





# AGENCY OF EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS: HOW TO BECOME A SUPERAGENT

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## Outline





BACKGROUND OF AGENCY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAME



HOW DOES IT WORK?



**GAME TIME** 



WRAP-UP

## Background: Teacher Agency

Teachers and educators feeling empowered and able to take ownership of their learning experience. This relates both to them educating students and to their own professional development activities.

- Conscious' action thrive'
- More than a 'trait': Interaction person-context
- Not something to have, but something to do
- Process and result



### SOCIO-CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF THE WORKPLACE

Material circumstances Physical artifacts Power relations Work cultures Discourses Subject positions

#### PROFESSIONAL AGENCY

is practiced when professional subjects and/or communities exert influence, make choices and take stances in ways that affect their work and/or their professional identities

#### PROFESSIONAL SUBJECTS

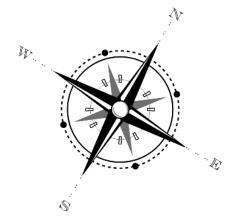
Professional identity (commitments, ideals, motivations, interests, goals)

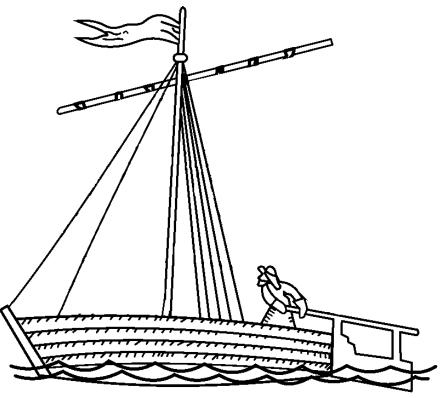
Professional knowledge and competencies

Work history and experience

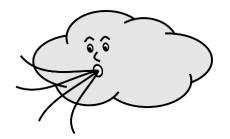
# Visualisation of agency (steering power) sprong voorwaarts

Professional identity: how do teachers look at themselves, what is important for them in education, what thrives them?





Personal expertise, knowledge, capacities and experience



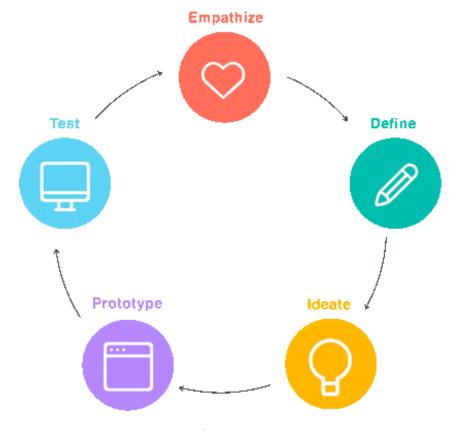
## **Context factors:**

- Culture of the school (vision, asking questions?)
- Structure of the school (division of roles, hierarchy)
- (material) possibilities(what is possible?)



- Short 2-hour sessions
- Every session contributes to the outcome
- First year: sessions follow the phases of design thinking
- Second year: development of the game in 2 (test-)phases
- Network learning is encouraged







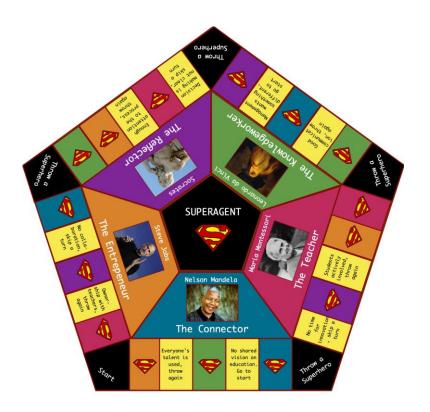








# Second year: development of the game in 2 (test-)phases





- Final product first year: board game
- Second year:
  - Developing game in phases as a result of tests
  - Multiple target audiences
  - Further research projects and development of a student version



# Agency of educational professionals: the game

- Design principles:
  - Encourages teachers agency, out of the comfort zone
  - Close to teachers' practice
  - Makes short term actions possible
  - Stimulation of action/learning by play and teambuilding

## Game Superagent





## Game design

- 5 superagents representing the characteristics of change agency (Nelson Mandela, Oprah Winfrey, Maria Montessori, Socrates & Leonardo da Vinci)
- Action cards per superagent
- The other players help concretize your planned action if necessary
- Playing more sessions to reflect on actions and starting new actions



## How does the game work?

- First round (10 minutes)
  - Choose the Superagent with whom you identify with most (or are the most interested in).
  - Read the description card aloud.
  - Think of a concrete action fitting with this Superagents' description.
- Second round (50 minutes)
  - Take an Action card from a Superagent (your own choice). Read the description card of the Superagent aloud.
  - Read the action card aloud.
  - Think of a concrete action that you can execute within the next 2 weeks, fitting with this Superagents' description (in your professional environment).
  - Other players can use the help cards to help concretize the action.



## How does the game work?

■ HAN Super Agent Game (english version) - YouTube

# Let's play!

First round: 10 minutes

Second round: 50 minutes



## Wrap up







## References

- Eteläpelto, A., Vähäsantanen, K., Hökkä, P., & Paloniemi, S. (2013). What is agency? Conceptualizing professional agency at work. Educational research review, 10, 45-65.
- Van der Heijden, H. R. M. A., Geldens, J. J., Beijaard, D., & Popeijus, H. L. (2015). Characteristics of teachers as change agents. *Teachers and Teaching*, 21(6), 681-699.
- Game: <a href="https://www.platformsamenonderzoeken.nl/sprongvoorwaarts/kennisbank/spelkaarten-superagent-spelregels/">https://www.platformsamenonderzoeken.nl/sprongvoorwaarts/kennisbank/spelkaarten-superagent-spelregels/</a>
- Link Video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LixIG103pQl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LixIG103pQl</a>







