**Group 6 Focus Group Interview**

**Interviewer**

So I'm gonna say a little bit about myself. I am a computer engineer and I'm doing my Ph.D. now at TD, about software startups and software engineering practices. And, of course, we do some research also the students and I've been running this expert in team village for the last two years, which is called Startup-driven social innovation for social good. But here I'm more interested in hearing what is your profiles first, maybe we can have around like say, what are you What's your full name? And what are you studying?

**Interviewee-01**

Yeah, great. I can. I can start. My name is Senator Gillen. I am currently in my fourth year of computer science with a specialization in artificial intelligence.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, thank you.

**Interviewee-02**

Okay, yeah, thanks, Bjorn Andrea Olson, and I'm also in the fourth year of my study, but I'm studying Industrial Economics and Technology Management, where I choose to have computer science as my engineering direction.

**Interviewee-03**

My name is Ivan [-------]. So computer science with software systems. That's my specialization.

**Interviewee-04**

My name is Emmanuella, Cabriolet, and I, am also in my fourth year of Computer Science, majoring in artificial intelligence. Others.

**Interviewee-05**

My name is Adrian Langseth. I'm a fourth-year computer science, with a specialization in AI.

**Interviewee-06**

My name is Marie [------] and I'm in my third year of informatics. Sebastian?

**Interviewee-01**

Sebastian, you're muted, if we're trying to speak.

**Interviewee-05**

It seems he's not.

**Interviewer**

Sebastian says that maybe he doesn't want to participate in the interview.

**Interviewee-06**

Oh, he wrote that he has some issues with the microphone in the chat.

**Interviewer**

Doesn't matter. It's up to Sebastian and this is not obligatory anyways. Can you tell me a little bit about the project? Well, what is the project about that you are running

**Interviewee-01**

our project this? Yeah question no, one.

**Interviewee-03**

You can take it if you want.

**Interviewee-01**

Yeah. Our project is with Centre for Ocean where we are going to develop a prototype for or find out the second and third possibilities of developing a system for saving time series data and displaying it for engineers and scientists and possible customers. And yeah, that's more or less it's, it is quite a large task, considering we have gotten.

**Interviewer**

And it is very generic stick the way I understand from your description.

**Interviewee-01**

Yeah. So we have had to take a few shortcuts and select only a few of the points. But it has all been with communication between us and the customer. So he's happy, we're wrapping. Everything should be good.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Do you have any particular motivations for participating in this course or is it obligatory for everyone?

**Interviewee-06**

I'm taking it as my bachelor's degree, but it's kind of obligatory because I had to take something okay.

**Interviewee-02**

And it's not obligatory for me. I chose the course because I wanted to participate in more b2 software engineering projects. And then I also wanted to like have a real project with one customer, not like a made-up project.

**Interviewer**

Good enough? Yeah, the rest of you, how do you feel? Is this something interesting as a course? What was the perception?

**Interviewee-01**

At least for me, it's more obligatory, it feels quite similar to a summer internship. And once you've had one or two jumps, it seems kind of pointless to just do the same thing over and over when a real job or internship yields more experience. In the way, I feel that at least,

**Interviewer**

But thinks about technical challenges or technical skills? Have you learned something? So far? What is your perception as a team and individual?

**Interviewee-03**

I could say like, one of the biggest challenges, at least in the beginning as we had we have no one on the team that specializes in databases. A huge part of the task was with the time series databases, which none of us not touched at all. In the past, so maybe the different fields, people started to pay more spread out, and not everyone, because he had like a share or weight of AI people. So like, maybe that's something to consider when you're creating groups, but I don't know, it won't find that good. It's just an extra that now Adrian is an expert in time series databases. So

**Interviewee-05**

But I, I agree with what you were saying that the waiting that Athletico said several times in the introduction, that the groups were truly random. And I don't think that's a positive thing as she tries to make it because the sheer randomness in selection groups is fine. But now we're, if you make a random group, you will never get the balanced group. Because now we have five AI people and two programming systems and one informatics person this does not help when we get a project which has nothing to do with any of those. So I think the projects, and the specific tasks should be taken into account when making the groups and then you could pick random people from the specializations rather than just picking truly random groups.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, I understand. That's a good point actually. To bring it about. And how about soft skills like communication with customers to the customer between yourself and how are the soft skill challenges that you've received so far?

**Interviewee-01**

There haven't been like, huge challenges. The task from the customer was quite not extremely specific, but quite general. So his wishes for the application changed a bit throughout the semester, but not a lot. The communication has been good at least I think so. So I haven't at least seen any major issues

**Interviewer**

Between the group, how is it between the team members?

