Reflection

This graduation topic has given me the opportunity to combine in some sense my professional interest with my academic research. Although this might have narrowed my vision, it provided me with the necessary energy and persevering attitude to tackle this problem.

Performing a quantitative study on this topic proved to be a challenging task. Classified data regarding the financial performance of health care institution, in combination with a wide range of technical details was needed. After an unsuccessful attempt to gather this information via survey, distributed by a contact person at the Aedes-Actiz Kenniscentrum Wonen-Zorg (umbrella organization for housing association and health care institution), I eventually found the necessary data on the Care on the Map platform to compose my database. The most significant misconception I came across is the availability and uniformity of data. It took numerous hours to gather and combined the required data, with the help and guidance of both my mentors, especially my first mentor Clarine van Oel. Furthermore, many hours of restructuring and revising the database was needed to reassure the uniformity of the data. Nevertheless, it turned out to be worth going the extra mile, since it yielded many surprising and interesting findings.

Furthermore, a piece of advice to all students would be to start writing immediately. Obviously the analysis is the most interesting and satisfying aspect of a graduation project. Nevertheless, all findings and decision that have been made need to be written down in a comprehensive manner. The easiest way to achieve this is to put it on paper the moment that you come across such findings.

This graduation project has been instructive in many ways. I have explored the elderly care system’s inner working and analysed their business models. Interviews with the expert in the field have been a huge contribution to this.

Personally I have experienced the graduation process to be very intensive yet satisfying. I have grown on a personal as well as academic level. Throughout the last semester I have come across many challenges and have succeeded in coping with them.

Due to this graduation project I was able to learn many things in different domains. I have amassed knowledge in healthcare real estate strategies and the business modelling amongst others due to excellent guidance of Ilir Nase, my second mentor. I have learned about the advantages of statistical modelling for which Clarine van Oel, my first mentor, was of great help.

At the same time the writing of this thesis has led to more personal insight on taking on a workload that is difficult to keep up to standard for a longer period. After some very busy years and various activities, such as managing my company, the writing of this thesis and the required productivity and performance suffered. This process has helped in gaining the knowledge to make better judgment calls and prevent such issues in the future.