**Team 1 Focus Group Zoom**

**Interviewer:**

Okay, so before I go into that, I'm going to present a bit myself. My name is Olga Seto and I'm doing this research about software startups and software engineering practices at DD for the last two years. My background is in computer engineering told before and yeah, I have a lot of experience, both in academic contexts and in industry. So, I'd like to maybe hear from everybody to present themselves, perhaps and take around, like, say who you are, and what is your study background?

**Interviewee 1:**

My name is Jenny, I'm a fourth-year student at computer science, I go the West Coast, the specialization software development.

**Interviewee 2:**

So, I'm Henrik, I'm a fourth year student at the Computer Science Study, specializing in software development, it can be both software engineering and software development, I think.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, don't fight over it, it's okay. I understand if software engineering or computer science, whatever.

**Interviewee 3:**

Hi, it's Mark. I'm also studying computer science with the specialization in artificial intelligence.

**Interviewee 4:**

My name is Joanne and I'm a fourth year computer science, specialization is software development.

**Interviewee 5:**

I'm also a fourth year student like everyone here and in computer science, and my specialization as software systems.

**Interviewee 6:**

My name is Johannes; I'm a fourth year student at computer science. And I'm specializing in databases searches.

**Interviewee 7:**

My name is Simon and I'm fourth year computer science in specialized in artificial intelligence.

**Interviewee 8:**

I'm studying informatics, I'm on the third year so, no specialization.

**Interviewer:**

That's fine, so what is the project about, can you tell me about your project that you are doing in this course?

**Interviewee 6:**

We're developing an avalanche portal, which is really divided in two parts. One part, which is for gathering, organizing and structuring large data's in an dashboard. And the second part is using wants to use some of that data, but we had to find some new data to predict where person triggered avalanches are likely to occur.

**Interviewer:**

What is the engineering part of this, is just the portal or something more?

**Interviewee 6:**

The software development, it's, for the first part, it was originally no programming only Power BI. So, it's how Power BI didn't handle the request. So, we had to develop intermediate database. So, that has been a lot of tightening development around that. And then the second part has been Python and AI models and prediction.

**Interviewer:**

Okay, nice, I know maybe this is obligatory course. But I'm gonna ask this question. So, what are the key motivations you have for participating in the course anyways?

**Interviewee 8:**

Finishing my degree

**Interviewee 6:**

It's like having the experience of the relationship with a real customer is really valuable.

**Interviewer:**

So, would you have chosen the course, if you are not obliged to?

**Interviewee 5:**

Yeah, I would.

**Interviewee 1:**

After having it there before having it?

**Interviewer:**

Before.

**Interviewee 1:**

And it's worth 15 to the study points so that's like a big factor also because you have other courses where you learn more programming but so I think those courses are like popular too but this second offer more study points and like the experience with handling or the experience with a real customer.

**Interviewee 8:**

That's a more practical course.

**Interviewer:**

And how do you feel you have benefited from the customer, why working in the practical context, what are the benefits you receive?

**Interviewee 6:**

They have kind of been somewhat harsh. It's been good to kind of feel that was called show them otherwise or something. And like, learn to say no, when they asked too much and stand your ground as with your knowledge, even though you're students

**Interviewee 5:**

And also the general communication and developing the final solution would be together

**Interviewee 2:**

Like, discussing back and forth with domain experts, they were really good at like, adding people without all that much knowledge, to make sure the product was developed.

**Interviewer:**

Did you have any technical challenges, by the way and what technical skills did you learn?

**Interviewee 1:**

I think that's one of the problems with our project that there was not a lot of programming, and the company was not a software development company. So, yes, we have used technologies that were known to us before. But those technologies were also a little bit click and drag, technologies that fourth year computer students shouldn't be using, those are the technologies we should be making instead of using.

**Interviewer:**

Are you talking about Power BI in particular or something else?

**Interviewee 1:**

And we also use something called weeks, which is like a website developer. So, that's, like, not really what you expect when you're a fourth-year student

**Interviewee 2:**

It's been a lot of opportunities if you're using other technologies to like use the success in continuous integration. And also for that, which haven't been possible because of how the project is organized and with Power BI we also didn't, when we first started doing the power assets, we found out that okay, power BI just to file so we can't use, we just had to file a run from one computer to another. So, there was like some of the tools which were that we prevented because technology and frames...

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, that sounds fair enough, but what soft skills did you gain done? In terms you mentioned something before, like communication with the customer; were there any other things that you feel like you have learned while working in a team, have more value, soft skills.

**Interviewee 1:**

Like Johannes said, standing your ground to the customer, the customer is always pushing the development team and, and telling them okay we can do this and this but also telling them no when they're pushing too hard.

**Interviewee 6:**

Also kind of that communication between, we organized the team in such a way we had like, kind of sub teams, and for the project to kind of paralyze work but then the communication between kind of the sub teams also was nice to learn about.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, no challenges, in particular within the team about...

**Interviewee 2:**

Taking enough risks, and always like the concretization of tasks because they're always difficult. Especially when there's eight of us to make sure that everyone knows what all the tasks used for task management are about...

