Anything goes...

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REFSQ, April 2013

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What are the criteria for chosing a RE-method?

… and might it also be a matter of taste?

Is it really so that anything goes…?

What is the aim of RE?

Understand → **Agree** → **Ensure**

What does the customer want?　　How do we agree upon this?　How do we assure that that is what he gets?
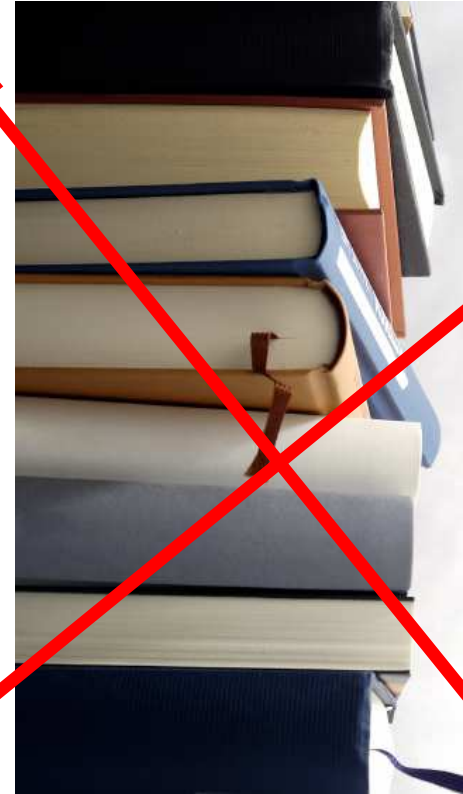
How do we reach our aim?
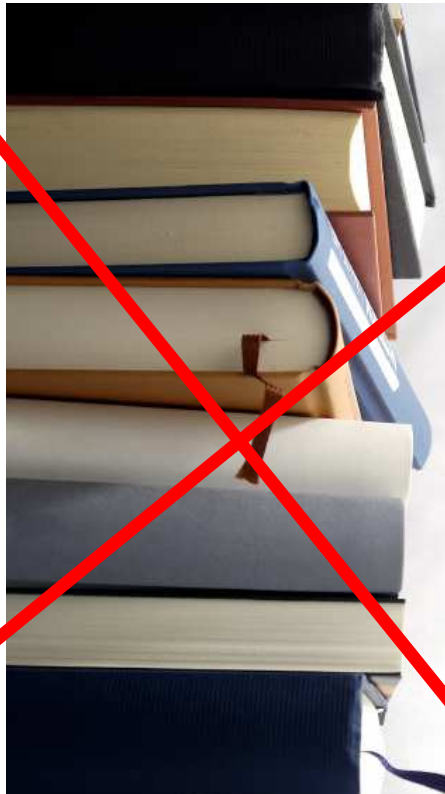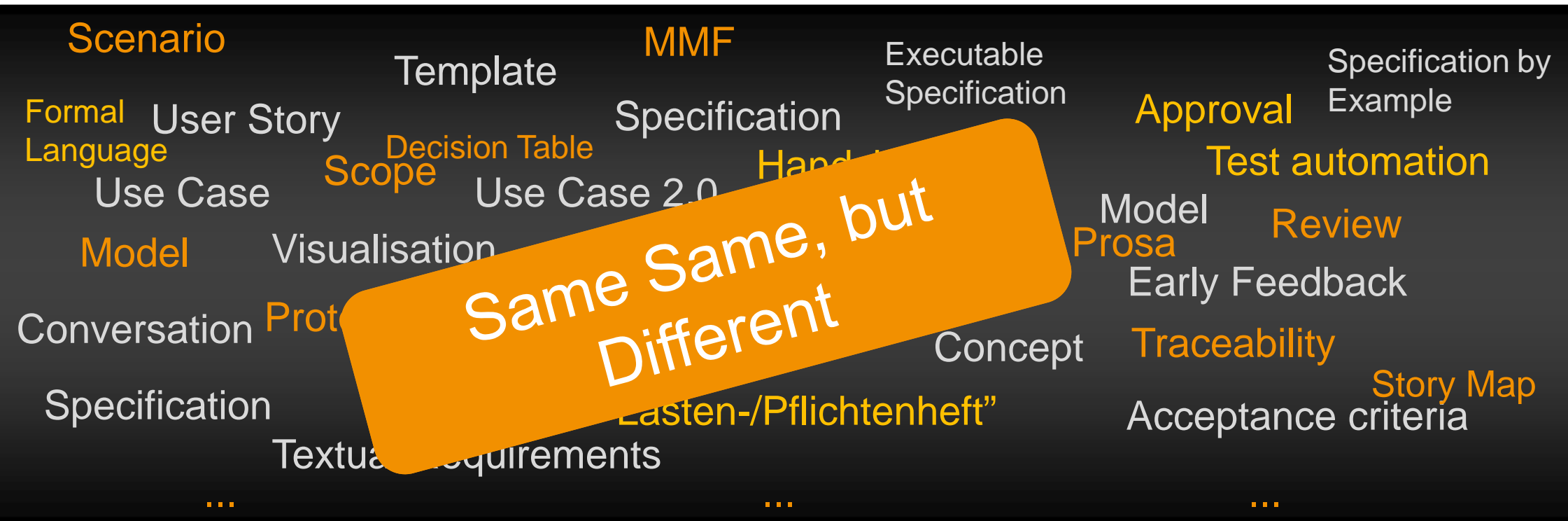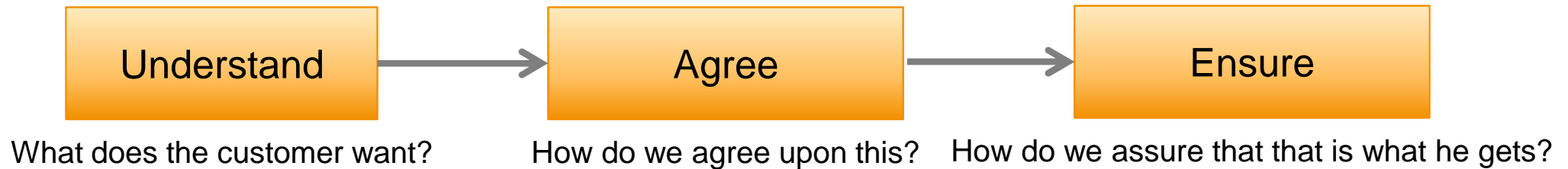
Understand → Agree → Ensure

