



Experiences from two projects: Expresso & Runestone

- Expresso
- Runestone
- Results of the projects
- Experiences of being a project leader



Experiences from two projects: Expresso & Runestone

- Expresso: Examination and Preferences in Students Study Organisation
 - "A study of the effects of new examination methods in the engineering education programme"
 - Anders Berglund
- Runestone: International Student Collaboration in Project Form
 - "A joint research, development and teaching project where Uppsala students make projects in cooperation with students at GVSU, Allendale, MI, USA"
 - Mats Daniels



What is Expresso?

- Idea: Assessment as a tool to influence study habits
- Expected result: Better learning from better study habits

Assessment → Study habits → Learning outcome



What is Expresso?

- Full scale study:
 - All students (60)
 - All courses (three)
 - One study period (=half semester)
- Qualitative study/research
 - Based on interview data
 - Comparing grading is meaningless



What is Expresso?

- Assessment methods used:
 - Public seminars
 - Weekly assignments instead of final exam
 - "Reformulated" exams
- Changes in teaching were made as a consequence:
 - decrease of number of lectures
 - more tutoring
 - student led problem solving



What is Runestone?



- 3 + 3 Master level students per group
- 16 groups in total
- No lectures
- Tutoring by e-mail and chat

What is Runestone?

- Student project: Produce a software system to control a (modified) Brio labyrinth from any Web-browser.
- The task demands computer communication solutions.







Results

- Runestone course is running since 1998
 - New teachers
 - New hardware and thus a new tasks for the students
 - No special funding
- Expresso ran for two years, but
 - The assessment methods presented are used within the department
 - Assessment came and still is on the agenda for the department
 - Teachers became aware of the possibilities to change
 - "Timing" and dead-lines are very important for learning outcome



Informationsteknologi

Results

- More than 15 publications in reviewed conferences and journals.
- Three up-coming PhD theses (in Sweden, UK, USA)
- Many informal presentions
- Spinn-off projects (even now)
- A group working with research and development in CS Education



Erfarenheter och råd

- Ett projekt kan påverka.
 - Gör det synligt, internt och externt
 - Konferenser (Skriv på engelska!)
 - Möten/Seminarier/Lärardagar
- Utnyttja andras erfarenheter, intresse och kompetens
 - Nätverka!
- Arbeta mot projektets mål, acceptera att arbetssättet förändras jämfört med planen
 - Exempel: Runestone skiftade från teknikfokus till samarbetsfokus
 - Ändra i dialog med rådet



Fler råd

- Att träffas är ett sätt att "samla ihop lösa trådar"
 - Ha en kick-off
 - Utnyttja rådets besök
- Projektet är viktigt för studenterna
 - Känner sig synliga/"utvalda"
 - Gör dem delaktiga/inte studieobjekt