**Focus Group Interview - Innovation Bootcamp USN**

**Interviewer:**

Recording. So I would say today, because it's the morning has come so far thank you for being here first of all, in all this past three days. And we are running this small research project on how this innovation bootcamp went at USN and how you have done through the course setting and about building your MVP and your startup ideas later on throughout the Innovation bootcamp. So I have some questions but the very first question is maybe each of you can state what is your study background, for instance, and what are your motivations for being here today? Of course, you might be because of the course, but some other motivations apart from that. So do you want to start with a study background, perhaps? And

**Interviewee 1:**

Yes. Well my Bachelor I hold a bachelor at computer science. And my first semester is related to business intelligence. Now I'm studying information management system and the motivation to pursue my education was honestly, I want to pursue PhD at usn. But according to my personal situation, my decision changed and now I'm studying master in this level.

**Interviewer:**

Mm. Okay. Nice. Thank you.

**Interviewee 2:**

I my Bachelor background is also the same as the master course Management information systems.

**Interviewer:**

Nice.

**Interviewee 3:**

Yes. My background is a bachelor in IT and computer Sciences. From, and what was the second part of the question?

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, it was about motivations of participating these things.

**Interviewee 3:**

I participated because I, I I wanted to have up for to job much participation in this course. They come to have to get, to get to learn much and get good grades.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yep.

**Interviewer:**

That's a good point.

**Interviewee 3:**

Yeah. Thanks.

**Interviewee 5:**

My bachelor background is economics and it, and because of I guess economics. So with business mixed with it. And my focus is also in masters to have something to do with management. Yeah. And with discourse, it's kind of mix up everything of IT and managing those projects. That's what my motivation is to run that.

**Interviewee 3:**

Yeah. Right.

**Interviewee 4:**

My veteran background is business information systems. Yep. And I participated in this part of the course cause it's part of the course actually.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, of course.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yeah.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. That's good. Next would be you developed some MVPs, which I observed and you presented the videos and so on. But I would like to know a bit more what software development practices and tools you used in this course for developing those MVPs. So you can describe briefly about that.

**Interviewee 1:**

Well, for our project guide in Norway we decided to design a web based platform that would be interactive. And in the first phase, we focused only on web based. And we want to continue with other platforms such as for example, application based on Android. But in the design section as a designer I started to learn Figma and use this platform for designing the prototype. This was the first experience for me to use this platform. It was so easy to learning and making a powerful platform to other what we need in this stage. Yeah,

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. Nice.

**Interviewee 6:**

Managing our mvp, most of it comes from my background, from, from my professional background as a business analyst and a junior product manager. So according to what I've observed through the lectures, and I'm doing my master degree, I suggested that to my group that we should adopt kind of some of the lean new X perspective since our MVP is just a user experience. And we used Adobe XD tool to show the mvp.

**Interviewee 3:**

Yeah, so our, our development method was a bit, a bit unstructured. After a while we, we started with a plan for a scrum agile scrum kind of development that then that then we didn't quite follow. We, we had a design plan design, we had a design document, let's say some about the features we should have on everything. We had, we had a, we had a method for assignment assigning those, those tasks. And then in the end just one person did 95% of the job and that was yeah. And one of our group members. And yes, afterwards, we, we didn't really, we didn't really follow up the plan and it was, it was a mess, let's just say wasn't structured. Yeah. Was

**Interviewer:**

The software development and practices that you used

**Interviewee 3:**

As I said this and I have not no much, and I don't have much idea how red that this, his development. I shouldn't have said, cut this out from transcript.

**Interviewer:**

It's like

**Interviewee 5:**

We started with the idea like who, you know, who is going to do what in the project? Like something and who have some knowledge of programming and what not. And we started with managing, Okay. We will assign something to someone and then make an mvp or come up with an idea. So how to create this one. So we used Adobe.

**Interviewer:**

Adobe, Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Similar to,

**Interviewee 5:**

Yeah. Yeah. To get to the idea, it's like, it took a long time because we were like, what? No, Yeah.