What does the customer want? | How do we agree upon this? | How do we assure that that is what he gets?

Scenario
MMF
Template
Executable Specification
Specification by Example
Formal Language
User Story
Specification
Approval
Decision Table
Test automation
Scope
Use Case 2.0
Use Case
Model
Review
Model
Visualisation
Prosa
Early Feedback
Conversation
Prot...
Concept
Traceability
Story Map
Specification
Lasten-/Pflichtenheft"
Acceptance criteria
Textual... equirements
...
...
...

Same Same, but Different

Iterative/ Incremental

Understand	→	Agree	→	Ensure

What does the customer want?   How do we agree upon this?   How do we assure that that is what he gets?

Scenario   MMF   Executable Specification   Specification by Example

Formal Language   User Story   Template   Specification   Approval   Test automation

Scope   Decision Table   Use Case 2.0   Hand...   Model   Review

Use Case   Visualisation   Prosa   Early Feedback

Model   Prot...   Same Same, but Different   Concept   Traceability

Conversation   Acceptance criteria   Story Map

Specification   Lasten-/Pflichtenheft"   Acceptance criteria

Textual Requirements

...   .

Spoilt for choice...

My Motivation

Susanne Mühlbauer

Consulting, Training, Coaching

Requirements Engineering

SW Development

I ❤ Agile

Why does the same method work in one environment but not in another?