**Interviewee-05**

Of the soft skills as you mentioned, I think I feel I've learned a lot about the teamwork within the software development team as well as within my responsibility of keeping in touch with the customer I think I've learned a lot about that aspect of it, which I probably will get used for later capacity. And I know today two is the one who who isn't here has learned a lot about the meaning of meetings and Scrum and all that she could talk about that herself like if she came online.

**Speaker-07**

I am here, I came online some time ago.

**Interviewee-05**

Why you were not talking?

**Speaker-07**

Well, since we already knew, or at least I already use Scrum in pair Do we already, or at least I already knew like how it was, but I've been studying it a bit more. So I've learned a bit about that. And since I'm also a teaching assistant I expected the team is experts in the team and have always also taken a bit from that to use inside this group.

**Interviewer**

You're mentioning scrum now and project management stuff. So how is that related to soft skills?

**Speaker-07**

I thought that you meant like, how communication has been inside the group and like what we've done, and how scrum has worked, since we have like retrospectives, and that helps with communication and such.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. And how about project management? In general? Do you only use it? Maybe somebody else can answer? Do you only use Scrum and so on? Or do you use also other practices,

**Speaker-07**

We mainly use Scrum. And also a bit of Extreme Programming site.

**Interviewee-02**

We also use the Gantt chart in the beginning of the project to get an overview of the whole project.

**Interviewer**

See, again, what was that?

**Interviewee-02**

The Gantt chart,

**Interviewer**

The Gantt chart, Yeah, planning, planning. But anything else, just scrum framework, then you have the retrospectives you have all the things that you do from planning and so on. Right? Yes.

**Interviewer**

Making a bit of noise. Sorry about this. It's a home office. Just a second? Yeah, sorry about that. Yeah. Having kids on doing this thing, but it's until the end, then, how about this is kind of sort of a question you would expect. But do you have any motivations for startup formation with this project? Like waiting for the startup out of this project?

**Speaker-07**

Like right at the beginning of the project or

**Interviewer**

Not, what you're doing now? Is it like you can transform it into a startup context, like a service or product that you can resell or something that can be normative? What is your perception? Would that be interesting?

**Interviewee-03**

In general maybe not have started but like, the customer has an interest in continuing this project. Yeah. And he likes the erudite idea that, if he would be interested in part-time, positions at SINTEF.

**Interviewee-04**

But customers, the customer said that they were looking for a solution enterprise solution for their problems, but they couldn't find one solution that covered all the areas, all the things that were the problem. But so they asked us to try and see if we could use open source technology, and develop a solution for this problem. And maybe try making basically a prototype of a solution and in the report, seeing if we could, if we can if it's possible to do it, and how much time it will take and so on. But I think it's a little bit for specifier I mean, tailored for SINTEF's use maybe, maybe going if we go back to the drawing board and design it with a more modular type of design, that that's when it can build a different solutions using some variation those modules may be will be something Get more more companies will be interested. But right now it's very tailored to SINTEF's.

**Interviewer**

For sale. So they have requested something very specific for their needs, The way I understand.

**Interviewee-03**

yes. Is this quite specific? But like SML? Say if we were to like the general concepts, and if it made it more general and specific, it's definitely potential for an idea.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that's true. And this is a bit of an awkward question. If you have, let's suppose, a very modular system, would you involve the team members, you are right now in creating a startup in the future? With this product or other products, it doesn't matter. If you have a very good, then this should be a yes and no answer.

**Interviewee-02**

Yeah, yeah, maybe I think so. If I had a startup idea, then I might give the other team members a call.

**Interviewee-04**

If you have a startup idea, or if you have a startup idea about this solution, just a question, because I want to know.

**Interviewer**

let's keep it towards this, this is okay. With this? Let's suppose this could become a startup solution. And you are motivated to do so maybe not, maybe you don't have the motivation? But if yes, then would you involve the team members present team members would involve other people as well? What's your perception?

**Interviewee-04**

Personally, I will involve team members, but also other more specialized people. Yeah, if it was a startup to develop this further, because when we were always thought about it as a prototype, proof of concept, so if you were to make a product out of it, a bigger, maybe a little bit bigger team are more specialized. So not all artificial intelligence, guys. And so someone would make the cut probably?

**Interviewee-03**

At it, yeah. If you were to start a startup on this idea, I think it would be kind of rude to not ask or involve the rest of the team.

**Interviewe**r

That's good. And this is sort of the final question I have. Let's suppose if you had this Bootcamp activity at the very beginning of the course, Bootcamp hackathon, it doesn't yeah, sort of this activity is three days intensive. And you work very closely with the customer, about figuring out technologies, innovative aspects of the project, and similar interpretations and so on, they'll be interesting. Bootcamp activity.

