Specification By Example for Educational Purposes

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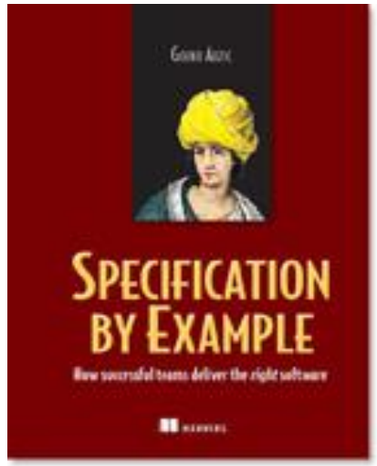
Specification By Example



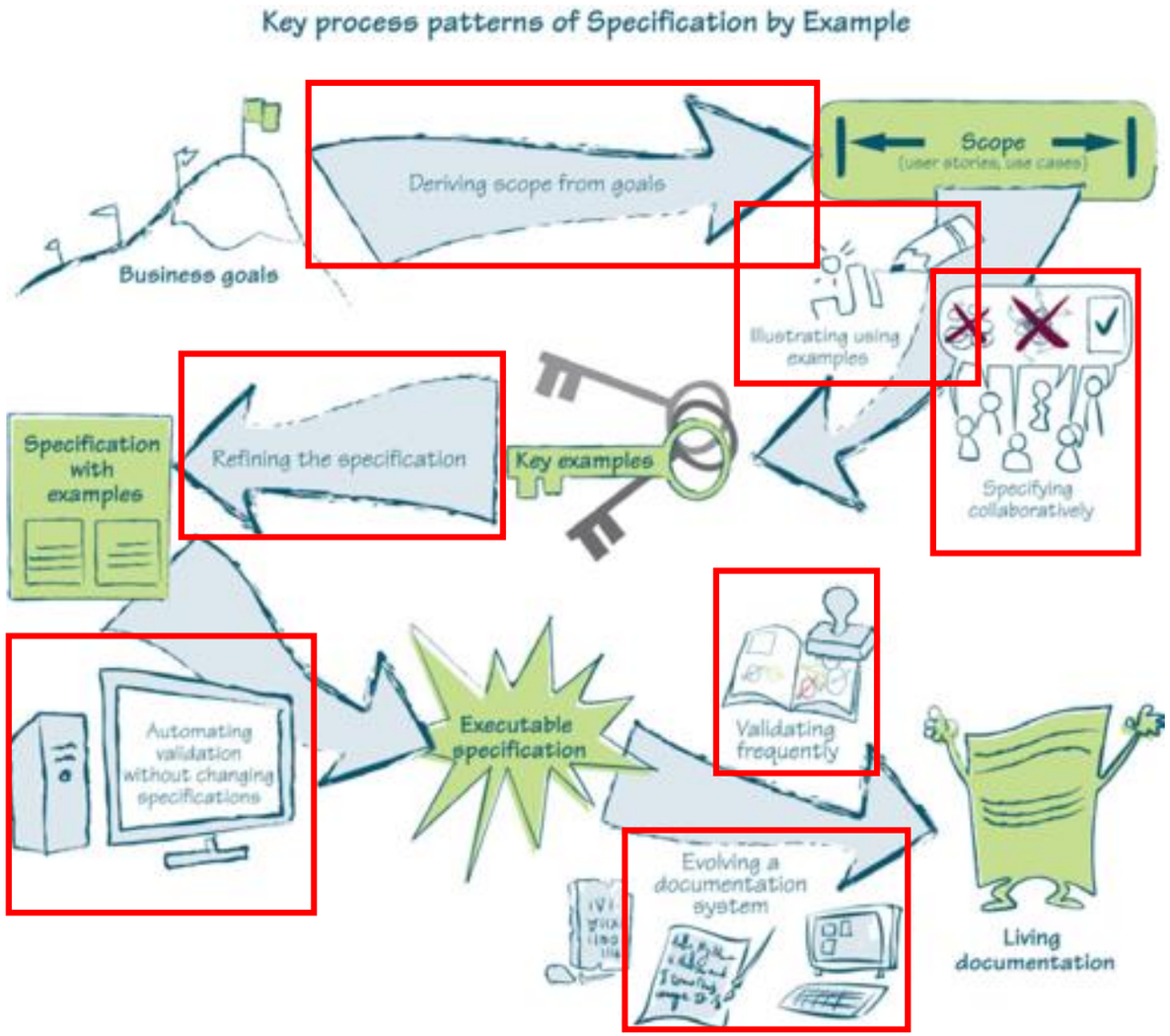
Specification by example (**SBE**) is a **collaborative approach**
for specifying requirements and business-oriented functional tests.

It is consists on **seven process patterns**.
(identified by studying over 50 software projects)

*It is a guideline that assures delivery team and business skateholders that the **product software build it's right for its purpose***

It produces **living, reliable documentation.**
It defines **expectations clearly**
and makes ***validation efficient***.

The 7 Process Pattern of Specification By Example



1. Deriving scope from goals
2. Specifying collaboratively
3. Illustrating requirements using example
4. Refining the specification
5. Automating validation without changing specification
6. Validating frequently
7. Evolving a documentation system

What about in Educational Context ?

