

# Teaching journalism in a virtual and cross-border learning environment: Opportunities, challenges, and didactical implications

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**Publication date**

2018

**Document Version**

Final published version

[Link to publication](#)

**Citation for published version (APA):**

Rinsdorf, L., Vaagan, R. W., & Leighton, R. (2018). *Teaching journalism in a virtual and cross-border learning environment: Opportunities, challenges, and didactical implications*. Poster session presented at Journalism across Borders, Ilmenau, Germany.

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# Teaching journalism in a virtual and cross-border learning environment: Opportunities, challenges, and didactical implications

Lars Rinsdorf (Stuttgart), Robert W. Vaagan (Oslo), Rose Leighton (Amsterdam)



# EMC European Media Cloud Campus

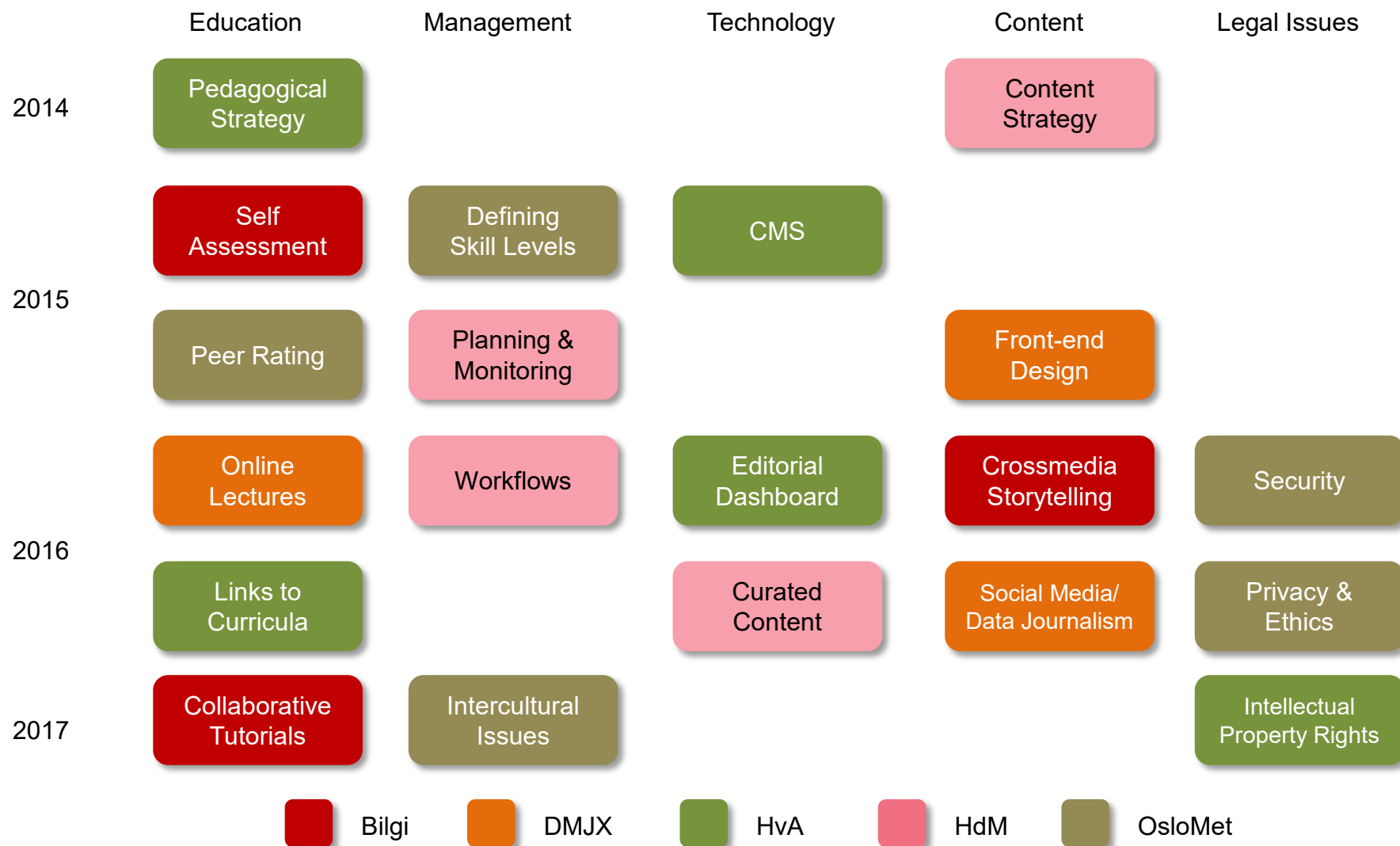
# Partners



# Agenda

- › Project
- › Background
- › Findings
- › Conclusions

# Project design



# Campus layout

The EMC<sup>2</sup> is a digital learning environment that allows learners to collaborate remotely to develop innovative ways of digital storytelling.