**Interviewee 2:**

Like a definition of done?

**Interviewee 2:**

Definition of done and exactly what shouldn't be done in a task, for categories using JIRA, for project management. And it's always so easy to see it scribes explore possibilities with this API like concrete placing concrete specimens. We are learning more about how important that is for...

**Interviewee 8:**

Task management, we also learned about task management with GRS and that was the software we use for task management.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, so this is mainly going to project management. And from that perspective, what did you use? Did you use Scrum or something different in Agile that you feel?

**Interviewee 1:**

We used Scrum, but we also used a little bit of Kanban and Feature Driven Development because we started initially with Scrum and using Kanban boards, but later realized that making use stories were not that relevant to our project. So, we started focusing more on features because the project was more technical or feature focused from the customer, and not focused on like making a finished product for the end user.

**Interviewee 8:**

Most of that was already done through just using Power BI...

**Interviewee 1:**

They said to us many times that was not important, and we shouldn't focus on so much on the end users...

**Interviewee 2:**

Main focus was to get the data gathered **[Inaudible ]**

**Interviewer:**

I know this will shift a little bit, but I would like to hear maybe everybody for these two questions. First is what motivates you to create a startup during and after the course based on the project that you are developing?

**Interviewee 6:**

What motivates us to create?

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, out of this project that you are doing, you have now I think the project is functional, you have created the minimum viable product. Now, do you have any motivations in creating a startup with the project?

**Interviewee 1:**

With the project we have been working on? No.

**Interviewer:**

Okay, why not?

**Interviewee 1:**

For myself, I'm just not that interested in avalanches and I don't think I see the market value in this product products. I don't think enough people will be using it. I think it's going to be used by specialists and people who work within this field. And more than normal or I don't think it's going to be used enough.

**Interviewer:**

How about the rest of the team? What opinions do you have?

**Interviewee 2:**

The same for me actually, I don't see a huge potential in the income.

**Interviewee 8:**

Working on this, actually, I'm kind of interested in seeing and things like that nature...

**Interviewee 7:**

**[Inaudible ]**

**Interviewer:**

It's mainly the project issue but how about, suppose you had a good project at hand and how about involving each other or the other team members in a future startup formation? How does this go would involve each other? What would be your answer in this case?

**Interviewee 6:**

Yeah, I think I would.

**Interviewee 1:**

But then there has to be like a business value to the project.

**Interviewee 6:**

I think he meant more like the team members, would you like if you join a startup would you get some of the team members from this project

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, that tells us a bit about the team dynamics, I guess. I know, it's awkward question but it's more like how much solid is the team to continue the project, but it seems like the project was not very interesting for context. So, the question is,

**Interviewee 1:**

I think we have good group dynamics in this team like I think we have better group dynamics than most other teams, even though like the project hasn't been and awful but we've had a good day group cooperation during the project.

**Interviewee 6:**

Yeah, I feel like every team member kind of gets involved so that's nice.

**Interviewee 8:**

We've worked well together...

**Interviewer:**

Sort of a last question, what do you think about introducing some external activity to the course, such as boot camp or hackathon at the very first three days?

**Interviewee 6:**

To learn how to work together before you work together,

**Interviewee 2:**

Together with a team or without or with everyone taking the course?

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, sorry, just a moment, they got some noise here

**Interviewee 3:**

**[Inaudible ]**

**Interviewer:**

The idea is simple. Suppose you work with the customers very hard the first three days. And you also do brainstorming, understand the value of the project in the market, not just develop, so you have the option to express some opinions on the project as well. This will be beneficial at the very beginning of the course in the three days, like the course and so on...

**Interviewee 8:**

Yeah, depends on the group

**Interviewer:**

When you say yes, how, perhaps?

**Interviewee 1:**

I think it will be good to get a better understanding of the project before we start, like, the first thing we started was with a meeting, and then we had to find roles for everybody. And like, I think if we have three days where we just concentrate on the task or what is the project, and why are we doing what we're doing, you're better prepared for starting for starting the project.

**Interviewee 5:**

And especially with the project hours word, the work we were going to do wasn't well defined and requires some exploration on our part and a lot of communication with the customer. And that might have been accelerated by a more intensive start to the course.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, I've got the person teasing me here so I'm not laughing but I think the boot camp part, I think it's very important. If you say like, okay, we have the option to make some decisions on how to do that, on how to conduct the project in the future. So, I think that would be beneficial, but do you want to elaborate more like, say, for instance, how this boot camp can be organized, for instance? Just briefly

**Interviewee 2:**

It's hard to send you to **[Inaudible ]**

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, it's hard with Corona now.

**Interviewee 1:**

And it should be physical not digital

**Interviewee 6:**

But it shouldn't like maybe get the team to step on each other's toes so you can feel like not just the good experiences, the intensity of the work together too to get to know each other and not just like honeymoon phase or whatever, have a real hard task or like pushing team out of their comfort zone or something...

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, to be honest, I'm mainly done. I have to be in next meeting actually. But I thank you for the insights. And did you get the pizza by the way? And thank you for the insights, as I said before, and I wish you the best of luck on the final day of the presentation. So, thank you, everybody.