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Introduction

Project delivery methods is an important component of any project conducted. The topic is used in many contexts and is thus given different meanings based on context. According to Miller et al. (2000), a project delivery method is the chosen way of organising and financing the design, construction, operations and maintenance phases for a project. In these contexts, selecting the project delivery method is one of the most significant issues addressed by the project client. Consequently, the selection has an impact on the project’s ability to succeed. Because each delivery method has its advantages and disadvantages the selection cannot be made in isolation (Mahdi and Alreshaid, 2005). Instead, selection should be made on several considerations, and particularly on the characteristics of the project under consideration (Hosseini et al., 2016).

As for most industries, there has been a shift in the construction industry towards more sustainable construction (Kibert, 2007). The consequence for the project characteristics is that new buildings need to perform better in terms of energy consumption, material usage, air emissions, indoor quality, waste generation, etc. Consequently, studies have shown that the emerging emphasis on sustainability adds another dimension to project complexity (Mollaoglu-Korkmaz et al., 2013; Magent et al., 2009). As of 2010, estimations indicated that buildings alone accounted for 32% of global energy use and 19% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions (Lucon et al., 2014). Remarkably, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2015) estimated that the use of energy in buildings globally could double or even triple by 2050.

25 As a response to the above, a shift in the construction industry towards a more sustainable
26 built environment is needed. As this is taking place, a variety of terms have emerged to
27 describe the “green-shift”, including *sustainable construction, green buildings, sustainable*
28 *design, high performance building, whole building design, sustainable building and*
29 *integrated design* (Robichaud and Anantatmula, 2010).

30

31 Fischer et al. (2017) define a **high-performance building** as a building that satisfies
32 everyone who designs, constructs, operates, and uses the building as much as possible. There
33 is at this time no unified methodology for developing sustainable building, making such
34 endeavours a complex matter (Marszal et al., 2011; Sartori et al., 2012). Zero Energy
35 Building (ZEB) is the concept of constructing buildings with the purpose of mitigating
36 energy use and carbon emission. The Research Centre on Zero Emission Buildings in
37 Norway has defined different levels of such buildings according to ambition: a ZEB-COM
38 level means that the building’s renewable energy production compensates for greenhouse gas
39 emissions stemming from the *construction, operation and production* of building materials.

40

41 It has been proposed that high-performance building projects improve their chances for
42 success if a cross-discipline team is involved at the earliest stages and throughout the project
43 (Robichaud and Anantatmula, 2010). To enable such involvement, an integrated team that
44 seeks to harmonise all needed deliverables needs to be established. Such teams typically
45 include the contractor, designers (including structural, mechanical, electrical, and civil
46 workers), and architects, as well as others (Kubba, 2010). One way to establish such teams is
47 by changing the project delivery methods from the focus on separation (DBB) towards
48 integration (IPD).

49

50 To achieve the shift towards sustainable construction the industry must change the project
51 delivery methods used. However, the literature provides few empirical examples of how such
52 approaches have been realised. As stated in earlier publications future research should
53 address the structure of the collaborative project delivery methods used in such projects,
54 provide a more holistic picture of formal and informal relationships, and better understand the
55 capability integration processes in temporary project teams (Wen et al., 2017; Mesa et al.,
56 2019). There is a need to develop a tailored project delivery method based best practices of
57 building construction to improve sustainable building success (Tang et al., 2019). Mesa et al.
58 (2019) also calls for empirical studies that could inform decision makers in structuring the
59 project delivery method. Lastly, much research focuses on the delivery methods themselves,
60 but they are not necessarily the sole contributor to project success. Project delivery methods
61 need to be considered alongside other factors such as team integration and group cohesion, to
62 better understand their relationship with project performance (Franz et al., 2017).

63

64 Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to present findings from a study of a construction
65 project that implemented a collaborative project delivery method aimed at creating an
66 integrated team for delivering a high-performance building. Part of the research involved
67 dividing the project delivery method into particular elements. Essentially, an element is
68 defined as a discrete part of the project delivery method. Furthermore, these elements were
69 categorised into contractual elements (e.g., Pain/gain share), cultural elements (i.e., seeking
70 long-term relationships) and organisational elements (e.g., the use of ICE methodology). To
71 further these contributions, this study extend to which contractual, cultural and organisational
72 elements can be adapted for implementation in project delivery methods. This study
73 examines the following research questions:

74 1. What were the most important contractual, cultural and organisational elements?

75 2. What were the effects from the selected elements on collaboration?
76 The research questions are addressed by analysing the contractual, cultural and organisational
77 elements comprising the project delivery method. They are analysed according to perceived
78 strengths and weaknesses, and whether they fulfil the needs required to achieve success in the
79 design of a high-performance building.

80

81 **Methodology**

82 To study the contractual, cultural and organisational elements, with their consequences and
83 effects, a longitudinal case study was adopted. Case studies typically require investigating a
84 contemporary phenomenon or event in depth and within its real-life context (Yin, 2014).
85 Consequently, case studies are often the preferred research strategy in organisational and
86 managerial studies (Miles and Huberman, 1994). As for means of data collection, we adopted
87 a multiple method strategy including document review, semi-structured interviews and
88 observations.