**Interviewee 4:**

Okay. we used extra and kind of well known program for building up mockups. Okay. Or maybe in Germany, <laugh>. And I, why we use it because I, I already had a subject in my bachelor where I had to build up a mockup, so it was, yeah, kind of easy. I still had to learn a lot, but it, I was kind of familiar with it, so it was much easier to build it. And it was perfect for us because we had to build up a mockup for for an app extension. And in Azure it's really user friendly and you can make it with a few clicks. Like you can apply some new features with a few clicks and it's really, you have a good overview of all. Yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:**

Nice. And when it comes to quality attributes, did you check any quality attributes such as UX design, how well people can use it, or performance or security? How, well, how good is this piece of software that we are developing? How secure is it? And so on. And also maintainability if you want, Did you check on these kind of things? Just briefly state what, what you think it happened

**Interviewee 1:**

For our project? In terms of security or other kind of tests? No, in this stage, we didn't focus on this context that you said but we more searched about user story, user experience, writing, ue, ux, and what we needed to handle in the context of this assignment according to what we should do, what we should cover, and what we need.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. Just to stop you for a second sorry. I, I tried to tell the students that you wouldn't be here because I don't want them to feel pressured as a grading stuff. So this is voluntary, you know, and sorry, I don't want to say waiting for me.

**Interviewee 6:**

No, I'm not here.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. <laugh>. Yeah. Yeah, sure. Just to not make them feel stressed about what's happening. Of course. Yeah. We're finishing in few, Yeah. Half an hour to meeting Of course. Yeah. We'll finish soon, so Yeah. Yeah, sure. Sorry for telling you.

**Interviewee 3:**

Absolutely not. Send me a message about what? About the group or whatever you want. Tell me

**Interviewee 6:**

I can,

**Interviewer:**

Yes. See you later on. Okay. Sorry. I had to ask him to leave <laugh> because I promise you guys. So just say briefly what you think, what kind of quality attributes you have thought of during the project.

**Interviewee 6:**

Our group didn't think about any kind of, sort of that attributes, cuz again, we are delivering just a prototype. Yeah. And as far as I know the whole class actually wasn't going to do actually coding. That's because of the master program, the time cetera, et cetera. That's it. And the boundaries that and gave us for this semester. So it was more like how to manage, let's say a project in a lean way and at the same time just deliver an mvp mock up, you prototype, you call it.

**Interviewer:**

Do the rest agree to this?

**Interviewee 3:**

Well actually our group did, did develop, did programming, like, like used just so good used framework for not framework was we used some framework like, you know, for us in development as in, as in for, Yeah. Yeah. Well, not the process, but, but the whole thing that makes it run, it was a functioning pro. It was from functioning program with things. Yeah.

**Interviewee 4:**

So I would not complete your,

**Interviewee 3:**

So also we, we didn't also you user experience with We didn't consider it much. Yeah. When doing, when designing this for now.

**Interviewee 6:**

Okay.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. You wanted to add

**Interviewee 4:**

I can add something like mostly I agree with this, but we have a smaller difference. Maybe we, we use it in a really, really small scale. Like like we tested a lot, like testing is like I tested like when I implemented a new feature, like, okay, if I'm clicking through the app, do all functions of work, like expected or not, like really small test, but I think they're kind of normal. We did a user testing later, later on, but I think all of them did it. Okay. And what we asked did, sometimes we thought about, okay, what is, if you're using app, what is more comfortable for you if you are using, for example the menu, what should be on top of the menu? Because like if you're in your, your thumb, like what is the easiest position to use it so small. But we also had like a lot of a big part of the layout was we took, you know, we took a big part of the layout from the student service step because it's include, like it's add on for it. So we have to adapt a lot of it. Sure.

**Interviewer:**

So, yeah, I understand. Yeah. Do you want to add something? Okay. Well you mentioned it I think a bit like when it comes to quality, you can do testing. So I don’t know, to what extent testing practices you have performed to validate and verify that the product was working well. What, what was the overall approach in testing?

**Interviewee 1:**

We did user tests. And then we did, we defined different flus Yeah. For our project and selected different peoples. We provided at something like a test case for them and guided guide them to go through the, this flu. And please tell two sections about what you could do and what should be better after performing the test. We did justice.

**Interviewer:**

Yes. Nice. We

**Interviewee 3:**

Actually Exactly. Yeah. Our group, I don't know. Okay. So my group is in a weird situation where we didn't have much communication between each other. We didn't have plan for testing Yeah. For more. So what the, the person that developed that mainly developed the, the mvp? It was, it was mostly like bug, bug fixing. Yeah. That was the most testing probably done.