Some selection criteria

Receiver

- Business
- Development
- Test
- Customer
- Supplier
- …

Contract

- Inhouse
- External
- Tender
- …

Author

- Technician
- Business Person
- Customer
- …

Cooperation

- Formal/ informal
- In partnership, cooperative, trustful
- Distrust, Fear
- Co-Located/ distributed
- …

Some further selection criteria and methods

Behaviour

- Use Case
- Scenario
- Spec by Example
- Activity diagram
- Sequence diagram
- State machine
- Executable Spec
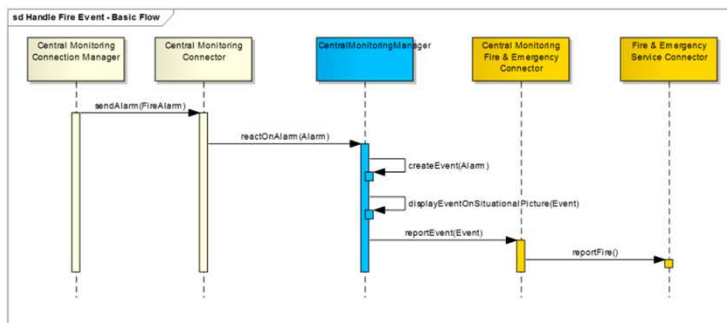- Decision Table
- User Story
- Pseudo code
- ...

Structure

- Context diagram
- Class diagramm
- Use Case Diagram
- Story Map
- Product Canvas
- Scope
- ...

A further aspect of specifications

Degree of formalisation

- Not formal
- Semi-formal
- Formal

Sample Use Case Template

Use Case: <number> <the name should be the goal as a short active verb phrase>

CHARACTERISTIC INFORMATION

Goal in Context: <a longer statement of the goal, if needed>

Scope: <what system is being considered black-box under design>

Level: <one of: Summary, Primary task, Subfunction>

Preconditions: <what we expect is already the state of the world>

Success End Condition: <the state of the world upon successful completion>

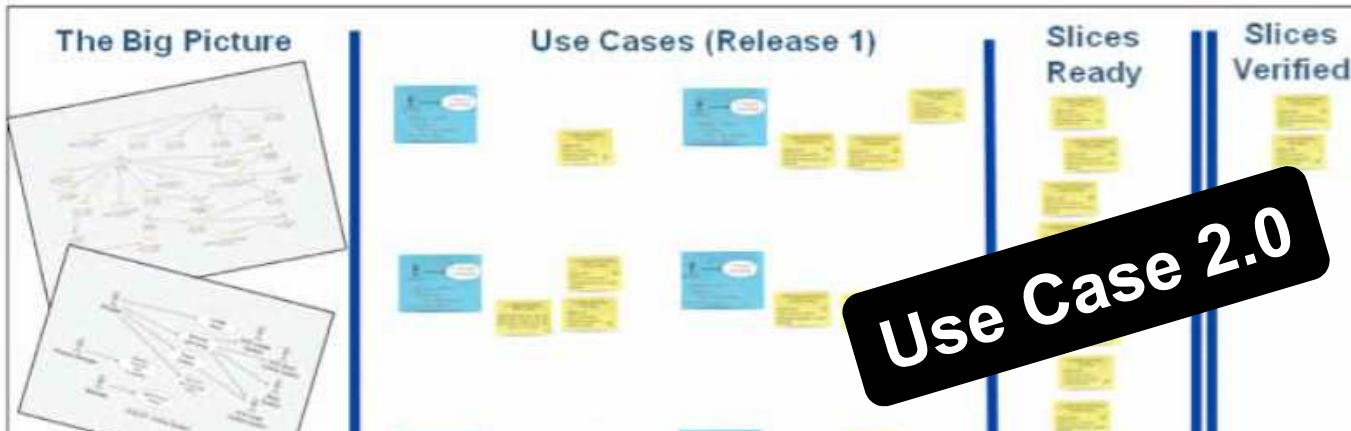Failed End Condition: <the state of the world if goal abandoned>