89 ***The case***

90 The project under investigation was at the time of the research an ongoing construction
91 project in Trondheim, Norway. The project had a budget just above €12 million and was the
92 outcome of a collaboration between The Norwegian University of Science and Technology,
93 SINTEF and the Norwegian Research Council. The project has several ambitions that make it
94 high-performance. Its main ambition is attaining ZEB-COM level, meaning that the building
95 will compensate for all greenhouse gas emissions caused by construction, operation, and
96 materials used. The next factor is the ambition to make it a so-called *Living Lab*. The living
97 lab concept involves a test facility that is occupied by individuals using the building. The
98 focus is on the occupants and their use of innovative building technologies such as the

99 intelligent control of installations and equipment, interactive user interfaces and the interplay
100 with the energy system (Finocchiaro et al., 2014; Goia et al., 2015).
101 Above and beyond its modest budget, the project was set to realise several highly ambitious
102 features, such as being climate-adapted; using innovative materials, construction solutions
103 and technology; being a flexible energy and climate system; having flexible working spaces;
104 and having separate measuring and control systems and a flexible façade, the latter making it
105 possible to remove and customise its designated parts to conduct research. As a result of these
106 challenges, the client composed a project delivery method aimed bringing together a
107 competent project group comprising personnel from nearly all parts of the supply chain.
108 Thus, the ZEB-Flexible Lab project provides a potentially very promising case for an
109 empirical inquiry of the use of a collaborative project delivery method. Its significant
110 advantage is the project complexity coupled with the client's eagerness to try out an
111 untraditional project delivery method.

112 *Data collection and analysis*

113 The study involved three different sources of data: first, a document study of project
114 documents such as the contract, reports, notes and meeting referendums; second, observations
115 of big-room/integrated concurrent engineering sessions, project meetings and workshops; and
116 third, in-depth semi-structured interviews with both managerial and engineering personnel.
117 We relied on a 'diary' perspective, as described by Saunders et al. (2016). The strength of
118 this approach is demonstrated by its ability to study change and development over time.
119 Phenomena such as 'project delivery methods' are best studied focusing on qualities unfit to
120 be analysed quantitatively (i.e., measured). Second, project delivery methods are best
121 examined over time due to the very nature of construction projects (changes occur during the

122 process). Studying events as they unfold over time makes revealing the potential causes and
123 effects of the different phenomena's easier. The data collection is summarised in Table 1.

124 **[Table 1 near here]**

125 The 'diary' perspective was put into practice through systematic observations of activities in
126 the project. Observations were carried out on the weekly design meetings, between 08:30 and
127 15:00 each Wednesday. The aim was to form an overall impression of the project, then go
128 deeper into how the discrete elements of the project delivery method affected collaboration
129 and behaviour. The literature describes several means for conducting observations, but the
130 two major categories seem to be the role of a participant observer and the role of a
131 nonparticipant observer (Yin, 2014; Creswell and Poth, 2017). The main author took the role
132 as a nonparticipant observer who did not become involved in the activities. The observation
133 study implemented a broad-to-narrow perspective strategy as prescribed by Creswell and
134 Poth (2017). The initial observations focused on noting the general landscape, environment,
135 case and setting. Later, the observations became more systematic and focused on specific
136 aspects. Adler and Adler (1994) argue that initial observations primarily ought to be
137 'descriptive', i.e., unfocused and general in scope and then shift to 'focus observations' when
138 the observer becomes familiar with the setting and the process studied. The types of data that
139 collected from the observations was fieldnotes and sociograms. After the observations, a
140 reflection (usually a one-page memo) was written. The memo served as a summary of the
141 meeting and included what the researcher thought to be the main events that had occurred.

142

143 We conducted semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders involved in the project. The
144 interviewees comprised of contractor, client, architect and consultant representatives. They
145 key criteria was that they all had participated in the ICE-sessions. As the research group had
146 full access to the project team, interviews were carried out until data saturation was reached,

147 that was experienced after conducting 12 interviews. An interview guide, with questions
148 included experience regarding participants' entering the collaborative relationship, their
149 knowledge of the project delivery method, their experience of the process, and last, a request
150 to assess the performance of the project and the process was used to guide the interviews. The
151 interviews lasted from one to three hours, with a mean time of app. 90 min. The three-hour
152 interviews were split into two sessions of one and a half hours each. The interviews provided
153 the opportunity for the team members to fully elaborate on their experiences during the
154 design phase. It was also a possibility for the authors to ask for confirmation on the findings
155 from the observations and document study regarding the contractual, cultural, and
156 organisational elements. Prior to the meetings, all interviewees received an email comprising
157 a short introduction to the research topic, the research questions, and information about the
158 interview procedure. Then, the interviews were conducted at a location and time convenient
159 to them. They also received an interview guide comprising the list of interview questions.
160 In addition, we obtained access to documentary material that supplemented the research. This
161 selection included, the procurement procedure documents, the contract, and full access to the
162 web-hotel serving as an archive for all project documents. The document study was carried
163 out that followed a systematic procedure for evaluating documents (Bowen, 2009). Document
164 study is found to be particularly applicable to case studies, since documents provide rich
165 descriptions and may help the researcher uncover, discover and develop insights.

166

167 The processing of the empirical data was based a thematic analysis approach. The method
168 chosen emphasis on recognising patterns within the data (Bowen, 2009). In its generic form,
169 thematic analysis involves coding the data to identify themes, categories, or general patterns
170 (Saunders et al., 2016). The process started by becoming familiar with the data through the
171 observations conducted, writing the reflection notes, and then transcribing the information.

172 The next step involved coding of the material, meaning labelling specific parts of the data. As
173 the dataset was extensive, the labels applied were general and linked to rather broad
174 segments. Practically, the procedure consisted of running through the data iteratively by
175 moving back and forth between data and theory, specifically by linking the data to the
176 contractual, cultural and organisational elements (themes) identified. Then they were divided
177 into a general description of the elements, the consequences of implementing the elements,
178 and their perceived strengths and weaknesses. The data collection process and analysis are
179 summarised in figure 1. As the study is an in-depth study of a single case, maintaining
180 confidentiality was desired. To achieve this, all names and identifying features was removed
181 from the data, also including reciting direct quotations from the participants in the
182 manuscript.

