

My justifications and examples

Spotting opportunities

"During the past year, I was on the board of the student-led Entrepreneurship Society, and my area of responsibility included the board's joint projects and the organisation's international and academic cooperation relationships. Maintaining the organisation's cooperation relationships involved many discussions in which I presented the activities of the Entrepreneurship Society to the representative of an external organisation in order to map possible synergies.

An example of this is the situation where I contacted a representative of an organisation operating with growth companies in South Korea to arrange with them a meeting where we could review the activities of our organisation and the plans for the near future. During the meeting, it surfaced that the organisation in question was organising a conference in collaboration with the South Korean Ministry of Finance and they were in need of some extra panellists. We realised that our entrepreneurship organisation had contacts with experts that would be a good fit for the panel discussion at the conference. We ended up working together on organising the conference, and since then we have also discussed organising other events remotely. In particular, identifying opportunities and developing new suitable implementation methods have been an essential part of my experiences in the realm of student entrepreneurship."

Creativity

"During the past year, the planning of joint projects and the strategy creation work of the board of the Entrepreneurship Society has involved a lot of planning and concept work, and creativity has thus played a crucial role in the leading of the organisation. My expertise is mainly related to creative processes and techniques.

I participated in the board's quarterly strategy days, the purpose of which was to determine the goals for the rest of the year and monitor their implementation. I was therefore involved from the outset in planning the organisation's activities for the year, both at the general level and in detail. During the planning process, hundreds of ideas were produced for different projects, events and ways of promoting community spirit, and from these we selected the ones that best fitted the objectives set. During the year, I tested out a number of different frameworks and techniques to support the brainstorming process. These included the Double Diamond method, which describes the stages of the design process in terms of providing support for creative problem solving. "

Vision

"I have learned that in strategy work and the planning of implementation methods it is essential to be able to make choices from the perspective of future impacts so that one can perceive different scenarios and differences between them. In this context, forming vision and communicating it to others have been important skills in which I feel that I have developed significantly.

One of the key elements of my own contribution to the vision for the activities of the Entrepreneurship Society was that, in contrast to the previous model, I wanted to emphasise cooperation between projects. Different projects have similar roles, and the persons taking these roles can learn a lot from each other simply by discussing good practices and development areas for the role. Together with the board, we implemented my vision by facilitating the discussions described above, and this significantly improved the sense of community experienced by the members. The contacts formed during the discussions also led to the development of several new forms of cooperation."

Valuing ideas

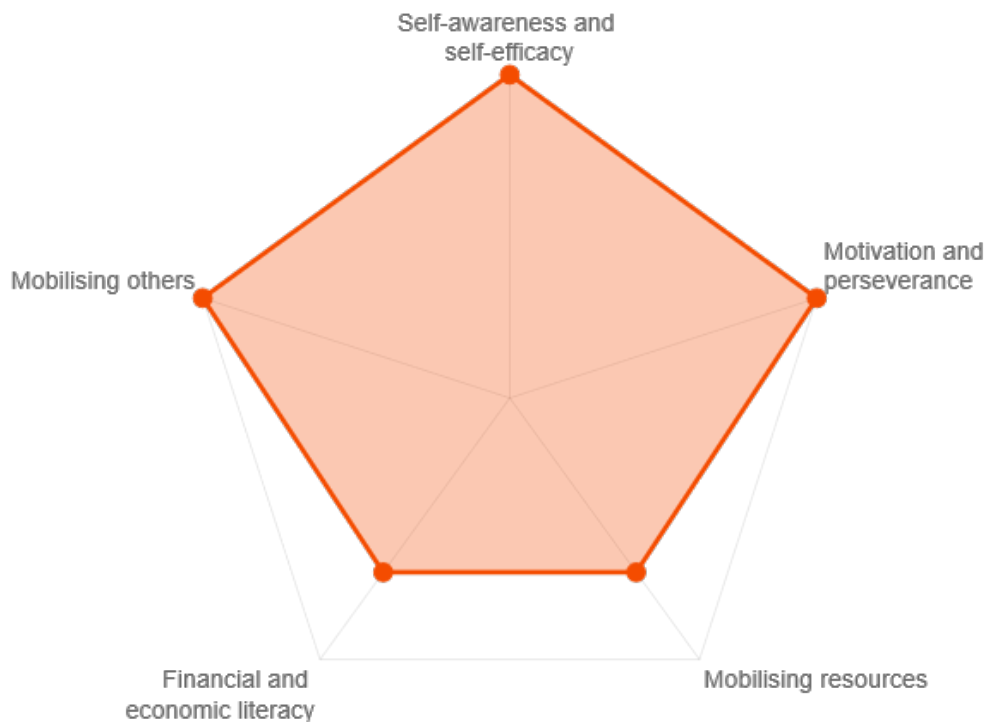
"As mentioned above, I acquired during my year on the board significant experience in brainstorming, forming strategy and concrete planning work, which considered ways to develop entrepreneurship society activities. Central to this was to weighing up of different ideas and options to find the best possible way to serve the target groups of entrepreneurship society activities.