**Interviewer:**

I see. Yeah. And when it comes to this, because you mentioned it, we are limited people or something, communication issues and Yeah. How much time do you think you have spent, for instance, in testing as human resources, time and stuff like that? How many resources I would say have you put into testing? You mentioned you put some testing to some people and how many people tested, how many developed, how much time did you spend on testing? How much time on development do you guys remember from

**Interviewee 4:**

You? Meaning like the tests itself? Like with the user? Yeah. Preparing for the tests and implementing the changes.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. More about the testing side. Yeah. Both of them actually the testing side and plus implementing.

**Interviewee 4:**

So I think it took me around, like it took us around 10 hours for the user tests, including like changes. Yeah. And small, like yeah, small connection tests in the background and all.

**Interviewee 3:**

Was

**Interviewer:**

It like 50% of the time or in percentage wise?

**Interviewee 4:**

I would say implementing was around from 10 hours. Would 60% or 70%? No, 60. And the user test itself plus 30%. Yeah. But I have to look, it's not pretty much just a number. Yeah,

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. Just a number of number. How about you? When do you think

**Interviewee 6:**

We did? Only on five users. And that's roughly, I think 30 minutes smokes more.

**Interviewer:**

Okay.

**Interviewee 6:**

For the enhancements or even changing that. That actually didn't take much time for us because my group has a designer is is already good with the tools, familiar with it. So for him it's very fast to do all these changes. Okay. So roughly I would say all in all maybe four hours is maximum.

**Interviewer:**

Ok, nice.

**Interviewee 5:**

Yeah. And because we had have not, like, we didn't make a proper mvp. When we are, we are testing our project, so we defined it as like what defines it. Okay. Our website is, Okay, so we made a definition. Okay. If this is okay, then if the userability or the user can easily access to all the informations and click the items that's there Yeah. Then it's a fine website. So we define it and then let the user like give a flow of what he can, he can do. Sure. And then let him know.

**Interviewer:**

Nice.

**Interviewee 3:**

I, yeah. Our the question was

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. When it comes to testing, how many resources did you allocate?

**Interviewee 3:**

Our group, our group has mentioned had some sudden much plan for the test, for testing. So testing what, what you could count testing was that, that for instance, I had to install, make sure that the application works on other computers. So than the person who mainly developed it. Yeah. The, the, the mvp. So I had to install various plugins and it, its some PhDs some frameworks and things that would make this, this whole social work and also server. Yeah. Yeah. Maybe we made it a bit too complex and maybe

**Interviewer:**

Okay. Nice. Did you track the changes along the way? Like version one, version two of the implementation, something like that? I hear that you have done both programming and design stuff, so there was a way you tracked changes or one version to the next.

**Interviewee 6:**

Yes. We, for us, we have, since we have three sprints, then we have three releases and we are already done with two

**Interviewer:**

Okay.

**Interviewee 6:**

Releases and yeah. From sprint one to sprint till there is a huge difference in the user experience. What we have shown today in the presentation is actually our new, our new our new design is totally different than the line. But from sprint to sprint three, the changes will not, will be minor more into the functionalities or the features that we will have.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. But how did you track like

**Interviewee 6:**

That goes through let's say trio. Okay. And the G shot, The G shot was actually the the one where if it's done, it's done, then we know that in Sprinter we released this.

**Interviewer:**

Yes. Milestone For other people that did any coding. Did you use any GitHub or something like that? Yes, Yes. We used GitHub. You did use ski. Okay. We, Yeah, or we didn't, We have, we have previous versions, so we could access previous versions, but we didn't have much like vi version 0.1 or tracking like that. Yeah. Mostly through updates to, Now let me shift to this question, which is more about intellectual property rights. Say this is very nice projects, right? You are building nice prototypes, et cetera. How do you perceive you'll protect them from others from steel, for instance, your ideas or your, not just the ideas, but the, the actual prototype as it is, like you used let me make an example. You use GitHub. Was it a public repository or a private repository for instance? Oh I mean our, our repository or what do you mean? Yes, your repository for where you kept it's private. Private because you didn't want others to see. Right. And we, but though we used the public public image image and Yeah. And algorithm theory for, for the algorithm that we used. Yeah. But we don't have any co we don't, we didn't have have current daily coverage, but protection. Protection in in the, in planning. Yeah. But