183 **[Figure 1 near here]**

184

185

186 **Theoretical Framework**

187 ***Project Delivery Methods***

188 Project delivery methods describe how the project participants are organised to interact,
189 transforming the owner's goals and objectives into finished facilities (American Society of
190 Civil Engineers, 1997; Pinto et al., 2009). Examples are numerous, but the following are the
191 traditional methods used in the industry: design-bid-build, design-build, and CM at risk.

192

193 When deciding how to organise project resources, the owner considers several factors,
194 including past practices, traditions, and experiences; the advice of consultants; funding

195 sources and constraints; the effective use of staff and working capital; and the interests of
196 other project stakeholders (American Society of Civil Engineers 1997).

197

198 Fragmentation, adversarial relationships, separated design and construction focus on lowest-
199 bid procurement and are typical transaction-based logics; in other words, they are compelling
200 reasons to turn towards collaborative PDMs (Lahdenperä, 2012). A common characteristic
201 for collaborative PDMs is the attention to measures seeking integration instead of separation.
202 These derive from traditional methods by focusing on creating and maintaining a trusting
203 relationship between relatively independent organisations (Lahdenperä, 2012), for instance,
204 by using the co-location of the team or certain management procedures such as Integrated
205 Concurrent Engineering. Table 2 lists the most widespread collaborative PDMs described in
206 the literature.

207 **[Table 2 near here]**

208

209 In Norway, the most common collaborative PDMs are '*samspillsentreprise*' (roughly
210 translated as collaborative design-build). EBA (2017) defines it as a collaborative PDM
211 characterised by early involvement of the actors, dialogue, trust, and openness. Projects are
212 carried out with shared objectives and shared financial interests, for example, by utilising an
213 agreement on sharing potential savings or overruns according to a set target cost.
214 Furthermore, such projects are often organised whereby the actors sign a formal collaboration
215 agreement and a contract to collaborate in developing the project from the programming
216 phase to the pre-project with the use of a target price principle. The contractor and the client
217 then sign a contract, often based on a standardised contract with additional partnering
218 regulations (Haugseth et al., 2014). For the use of a so-called multiparty contract, currently
219 few projects in Norway has utilised such an agreement (Aslesen et al., 2018).

220

221 ***Sustainable, High-performance Buildings***

222 Sustainable buildings, sometimes referred to as green buildings, differ from traditional
223 buildings in terms of the design, materials, and processes (Hwang et al., 2017). As with all
224 projects, some factors affect the construction of green buildings and the project delivery
225 method has been found to be a critical factor (Hwang et al., 2017).

226 Sustainable high-performance buildings are different from ordinary buildings in that they
227 optimise all parameters within the buildable, operable, usable, and sustainable categories
228 (Fischer et al., 2017). While Fischer et al. (2017) names the Integrated Project Delivery (IPD)
229 method as the preferable delivery method for such projects, other scholars have studied other
230 delivery methods for delivering such projects. For example, Mollaoglu-Korkmaz et al. (2013)
231 found that both CMR and DB can provide sufficient levels of integration, as they inherently
232 facilitate builders' early involvement. Chen et al. (2015) conclude that DB has been adopted
233 as a common delivery method for green building projects. However, Liu et al. (2016) state
234 that traditional forms of PDMs are often selected based on experience, the knowledge of
235 decision makers, and information about the project. However, their study showed that project
236 scale, project complexity, project type, flexibility, scope definition, and disputes were the six
237 key factors affecting PDM decision making.

238 Few studies have developed a comprehensive link between the choice of project delivery
239 method and project characteristics in making the project apt for a collaborative PDM. The
240 project delivery method influences the ability to build a sustainable high-performance
241 building, as the method mediates the level of integration achieved in the delivery process
242 (Mollaoglu-Korkmaz et al., 2013). Furthermore, owner commitment, timing of participant

243 entry into the team, and team characteristics (such as collaboration, experience, and
244 chemistry) can exert effects on the level of integration achieved (Korkmaz et al., 2010).
245 Integration in construction projects is referred to as a mobilisation and continuously
246 collaborative effort from each project member during the whole project (Rahman et al.,
247 2007). In the design phase, errors made by the participants themselves, lack of coordination,
248 lack of information, late changes introduced by the owner and the designers, inconsistency
249 between drawings and specifications, and lack of construction knowledge are all principal
250 problems related to the phase (Alarcón and Mardones, 1998). More integrated teams are one
251 possible solution to the principal problems present in the design phase.
252 While more integration is a means of improving performance in the design phase of
253 construction projects, there are significant barriers to achieving integration, including the
254 short duration and temporality of projects (Baiden et al., 2006). At the same time, several
255 studies have identified the positive effects of integration. For example, increased levels of
256 integration have been shown to improve effectiveness of teamwork (Baiden and Price, 2011).
257 In addition, the linkage between project delivery method and achieved level of team
258 integration has been deemed significant (Franz et al., 2016). Factors having a positive
259 influence on team integration are identified from selected studies and summarised in Table 3.

260 **[Table 3 near here]**

261 ***Team Theory – Effective Leadership***

262 The design phase may be characterised as problem-solving through teamwork, where the
263 outcome should be detailed drawings and specifications. However, due to factors such as
264 complex supply chains, interfaces between organisations, actors and professions, and the fact
265 that the project itself is a complex task, teamwork is challenging. When properly managed
266 and developed, project teams can overcome all those challenges. According to Oakland and

267 Marosszeky (2017), good teamwork evolves from independence through improved
268 communication, trust and free exchange of ideas, knowledge and information. Thus, the team
269 eventually achieves a state of interdependence, where a common goal is established and real
270 problem-solving can happen. An integral part of moving from independent individuals to an
271 integrated team is establishing trust, which is viewed by many scholars and practitioners as a
272 potential means to hindering opportunism and exploitation (See for example, Kadefors,
273 2004).