Primary Actor: <a role name for the primary actor, or description>

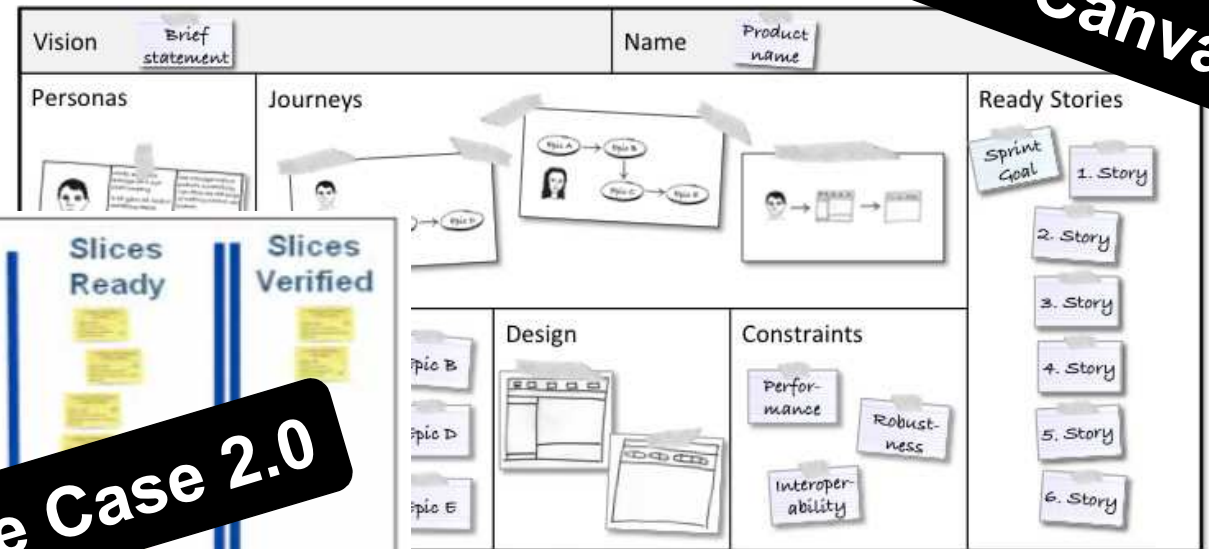Trigger: <the action upon the system that starts the use case, may be time event>

MAIN SUCCESS SCENARIO

<put here the steps of the scenario from trigger to goal delivery, and any cleanup after>