Planning and brainstorming involves a lot of choices on the actions to be taken – choices which relate to factors such as time constraints. I have learned to tackle decision-making situations related to entrepreneurship society activities by considering the combined positive and negative effects, thus forming an understanding of the relative costs associated with the situation in relation to the top-level objectives of the Entrepreneurship Society. My experience and expertise in developing my own business, related to protecting ideas, or the wider societal significance

of entrepreneurship is thinner. However, entrepreneurship society activities have given me a valuable perspective on the evaluation of ideas and activities in general."

Ethical and sustainable thinking

"Within the board, we have worked together to create a climate that encourages our members to think ecologically by giving consideration to recycling and reuse of resources in all activities. The starting point for planning any activities has been the goal of achieving a positive social impact. We wanted to ensure that all our members know that the Entrepreneurship Society does not accept discrimination in any form and that our activities seek to be easily accessible to everyone – regardless of their study background, gender or any other individual factors. My own expertise in this theme focuses on responsible and ethical operations, and my analytical understanding of chains of impact and their components needs to be further deepened."



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Self-awareness and self-efficacy

"Through the activities of the Entrepreneurship Society, I have been able to participate in a number of projects and have had the opportunity to work with and learn from many different people. I am a committed member of the entrepreneurship society organisation, and I believe that with my own input I can make a positive contribution to the development of student entrepreneurship in my region and in Finland more broadly. I have joined the entrepreneurship society activities because I believe that it will provide me with the kind of skills and contacts that are needed in future working life. I have learned a lot about myself, especially about how I function in teams and how I deal with high-pressure situations. Student entrepreneurship has provided many unique situations that have placed me outside of my comfort zone, and through which I have gained considerable confidence for taking on new situations."

Motivation and perseverance

"I am persistent in nature, I have learned to maintain a positive attitude and, through various challenges, I have learned to understand more deeply the drivers of my own motivation. Student entrepreneurship activities are based on voluntary work, so the role of intrinsic motivation is particularly important in all activities. Maintaining one's own motivation and stimulating intrinsic motivation in the active members of the organisation has been challenging at times"

but simultaneously also an instructive experience. Based on my own experiences, the most important factor in inspiring intrinsic motivation and persistent work is a sense of belonging."

Mobilising resources

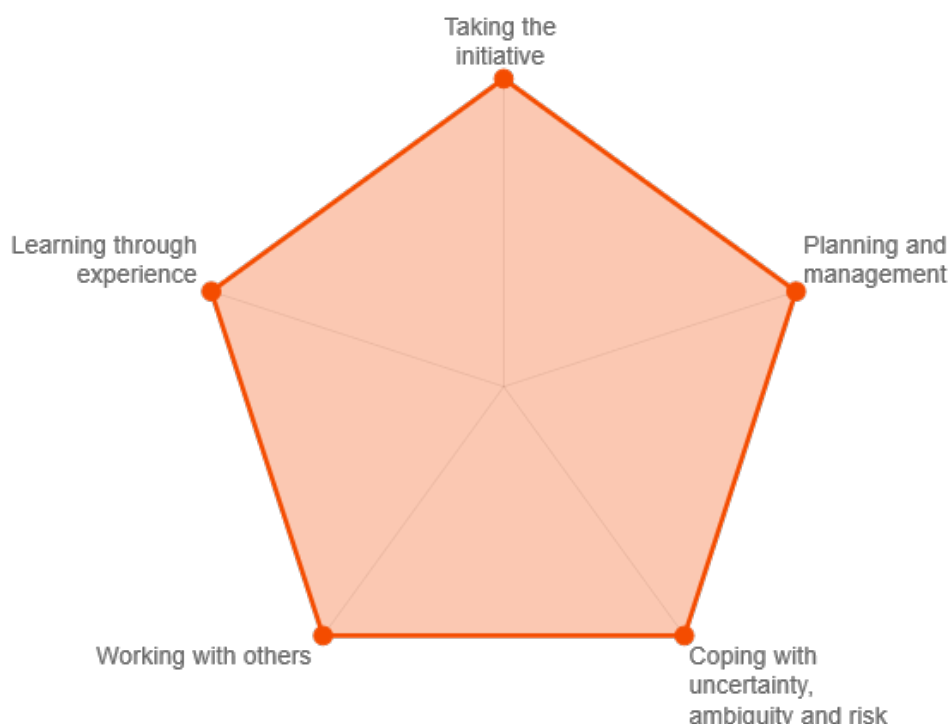
"My experience and expertise in acquiring and utilizing resources is mainly related to organizing various occasions and events. For example, before the beginning of the board's year of operation, I participated in organising an entrepreneurship conference aimed at students. To begin with, our team did not have any resources (i.e. money, speakers or workforce) to organise the event, so we had to acquire these ourselves. My role included to identify and find growth companies to participate in the event and contacting key speakers. I learned a lot about sales and influencing skills and gained a deeper understanding of business operations. I managed to get 32 growth companies involved and raised a total of €10,000 of funding, which covered around one fifth of the event's total budget. We were able to save on costs for example by re-using some of the materials from previous years events."

