Live Study Results

What are the Soft Skills that industry wants from requirement engineers?

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Two Focus Groups

Starting point
Research on RE as professional occupation identified a list of soft skills that are wanted in job ads:

- Language: English
- Capacity for teamwork
- Communication skills
- Analytical skills
- Self-confidence
- Flexibility
- Customer orientation/ Empathy with users
- Willingness to travel
- Self-organization

Question: Are these soft skills what practitioners observe in their real-life contexts?
Empirical Setup

- 1st Focus Group: 9 participants
- 2nd Focus Group: 3 participants
Results: skills that were not on the list

- Ability to deal with ambiguity
- Leadership: ability to influence
- Sense of humor
- Enthusiasm
- Willingness to make mistakes publically: “Fail Early and Fail Fast”
- Willingness to learn
- Honesty
Results: Top 2

1. Communication: ability to listen
2. Team work
Open Research Questions

• Which abilities can we teach in university courses?

• What is the impact of culture on the perceived importance of skills?

• We found that skills vary based on process: agile vs waterfall. We want to better understand this relationship.