<step #> <action description>

Visualisation

Ivar Jacobson

Product Canvas

Use Case 2.0

Story Map

Roman Pichler
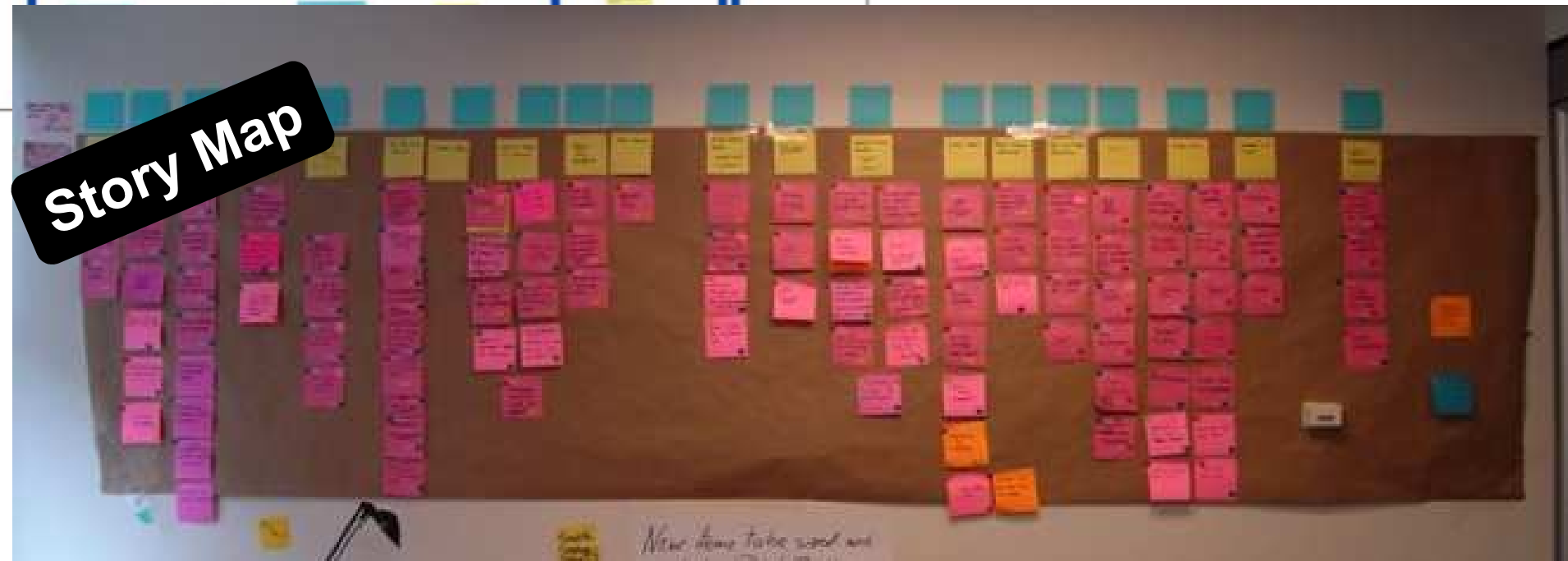