274

275 There are various forms and classifications of trust. A well-cited paper by Rousseau et al.
276 (1998) describes trust in three basic forms: calculative, relational and institutional.
277 Calculative trust is associated with economic incentives, relational trust with comfort level
278 between actors, and institutional with legal, cultural or societal norms (Rousseau et al., 1998).
279 Furthermore, trust is argued to improve relationships and to increase the willingness of
280 stakeholders to cooperate in non-self-motivated ways (Pinto et al., 2009). According to
281 Challender (2017) trust-building strategies are important in influencing the quality of trust in
282 collaborative PDMs. However, the level of impact of such strategies depends on the
283 characteristics of the project. Projects of longer duration allow more opportunity for trust to
284 develop within project teams (Challender 2017).

285

286 Adair's Action-centred Leadership model describes three common needs that should be
287 satisfied to achieve teamwork (Adair, 1988). These needs are summarised as *task needs*, or
288 the need to accomplish something, *team needs*, or the need to develop and maintain working
289 relationships among team members, and *individual needs*, which acknowledge that people
290 work in teams to fulfil their individual needs and not only because of an interest in the task.

291 Figure 1 summarises Adair’s Leadership model and indicates that if collaboration bogs down,
292 one or more of the needs are not satisfied.

293 **[Figure 2 near here]**

294

295 The project delivery method undeniably establishes the framework for how actors come
296 together in the design phase to generate tangible results. Since many projects struggle with
297 the primary problems present in this phase, attaining design team integration in sustainable
298 building projects should be further examined. As the industry continues to adopt new project
299 delivery methods (e.g., integrated project delivery) to deliver sustainable buildings,
300 opportunities to shed more light on this phenomenon will arise.

301 **Results & Discussion**

302 The design phase can be the key to understanding why some projects fail and others do not.
303 This paper reports findings from a longitudinal case study of the project delivery method used
304 in the design phase in a sustainable, high-performance building project. This section
305 discusses the project delivery method’s contractual, cultural and organisational elements, and
306 the perceived effects thereof.

307 The client and the contractors signed a **collaborative Design-Build contract**, which is an
308 option-based contract between the client and the contractor’s teams. In addition, the
309 contractor has individual contracts with each of the team members. The design-build contract
310 formalises the intention to implement a collaborative PDM. Table 4 presents the observed
311 elements from the design phase identified through the document study, interviews, and
312 observations.

313 **[Table 4 near here]**

314 Furthermore, the elements are analysed according to perceived effects and are placed in the
315 context of the Adair's leadership model.

316 *Contractual Elements*

317 The hierarchic model for achieving team integration in this project is illustrated in Figure 2.

318 First, the contract used (in this case a **Design-Build contract**) should enable **early**
319 **involvement of the contractor**, creating a framework for establishing an integrated team that
320 includes the client, the contractor, the designers (structural, mechanical, electrical, civil) and
321 the architect. In other words, the team should be an integrated team. Integrated teams are
322 often suggested as the solution to complex problems, for example, in the military
323 (McChrystal et al., 2015).

324 **[Figure 3 near here]**

325

326 Early involvement of contractor principle is tied to the specific contract type used by the
327 client (Russell and Jaselskis, 1992). This practice enables the benefits of contractor
328 participation in the design and constructability reviews (Dozzi et al., 1996). In this project,
329 the downside of early contractor involvement was perceived to be the accumulation of costs
330 early on. The promise of obtaining lower costs afterward represented an upside. One strength
331 is that the team members came to know each other well and gained an understanding of each
332 other's profession and its importance. For many participants, early involvement also meant a
333 more personal involvement. Participants bonded by challenging and supporting each other in
334 ways that contributed to trust; hence it became challenging to blame each other. The contract
335 structure of the project is illustrated in Figure 3.

336 **[Figure 4 near here]**

337

338 After choosing a delivery method, the client must contemplate the **team composition**. In this
339 project, the CVs of the individuals comprising the project team was one of the criteria in
340 awarding the contract. Correspondingly, the client needs a team with assigned roles and the
341 autonomy and authority required to make decisions. As prescribed by Baiden et al. (2006),
342 the team must operate without perceived organisational defined boundaries to create mutually
343 beneficial outcomes.

344

345 A **start-up seminar** was held during one of the first weekends after the signing of the first
346 contract between the client and the contractor. In this project, the primary purpose of the
347 seminar was to build team spirit and social bonds among project team members. Furthermore,
348 the **formal collaboration agreement** was – iteratively – developed that weekend. It outlines
349 the rules and guidelines with which the project team must comply. The perceived strengths of
350 these elements are that they create personal commitment towards the goals of the project and
351 thus contribute to fulfilling both **task** and **team needs**.

352

353 During the design phase, **shared decision making** was alleged to be a core element.

354 Although not well-discussed in project management literature, this element is defined within
355 the field of medicine as an approach whereby participants (*in our case the team members*)
356 share the best available evidence when making decisions, and where patients (*in our case the*
357 *client*) are informed when considering preferred options (Elwyn et al., 2010; Elwyn et al.,
358 2012). Shared decision making was observed during the ICE-sessions, where interactive
359 iterations occurred when representatives with technical, procedural and managerial expertise
360 were present. The ever-present weakness of shared decision making is the inevitable
361 occurrence of confusion regarding which individual has the authority to make the final
362 decision. It was observed that the team was not always able to make these final decisions.