## The Pitch

is the area where the participants are experimenting with new ways of digital storytelling and enhancing their skills in content production.

## The Library

is the place where we share excellent approaches of digital content production developed on and off campus.

## The Alumni Hall

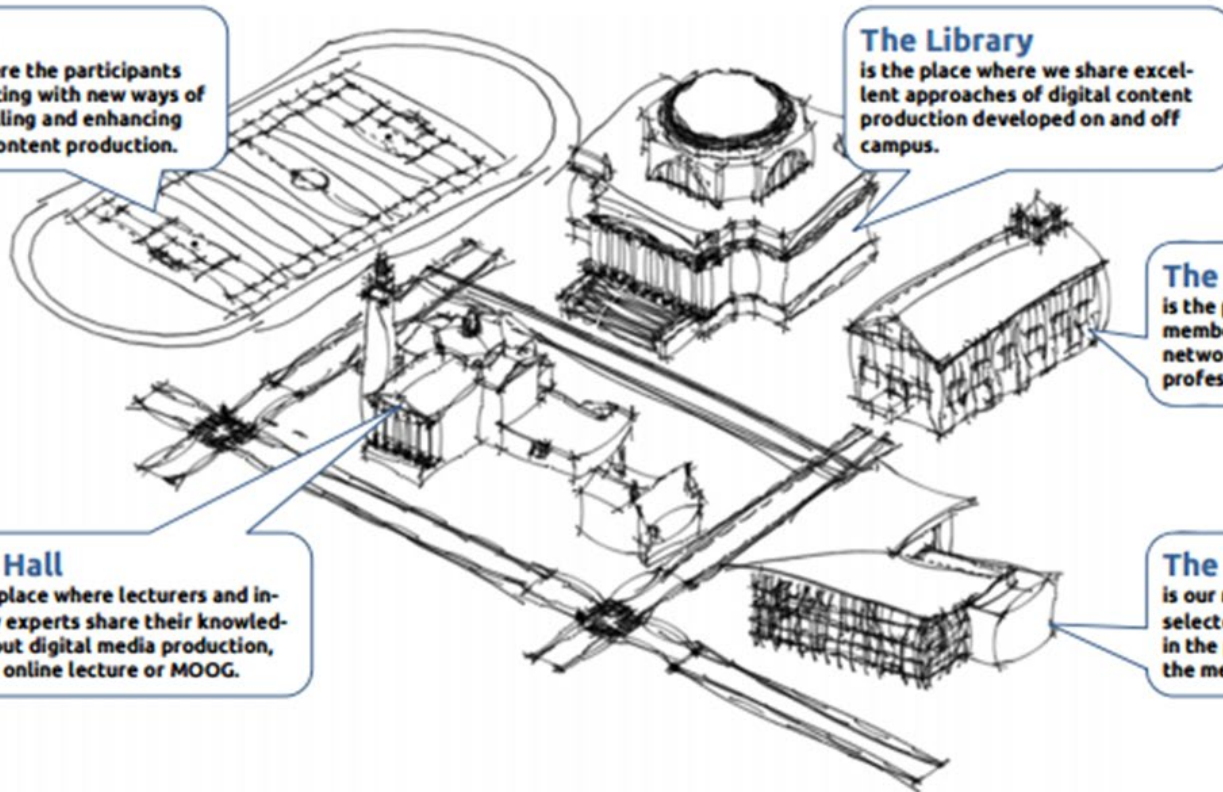
is the place to meet former EMC<sup>2</sup> members to foster professional networks and to benefit from their professional experience.

## The Hall

is the place where lecturers and industry experts share their knowledge about digital media production, e.g. as online lecture or MOOG.

