UNIT

THE NORWEGIAN DIRECTORATE FOR ICT AND JOINT SERVICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
Digital assessment as a national service
What is Unit?

Unit was formed Jan 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2018.
Manages framework agreements on behalf of HE-sector

Mission:

- Be an innovative driving force of digitization in higher education and research
- Coordinate and provide services to aid the sectors in reaching their goals

Centred on collaboration between Unit and institutions

- Representatives from institutions/sectors in boards and committees
2014: Paper-based exams

Photo: Christian Lyche (https://universitas.no/sak/55637/ma-programmere-pa-papir/)

Photo: NTNU Info (https://dusken.no/artikkel/25288/infrer-digital-eksamen-pa-ntnu/)
What was/is the goal?

- Improve student experience by allowing usage of text processing and other digital tools during exam
- Digitize the processes from registering for exams to grading is finalized
- Assure exams make use of good forms of digital assessment
- Provide universities and university colleges with joint modern and digital solutions and tools
- Increased academic and administrative collaboration both nationally and internationally, between institutions and towards business

Step 1: Implement digital assessment
Step 2: ???
Step 3: Profit
Evolution, not revolution

Photo: NTNU Info (https://dusken.no/artikkel/25288/innfrer-digital-eksamen-pa-ntnu/)

Photo: Aleksander Eikeland, NTNU
Student lifecycle

Admission
- National admission system
- National SIS
- Student web – self service
- Local application, admissions, course/exam planning etc.

Administration
- LMS + plugins
- Digital assessment

Studies
- Digital transfer of grades
- EMREX – international exchange of diplomas

Graduation

Infrastructure and basics; network, Eduroam, Feide, generic tools/applications
The digital assessment ecosystem needs 99,99% availability (uptime)
What we do

**CONTRACTUAL FOLLOW-UP**
- Framework agreement SSA-R
- Operational services agreement SSA-D
- Functionality/integration development projects

**NATIONAL COLLABORATION**
- Bi-weekly video conferences with each system group
- Sharing of practice and experience
- Standardization of workflow and use of SIS

**JOINT DEVELOPMENT**
- Functionality in assessment systems
- Integrations
- Large-scale benefits; do the work once
- Lower cost for each institution

**DIALOGUE WITH SYSTEM PROVIDERS**
- Close collaboration on development
- Align development with providers’ roadmaps
How we finance it

30% of total yearly budget
• Set fee, equal for all members

70% of total yearly budget
• Based on institution size (FTE)

Unit budget for Digital assessment service
• Service management
• Integration development (Unit)
• Development from system providers
How far have we come?

Why not more?

• Great variance between institutions
  • Practical and/or technical courses that doesn’t digitize as easily
• Lack of relevant knowledge of:
  • alternative forms of assessment
  • how to use digital technology in assessment
• Different speed of rollout at the institutions
  • Local plans, resources and goals
  • Management support for the move to digital exam

Why not more?

Please note: these numbers are limited to closed book exams and are intended to only to give an indication of growth. Hand-in exams are assumed to be 100% digitized.

Developing quality solutions for supporting maths and sciences in digital assessment is difficult.

Harmonizing and standardization of complex workflows is very time-consuming
- Joint development gives higher priority and lower total cost
- Higher data quality

Securing commitment among stakeholders delays the process, as stakeholders at different levels must be involved in the decision-making

Using a SAAS-solution means we have to align our development with the providers’ roadmaps.
- Nordics are digitization drivers

Joint integrations are complex and consume a lot of resources
- Downtime/incidents potentially affect everyone

There is a need for automation of the test setup process, and test management process

A complete sandbox environment for testing the assessment ecosystem is difficult
- Need for real data

GDPR for the assessment ecosystem is a lot of work