Jeff Patton

Hammer and lawn-mower

We need a bit of everything…
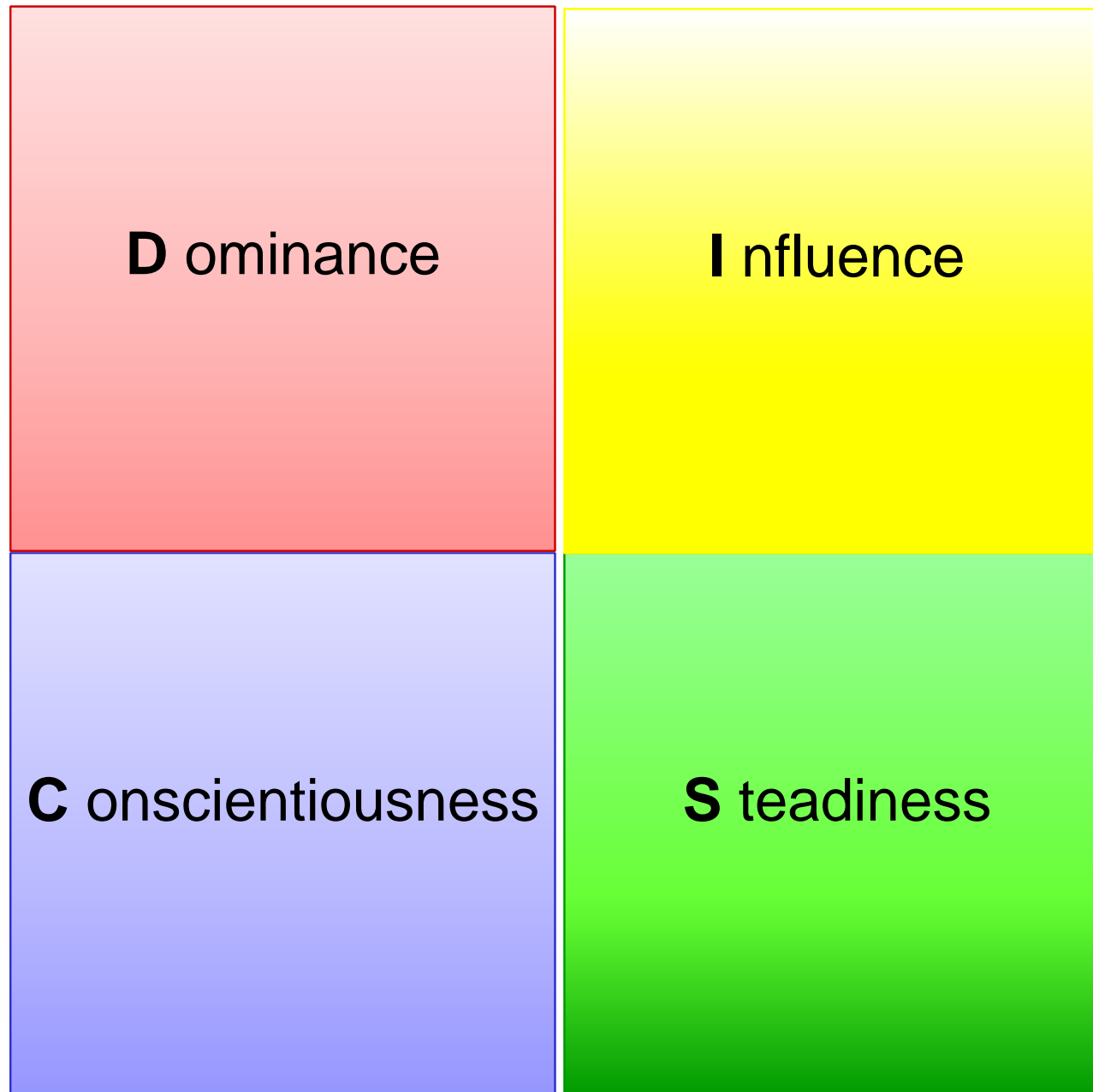
We are all different...