A fact : Boredom, inattention, discouragement, poorly results on tests,…
when mismatches between **learning and teaching styles**

To improve this alignment,
why not trying a connection between Software Engineering & Educational ?

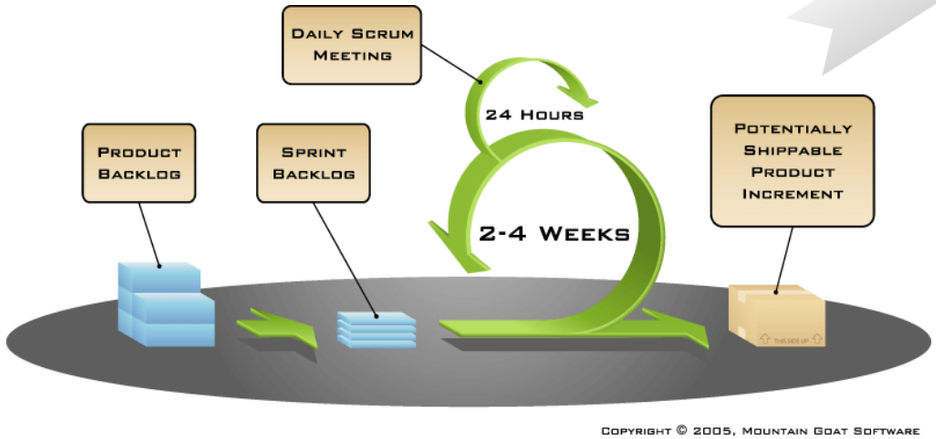
Could not a **course** be considered as a **product** ?

Could not a **Syllabus** be considered as a **Requirements ?**

Credit: Thinkstock

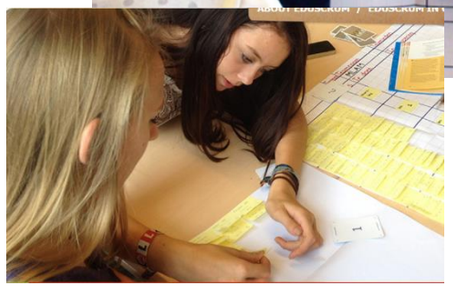
Some transpositions already exist …

… inspired by Scrum



eduScrum

http://eduscrum.nl/en/



Scrum :
iterative and incremental
agile software development framework
for managing product development

http://approchealpes.info/

(private joke in french :
Agi**L**es pour la **P**édagogie dans l'**E**nseignement **S**upérieur)

Also (individual) experiments of *Agile Pedagogy*
… inspired directly by agile values and principles

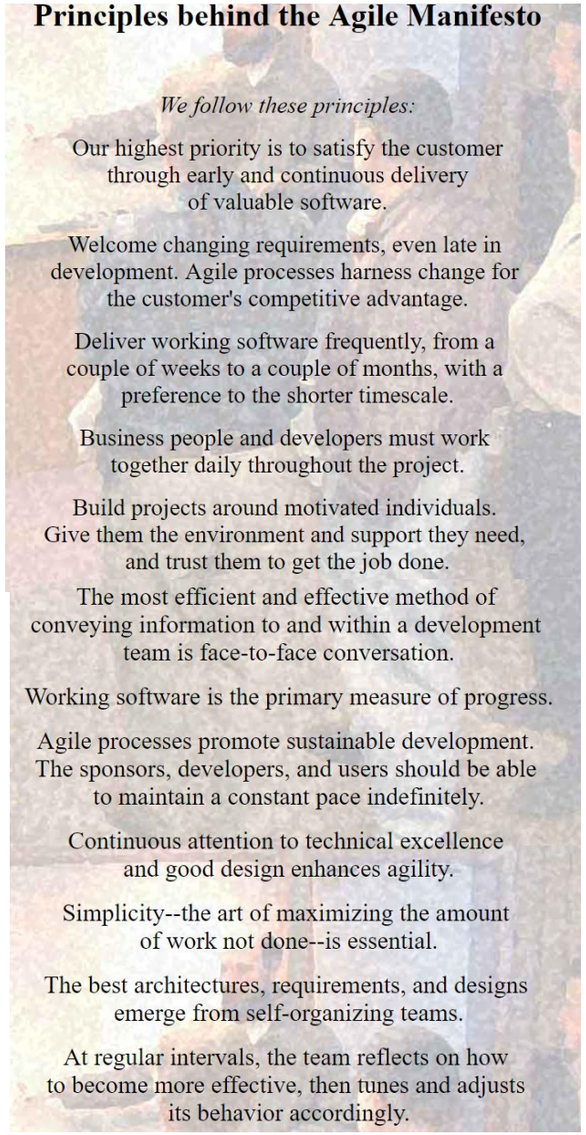
In France : https://pedagogieagile.com/
Individual experiments of a teacher in a Junior high school

… As in spain

https://es.fpdgi.org/upload/projecte/1329.pdf

… Up to suggest an agile manifesto school

Agile manifesto :
From a traditional plan-driven paradigm
to a **value-driven paradigm**



Principles behind the Agile Manifesto

We follow these principles:

Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.

Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.

Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter timescale.

Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.

Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.

The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.

Working software is the primary measure of progress.

Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.

Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.

Simplicity--the art of maximizing the amount of work not done--is essential.

The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.

At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.