**Speaker-07**

Cuz, as Sundar mentioned at the beginning, and still kind of now, the customer is quite awake, or like, detailed about the stuff and then we get a bit insecure about what we're supposed to implement them what is actually the task we want, or what he wants us to accomplish. So maybe would make it like, easier to communicate and understand what he wants.

**Interviewee-03**

Yes, yeah, upset, sorry. I also feel like at the beginning, we were quite lost. That was like what you're actually supposed to do, and also did some of the technologies like the database that he was suggesting, known as an A previous experience with it. So I feel like we had to use at least a week or two to get like to do research and to familiarise ourselves with what we’ve possible solutions and the existing technical technologies we had. By now, if the Bootcamp if it would be at the beginning how much we would have learned, because we didn't know. And what I'm trying to say is, if it's been more useful to have it right at the beginning, or a week or two later on that.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, I mean, the Bootcamp, it would be like innovation Bootcamp where you can discuss the project orally, you can brainstorm, and you can see opportunities further. You can also propose solutions because sometimes the customers don't know about the solutions at hand. And maybe you have a better solution. is a better solution that they have. So yeah, you didn't get the chance to discuss all these things I guess so far.

**Interviewee-03**

Now, I'm gonna let it do the same thing.

**Interviewee-04**

Yes. About this bootcamp thing. The thing was that the customer, this problem the customer had wasn't part of all new, it was partially new, and partially based on the existing solution they had. They have, and the who's who's we didn't, we didn't. Because we didn't get to understand what how the thing works, how things works. Like why can all we didn't have a broader let's say, a broad an understanding about what the data, for example, or they look like was difficult to get a hold of data to process and an overview, for example, how this different data may look like and what kind of there are different kinds of users? And what kind of permission and what kind of role they have was a little bit I was a little bit mixed up. It would be better to sit down and maybe show us how they do today. And what, what they want. And maybe sit down with a drawing board and propose some solution, propose some idea. And make sure that we are on the same board about the different parts of these different roles, so person or module or whatever, every clear definition or all of this part, from both sides since the beginning, that would help a lot. I think, if it was understandable, I don't know.

**Interviewer**

Thanks. Yeah, it was. I don't have any more questions. But if you want to add to this, or if you have some something to that, please feel free to do so.

**Interviewee-06**

I agree with what Amananullah said. And I think it would be really good for at least our group if we had a little more time with the customer in the beginning. Because at least in the first presentation he had the solution that he wanted was really general and we didn't really understand what we were supposed to solve. So I don't think we would need a Bootcamp to discuss technologies, but rather just a more in-depth introduction of what he wants, and how we should solve it. Because we didn't really understand that in the beginning.

**Interviewee-01**

Some of the problems were also that, they didn't have a clear specification of what we were going to deliver or solve. They came with that first after two or three weeks, I think, at least took some time from the initial presentation until they had that complete specification of the problem that we finally got. So that would also pose a problem with you do a Bootcamp approach.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that's true. Okay, but yeah, I don't have any more questions, to be honest.

**Interviewee-03**

Today, do you need to write your email in the chat? Was that

**Interviewee-06**

My email in the chat?

In**terviewee-03**

Yeah, you need to write the email in the chat.

**Interviewee-06**

Okay.

**Interviewer**

I have sent this form to find. Yeah, but let's see. Let's see if this Bootcamp happens next year if you have students have the chance to brainstorm and discuss more things alongside customers at the very beginning, so they can have a better idea of how how to do things. Yeah, but thank you so much. I hope this has been useful to you guys. As for me, please again, the team leader, I don't remember now. For the team leader center, please send me the time and preferences. Just collect all the information for everybody and I can order today for Monday. Was that? Yeah, Monday. Okay. I'll say what time you send me also the time.

**Interviewee-01**

Yeah, I'll send you the time and dietary preferences, I'm guessing.

**Interviewer**

Yep, that's it,

**Interviewee-03**

And location. Okay,

**Interviewee-04**

If I can add the thing that was about the course, this is about the course about lectures, the timing of the lectures. Understand that it's difficult to know you cannot, you cannot have five lectures in the first week. But the timing may be could have been better, because I remember very clearly that we got we had a lecture on project management, Scrum, whatnot, after the majority of the groups already. did. I agree, planning. I agree. I mean, we add we already we had software developer development subject one two years ago that we covered scrum there. So we do you already knew how to what to do. But yeah, the timing could have been a little bit better.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, I agree. Yeah, thank you very much. I wish you best of luck with the project and I hope you do. Get a very good grading of the end.

**Interviewee-04**

Thank you.