

Please resuscitate! How to share a project concerning self-management in diabetes to enable participants to elaborate on it after project completion?

Keywords: diabetes, self-management, documentation, participation, fabrication lab

This paper concerns the project “Bespoke Design” that deals with the development of self-management tools for people with diabetes. More specifically it focuses on sharing this development process within the context of an open fabrication laboratory (FabLab), which aims to trigger future continuation of a project by other people or organisations. Since self-management of diabetes is a complex matter, participation is central within this project. However, this paper especially explores the potential of enabling participation after the project is finished (Fisher et al, 2004; Ehn, 2008). The potential of sharing Bespoke Design lies in triggering participants (designers, developers, people with diabetes, etcetera) to explore and elaborate on the project, e.g. rework or alter the self-management tools for new contexts. In this way, the project is prevented from fading out, knowledge is shared and other (existing or new) stakeholders are empowered to elaborate on developed ideas, insights and tools.

While the sharing of a project is essential to enable participation after a project is finished, the question is what should be shared and how. The functionalities of a design can be shared via source codes or blueprints. However, this sharing seems rather limited for complex design matters in which, often, contrasting viewpoints and meanings are at stake (Kanstrup, 2008). Research shows that viewpoints concerning diabetes (e.g. of the participant with diabetes, his/her family, the designers, the caretaker) aren't always compatible (Storni, 2011). Moreover, Van Osch & Avital (2009) and Kanstrup (2012) value negotiations of viewpoints as a way of triggering people to participate after a project is finished. We developed a participatory game to explore, document and share viewpoints of stakeholders concerning self-management in diabetes. We use this in the development of self-management tools and explore how to share

these viewpoints in order to enable participation after the project is finished.

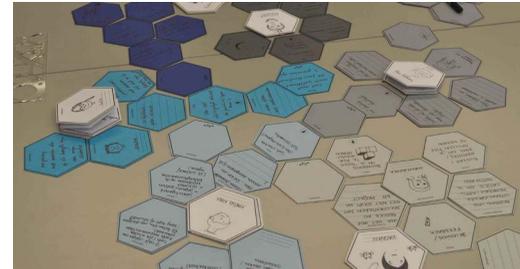


Figure 1: Exploring viewpoints of participants

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