Agile school manifesto :
From traditional teaching-approaches to
new **learning approaches.**

The Twelve Principles of Agile Schools

We follow these principles:

1. Our highest priority is to satisfy the needs of children and their families through early and continuous delivery of meaningful learning.
2. Welcome changing requirements, even late in a learning cycle. Harness change for the benefit of children and their families.
3. Deliver meaningful learning frequently, from a couple of days to a couple of weeks, with a preference to the shorter timescale.
4. School and family team members work together daily to create learning opportunities for all participants.
5. Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.
6. The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a team is face-to-face conversation.
7. Meaningful learning is the primary measure of progress.
8. Our processes promote sustainability. Educators, students, and families should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.
9. Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances adaptability.
10. Simplicity-the art of maximizing the amount of work not done-is essential.
11. The best ideas and initiatives emerge from self-organizing teams.
12. At regular intervals, teams reflect on how to become more effective, then tune and adjust their behavior accordingly.

https://www.infoq.com/articles/agile-schools-education

But only transposition around delivery process, … No transposition around the design ….

Could not a **Course Designer** be considered as a **Product Manager ?**

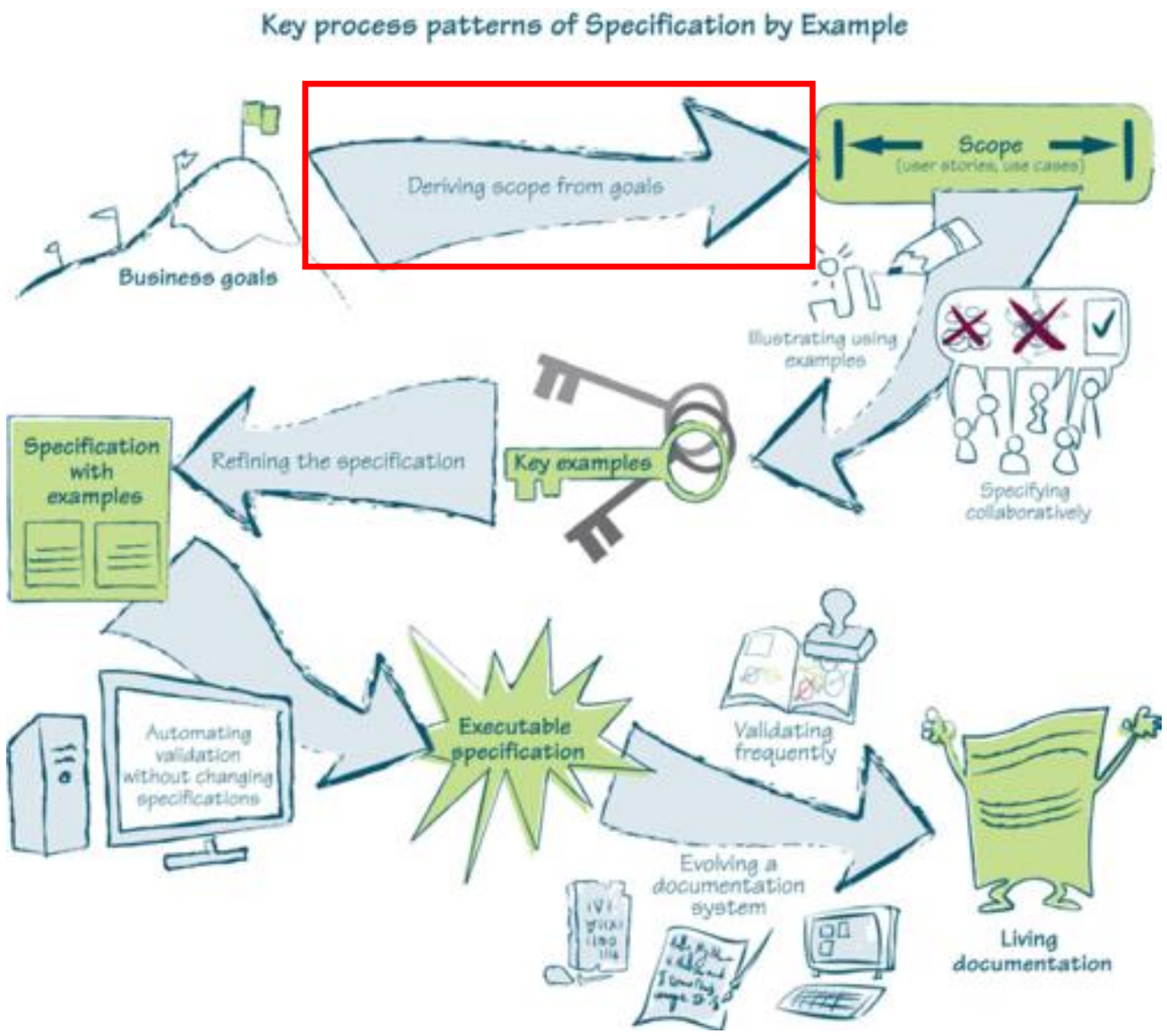
Why not transposing each process pattern of Specification by Example in Educational context to improve the design of a course ?