363 The decision was then forwarded to the **special meetings**, where either only representatives
364 from the client – or from the contractor as well – met for discussions. The latter were
365 necessary when the decision had consequences affecting the target price and/or the overall
366 progress of the project.

367

368 Similar to shared decision making, **shared defined goals** (sometimes referred to as mutual
369 objectives) may be a double-edged sword. As stated in the literature, every team must share a
370 goal or objective to be effective (Cheng et al., 2000; Black et al., 2000; Walker et al., 2002).

371 The business model of most consultants in Norway today is to work at hourly rates. The more
372 hours a consultant bills, the higher the individual's bonus will be. Individual bonuses may
373 lead to sub-optimisation. To avoid this, shared defined goals were closely coupled with a
374 **target price** with a compensation structure and a shared risk/reward. This appeared to allow
375 individual consultants to take a step back when decisions were made: "*choosing this solution*
376 *reduces the scope of my work-package in the construction phase, but it will have an excessive*
377 *positive effect on the ZEB-COM goal*". Consequently, the consultants efficiently contributed
378 to fulfilling **task needs**.

379

380 As described by Pinnell (1999), disputes and conflicts are inherent in the construction process
381 and a part of human interaction; therefore, project participants must systematically think
382 through their approach to a dispute resolution. The applied **conflict resolution mechanism**
383 was developed by the team members. If a conflict cannot be solved within the team, it will be
384 presented to a committee that includes a senior representative without connections to the
385 project from the contractor and client. This mechanism has not been used, indicating that the
386 project successfully managed to sustain collaboration and prevent disputes from escalating.

387 While the possibility of making changes to organisations when collaboration breaks down is

388 unrealistic, the **right to replace people** is a necessary and convenient element of the contract.
389 This element significantly contributes to sharpening the team during the process, for example,
390 in situations where someone does not grasp the team culture or is unwilling to commit. Given
391 the possibility of terminating the commitment needed for sustaining the high-performance
392 team, this element should not by any means be overused. However, properly used, the right to
393 replace people will have a positive effect on **team needs** by setting the team above the
394 individual.

395
396 **Start-up workshops, continuous workshops, and co-location** are somewhat connected
397 elements. Studies use the term “workshop” inconsistently. For instance, in the partnering
398 literature, “workshop” implies a procedure to create and maintain bonds between the
399 partnering organisations (Eriksson, 2010; Bennett and Jayes, 1995). In alliancing and IPD,
400 “workshop” implies co-location of the construction team (Thomsen et al., 2009; Lahdenperä,
401 2012). Workshops in this project were meant to introduce the project team to ZEB-COM
402 requirements and topics such as climate accounts, emissions, and production. Overall, the
403 workshops were used to provide the team with knowledge. Some of the consultants, at their
404 own expense, even sent extra people to the workshops to learn. The use of workshops to
405 educate project participants increases a project’s time and cost. At the same time, ZEB-COM
406 was an essential ambition for the project, and it was important that practical implications be
407 well understood. The data indicate several positive effects from workshops. First, they
408 provide a venue for teambuilding; second, they create a deeper anchoring of client ambitions
409 in the project team; and third, they provide personal development for the individuals
410 involved. In sum, workshops have a positive effect on **task, team, and individual needs**.

411
412 The intention of the project was to include the financial transparency that would enable the
413 project organisation to track every single transaction. Disclosing cost data to partners is a

414 practice, according to Kajüter and Kulmala (2005), that appeared with the spread of lean
415 production in the 1990s. The contract stated that all work performed must be based on the
416 **open book** principle (referred to as “open-book accounting”). Open book means that the
417 parties, directly or indirectly, have access to relevant cost information within the project
418 (Munday, 1992). The contractor had a transparent calculation system allowing the parties to
419 continuously observe the calculation process. In addition, the client was regularly briefed on
420 the project status and could openly discuss the calculated price. The inexperienced client
421 perceived transparency as necessary to avoid the contractor consequently selecting the
422 cheapest low-quality solutions. The most prominent weakness of the open book strategy was
423 the risk of the contractor withholding information, for example, by showing estimates with an
424 insufficient level of detail and/or by including risk premiums already included in the price.

425
426 The **target price** element, with shared risk/reward, is coupled with open book since they both
427 concern finances. Target price may be described as an agreement among actors working
428 cooperatively, based on sharing project risk and reward, to achieve agreed-upon outcomes
429 (Abrahams and Cullen, 1998). In this project, the team developed the target price using a risk
430 and reward sharing arrangement for the second phase during the first contract phase. If the
431 parties were unable to agree on the target price, they would not enter the second contract
432 phase. The development was not a straightforward success. A systematic explanation may be
433 attributed to the “traditional way of thinking”, i.e., the contractor expected the client to want
434 to achieve as many square metres as possible. However, in this project, it took time before the
435 contractor understood that the client prioritised quality over square metres. Another weakness
436 with the use of target price (shared risk/reward) was the fact that neither the client nor the
437 contractor fully understood the concept. More precisely, both parties had their own idea of
438 what to include or exclude from the target price, as well as how the shared risk/reward
439 worked in practice. At this point, the client, regardless of whether or not there was an agreed-

440 upon target price, could initiate the second contract phase with another contractor. The real
441 strength of the integrated team emerged because both parties negotiated and worked together
442 for a prolonged period to achieve an acceptable target price.