**Interviewee 1:**

Yeah. For our project, the only section that maybe would be related to your question is when we want to share our protocol with other people or for tests we used permission for example, only read view edit and different kinds of this Okay. To share our project within the lake. But only this

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. Not very stringent things. No, no. Yeah. But you have some source files, even though you built the a sketch in Adobe or something like that. This source files is you that keep them. Right. There's no other people that is accessing them or, but intellectual property rights falls also under patenting your idea and stuff like that. I know maybe you have not done this because it's, I understand it's just a course, but if you enter a startup step, the first thing to do is to protect your MVP in a certain way with some patents and stuff like that. So I'm pretty sure you haven't entered this process yet.

**Interviewee 1:**

Yeah. Can I ask a question? Sure. Yeah. For this session, my question is, for example in this assignment we share different ideas in the class with guest lectures and the others. Okay. But before the registering our ideas in for example, some office or with the other company, it it's open to use with other people. Yeah. It is an only private idea or registered

**Interviewer:**

One. Yes. But let's take the example with Z. If you share your idea with him and the appropriates it, that makes it part of his platform that is already running, you wouldn't be happy, right? because he was interested in what you are doing, but for his own profit was probably, I'm not sure about that, but the way I perceive it sometimes it's, Oh, this is similar to what I'm doing. So you need to protect your your MVP and your project and product. And so this is my perception. Okay. I won't be very going into technical depth question because I don't think you fully understand the technical depth. <Laugh> maybe?

**Interviewee 1:**

Yes. I don’t know. Depends on the question.

**Interviewer:**

Yes. But I wouldn't try it. <Laugh>, how much, where are you about the technical depth in your software? But I mean, some of you are not even building software, so technical that don't enter that. So I want to know about collaboration with these past days. And I think we close with few questions here. First of all do you think you learned any technical skills in the past three days that we were doing this bootcamp? Did you learn anything new? Technically, either from me, Either from each other, either from the people that spoke online or something like that. So what technical skills do you think you have gained during the past days? Technical skills. I mean, coding, Adobe design, whatever.

**Interviewee 4:**

But it's mainly for these last three days. Yes.

**Interviewer:**

It's focused on the last,

**Interviewee 4:**

Yeah,

**Interviewee 3:**

There we go.

**Interviewee 4:**

I think it's hard to explain for me because nowadays it's, it's a my universe. Like you have a lot of these courses, like startup Challenge and all that stuff. Yeah. What you're doing exactly like this. Yeah. Okay. You're learning this, so there wasn't much new technical. Yeah. And so, Yeah.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, that's fine. I, I don't think it was, but that is something for easy.

**Interviewee 4:**

It was, it was interesting cause it wasn't different way, because in my country it's a bit different how they're doing, approaching it sometimes if different teachers who, everyone has its own way, but it wasn't much new.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. Okay. That's good.

**Interviewee 3:**

I guess we learned I learned our group, we learned to use that. What was that, what website called again?

**Interviewer:**

Mural.

**Interviewee 3:**

Yeah, Mural. Yeah. What's a technical skill?

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, it's more like a tool using skill.

**Interviewee 3:**

Okay. Tool.

**Interviewer:**

Okay. Okay. I joined three questions. These are three questions altogether. Did you learn about technical skills? Did you learn about soft skills? Soft skills, our collaboration skills communication skills, like also this presentation and collaborating with somebody else or with within your group? With different other tools or also project management things like we didn't have much time with Agile, but let's say something with agile and project management in particular. So these are the three things that I am interested. These three domains. So we understood technical was not really approached here. Soft skills

**Interviewee 5:**

Yes. The communication provider.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. That there's the soft skills more.

**Interviewee 5:**

Yeah. And we, we are presented with a lot of ideas and then we have to put our ideas into those perspective and come up with something. So we have not done that when we are making our projects. So we are just like having conversations on and making some, like coming up with some ideas with that and Sure. It's like broaden, broadening our projects ideas. So it was really nice to have interactions. Ok. That, yeah.

**Interviewer:**

And when you frame interactions, you mean interactions with the other groups?

