



## **A weekly television news service for people with disabilities**

### **The context for the use of ICT for Inclusion**

In recent years, the number of special education institutions in Norway has been reduced, with responsibility for providing the required assistance to pupils with special needs being placed on local schools. This has accentuated the need for accessible and adaptable solutions for learning materials used in schools, including news services for school use. To meet this need, TV 2 School has developed a news service which is offered to users once a week in four versions:

- standard edition (as in regular TV 2 news);
- edition with signing;
- edition with graphic symbols for communication;
- edition for students with visual impairment.

Target audiences: pupils in compulsory and higher education (1–12), adult learners, vocational studies.

Project partners: TV 2, Ministry of Education and Research, National Centre for Hearing Impairment, University of Oslo.

### **The policy context**

A news service must offer content variety. TV 2 School therefore produces several films every week as part of the news service. With all films/news broadcasts we present assignments, which are also differentiated to match the variation in users and usage.

Example: The news edition with graphic symbols has 30 assignments attached, and all the assignments also include graphic symbols.

### **The use of ICT**

The most significant feature is the option to set individual user preferences. If a pupil requires signing, signing will appear whenever the pupil logs on to the webpage to watch the news.

### **Key outcomes and benefits**

All students can use 'their own' version of the films/news.

They can use assignments designed for them.

The service is online and easily accessible for parents.

The project maintains continuous contact with schools and research institutions, while teachers and scientific staff have 'hands-on' involvement in developing and improving the service. Every week, teachers working with students with special needs are employed for specific tasks related to the news service.

Example: in 2013–2014, Master's degree students will make use of TV 2 School's news service in their research, supervised by Stephen von Tetzchner at the University of Oslo, who is our main graphic communication expert.

### **Main challenges and obstacles**

The production cost for this news service is high, but TV 2 regards accessible and adaptable solutions as the key to success for the entire class. The standard classroom setting in Norway faces tremendous challenges with pupils with a wide range of needs and



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abilities, and there is a clear need for differentiated learning resources to meet this challenge.

One obstacle is the lack of a commercial market for digital products for education.

Denmark is leading the way here, with its recent plan to create demand by giving schools money to buy online learning resources.

Another challenge is training. To meet this, we offer courses to all clients. In 2012, special needs teachers from Oslo were all invited to do such a course. Film is a familiar format for most teachers and students, and the TV 2 School's new service has rapidly become popular.

We see no problems related to the speed of technological change.

The broadcaster TV 2 has sufficient resources for online publishing and video production; it is more a question of getting the planning right.

### **Additional information**

Website for TV 2 School: [www.tv2skole.no](http://www.tv2skole.no)

Short video presentation in English: 'What is TV 2 School?', <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWQOAb2eZ0>

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