Agile Discovery Session

Overview

Through 30-minute interviews with key executives and stakeholders, assess Agile readiness (if new to Agile) or Agile maturity (if experienced), identify high-ROI opportunities for applying Agile processes, and determine optimal next steps for an Agile transformation.

Duration: 1 day
Prerequisites: None

Participants

Interview subjects can include:

- Executives and senior managers
- Vice Presidents and directors
- Team leads
- Agile Transformation leadership team members
- Agile coaches, Scrum Masters and Product Owners

Many functional areas should be represented, such as software/IT, product management, project management, marketing, operations, release engineering, human resources, finance and sales.

Program Outline

The interviews and analysis are structured by Eliassen’s Agile Maturity Matrix Tool, a spreadsheet-based tool that quantifies Agile readiness and maturity based on several criteria, including team dynamics and structure, process mechanics, and Agile engineering practices.

An Eliassen Enterprise Agile Coach conducts 30-minute interviews with a high-level, cross-functional group of stakeholders to determine their goals, the strengths and weaknesses of current processes, and the highest-potential opportunities to apply Agile methods.

If the organization is already practicing Agile, Eliassen’s coaches will observe activities such as:

- An Agile coach gathering
- A Scrum Master gathering
- A product manager or product owner gathering
A sampling of standup meetings
A sampling of backlog grooming sessions
Retrospectives
Customer demonstration and feedback sessions

The Eliassen coaches also lead a group of managers in a business value analysis, using Eliassen’s Business Value Analysis tool. This exercise uses real project information to estimate the return on investment of development projects in process and under consideration. It also helps managers determine goals and set expectations for Agile projects.

*Question to reviewers: This paragraph is new – is it accurate in the context of a Discovery session?*

The Eliassen coaches document their findings in an Agile Readiness report or an Agile Checkup Report. These documents include the assessments captured in the Agile Maturity Matrix Tool.

The Agile Readiness Report (for organizations new to Agile) describes:

- Factors supporting Agile adoption
- Factors that may hinder Agile adoption
- Recommended actions, training, and coaching

The Agile Checkup Report (for organizations currently practicing Agile) describes:

- What’s going well
- What needs improvement
- Recommended actions, training, and coaching

The Agile Maturity Matrix Tool documents Agile readiness and maturity, on a scale from 1 (“impeded”) to 5 (“ideal”), for over 30 factors in 5 categories (Team dynamics, Team structure, Product, Agile process mechanics and Agile Engineering practices).