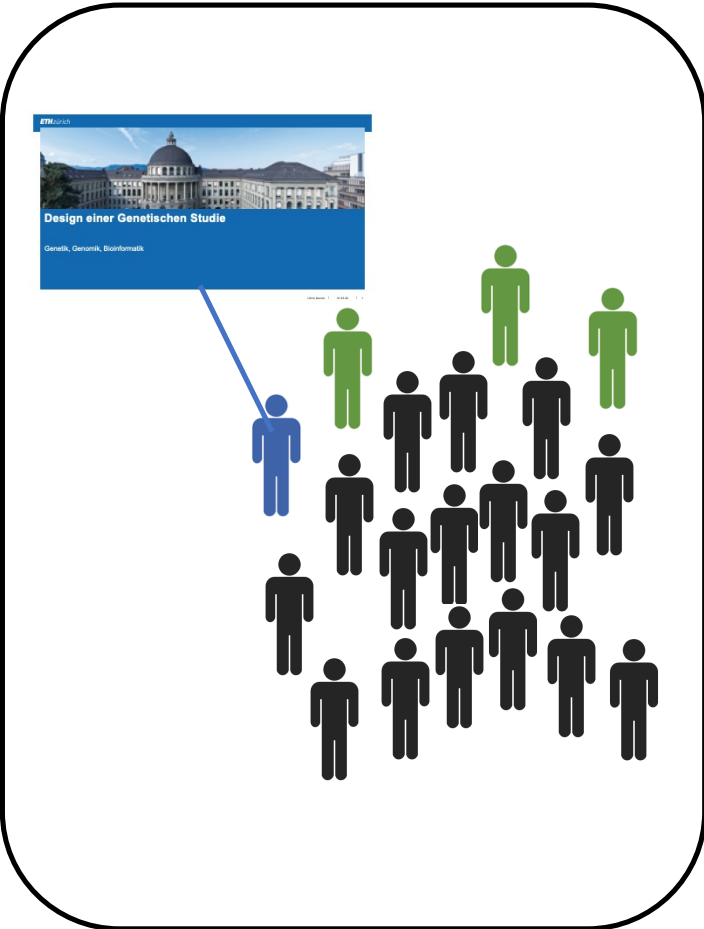


# The challenge: Transfer a multi-coach, in-class, group exercise to ZOOM

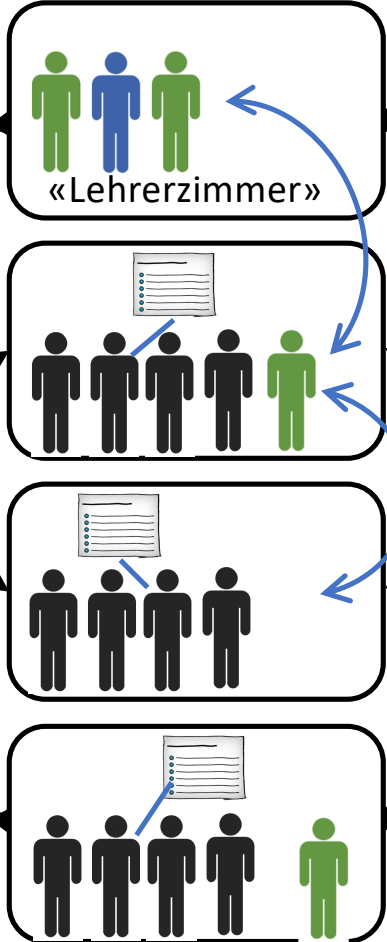


- Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics Course
- ~100 4th semester students enrolled (mostly D-Biol)
- 2 x 45 min session
- Students prepare for class with selfstudy material and design a genetic study on a given topic at home.
- Groups of 5 Students are formed.
- Students and coaches (~6-8) meet in lecture hall.
- Short intro then students work in groups to consolidate their individual studies into a final group design.
- **Coaches walk from group to group, answer questions and give input on different topics.**
- Selected groups present their study design and receive feedback.
- Rest of groups hand in their final design via Moodle