## The Exhibition Hall

is our main media outlet. We publish selected, excellent pieces produced in the pitch. The outlet focusses on the media and creative industry.



# Campus layout



European Media  
Cloud Campus

Kindly funded by the  
European Commission



Lars Rinsdorf

Log Out

The Campus Crier



Exhibition Hall



Lecture Hall



The Pitch



Dashboard



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Recent new exhibits:

Great video

Project Zion

Testproject

test project 2

Testproject

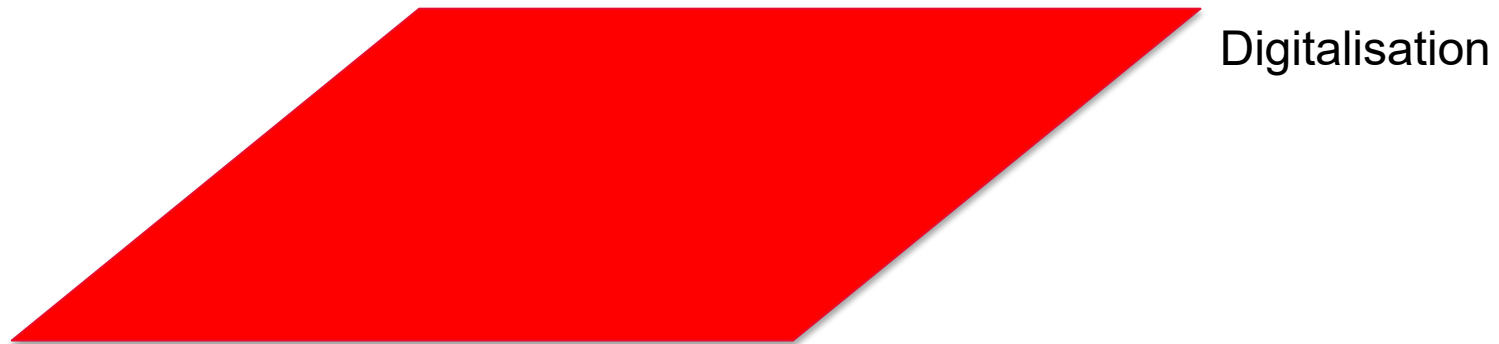
Swap Magazine: A magazine produced by Youth on the Move in Oslo

