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Reflection

This assignment was very open ended and had a lot of room to be creative. Because of this, I feel like there were a few challenges in the beginning associated with not having strict guidelines. My group took a while to start brainstorming and narrowing down a solution or innovation, and this cost us a fairly significant amount of time that could've been used for perfecting finishing touches as we wrapped up the assignment. The openness of the project was a bit of a challenge, but ended up being a positive aspect of the project as we were able to design our own company with our own rules and ideas. I believe that had there been more guidelines, we wouldn't have been able to enjoy the project and outlining our company as much. Another obvious challenge that we faced, along with all other groups in the class, was the difficulty of time zones. The dutch students had a small window to talk during class, as it was much later where they were during our meeting times. Talking outside of class was hit or miss in terms of receiving a response, and with this came communication issues. The language barrier created the difficulty of understanding each other's ideas. Many things had to be explained multiple times, and even as recent as the presentation we still had a few small details that we weren't on the same page on. We defeated these challenges by talking to each other and our dutch partners as much as we could to bounce ideas back and forth so that we could find the best possible solution.

Going into the project, I thought it would be fairly simple to come up with a solution to our topic, but as stated above, that was one of the major challenges. It was a shock to see how particularly difficult it is to come up with an idea that would fall under “social innovation,” and would “fix” our topic of immigration. This is such a broad term with so many underlying factors, that we had no idea how to address it in the beginning. Our dutch partners were helpful during this time, as they brought up how lonely and in need of a social network immigrants are. This sparked ideas and we later settled on our idea of ICSocial. If we had to start the project over again, I would definitely change the way we assigned roles. The United States half of the group started a slideshow presentation and shared it with the dutch students so that we could all work on it together via Google Slides, but after checking it a couple hours later we discovered that on top of adding their own information, the dutch students deleted some of our slides and changed the entire layout. We changed a few things back because it didn’t fit properly or sound grammatically sound, and it seemed to have upset our group members from the Netherlands. Because of this experience, I definitely would assign roles more clearly and ahead of time if I could do the project over again. This confusion set us back a few hours, as we had done work that was deleted or removed, and ultimately put a strain on our communication with the group. At the start of the class, I was very interested in and excited to work with the dutch students, but I did not foresee the challenges we would face while working on the project simultaneously.

Team Assessment

I believe everyone in the group played an equally important role in the success of our project. Each assignment associated was worked on by all members of the group on the US side, whether it was initial creation, adding information, fact checking, or revising. This included all

fact sheets, powerpoints, and poster. We bounced ideas off of each other really well, and were all very good at contributing as we used Google Docs and Google Slides so we could all work on the task together from different computers. Personally, I came up with the initial idea of including plastic recycling in our company, designed and outlined the building, helped with the layout of the powerpoint presentation as well as the poster, and did my part of the questions on the fact sheet. Because of the tasks I completed, I would see myself as having a creative role since my part in the project revolved around layout, design, function, and initial idea. However, we all added at different times and contributed equally to the project. It was difficult to engage with the dutch students, so a couple of times we completed a task before sending it to them (ex. Fact sheet). We did this so that they could read what we wrote and how we described/explained each aspect in order to get us on the same page and ensure we could clear up any questions that arose.