communication. The Preparation work was designing maps based on open source data and the field trip was about teamwork, sport and exploring. This was also the first international project for all student participants, which made the communication a bit harder but also more interesting.

At the end of the project, what matters the most is what we have learned from our group work and this field trip experience. We learned about how important planning and organisation is to make advantage of the days in the field and get all the needed information.

As per Belbin (1993), "Team performance is influenced by the kinds of people making up a group, and testing indicates that certain combinations of personality-types perform more successfully than others" but the key to its implementation is how the team analyzes its performance and then adapts the situation so as the desired result can be achieved.