443

444 **Continuity of key personnel** is probably a success factor for any project delivery method
445 and for ensuring the efficiency of the integrated team (Ibrahim et al., 2011; Rahman and
446 Kumaraswamy, 2008). Therefore, the client established in the contract certain economic
447 sanctions for the contractor's key personnel in the event they would be unable to fulfil their
448 role until the completion of the project. However, as the project underwent significant delays,
449 the client did not exercise the option to sanction the contractor when the project manager and
450 design manager were replaced after the one-year delay. The delay was due to circumstances
451 beyond the control of the project team, as the municipality went back on their decision to
452 grant a building permit. In retrospect, the contractual element added to ensure the **continuity**
453 **of key personnel** might be viewed as more expressive than practical. However, it is a critical
454 success factor for sustaining an integrated team and thus affects both **task** and **team needs**.

455 *Cultural Elements*

456 A good project culture aligns its organisational goals and objectives with those of the
457 individual actors (Thomas et al., 2002). Moreover, the actors in the collaboration must make
458 efforts to make the collaboration work and to establish a culture based on trust (Smith and
459 Thomasson, 2018).

460 A robust cultural element stated both in the literature and observed in this project is the need
461 for both **support from management at a project or team level** and **at the organisational**
462 **level** (Chan et al., 2004; Nevstad et al., 2018). This element should be seen as comprising a
463 **strategic thinking** element, as top management are those who formulate the strategy. Their

464 support and commitment are vital to project culture. In the project, support from top
465 management became visible when the project met unforeseen obstacles, such as a
466 construction shut-down by the municipality. At this critical moment, management from both
467 the client and contractor stood by the construction team and the project even when the whole
468 process was delayed by more than a year. It is evident that top management support is a
469 critical success factor that affects **team needs** by providing a supportive climate as well as
470 **individual needs** by creating acceptance.

471

472 **Long-term thinking, seeking long-term relations and shared interests**/"for the best of the
473 project": these types of strategic thinking differ from operational thinking in terms of aspects
474 concerning time horizon and initiatives (Easterby-Smith and Davies, 1983). Thus, there is a
475 gap between the operational reality that project participants experience and the strategy of
476 their respective organisations. As the organisation enters into a strategic partnership with the
477 intent to secure future projects with the same actors, this is not necessarily what the
478 individuals working day-to-day within the project are concerned about.

479

480 The need for a **responsible (process) facilitator** is highlighted in design management
481 literature, particularly for operationalising client value (Thyssen et al., 2010). Formally, the
482 project had one facilitator: an external consultant hired by the client. However, through the
483 interviews, the contractor's design manager was often perceived to be the responsible
484 facilitator. Both served critical roles: the facilitator was of utmost help to the inexperienced
485 client, while the design manager was crucial to the effective performance of the project team.
486 Both were therefore vital for driving the process, as one had expertise related to the client's
487 delivery method, while the other had expertise related to the contractor's delivery. Hence,
488 both contributed to fulfilling both **task and team needs**.

489

490 Very little has been written about **mutual assessment** and **speed dates** in project
491 management literature. In this project, mutual assessment and speed dates were organised by
492 a specialist working for the contractor. These are tools for developing effective teamwork,
493 better relationships and a basis for benchmark progress. The assessment is based on the
494 common goals established, which are then assessed during the process by using surveys or
495 meetings. The assessment evaluates the progress towards the team's agreed-upon goals, and
496 each individual contributes to the evaluation. Thus, the assessment should improve the team
497 in the current phase and provide input for the next phase of the project, thus helping to fulfil
498 both **task** and **team needs**. During the **speed date**, all project participants sat down one-to-
499 one with each other and provided honest feedback, both constructive criticism and praise.
500 The **speed date** is a suitable tool for fulfilling individual needs, as it creates clear
501 expectations for everyone.

502

503 **Identity-building activities** are often tied to contractual or organisational elements such as
504 teambuilding seminars and workshops. An important **identity-building activity** in this
505 project was the fact that the team always ate lunch (provided by the client) together.
506 According to Ochs and Shohet (2006), meals are cultural sites where individuals come to
507 learn, reinforce, undermine, or transform each other's ways of acting, thinking, and feeling in
508 the world. Thus, the half-hour designated for lunch (**mealtime socialisation**) was perceived
509 to be a success factor for the integrated team, beyond the mere re-energising effect provided
510 by the meal. It has an impact both on the individuals, as a networking opportunity, and on the
511 team, as a chance to socialise.

512

513 **Little/no disputes/conflicts, no-blame culture, and mutual respect.** A no-blame culture
514 could assist the project team in learning from events by widening and enriching its
515 capabilities to grasp the rewards of unique experiences, thus making the organisations
516 involved less exposed to a ‘root cause seduction’ trap (Provera et al., 2010). A no-blame
517 culture is one in which individuals do not fear repercussions from risk-taking or problem
518 identification, where employees feel free to contribute to discussions and to raise issues
519 (Lloyd-Walker et al., 2014). The absence of repercussions was a key indicator of a trustful
520 environment. Closely related to the contractual element **conflict resolution mechanism**, the
521 cultural element involving no disputes emphasises establishing a positive dispute prevention
522 culture during project performance. In this project, the project team successfully went from
523 what might be labelled a ‘traditional adversarial relationship’ to a collaborative approach that
524 prevented disputes from escalating beyond professional disagreements.

525

526 **Knowledge sharing, pro-active communication and knowledge integration.** A primary
527 challenge of any project is to create new knowledge (i.e., solutions to problems, new
528 products, etc.) by integrating knowledge from various sources (Carlile and Rebentisch, 2003).
529 In complex projects, each specialised professional must create new knowledge to meet the
530 more challenging new requirements. Hence, this is vital for archiving **task needs**.

