‘Good ideas, Initiatives and Innovations’

MA thesis supervision in the context of school based ‘research- and development’ groups (2017-19) (Nevøy, Ohna, Bruin, Thortveit)
Background

- New 5-year ITE introduced in 2017,
  - MA-thesis, profession oriented and practice based
  - Policies recommend ITE-institution involvement in school development

- The project idea is to establish collaboration on MA-thesis supervision. Purpose:
  - MA-thesis – take point of departure in issues concerning school practice
  - Contribute to the school development (cf. school development plan)
  - Develop models for school-university collaboration
MA-supervision in school based R&D group

University supervisor

Student

School leadership

School supervisor

Supervision groups

Principal

Etter Heiskanen m.fl. 2010
The MA-thesis’ work process:

- (August-November, 15 ECTS Methodology & Research Ethics)
- September: Principal present school development plan at UiS
- November-December: students develop research proposal, first meeting at the school
- January: Research questions and theoretical framework
- February: Data construction planning
- March/April: data analysis and preliminary discussion of findings
- May: Finishing analysis and MA-thesis
- June: Presentation of MA-thesis for school staff
- (Thesis submission)
Participants’ experiences (publication in progress)

- MA-supervision: New supervisor and supervision roles
  - Students: “Getting different perspectives on the same theme (...) I ask them different questions”
  - School supervisor: “Our supervision is different, connected to everyday life at our school”

- MA-research: New knowledge, relevant for school development and ITE
  - Principal: “Very relevant research questions and themes that can be taken into consideration for the next year’s development areas”

- MA-thesis: Clear structure and progression
  - UiS supervisor: “It takes time to find a structure for such supervision (...) groped in the dark in the beginning, it too long before we got started”
Some reflections

- The context of the MA-supervision, from the university to the school
- Supervision roles, different and equal
- ...