DAAD



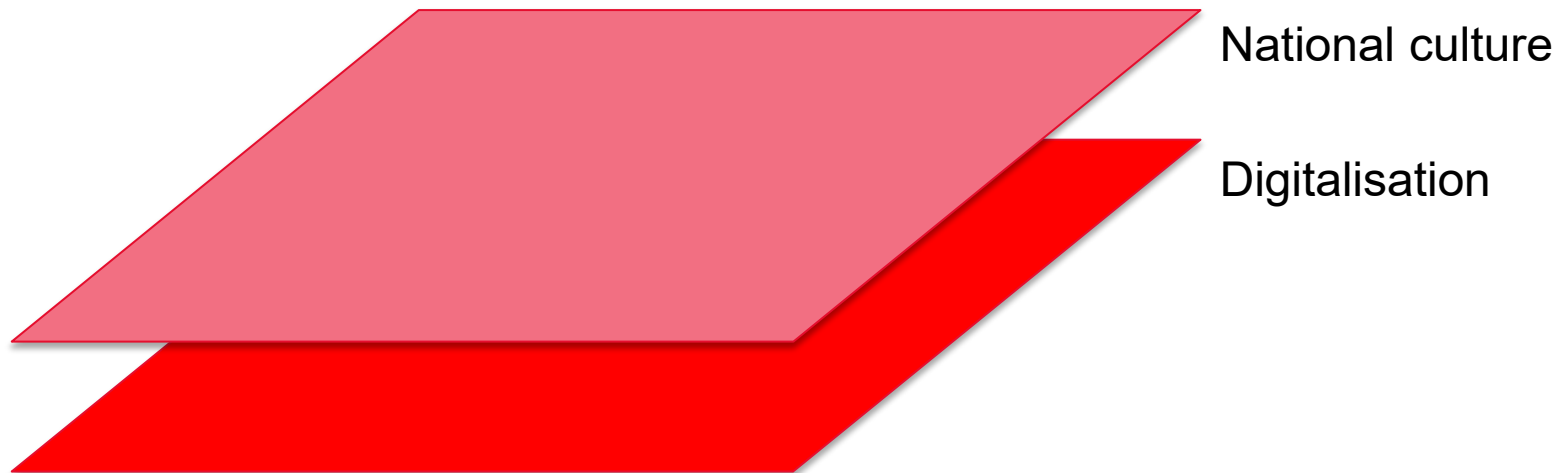


# Theoretical framework



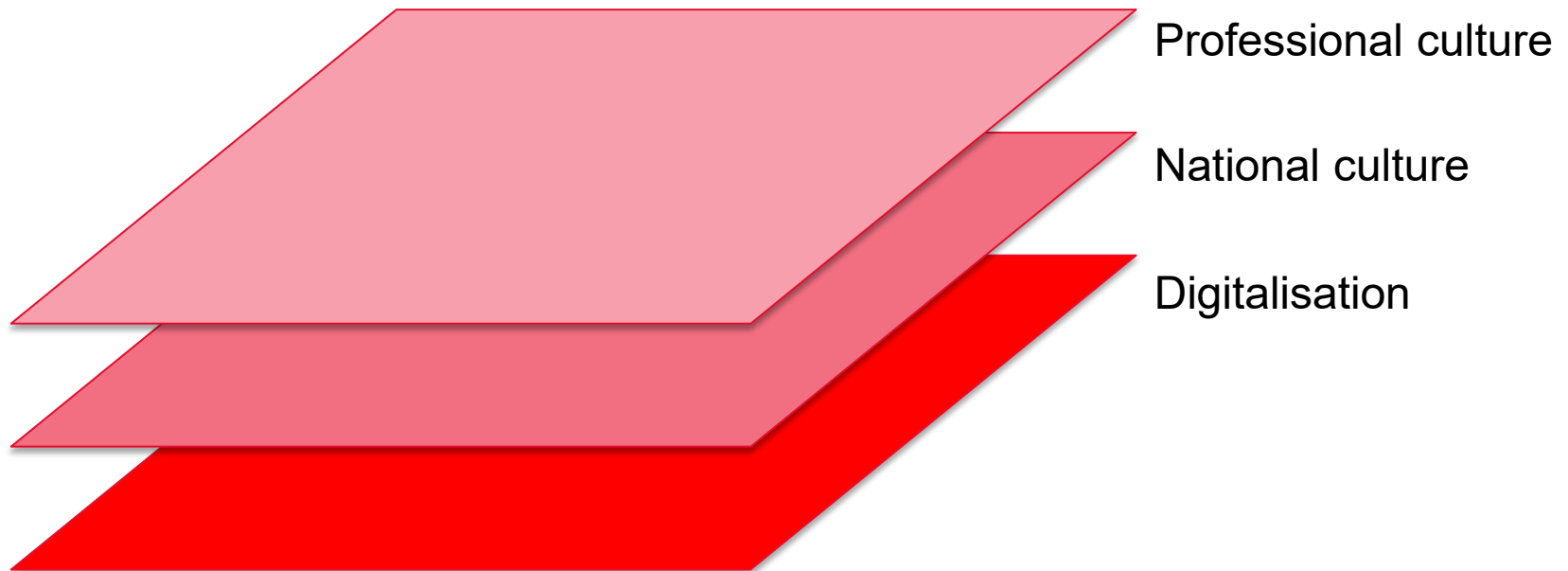


# Theoretical framework



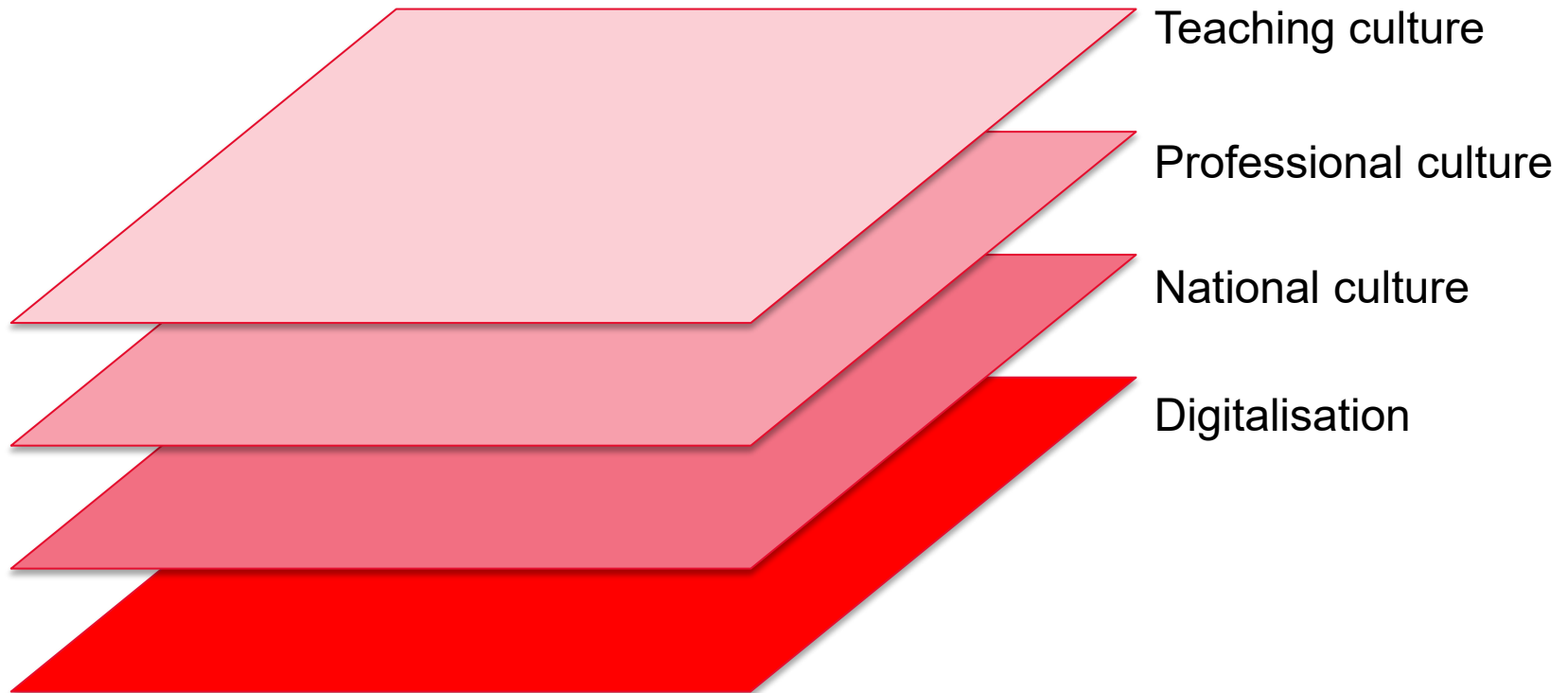


# Theoretical framework





# Theoretical framework



# Findings: Digitalisation

## Basic requirements in a digital learning environment

- › High level of transparency regarding skills and competencies
- › Detailed descriptions of professional roles and workflows
- › Meaningful user profiles
- › Efficient tools for learners to assess their own skill sets

# Findings: National culture

- › Expected differences: structure vs. spontaneous decision making, individual vs. group-oriented mindsets
- › Shared values and habits: work life balance, media usage patterns

# Findings: Professional culture

- › Differences in professional values and routines in line with of comparative international media studies, for example in feedback culture
- › Need for a framework to discuss these differences and their consequences for international projects systematically