531 **Competence, commitment, and dependence.** Some scholars believe that commitment,
532 coordination, and competence are critical success factors. Jha and Iyer (2007) found
533 ‘competence’, ‘commitment’ and ‘coordination’ to be key factors for project success. It is
534 therefore important that project management emphasise these three factors to improve overall
535 performance. According to Carlile and Rebentisch (2003), dependencies constrain solutions
536 to circumstances; thus, no actors are entirely free to pursue an agenda that exclusively
537 benefits their area of specialisation. This was observed throughout the project stage, where

538 each individual continuously had to give or take not only to match the complexity of the task
539 undertaken but also in iteration with every specialisation present.

540

541 **CV-building.** Contracting a project team using more than just a low bid criterion is gaining
542 momentum in the industry, particularly for collaborative PDMs. The emergence of concepts
543 such as Best Value Procurement supports this proposition (Molenaar et al., 2010; Storteboom
544 et al., 2017). Selecting the lowest bid price alone in complex projects may well lead to higher
545 costs in the long term and to bypassing any opportunities of acquiring added benefits and
546 better value for money (Palaneeswaran and Kumaraswamy, 2000). The other side of the coin
547 is the element of winning such projects in the future by achieving competency through
548 already-won projects of a similar type. In this project, some of the willingness shown by the
549 team may be attributed to the fact that the uniqueness of the project undertaken was more
550 valuable to them than just the possibility of monetary profit. Thus, the **CV-building** element
551 should ideally result in a “win-win” setting for both the client and the team. Hence, this
552 element will fulfil **individual needs** through the personalisation reward, and there is also an
553 apparent organisational reward.

554

555 *Organisational Elements*

556 Collaborative PDMs in the construction industry might be fragile phenomena, as they depend
557 on factors beyond contractual agreements and often rely on meeting several commercial and
558 organisational supporting conditions (Bresnen, 2007). Therefore, practitioners must be
559 judicious in selecting appropriate organisational and procedural elements to achieve success.

560

561 **Building Information Modelling (BIM).** The application of BIM is welcomed as a vehicle
562 for collaboration (Elmualim and Gilder, 2014). Thus, in terms of collaboration, **BIM** may be

563 a critical element for ensuring information transparency and thus preventing unethical yet
564 lucrative practices (Guo et al., 2019). We observed no unwillingness to share information or
565 use BIM outside the usual constraints, such as “the model not being mature enough to share
566 ...”. From a collaboration perspective, BIM was viewed as facilitating better communication
567 and enhancing the individual’s understanding of the project. Practically, the model enables all
568 parties involved (both professionals and non-professionals) to quickly grasp the issues,
569 changes, and updates presented. Furthermore, the actors shared their data (models)
570 continuously even though their data were ‘incomplete’. Thus, they avoided restricting the
571 flow of information during the process by looking to protect ownership of BIM-generated
572 output (Bryde et al., 2013).

573

574 ICE, or **Integrated Concurrent Engineering**, is a way of organising and conducting project
575 work. The methodology involved differs from traditional approaches in terms of the
576 composition of the design team, the reliance on teamwork, and its client-driven nature (Love
577 et al., 1998). Although the approach is currently enjoying an increase in popularity within the
578 construction industry, how and to what extent it is being implemented seems to vary a great
579 deal. A central principle is **co-location**, as discussed earlier, but ICE as an organisational
580 element entails more than merely having the team physically present. A systematic weakness
581 in seeking to implement ICE in the construction industry is the organisational boundaries and
582 those ever-present boundaries between the professions. As mentioned, the consultant must be
583 100% billable and consequently working on several projects at once. To encourage them to
584 commit 100% to one project at one physical location seems to be unrealistic given the
585 constraints of the current state of the industry, especially for Norwegian projects, which are
586 generally too small to obtain a 100% commitment from individuals. However, the solution of
587 meeting once a week for one full day’s work session seemed to work satisfactorily in this

588 project. The main challenge is to avoid the pitfall of traditionally designed meetings and to
589 engage every actor present. Another constraint is that the engineering work in this phase of
590 the project is so closely interwoven into the conceptual model developed by the architect, the
591 decisions made by the client, and the time and money constraints set by the contractor. All
592 these factors make it nearly impossible to perform actual engineering work, and the sessions
593 tend to fall back on being meetings where the actors offer clarifications and plan the work to
594 be done. In sum, **Integrated Concurrent Engineering** has a positive effect on **task** and
595 **team needs**. From a theoretical perspective, it should also have a positive effect on
596 **individual needs** for the individuals involved, but this effect is only observed when the
597 sessions are able to **engage** all actors.

598

599 **Standardised Performance Measures.** According to Dainty et al. (2003), construction has
600 some specific characteristics that demand performance measures, particularly performance
601 related to managing complex team-based working and leadership qualities required within
602 such an environment. Furthermore, measurements are important for tracking progress,
603 identifying opportunities, and performance improvement (Oakland and Marosszeky, 2017).
604 The contractor had a standardised system for measuring progress called PPC (Percent
605 Planned Complete), a system that measures activities done by each actor against activities
606 planned (expressed in %). The design manager used approximately one hour of each ICE
607 session to ask team members about their activities. If they did not finish their activity, team
608 members were given the opportunity to do so; however, their activity was measured as
609 incomplete. Finding a way to measure progress in the design is perceived as essential when
610 working on such a complex endeavour. However, measures must be coupled with a purpose:
611 one must not measure only for the sake of measuring. The design manager paid attention to
612 coupling the PPC with the achievement of the shared goals the team had set out to complete.

613 Individuals were not penalised for not completing their tasks, but they had to rationalise their
614 actions in front of the rest of the team. This created a culture where everybody wanted to
615 have a PPC of 100%; at the same time, individuals were met with support and understanding
616 when they rationalised why they had not finished certain activities (for example lacking
617 information, changes made by actors, lack of relevance, etc.). **Standardised performance**
618 **measures** will have a positive effect on **task needs**. From a theoretical perspective it should
619 also influence **individual needs**; however, the effect could be both negative and effective
620 depending on the character of the individual (some respond better to critical feedback than
621 others).