**Interviewee 5:**

Groups Too. But because of absence of the group, I also went to different groups and sometimes we had to like give a k stakeholders to other groups also. And like when I went to his group and then talked about some ideas, new ideas and everything, and could gain some like, insight on how the app was built.

**Interviewer:**

Sure.

**Interviewee 5:**

So many interactions.

**Interviewer:**

Nice. Any other ideas about soft skills or project manage?

**Interviewee 3:**

Because we, I, I gave, I gave an idea to another group, another person, and it was, is a pretty, pretty good idea. Something that they could implement. Yeah. Give, give feedback based on, based on projects. Yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:**

Nice project management. You felt you learn something new or you already knew everything? In the scrum world or in the agile world?

**Interviewee 3:**

I learn much I, I didn't learn much, much more than, than I knew before.

**Interviewer:**

That's good. When it comes to startup formation, motivation we, you talked to some people here. I took three samples of people for, in fact, one person was an entrepreneur from many years. Another person was a young entrepreneur like Z today. And another person has been in many ecosystems like a VC and stuff like that to venture capital investments and so on. So did this bring any motivations for you in the future to create a startup as a group? I mean, within the group, not just for you as individual, but but the entire group. How did you perceive it from a group standpoint? What, what happened with the motivation level?

**Interviewee 6:**

Well, my group as a different cultural backgrounds and

**Interviewer:**

Yes,

**Interviewee 6:**

We actually are not, we weren't motivated. We were actually on the vice versa. Demotivated.

**Interviewer:**

Okay.

**Interviewee 6:**

In terms of Norway, that's because we have one region, one Iranian, one from Saudi Arabia and one from Belgium. And I've already been in startup companies and I mean, what I've seen is, is not something really well or amazing, honestly, honestly speaking. So that's why no, my group we discussed that actually yesterday, and we found that we could have had better, let's say bootcamp more, more into it because we didn't really understand the, the, the, the difference between what we were doing all the last sessions with the new, the new session, basically. So it's not, and in my country also the investment or the, whether it was VC or even AngelList, is way, way more let's say developed. And you have a lot of capitals everywhere, wherever you go. Yeah. So 700 Crohns for the nor nor innovation is not really worth even farther. You can get that from if you invest in USA or even in Middle East, where they are trying to attract foreign talents and that's the new currency now to attract foreign talents. So I discussed with them and they were, they were a bit skeptic about actually, okay, to be honest. You want the honest opinion? Yeah, yeah,

**Interviewer:**

Of course, of course. So the skepticism roles, because you got very information from the boot camp, or did it draw the skepticism because you were participating in the boot camp, but that made you less, less motivated at the

**Interviewee 6:**

End? The thing is, I think we as humans, if, if we got somewhere and then we go to a place that has high standards, then we go to B place where it is lower standards than we are skeptic all the time visit say, Yeah, there, there can be more improvements here and there. So that's how my group felt like they were exhausted about it because they could have just, you know stayed together and we focused on working on our project for the final, you know, for the grades. For the grades, yeah. Yeah. Other than this, as also the information wasn't really new. Un already covered 99% of what was show. Okay. Some people there said that they don't know the business model. We, we already take that in another course this semester, and we had a lot of workshops there too. And we had prominent people in the business model in Karas and the showroom where even PhD professors and other people come and sort of our ideas and our digitalization. So that's why maybe my group, because compared to the course business, digital business model in the first semester, this is very, very low, very behind. Yeah. and it comes off the interaction and, and the, the real workshops that I would say. Yeah. But that's their opinion.

**Interviewer:**

Okay. So for me to understand, because this is not a course about, or the bootcamp, it's not supposed to be a course about building a lean business canvas model. These are things skills you should have.

**Interviewee 6:**

Definitely.

**Interviewer:**

It's not like we are teaching these skills, it's more like we are leveraging on them for you to go towards seven.

**Interviewee 6:**

And, and that's maybe some other issue because as a, you said it's not a place to learn, it's to leverage. Yes. Then you already need to check the background. If those people actually know, then you can really leverage. Because if, if, if they don't know, then there is no point in leveraging because they don't know. Yeah. But what you are leveraging is not really that beneficial for them.