Transposition of each pattern in 3 steps

→ **Overview** of the **original pattern**

→ Corresponding **pattern in teaching-domain**

→ **Example** of the teaching-domain pattern
on the software development processes course



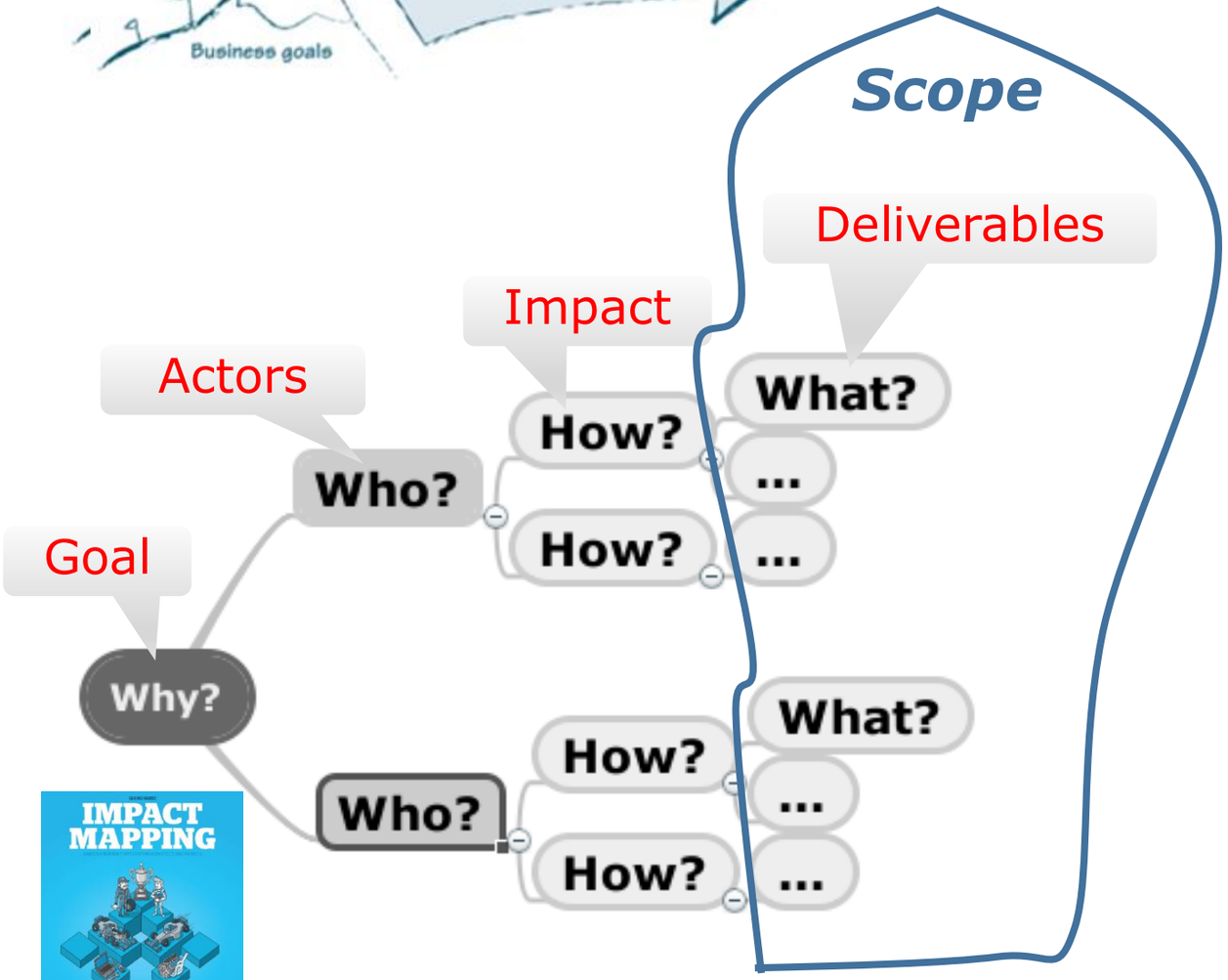
Pattern 1 :

