

Gaining the Benefits of Agile – about Agile Assessments



Going from a plan-driven, waterfall software development process to an agile method is not trivial. Your success on this journey depends on where you are now, and where you need to get to. In depth assessments by independent experts can identify business, organizational and technical barriers to agile adoption, and measure how agile your current process is.

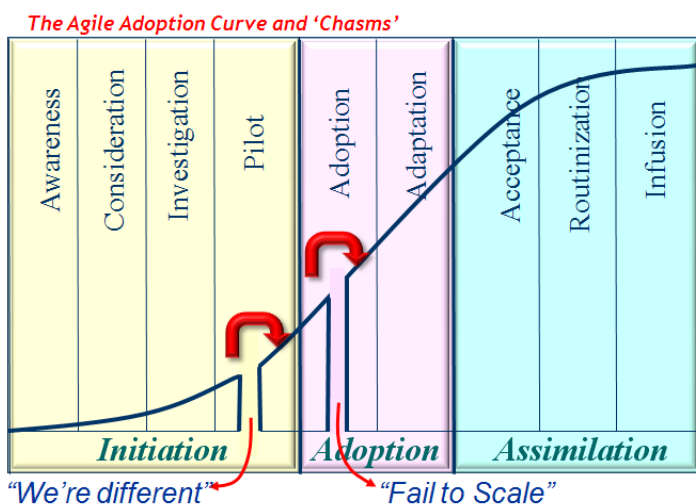


AgileInnovation offers two comprehensive assessment services:

- Pre-Adoption Assessment:** This is suitable for organisations that have yet to adopt agile. Here we focus on surfacing barriers to adoption, including showstoppers and areas for particular attention. Seven distinct areas (see the diagram here) are addressed in detail through over 200 probing questions in our *Agile Positioning Framework™ (APF)*. The results are the basis for formulating an agile adoption strategy to deliver the promise of agile, not just the rhetoric.
- Agility Assessment:** While many assessments focus on compliance to a defined process, our *Agility Assessment Framework™ (AAF)* looks at how your

present development method supports the many facets of agility, like creativity, responsiveness, technical excellence and continuous learning. Agile philosophy rejects that there is one ‘best way’ to develop software, and this assessment approach allows comparison of various agile, waterfall and hybrid processes. By identifying practices that bring agility in your organisational context, we can identify areas ripe for improvement and align your strategy to best support your business drivers.

Many firms have already adopted or piloted agile methods with varying degrees of success. Regardless of where you are on the agile adoption curve, our assessment service can identify your current barriers and help you progress to the next level of business agility. As with any innovation, agile can face many cultural, organizational and technical challenges. Early identification of impediments can



drastically improve the speed and effectiveness of adoption and help scale the solution in the context of your organization, project and team.



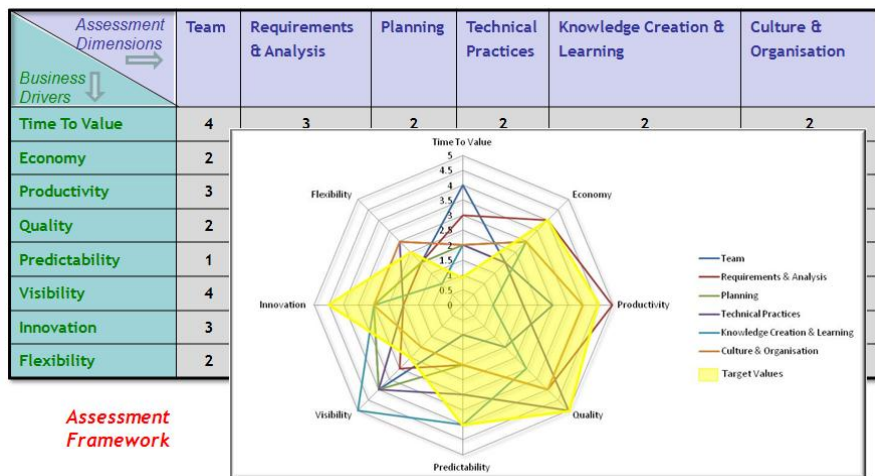
Our assessments use an in-depth, qualitative approach to identify not only WHAT is supporting or inhibiting business agility, but also HOW it is doing so. Through analysis of your current development process documentation, interviews with key team roles, observation of the method in action and focus group sessions we identify what practices are really adding value, where the waste lies, and what the underlying causes are. From this we help the teams formulate a strategy for



Typical Steps in Agility Assessment

change with actionable recommendations. Because the team is intimately involved in defining steps to improvement, they are in an ideal position to drive forward implementation of recommendations. Embedding ownership and ongoing continuous improvement of the agile method within the team is key to developing self-managing, empowered teams, a corner-stone of agile thinking.

Periodic assessments as you progress along the agile adoption curve can help identify emerging barriers and new areas of opportunity. With follow on coaching and support from an experienced agile practitioner, AgileInnovation can accelerate your evolution to a more responsive, productive and speedy software development organization.



Assessment Framework



For further details contact Colm O'hEocha Colm@agileinnovation.eu
 Colm is an IT industry veteran, with 20+ years design and development experience. His interest in Lean Thinking began when automating Just-In-Time production lines in the 1980s. Implementing early agile software methods in 2001, Colm has extensive hands-on experiences across teams, organisations and technologies. In varied roles of developer, architect, scrummaster and Director of R&D, he has seen Lean and Agile from a variety of perspectives. More recently Colm has partnered with LERO, the Irish software engineering research institute, investigating how agile and lean methods influence innovation in software development.