**Interviewer:**

Here's the thing if we want to put this in a realistic setting if you want to build a startup tomorrow, this is my perception, you join with some people, you know, or with some other people you don't know, but you join to make a venture, right. To go through a path and nobody's goanna teach you how to do that, but rather is going to give you the option to try. And this is more like to try out and see if you can be there with some solutions that can really help you out. So that's why we wanted, we planned for more stakeholders to come and work with you. Actually, that was the original plan. But it's hard to get people here with physical standing, like each group who have had external stakeholder to talk to. No. Other than me and having to do all these exercises, which I perceive some people might have strong background where coming from project management or from business yeah. Majors. But the idea was really to have stakeholders talk to you. But since that was a bit hard and we shifted to presentations and so on, So what, what did your group perceive

**Interviewer:**

Was this useful in a sort of way to motivate you more towards the startup formation with with what you have developed?

**Interviewee 1:**

Yeah, it was useful honestly. But something that I can colleague from IDs within my group can be more related to how we can go to the next steps after for example, we completed only the one sprint and we provided a simple prototype for our IDs after that, how we can go to the next step and, you know, build another IDs complete and match your, what we did. Yep. It's a little challenging for us, but in terms of assignment is okay, we finish, we perform what we need. But after that, no, we don't have enough idea at this stage.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. We missed one piece of the puzzle actually. The, since you had three days with three hours. So in total, eight, nine hours I would say. Previously we did run this with eight hours sessions and we had students apply to Innovation Norway draft the application or to the student, their partnership call. They drafted the actual application to this kind of with their project prototypes and their project ideas. The lean business Compass model was one of the things innovation normally asked when they, before we send the prototypes and everything else. So if we would've had you guys submit the, instead of sending a report to an with your A day, which is great, and we are discussing the grades before, if grades are really relevant with this kind of courses, maybe a pass or fail would be more relevant. But A, B, C, D, EF will be less relevant because you only stick to the great mindset. Then you write this draft instead of writing the final report, which is very similar, I would say, because with the draft then you are a bit more motivated to get some funding at the end. This is the idea of the concept, but we couldn't realize we made a simplified version because of the time constraints. How about your group?

**Interviewee 4:**

Actually we didn't discuss directly about this topic, but I think it wasn't really motivating for us. , maybe the case for us is we are exchange students, so we are just Yeah. Coming here to normally for one semester and then we are leaving again,

**Interviewer:**

So, of course. Yeah.

**Interviewee 4:**

But yeah, how, what you just said, like what, That's my feeling more and I think some other, I had a feeling too, you like, that's nowadays a thing more like you're pressuring people to do startups, but what is people if they don't want to do it?

**Interviewer:**

Fine.

**Interviewee 6:**

Good Question.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yeah. It's, it's like you, you get all of these courses and for example, I still don't get completely like it's IT project man, like management IT project. And it is interesting, but is it, when I read the cross description, it wasn't included. We have a startup boot camp, for example. Yeah. So I, I still don't get what, why, like, I would like to understand and why it's the third part. What is the

**Interviewee 6:**

Yeah, some, some people actually questioned it actually from other new students were like, are rechanging from IT project management to startups. So that's a confusion.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yeah. And I would say normally it's like, it's a complete different world. And some, maybe there are some similarities of course, like bringing something to the point, presenting very fast and stuff like this. But in general, it's, if you're going for a startup, it's about selling and it's, I think for me it's a completely different role. Maybe I have to learn a lot. Of course.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. But selling what? Huh? Selling what?

**Interviewee 4:**

Sailing. Sailing. Your selling your idea to someone who will give you the money for it to invest into

**Interviewer:**

It. Yeah. But still I can have a lot 100 ideas now who is goanna buy them? And why? Because you are developing something, right? Yeah. You're developing your idea as well. It's not just your idea.

**Interviewee 4:**

No. And but mainly I think more important is when we started this project like project, it was about we have to make a project that we can build up, that we can practice manage managing a project and using the theory and background. And then afterwards we, we got to know it. I think after the second or during the second session, we are going to have a startup challenge. And we were like, that was never meant to be a startup. That was never the idea from like at the beginning. And that's different mindset. And if, if we, if we would know at the beginning, okay, we're doing like we should find, we're doing kind, kind of a startup challenge and then building up the IT project mentioned around it, that would make a big change.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah.