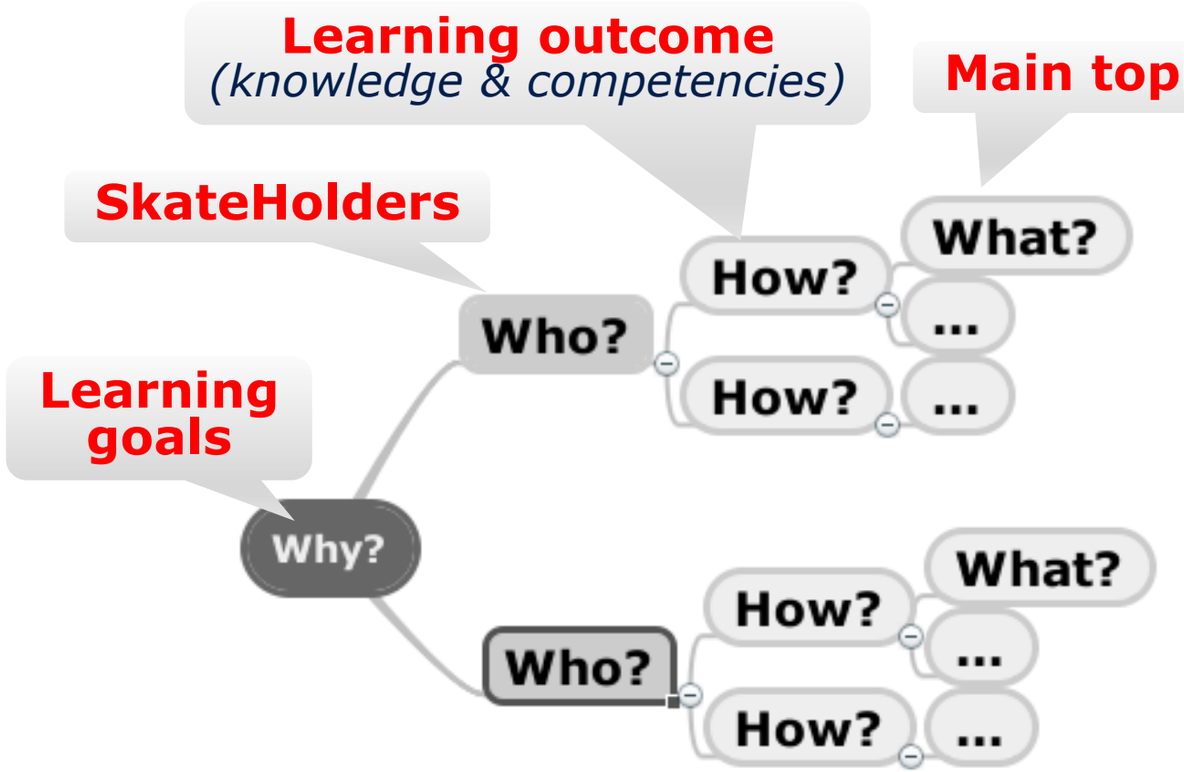
Deriving scope from goals

From *why* to *what*

Overview & corresponding pattern

⇒





Course's Vision : Example

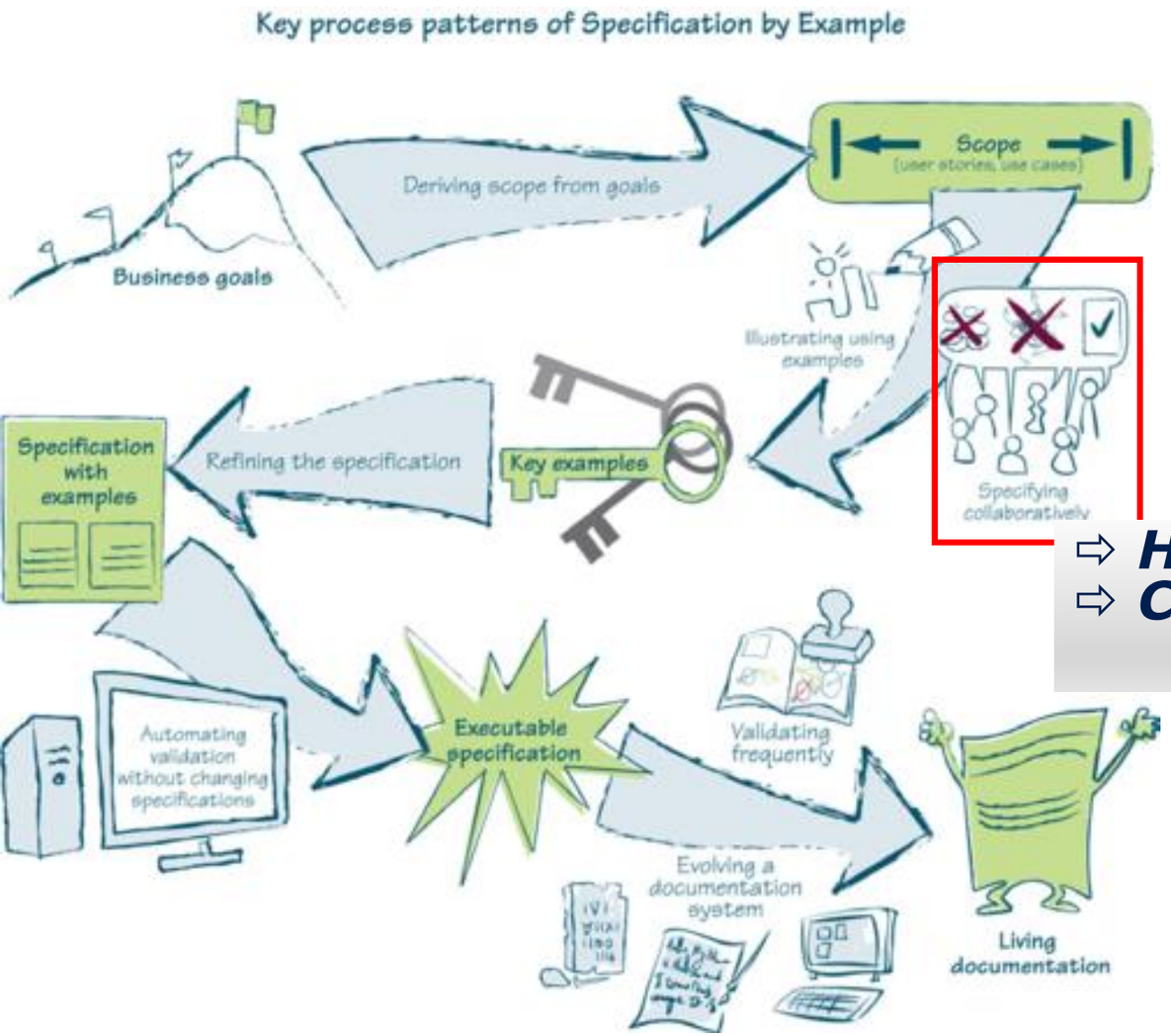
Introduction to agile software development in agile mindset