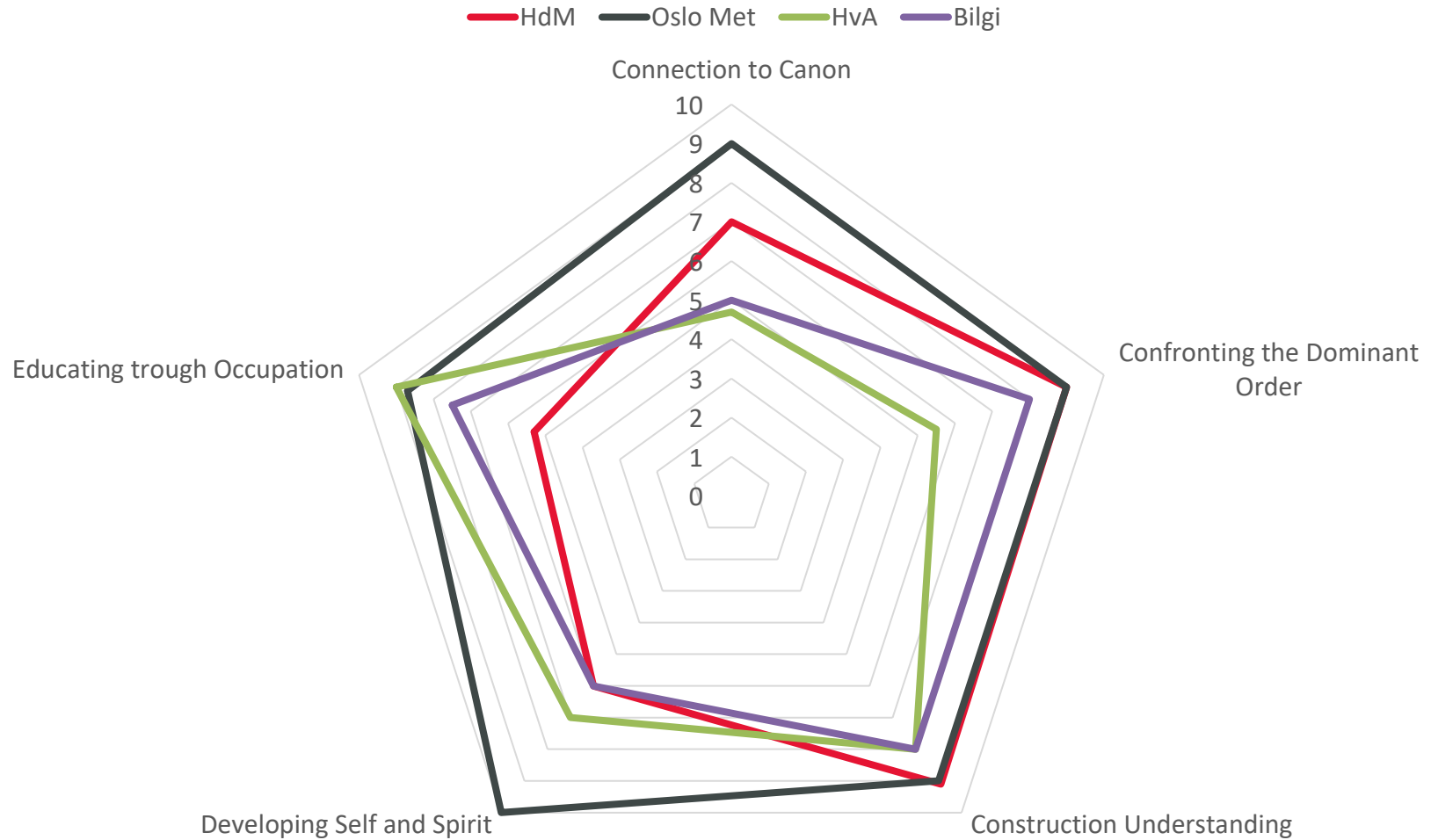
## Findings: Teaching culture

- › Differences especially regarding the importance of employability and ability in critical thinking as learning goals
- › Addressing these differences actively in the design process is highly recommended
- › Trust building within partnering institutions is a main precondition





# Differences in teaching culture



# Challenges

- › Designing workflows that are entirely clear to all participants
- › Maintaining metadata
- › Developing a common understanding of key terms and tasks
- › Fostering strategies to deal with cultural differences (awareness, communication, attitude)
- › Establishing institutionalized ways to handle conflicts

# Opportunities

- › Digitalised learning environments benefit from established tools applied worldwide
- › Although media students are shaped by different culture they share an open and creative mind-set
- › Intensive discussion about implicit knowledge and professional routines sharpens students' awareness of institutional frameworks



# Didactical Implications

- › In comparison to technology, an appropriate didactical approach is much more important
- › It is fruitful to embed students into the development of a learning environment
- › Teachers have to reflect their on roles as partners, advisors or reviewers very carefully
- › Don't overlook the practicalities

# Any questions?

Disclaimer: This publication is part of the strategic partnership “European Media Cloud Campus”. The partnership is funded by the European Union as part of the Erasmus+ program. This publication reflects only the author’s view. The DAAD as national agency and the European Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.