**Interviewee 6:**

Most probably.

**Interviewee 4:**

Just to understand that.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. No, I understand. I understand that when you came here at last days of your course,

**Interviewee 4:**

Confusing.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah. It's confusing. This is easier when you come with this at the very beginning of the course.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yes. And we never thought it was, for example, our app is not like it's, it's extension for the already existing app. It's not more about competing against other competitors at Marks. It's not about this.

**Interviewee 6:**

Also, most of our ideas are just ideas for the course. Yes. It's not, not really meant to be a startup. Yes. We never, we no one thought about it, I'm sure.

**Interviewee 4:**

No, that was not the goal of,

**Interviewee 6:**

Yeah. The goal was like, okay, we need something that match our instructors mindset that he can approve that is feasible. We can work on and we can deliver an MVP for him to give us an A grade.

**Interviewer:**

Yes.

**Interviewee 6:**

That's the goal.

**Interviewer:**

Yes. Yes. So that's a good goal. However what I am skeptic about is that a lot of university courses work like that where students want to see the, the actual, what is the, the perception of the actual course leader out of their project. And they only see him as a how to say the, the point to turn around. So everything revolves around the, the course leader and what he expects on these expectations. And unfortunately in the real world case there is no course leader there is a market that should lead what you are developing. So

**Interviewee 6:**

Yeah, for me, I understand that. That's why,

**Interviewer:**

And let me finish the argument. The argument here is that these are called the ones that you just mentioned. Yeah. The projects you just mentioned. We know it from research. They're called toy projects. Mm-Hmm.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yeah.

**Interviewer:**

And toy projects there isa discussion in academia if they are more harmful than beneficial and harmful from a standpoint that makes you do things pretending stuff that fulfill the need for maybe for a course or a teacher. But you miss out the realistic context. The realistic context is more important to us when you go out in the world. And what is the realistic context here is that it would've been better, like I did with the other groups. We had like 10 stakeholders coming and working when they students could pick their challenges like you did at the beginning. Yeah. I don't know how you came up with the ideas, because I hear some things. Yeah. Just like this. But the, the way I ran the boot camp before was very first early stage was that we would have different companies come in I don't know, whatever, technique as an organization, we could have other startups and we could have other companies that could be there.

**Interviewer:**

Then they would tell you your, their challenges. This is the original setting. Oh, we are not able to solve this, this thing in our company. Can you help us? And students would come up with original ideas. But when I came here, I was supposed to understand that you already were solving some realistic problem, Right. Your problem seemed realistic to me. Now, the electricity bill issues seemed realistic. I don’t know if there were, I hadn't inspected if there were other situation. But your problem as well, ssn, it's a real problem. Yeah. It's a real problem. So you got it from somewhere. So then this part of the exploration part you had already done and you had the skills. Now what we wanted to focus was more is this idea fundable. Can you create a startup? Does this make, does this push the boundaries from a toy projects towards a realistic real life project? Because you are really solving a real life problem. Unfortunately, if you solve it just to present to an or to another teacher, you are not manually making a difference in the world. That's why I started the session with your goals and what is the difference impact that you have on the world and you like to see this happen.

**Interviewee 4:**

That's why, just one, one point about this, you are completely correct about this, but for now case for example, we don't want to compete. We just, that's

**Interviewer:**

What we would, That's a detail.

**Interviewee 4:**

Yeah. No, that's, I think that's different because we want, we don't have to, like, if we want to present it, we will present it in another way. We would go to a diary dresses and we don't have to say, Okay, there are so many competitors outside of this, for example, or we, we have to focus on international and we don't have to do this. And that is, is like, that was my feeling that is expected for like to pitch.

**Interviewer:**

Okay.

**Interviewee 4:**

Startup, like grow. It's about growing.

**Interviewer:**

Yeah, that's true. But so,

**Interviewee 4:**

And if, if maybe if this would be changed in the course, cause just course description at the beginning, Hey, you have at the beginning you have a startup challenge or something like this and the whole course about this, build it around this, then it would be more clear.

**Interviewer:**

Yes. Just that's true. But we had, we had the combination here. Actually this was proposed since February. I don't know when you start the course. Maybe in January. So January, Yeah. So normally I ran this kind of course attend a new, but normally I present it this way, like you'll say.