

Distance Teaching for Mother Tongue Pupils

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Abstract

Distance teaching in Sweden has quite a long tradition. It became especially important because of the long distance some pupils have to go to school and because of every pupil's right to study every subject during their time at school. The need for distance teaching seems to be growing and in 2008 the Swedish government gave an order to some of the Swedish municipalities to prepare and to carry out distance teaching in different subjects in all the different kinds of Swedish schools. One of these subjects is mother tongue teaching. In Sweden pupils with other languages have the right to study their own mother tongue. It belongs among the subjects in the curriculum in school and more than 200 languages are offered in Sweden. They are taught by a large number of mother tongue teachers. But some of the pupils cannot participate for various reasons: for instance distance or too few pupils who want to learn or because of the absence of a fully qualified teacher. The municipality of Uppsala and the Uppsala Mother tongue Language School and the University of Uppsala decided to start a project in 2011 which would focus on producing a model for distance teaching for mother tongue pupils. This "Uppsala Model" for distance teaching provides the mother tongue teachers with a tool which makes it easier for them to start distance teaching and therefore make it possible to fulfill the purpose of having mother tongue lessons in the curriculum. It contains a lot of didactic ideas and takes into account the differences and the similarities between distance teaching and teaching in an ordinary classroom.

I would like to introduce this project and show how ICT makes it possible to share and to participate in mother tongue classes in Uppsala, Sweden.