Students

- **Delivering the right product**
  - Requirements: focus on vision
  - Requirements: from vision to features
- **Delivering the product right**
  - Tests
- **Delivering fast and regularly**
  - Introduction to Scrum
- **Agile values and principles**
  - Introduction to agile software development
  - Overview of collaborative tools

Teacher

- **Facilitator's posture**
  - Collaborative workshops

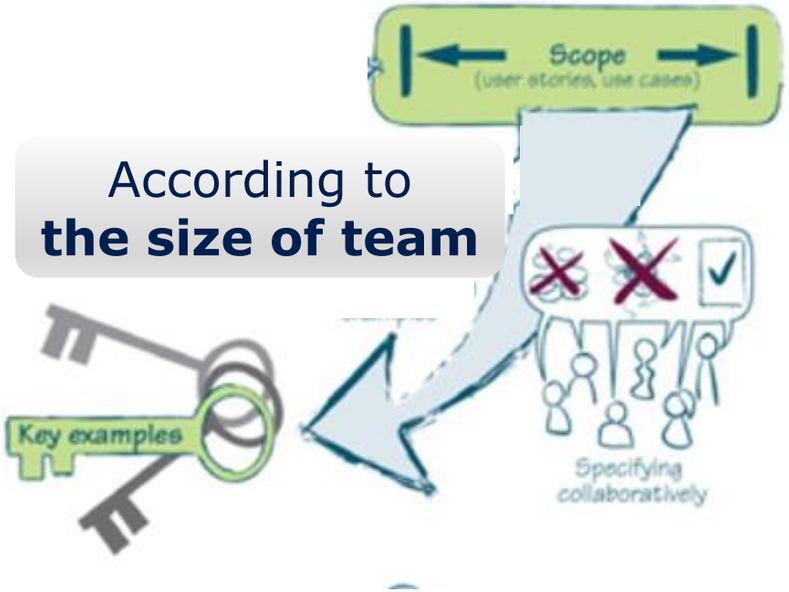


Pattern 2 :

Specifying collaboratively

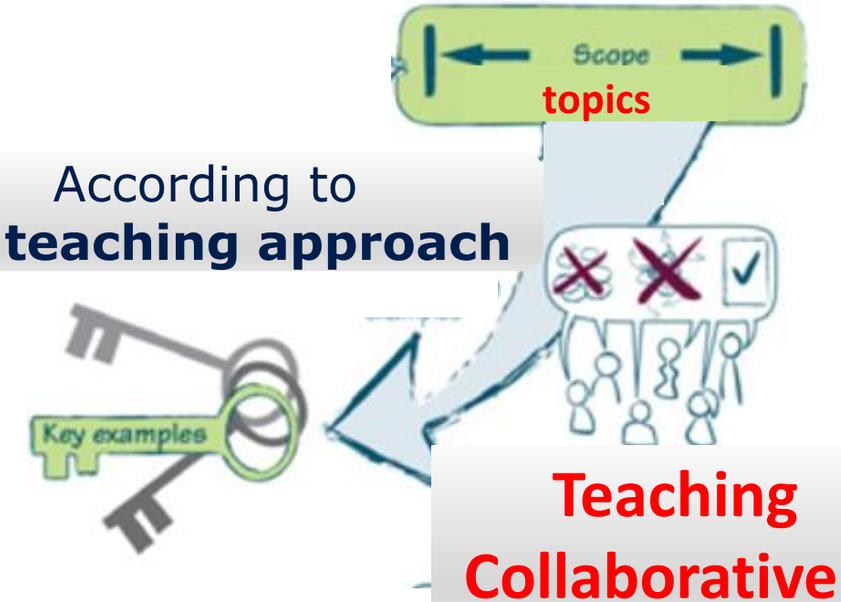
⇨ ***Harness the knowledge and the experience***
⇨ ***Create a collective ownership of specifications (engagement in the delivery process)***

Overview & corresponding pattern



According to
the size of team

⇒

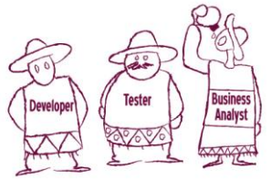


According to
the teaching approach

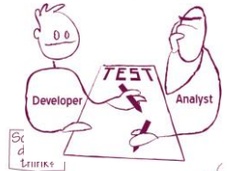
Teaching Collaboratively

All-team workshops

Smaller workshops
(clarify)



Pair-writing
(mature or complete)



