



## Review of the seminar presentation: "Audio signal processing for dynamic noise mapping in smart cities", by Dr. Francesc Alías, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2017

This review evaluates the communication skills used in the presentation. It shows how the presenter achieves to deliver a complicated, technical and scientific message to the audience by using his body language, gesture, voice and a well-structured visual presentation.

All the formalities are kept. He appears accordingly dressed and introduces himself. The presentation is supposed to be one hour. He uses 50 minutes and leaves ten minutes for questions. If there is a question during the talk he takes it seriously, answers it and gets back to the main topic smoothly. The sources he used are always shown on the bottom of each slide. These points underline the professionalism and competence of the lecturer.

To assess the visual communication skills we have a closer look at the structure, the layout and how the presenter follows his guideline through the talk.

He shows us his guideline, which is well organized. It includes an introduction, the methods used, the main results, the conclusion and an outlook. Some of the slides are a bit overloaded, which leads the focus of the audience a bit too much on the slides instead of the presenter. But they are always very rich in content and include simple, yet meaningful images. Through these, the clear structure and by going back to the guideline from time to time, he leads very well to the main point of the presentation, the conclusion. That's where the emphasis in time and the amount of slides is as well. After that he points out the importance of the project and the future work in this field, which makes it even more interesting.

The layout is kept simple, yet refers to the overall topic by using the digits "zero" and "one". There is nothing distracting or unimportant. The background is white, the writing is black, sometimes blue, but no more other colors. Additionally there is only the reference to the institutes the presenter is working at.

How does the lecturer deliver the message orally, through his gestures and by his actions to the audience? Even though in the beginning he has his hands in his pants and he talks a bit too much to the screen instead of to the audience, he shows some great communication skills. After the first three minutes he seems very confident through his body language. To highlight the presentation he turns of the light above the screen.



He uses his hands and gestures to underline his message. On the screen he points out important things and works with the images shown. Here he includes the audience as well by asking it directly. He refers to the daily life of the listeners. It makes it interesting to everyone and simplifies the complicated subject by still keeping it scientific. For that reason he also shows examples everybody can relate to. Additionally he shows how the main tool of the research works - in a simple, yet scientific way. It's very clear to everyone. Some specialties in the work are pointed out as well, to lead the focus of the audience. The presenter catches eye contact with members of the audience and refers to their surroundings in Barcelona. In one of the examples, which is in Rome, he creates a connection to Barcelona, by showing the similarities. He even achieves to make one of the examples funny. Throughout this he still stays very professional. That's one of the reasons why he keeps the interest and focus of the audience.

Another very important reason for that is the use of his voice and acoustic methods. During the whole presentation he speaks loud and clear. Sometimes he emphasizes some words or uses a clap to get the focus again. In some acoustic examples, he underlines important moments by mimicking the sound. But not only by using sounds he keeps the listeners focused, but also by taking a short brake and a sip of his water. So he creates an important moment of silence.

Finally the lecturers communication skills overall can be seen as very good in this presentation. He achieved to keep the audiences focus and to deliver a very complicated and scientific topic in an understandable, interesting way.