

In parallel to my studies in Cultural Management, I was working as a production manager at the Lézartgaco association. The main project of Lézartgaco is to promote art in all its forms through various events and its festival: ARTLEZIA.

When I embarked upon this adventure with my classmates, we were happy to learn that the students in the grade above us would be in charge of the experience and would also train us on how to organise a real festival: more than 12 multidisciplinary events in a week, all around Lyon. After a few weeks of meetings and collaborative work, we came to the realization that our "superiors" didn't have more experience than us in the field. No one had any idea on the amount of work demanded for a project of that magnitude. We started the preparation of this beautiful event all together.

Three weeks before the festival, as we were rushing to prepare it, the president of the association and head of the project, decided to quit by simply sending us her resignation letter. Within a few seconds, we found ourselves with a festival to be organised, an association without a president, a tight deadline and huge tasks to catch up with. The first big failure was the fall of a directionless team. It was in that urgency, that failure turned into an opportunity. I went from production manager to president, which allowed me to handle a crisis and take on a position with responsibility.

Despite this abandonment and our lack of knowledge in the field, our motivation was always there. In parallel to our studies, we redoubled efforts to learn in a short time everything regarding the administration, production, communication, and logistical aspects of a festival. We were 5 students motivated to carry out this amazing project and we learned the expression "unity makes strength". I sincerely think that staying close to each other during this experience was the key that made us succeed. Indeed, in spite of the obstacles and the difficulties, the festival took place as predicted, bringing in lots of positive feedback.

This convinced me that it's essential to know how to build a team and to stick together. Despite a complicated month management wise, I'm happy to have developed a great number of skills in this adventure. Due to the festival's success, I learned how to find solutions to all kinds of problems and that no one is irreplaceable. I discovered that I possess a management side and I developed a very important network through which I obtained a job next to a producer from Lyon. And if I was to do this all over again? Where do I sign up?

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