Digital assessment in Finnish and Norwegian Higher Education
Talking points

• Background
• Collaboration models for HEIs
  • Finland
  • Norway
• Comparing Finnish and Norwegian models
  • Possibilities and Challenges
Background

Finland

- Self-developed system: EXAM
  - Since 2014
  - Based on camera-monitored exam premises, but development for BYOD-based campus and home exams is going on
  - Developed by EXAM consortium of 27 Finnish HEIs
  - CSC with Valamis Ltd. as a service provider
  - Licensed under EUPL 1.1. license

Norway

- Joint SaaS procurement on behalf of HEIs
  - BYOD-based
  - Prepared best practice documentation (CBP – campus best practice)
- Three framework agreements signed in 2016
  - UNIwise Aps (WISEflow)
  - Inspera AS (Inspera Assessment)
  - Enovate AS (Flexite!)
Finnish collaboration model

- Consortium HEIs, CSC and service provider developing EXAM product
- Funded mainly by members
- Co-operation with EXAM premises setups
- Advancing standardization of workflows and usage of SIS systems

EXAM organisation

- EXAM Consortium (HEIs)
  - Management Group
    - Working Group
  - Group of main users
    - Product Owner Group
    - Theme Groups

- CSC’s EXAM team
  - Project manager/PO, coordinator, technical service manager
  - Software developers (Valamis Ltd.)
  - Connecting service for joint exams and exam visits (TBD)

- CSC service (SaaS)

- Ministry of Education and Culture
  - Funding, visio and strategy planning

- Bi-monthly working group meetings
  - Monthly online meeting
  - Sharing of practice and experiences
  - Acceptance testing
  - Theme group (e.g. science practices)

- Bi-annual in person consortium meetings
  - Roadmap acceptance

- Activities for group of main users
  - Theme group (e.g. science practices)

- Weekly online meetings with product owner group
  - Product development (product instructions, roadmap and product specification planning, testing)
  - Consortium events, communications

- Consortium HEIs, CSC and service provider developing EXAM product
- Funded mainly by members
- Co-operation with EXAM premises setups
- Advancing standardization of workflows and usage of SIS systems
Norwegian collaboration model

- National coordination and collaboration for HEIs using WISEflow and Inspera
  - About 70 per cent of the HEIs are members (22)
    - 25 HEIs participate in HEI collaboration
    - 24 of 25 use the same SIS
    - Completely funded by members
- Joint development of system functionality and integrations
- Dialogue with system providers

Step 1: Implement digital assessment
Step 2: ???
Step 3: Profit

- Bi-weekly video conferences with each system group
- Bi-annual in-person user group meetings
- Sharing of practice and experiences
- Standardization of workflow and usage of SIS
Despite having very different software solutions for digital assessment, we face the same challenges:

- Developing quality solutions for supporting maths and sciences in digital assessment is difficult.
- Harmonizing and standardization of complex workflows, in order to develop quality software or integrations, is often very time-consuming as the HEIs all have to agree on joint workflows.
- Securing commitment among stakeholders also delays the process, as stakeholders at different levels must be involved in the decision-making.
- Using a SAAS-solution means that Unit and Norwegian HEIs have to inline their development with the providers’ roadmaps. Developing one’s own system, like in Finland, you define your own roadmap (budget!).
And some of the same possibilities;

- Using digital assessment systems to move into different assessment forms/models
- Increase automation by having standardized workflow
- More international collaboration
- LTI integrations (LMS, QTI etc.)
Bonus XP

National collaboration and tradition of sharing of experience, has proved to be a key factor during COVID-19.