Why does the same method work in one environment but not in another?

... and again we talk about taste ...

DISC Assessment of behaviour

DISC Dimensions of Behaviour

D ominance	**I** nfluence
C onscientiousness	**S** teadiness

A (non academic) attempt of a mapping

"Do the right thing!"

Dominance

"Success counts"

Strengths:
- Goal-oriented
- Result-oriented
- Decisive
- …

Weaknesses:
- Demanding
- Aggressive
- Impatient
- …

Seeks:
- Overview/ Facts
- Results
- Decision Paper
- …

Uses:
- Management Summary
- Scetches/ Model
- Product Canvas
- …
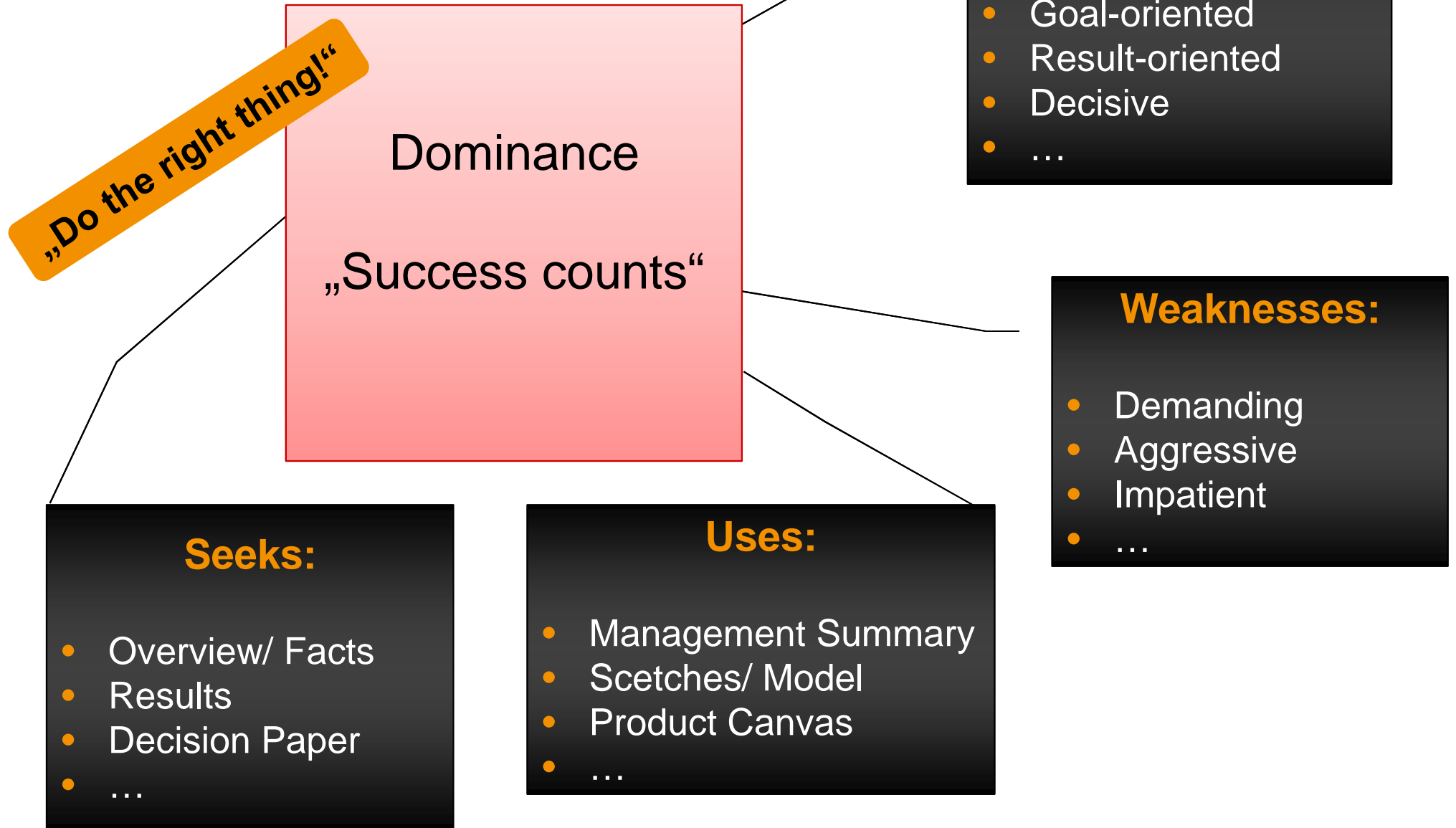
Strength and Weaknesses adapted from Knut Salomon, Institut für Professional Skills