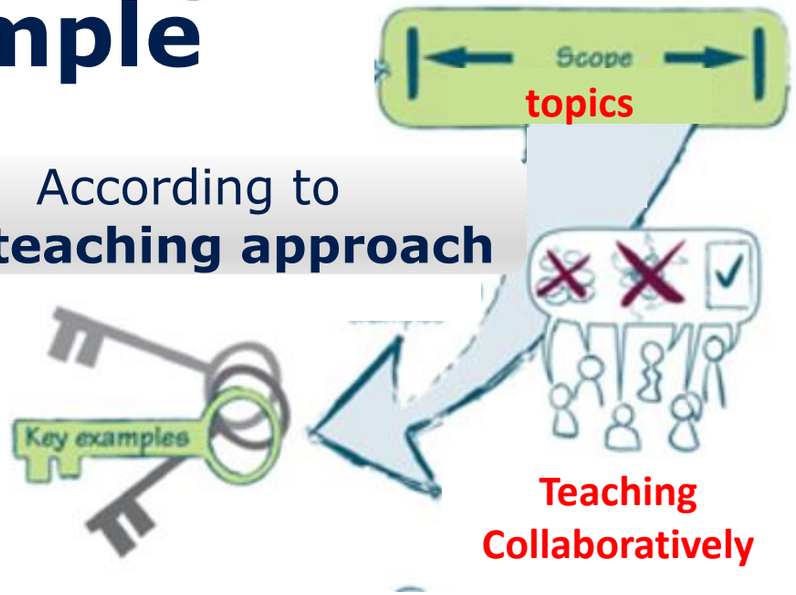
Informal conversations
(several perspectives)

Deductive workshops
(traditional teaching approach)

Inductive workshops
(from particulars to generalities)
→ Problem Based Learning, discovery learning, inquiry learning (constructivism)
→ Active learning (involvement of students) and collaborative learning (groups)

Pictures from : http://www.methodsandtools.com/archive/collaborativespecifications.php

Teaching Collaboratively : Example



Deductive workshops
→ lecture

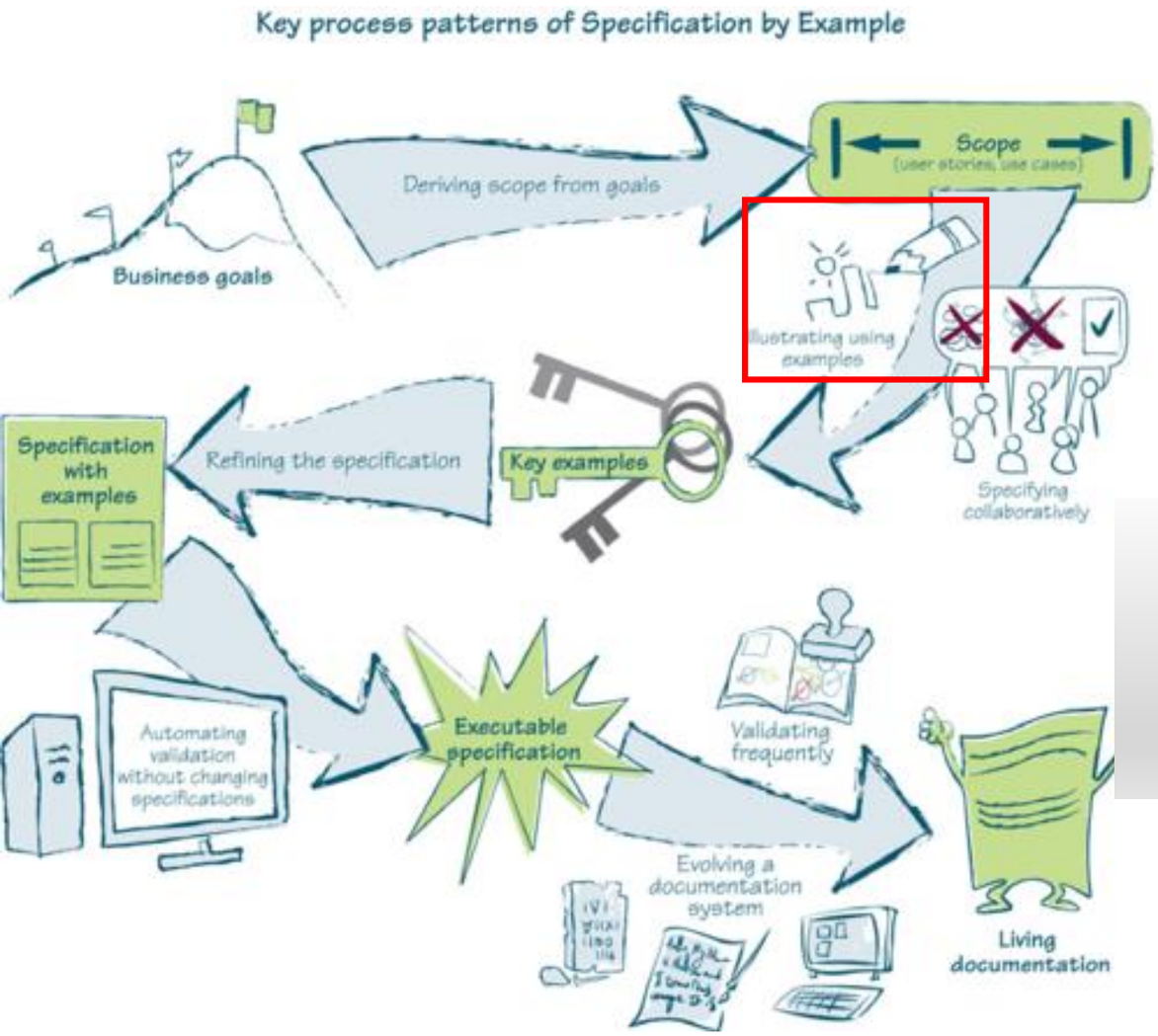
Inductive workshops (mostly)

Autonomous team of 4-6 students who collaborate to achieve the required learning goal

Teacher become **facilitator** who ensure trust behaviors
(*demonstrate respect, create transparency, keep commitments, extended trust…*)

Assertion time (at the end) :
- **Workshop review :** presentation of work
- **Retrospective :** to reflect on the most significant events to have occurred, examine the lessons learned and take decisions aiming at improvement.

