Sana Labs

From words to action - Iris handpicks Sana Labs to improve language learning for immigrants

Stockholm, Sweden, June 28th 2019 – The current state of *Swedish for Immigrants* (SFI) education does not reach its objective of providing students with sufficient prerequisites to learn Swedish. Students are more likely to drop out, or remain at a low proficiency level, than they are to complete the education. In the long term, this does not only affect the individual's opportunities but also society as a whole by increasing segregation and government expenditure. All parties involved now have to take greater responsibility, a movement in which Sana Labs is part of advancing.

For years, investigations regarding the quality of SFI education have been piling up, all with the same message: the quality of SFI education is insufficient. Jobs are key for integration, and being able to speak the official language of a country is vital for becoming employed. Meanwhile, little has been done to develop and modernize language learning education for immigrants. A new collaboration, for which the established language learning provider Iris has selected Sana Labs and Learnster, could be the first step to breaking this negative trend. With support from Leksell Social Ventures, the intention is to create personalized learning paths where each participant receives the maximal opportunity to learn the language based on previous knowledge and how the student best learns. Personalized learning is an enormous change compared to the current linear structure and collective classroom model.

"There are small margins and no room for innovation in the current SFI system, this is true of both public and private providers. The future of many individuals is at stake and that's why we're betting everything on improving the education. We are doing this with focus on the individual and putting digital first" says Jonas Jegers, CDO at Iris and initiator of the project.

The format of the SFI education will be recreated where Iris has the strength of teachers, pedagogical expertise, and content. Sana Labs will power the personalization with its AI-technology by providing personalized review sessions, repetition and ultimately increase student proficiency and learning efficacy. Learnster is the platform provider, in which the Sana technology will be integrated. The project is backed by Leksell Social Ventures who supports the initiative as a financier.

"Succeeding in providing more people with access to the Swedish language gives us a bright outlook for the future. If we continue to fail it will be tough. Iris has a long history of innovation and supporting individuals for employment and education. We see an incredibly exciting opportunity in this solution, with partners who all are at the forefront of their respective fields. I'm thrilled to see the initial results" says CEO of Iris, Jenny Stegmar Silfver.

To learn more about personalizing education through AI, please contact Sana Labs by writing to joel@sanalabs.com.

About Iris
With over 100 years experience, Iris is one of Sweden's leading providers of efficient education, support and job matching to enter or strengthen one's position on the job market. Iris exists in 70 different locations around Sweden with 500 engaged and knowledgeable employees. With a major focus on personalized learning, and a strong living vision, where every learner can reach its full potential, we create a better society with decreased unemployment and increased integration. www.iris.se

About Sana Labs
Sana Labs is a global company based in Stockholm, Sweden, that develops artificial intelligence for education. By applying recent breakthroughs in machine learning, Sana personalizes digital education courses based on each student's unique learning patterns. Education companies around the globe subscribe to Sana Labs' machine learning platform to recommend the optimal next step for each student when learning a course - increasing the engagement and learning outcome. Our interdisciplinary team consists of leading engineers and scientists with backgrounds ranging from Imperial College and CERN to Google and Spotify. To learn more please visit www.sanalabs.com

About Learnster
Learnster is next generations' learning platform. It is developed to meet the criteria of today's users in both user experience, accessibility and flexibility. Learnster offers more relevant learning experiences, including through the opportunity in variation of learning environments. In 2017 Learnster was selected as one of eight companies for Sting Accelerate. Learnster's platform is currently helping thousands of users in over 15 countries to continually improve their competencies. www.learnster.se

About Leksell Social Ventures
Leksell Social Ventures is an investment firm that supports social entrepreneurship and social innovation for a better Sweden. http://www.leksellsocialventures.com/

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