Call for applications to fund mini projects within Excited SFU

Mini projects through Excited are an opportunity to get extra resources for improvement measures in subjects or study programs that go beyond normal operation or management of teaching, such as:

- Development and / or testing of innovative methods of learning and assessment, new learning resources, measures for increased student engagement
- Measures for better quality assurance and improvement of teaching
- Measures to improve student well-being and professional-social cohesion.
- Increased collaboration across subjects, campuses and departmental boundaries
- Measures to streamline now cumbersome / monotonous tasks related to teaching or study management, to free up time for example. professional improvement

An application must be based on a clearly explained problem with the current situation, for example student involvement, learning or well-being being lower than desired. It must contain a clear argument for why your project can help. The results should have reuse value, measures that will depend on the same additional grant year after year, have little chance of receiving support.

Typical budget size of a mini-project applied may be 50,000 nok, but we accept applications with larger amounts if the ambition level of the action is shown to defend the budget. The target group is employees involved in education (academic and administrative) at the North University and at NTNU (primarily IDI plus computer science at IIR).

Mini projects should be relevant to one or more subprojects (P1-P5) in Excited. Some examples of actions that can be requested:

“Informed Decision”: Measures that provide young people with a better information base on what studies and jobs in IT involve, which reduce prejudice to IT studies, provide better girls’ recruitment, or which help to strengthen IT education in junior and higher education. Initiatives to start up or run local code clubs, First Lego League teams, etc. will not normally be supported - they are fine actions, but become more of the same as already available.

P2: "Projects of Becoming": measures aimed specifically at first-year students in order to better manage transition from higher education to university, get good working habits from the beginning, gain a professional-social community in the study program, and get more knowledge of what kind of study program can lead to.

P3: “Learning through Construction”: Measures for more or better use of learning activities where students make something, whether through projects or exercises, assessment of learning outcomes and fair writing in group projects, stimulation of student creativity, etc.

P4: "Sharing and diversity": cross-sector / campus collaboration and subject content and learning resources that can be used in several places, making it easier for students to take topics at other campuses from a distance, etc.
P5: “Career-readiness”: evaluate and improve professional relevance of topics and study programs, measures for more effective cooperation with business / government agencies on guest lectures, teaching examples, project assignments; measures to improve students’ opportunities for relevant summer jobs along the way; e-portfolios in addition to grades with regard to job applications.

How can the funds be utilized?
- Purchasing of equipment needed for the innovative setup (hardware, software)
- Students in summer jobs
- Hire of additional student assistants or other personnel (for example an engineer).
  Alternatively, it may also be possible to apply for hourly work from a pool of assistants, as Excited has already added, specify the number of hours and the level of expertise the student assistants may have and the time-period for which the work is intended.
- Free purchase of teachers from other tasks, as long as the applicant has agreed with the parent.
- Money for the teacher’s annuity (PA), which he / she may use for other things later (conference trips, equipment, etc.), as the institute practices PA and the amount is within what is allowed at PA.
- Funds cannot be paid as overtime salary to teachers or other employees

Search requirements (about 1 A4 page)
- Specify which (s) subproject in the Excited mini project is related.
- Who is involved in the mini project and what are the resources intended for (equipment, assistants and the like).
- Description of how the project will be carried out and if it has a duration of one or more semesters.
- It must be stated how it is planned to evaluate the measure and how the measure is reported, including which data is to be collected. If data collection requires permission from NSD, etc., the participants in the mini-project are responsible for providing the necessary application.
- It is positive if the measure could result in publications or other dissemination activities, and Excited should be mentioned as a fellow participant in footnote, slide or other appropriate ways. It can also count positively if the project includes collaboration between several topics / campuses, but this is no requirement for support.

Reporting requirements
- Mini projects must deliver a short report based on a simple template.
- It is also desirable that the results are presented at a mini-project seminar where you can share experiences.

Deadline for applications 15. october 2018

Send the application to: ida.sortland@ntnu.no