622

623 **Dispute Resolution Board** and **conflict escalation ladder**. As Love et al. (2010) have noted,
624 clients perceive that disputes occur mainly due to the nature of the task being performed,
625 people's deliberate practices, the opportunistic behaviour of contractors, incomplete
626 documentation, and the poor planning and resources of consultants and contractors. Because
627 of the expense and lengthy delays associated with litigating construction disputes, clients are
628 increasingly opting for an alternative means of resolving disputes (Treacy, 1995). The goal of
629 establishing organisational elements is to manage conflicts and prevent them from escalating
630 into disputes and lawsuits (Ng et al., 2007).

631

632 **Standardisation (standardised processes)** may be closely coupled with the paradigm of
633 lean construction. From the perspective **organisational elements** to enhance collaboration,
634 standardisation may be closely coupled with processes by searching to improve everything
635 related to process, such as communication and information sharing. A construction project
636 that lacks standardised processes makes collaboration among actors a very complicated
637 process (Athanasios et al., 2007).

638

639 **Conclusion**

640 Sustainable high-performance buildings, as an emerging phenomenon, have been studied
641 from a project delivery methods perspective before. However, empirical case studies on
642 formal and informal relationships, better understanding of the integration processes in
643 temporary project teams, and empirical studies that could inform decision makers in
644 structuring the project delivery method were lacking (Wen et al., 2017; Mesa et al., 2019;
645 Tang et al., 2019). This paper has reported a take on collaborative PDMs for sustainable,
646 high-performance projects by providing a systematic analysis of all observed collaboration-
647 enhancing elements in a longitudinal case study. In this respect, contractual, cultural and
648 organisational elements have been studied in the light of the adopted leadership model
649 provided by Adair (1988); see Table 5.

650 **[Table 5 near here]**

651

652 The result provides the following contributions. Firstly, the analysis builds on existing studies
653 by showing that organisational and cultural elements can be used to facilitate collaboration –
654 which consecutively leads to more integrated teams within the constraints of being both
655 temporary and inter-organisational. Secondly, the client, as the principal, can enhance the
656 collaborative PDM by being thoughtful in the selection of contractual elements. While the
657 principal sets the contractual boundaries, the agent (contractor team) should be intentional in
658 the selection and use of organisational and cultural elements. Thirdly, it shows that a set of
659 contractual elements are not enough for establishing collaboration and creating an efficient
660 integrated team. Therefore, the contracting parties needs to exploit the untapped potential that
661 lies within organisational and cultural elements.

662

663 From both a practical and theoretical viewpoint, the analysis builds on existing studies by
664 showing that organisational and cultural elements can be used to facilitate collaboration. It
665 shows how the client can create a collaborative PDM using the right contractual elements
666 implemented. The client has significant power and influence on the delivery method through
667 the contractual elements applied. However, contractual elements alone are no guarantee of
668 ensured collaboration. Collaboration does not automatically occur just because the contract is
669 aligned towards it. The client must be present and engaged throughout the project,
670 contributing actively to the project culture and organisation. Conversely, the downsides of
671 such methods occur when inexperienced clients assume that a collaborative project delivery
672 method will deliver a high-performance building that satisfies all their needs just by signing a
673 collaborative contract and then letting the contractor assume all responsibility. Therefore, as
674 the client sets the boundaries by deciding the contractual elements, the contractor team can
675 influence the organisational and cultural elements. Consequently, the contractor team must be
676 judicious in selecting appropriate organisational and cultural elements to achieve success. It
677 also shows how the contractor can influence the project delivery method.

678

679 It is evident that contractual elements alone are not enough to ensure collaboration. Individual
680 needs seem to obtain the least attention, possibly due to constraints related to the construction
681 industry. Attention to cultural elements seem to have a positive effect on individual needs,
682 while the corresponding effects of contractual and, to a certain extent, organisational
683 elements appear to be limited. Therefore, the chosen elements must contribute towards 1)
684 establishing a project culture that aligns the project goals with those of the individual actors
685 so that the group achieves a shared goal (task needs), 2) establishing a team with the
686 necessary level of team integration that is maintained throughout the process (team needs),

687 and 3) developing and motivating all the individuals involved in establishing commitment
688 and satisfaction (individual needs).

689

690 The result provides practitioners with a better understanding how a collaborative project
691 delivery method for the design phase emphasises team integration through systematically
692 selecting appropriate contractual, cultural and organisational elements that support task, team
693 and individual needs. A collaborative project delivery method that systematically seeks to
694 create an effective integrated team requires contractual elements such as early involvement
695 coupled with a team composition that seeks to attract the right expertise in order to take full
696 advantage of value creation and the team's collective "knowledge pool". Implementing the
697 right organisational elements will build and sustain good communication, information
698 sharing, continuous interaction, and ultimately lead to a trusting project environment.
699 Cultural elements emphasise "best for project" decisions, commitment and shared interest
700 (strategic thinking).

701

702 Future work should provide in-depth knowledge regarding the effects of specific elements,
703 particularly cultural ones, which appear to be underreported in project management research.
704 In addition, the systematic approach should be used in comparative studies of other
705 collaborative PDMs. Practitioners wishing to deliver sustainable, high-performance projects
706 can use a similar systematic approach when deciding which elements to include in their
707 project delivery method.

708 ***Data Availability Statement***

709 Some or all data, models, or code generated or used during the study are available from the
710 corresponding author by request.

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