A (non academic) attempt of a mapping

"Let's do something new!"

Influence

"Communication counts"

Strenghts:

- Gives a try
- Convincing and enthusiastic
- Unconventional
- …

Weaknesses:
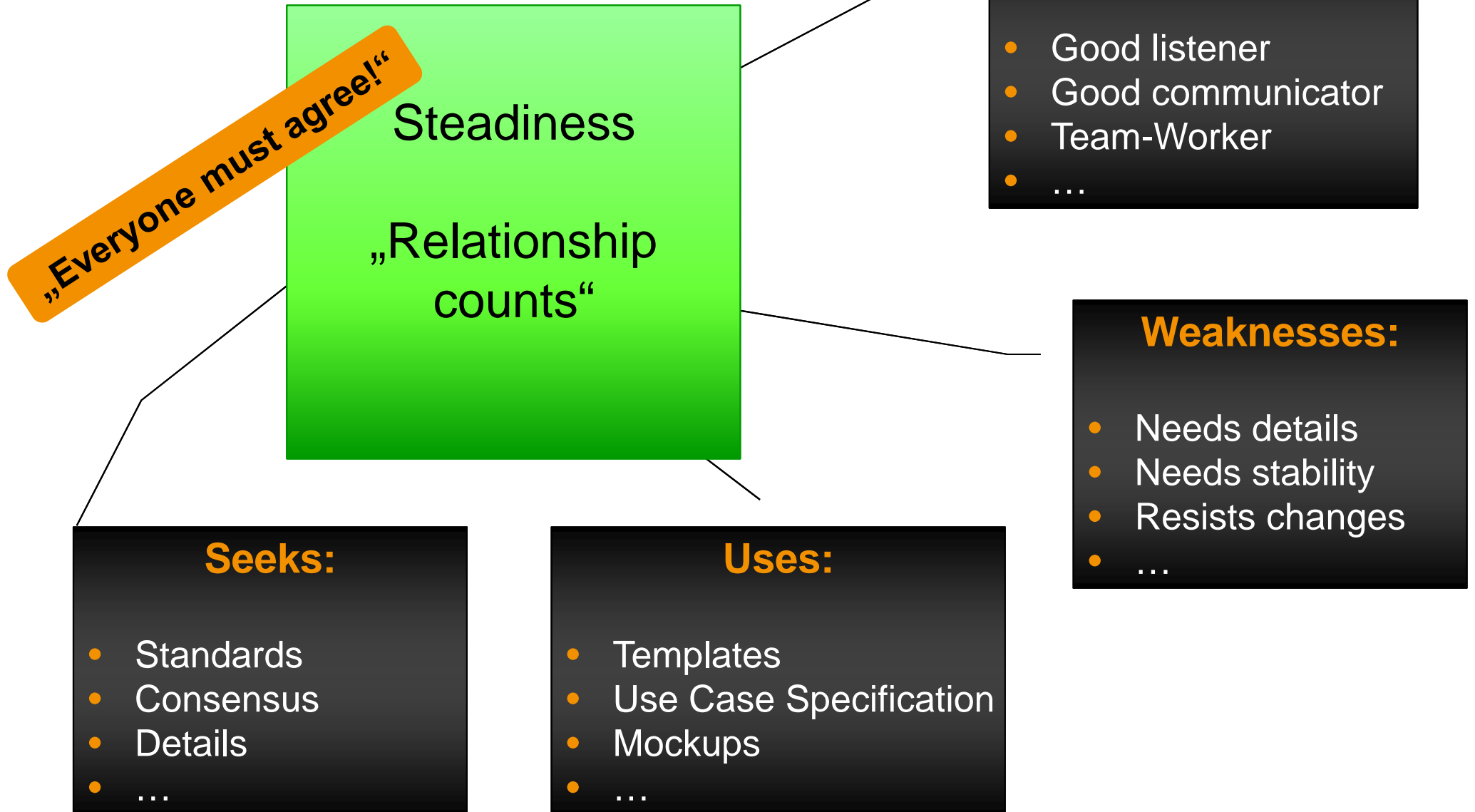
- Unrealistic
- Careless
- Unorganised
- …

Seeks:

- The newest
- To work in groups
- Variety
- …

Uses:

- User Stories
- Use Case 2.0
- Story Mapping
- …

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A (non academic) attempt of a mapping

„Everyone must agree!"

Steadiness

„Relationship counts"

Strengths:

- Good listener
- Good communicator
- Team-Worker
- …

Weaknesses:

- Needs details
- Needs stability
- Resists changes
- …

Seeks:

- Standards
- Consensus
- Details
- …

Uses:

- Templates
- Use Case Specification
- Mockups
- …

A (non academic) attempt of a mapping

„Let's do the things right!"

Conscientiousness

„Structure counts"

Strenghts:

- Diplomatic
- Systematic and careful
- Problem solver
- …

Weaknesses:

- Formal
- Perfectionist
- Critical and cautious
- …

Seeks:

- Guidelines, Standards
- Clear definitions
- Comprehensive Analysis
- …

Uses:

- Models
- Tables
- Templates
- …

So if everyone is different ... what could you try?

- Rename it / try something else
- Diversify/ freedom of choice
- Support self-organisation

„Trust the people" and
„Treat poeple as adults"*

- Make clear what the goal is
- Allow mistakes, encourage people
- Coaching, Mentoring

*agilemanifesto.org, improuv.com

Freedom of choice or guidelines – it depends on the task

Complex task

„Nobody knows the solution"

- Try
- Observe/ Inspect
- Adapt
- Re-try

„Agile"

Complicated task

„Solution can be developped with accuracy and carefulness "

- Ask the experts
- Use proven things
- …

„Best practices"

Simple task

„Solution is known"

- Create guidelines
- Follow guidelines

„Standards/ Templates"

Chaos

„Does there exist any solution?"

- „There can be only one"
- Command & Control

„Prototyping"

Adapted from Dave Snowden

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So is the taste also a criterion for chosing a RE-method...?

What do you think?

So anything goes… as long as you reach your goals!

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