Challenge statement

Context

It is a known problem that many children at national level are reluctant to using the school toilets, which leads to a whole range of negative consequences and lost learning potential in this respect. The Aarhus municipality, Children & Young People, have performed a pilot project that investigates the problems surrounding the school toilets in a 360 ° perspective and have thus, uncovered that it is a multi-faceted problem which requires multiple efforts. Specifically, the pilot project has examined the effects of various interventions in relation to psychological conditions and pupil responsibility in the form of educational courses, as well as organization and new toilets where non-traditional materials, technologies and décor has been tried out.

We know that the behavioral interventions with the pupils have an effect. The qualitative evaluation report (*Annex A*) shows a clear picture, that pupils' perception of the physical framework is positively influenced and that their behaviour and sense of responsibility for themselves and the physical environment is improved. This only by addressing the issue at a mental level through participatory education and projects regarding the subject. The behavioural interventions thus have a positive impact on the pupils' inclination to use the toilets, even though the physical framework for these is unchanged. It will therefore be a success if solutions can be explored, as either holistic or specific to support and maintain these interventions by illuminating and breaking down the mental barriers that pupils have in connection with school toilets.

Technical

Possible technical platforms that could be related to the solution:

The Wash Module

In the pilot project, children & Young People, Aarhus Municipality, together with a developer, have tested and adapted a brand new type of fixtures for the toilets. The ' Wash Module ' is a proposal for a holistic solution where design, materials, technology and nudging talk together. The wash module contains everything you need to wash your hands. It has built-in light indicators which guide the user to the proper use of water, soap, washing time and hand drying. (*Annex B*)

The technology in the washing module is configured for data collection and via a screen that lights through the material of the top cabinet, graphical video sequences can be displayed to support or reward desired behavior. These washing modules are now established in selected toilets, at three pilot schools, and offer an obvious test environment for new technological and digital solutions, and it is assumed that there may be a great potential to link behavioural interventions in the classroom with the physical frames through this technology.

Video with the washing module can be found here: https://vimeo.com/333276733

Aula

Aula will be the new communication platform in primary schools, after school offers and day care when Aula replaces School Intra after the autumn holidays 2019. In Aula, students, parents and employees get access to posts, messages, calendar, gallery, files and documents, master data, 'come and go' and communication in groups.

More information can be found here (danish):
Aarhus Municipality about Aula
Aarhus municipality pamphlet About Aula
https://aulainfo.dk/guide-til-foraeldre-og-elever/saadan-bliver-aula/
Students eventual own devices such as smartphones, tablets, or laptops, according to age.

News

All students from 2nd to 10th grade in the City of Aarhus will get a personal computer - a Chromebook.
https://www.aarhus.dk/nyt/boern-og-unge/2019/september/elever-i-folkeskolen-i-aarhus-faar-hver-sin-computer/