Project Retrospective

Dear next AMOS generation,

We would like to congratulate you on your decision to join this course. It's going to be a slightly different one from what you are used to. It will be filled with hands-on experience. It is going to be a team project in which there is no space for bystanders. "Is it time-consuming?" you might ask. Definitely. But the time you spent will be worth it. Before you start, we would like to share our experiences with you.

To us, working on our AMOS project was a lot of fun but also quite challenging at times. Having a lecture that talked about the fundamentals of agile development and Scrum was interesting. But what made AMOS worthwhile is the fact that you can directly put this theory into practice while working on your project. Luckily, this project is not some far-fetched exercise without practical relevance, but a real-world problem, supervised by an industry partner. Interacting with our industry partner and receiving his feedback was definitely one of the most valuable aspects of this course.

In contrast to other university courses, AMOS puts a lot of focus on efficient teamwork, the practice of Scrum rituals and the creation of Scrum artifacts. As agile methods are omnipresent in industry, AMOS was a great opportunity to try them out and learn how they work in practice. In other university classes, it is very unlikely to undergo a complete software project cycle, as these are typically purely focused on the results. In addition to that, having multiple different roles within a university team was a new and valuable experience to most of us. The fact that AMOS takes place at multiple universities across Germany is another positive aspect.

Working in a team of 8 (initially 9 people) made the project realistic but sometimes also came with difficulties. Coordination and alignment within such a big team required patience and additional communication effort. When 8 people are on completely different schedules, even finding a common meeting slot can become tough. Initially, we struggled with our means and ways of communication, and it took some time to settle in. Especially at the beginning of the course, all the input and materials seemed a bit overwhelming. Not every aspect is presented in detail and a lot of self-organizing was required. But after the first few weeks, everybody became familiar with the tasks and the meetings, and the general workflow became a routine. Overall, while AMOS gave us some sleepless nights, it was a fun and valuable experience.