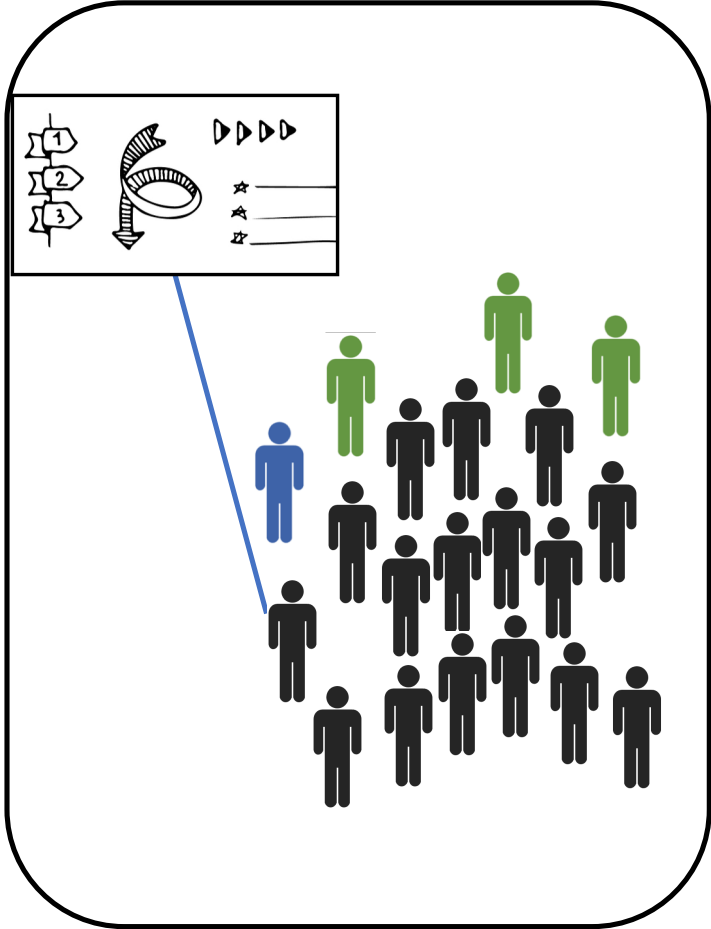
Chat (e.g. on Moodle) for communication across different rooms



80 Students, 6 Coaches, 1 Host



17 Breakout Rooms  
(up to 40 possible)



# Organizational

Only co-hosts can jump from breakout room to breakout room, and only if they are in a breakout room already. To enable this, we made a breakout room (»Lehrerzimmer) for the co-hosts (i.e. coaches)

Co-hosts can already be appointed prior to the start of the meeting via Zoom's online Meeting planner (provided they have a licensed account). Regular Zoom users can also be assigned as Co-hosts, but only during the meeting (then via the «manage participants» window)

Some functionalities of co-hosts may only be available through the Zoom desktop app. (we had problems with co-host on iPad).

Breakout room assignments can be uploaded prior to the meeting via a .csv file. Beware that even small deviations (empty space, formatting copied from excel etc.) will cause errors during upload. Count on this taking a few hours to organize.

Zoom's chat function in combination with breakout rooms does not function well. Also «get help» messages from the breakout rooms only go to the host. Better to have a parallel chat on an independent platform for communication (e.g. a whatsapp or Moodle chat) and one person assigned to monitoring this chat.

We asked one of the students in the breakout rooms to screen-share the documents they are working on. Visiting coaches can then see this document when they join the room and quickly get into the discussion.

# Things to improve / keep in mind

Communicate with students well in advance and have a clear and consistent message.

Coordinate across teachers in department or semester to have some level of consistency across events.

If at all possible, do a test run with the coaches a day before the actual meeting.

Continue to communicate with students to

- a) register on Zoom with their unique @ethz.ch email \*
- b) use this account to join the Zoom meeting. (if not, automatic room assignments fail.)

Send students to a waiting room, which then closes automatically once the class starts. This way coaches can have last minute discussions prior to start of the meeting.

Take your time estimate for the class and multiply it by 1.5

\* ETH staff and students often have and use multiple ETH email addresses that contain references to the department or their student status (e.g. ...@student.ethz.ch). But all have a unique email address ending in @ethz.ch. To convert a student's @student.ethz.ch address to the @ethz.ch address, simply remove the «student.» part. e.g. username@student.ethz.ch -> username@ethz.ch