Financial and economic literacy

"I have implemented and monitored the budgeting of the events in close cooperation with the entrepreneurship society's treasurer. Because I was personally responsible for some of the resources required for the events, I made different calculations of the costs of the different implementation alternatives. I learned a lot about the terminology for financial calculations and the use of spreadsheet programs such as Excel and Google Sheets, and I am keen to take optional courses on these topics in the coming autumn. "

Mobilising others

"Through my volunteering activities, I have learned a lot of skills in both leadership and administration. Motivation and maintaining team spirit are essential skills for facilitating activities, and I believe that experience and skills in this regard will also be useful in working life. When acquiring funding, I also honed my pitching skills to the top, and I currently master the technic very well and can apply it in other contexts as well."



My justifications and examples

Taking the initiative

"A volunteer organisation's activities are based entirely on its member's self-initiative and participation requires skills that are related to self-direction. I have gained significant opportunities to develop in self-management and become a more confident team member. I am also able to solve problem situations in entrepreneurship society community that may arise from time to time.

One of the key reasons why I originally wanted to participate in student entrepreneurship activities was precisely that I wanted to build my confidence in different situations and learn to act more independently regardless of the context. I also understand that when I move into working life after studying, I need to understand what value I offer to that organization. Having been involved in entrepreneurship society activities, I have understood my own role as well as what I can bring to it to develop its activities. Almost all the people I meet through student entrepreneurship activities are very self-motivated. My own experience has shown me that this gets further strengthened through joint activities, becoming part of the basic way of operating.

Planning and management

"The foundation for all entrepreneurship society activities is thorough planning work and the formation of a strategy at the start of the year. This strategy defines the top-level objectives and the vision for the year. The best way of implementing the vision is to define the common goals as clearly as possible, as it is much easier to implement these when everyone has the same understanding of them. Progress and results will be actively monitored and remedial actions will be taken to continuously improve entrepreneurship society activities. The action plans also take into account unexpected changes, i.e. prepare for changes in the environment outside our sphere of influence that affect our operations (such as a sudden reduction in funding or the need to digitalize all operations)."

In addition to top-level leadership activities, I have been able to accumulate a lot of my experience in more concrete project management through working with different teams. I have identified essential features and useful practices for managing people and entities, and these have given me much more confidence and readiness for taking on new challenges."

Coping with uncertainty, ambiguity and risk

"There are always many different uncertainties associated with organising events, and I thus feel that I have learned a lot about stress management and project management skills. One of the most memorable examples of tolerating uncertainty is the estimating of visitor numbers when organising an event and the related budget implementation. However, uncertainty and risk have not made me back down. Instead, I have been looking for different ways to solve the challenges that have arisen in order to achieve the goals. as the situations have progressed. Hence, I have had to adapt my own plans. Currently, I am able to so to speak to think on my feet as projects progress."

Experimenting with new concepts always involves risk, and the skills related to managing these risks will certainly be useful in setting up my own company. I do not think there is anything else other than student entrepreneurship activities that could have taught me so much about working under pressure."

Working with others

"Most valuable experiences gained from student entrepreneurship activities have involved working with different people and learning about their working methods. I have also noticed that I have learned a great deal about how I operate as part of a team and developed my own communication skills precisely through working with different people. Through such practical experience, I have seen the strengthening effect of multiculturalism and multidisciplinary for joint decision-making. Entrepreneurship society activities are international and inclusive and its language is both Finnish and English. When implementing my own projects, I have also been able to gather teams around the implementation of projects. Knowledge of entrepreneurship society and other networks has made it possible to utilize the best possible know-how for the success of projects."

Learning through experience

"When organising events, many things happen so quickly that it is often challenging to get hold of the key lessons to learn from each situation, which is why we have facilitated separate reflection sessions following each event. Through these sessions, it has been possible to better understand, for example, the areas for improvement of an event already held for several years and what, in retrospect, should have been done differently. This has allowed the events and concepts to improve each year. At the same time the members involved have also had the opportunity to give and receive feedback, in a positive atmosphere, on areas such as their team work and project management skills."