→ Respect the Collective Intelligence process
→ Promote the emergence of Agile Value



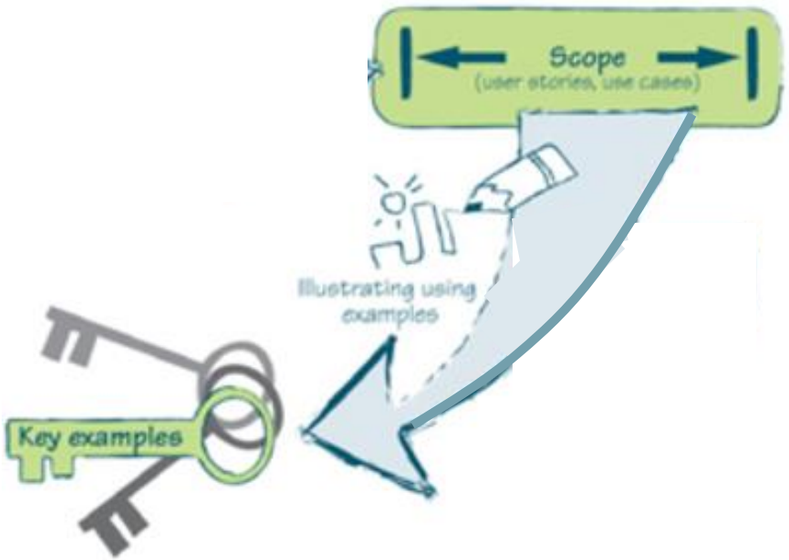
Pattern 3 :

Illustrating requirements using example

Ensure that the delivery teams focus on the right product

Shared understandings of what the business users expect

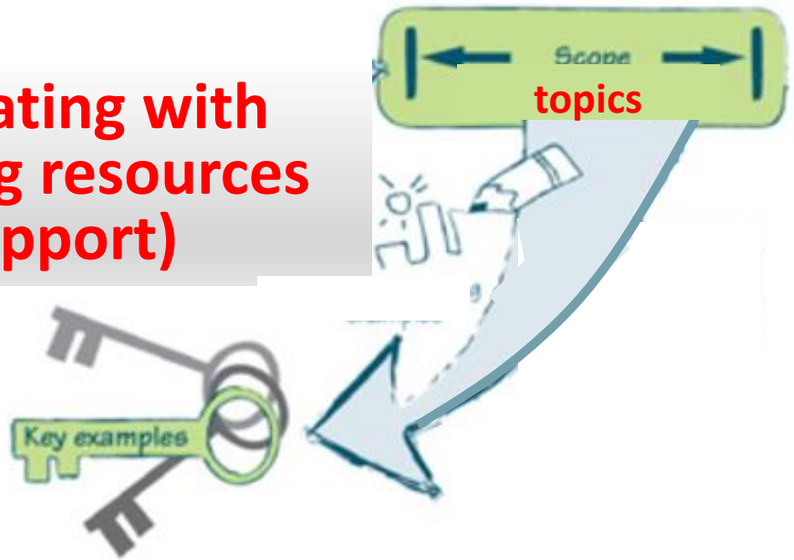
Overview & corresponding pattern



Example

⇒

Illustrating with teaching resources (support)



Teaching resource
activity used by a teacher
to engage students
in learning
to achieve required
learning goal

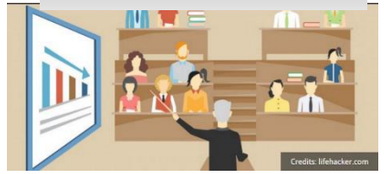
Examples (everyday conversation)
→ clarify meaning
→ concrete less unambigous

Examples (from requirements analysis to testing)
→ small
→ precise
→ realistic
→ easy to understand

Illustrating with teaching resources : Example

Choose the best teaching resources to engage students in learning

Lecture



To introduce or clarify a concept

Tutorial, Lab

Project Based Learning

Student centered approach :
Work in groups on a real world problem,
Guidance provided by the teacher
Resulting products shared with the community

Collaborative workshops

Gamification

process of using-game based mechanics, aesthetics and game thinking to engage people, motivate action, promote learning and solve problem [1]

(Game ⇒) culture happiness ⇒ learning ⇒ productivity [2]

[1] K. Kapp. The Gamification of Learning and Instruction: Game-based Methods and Strategies for Training and Education. Wiley, 2012
[2] D. Mezick. The Culture Game: Tools for the Agile Manager. FreeStanding Press, 2012

Illustrating with teaching resources : Example (in picture)

Project Based Learning

Student centered approach :
Work in groups on a real world problem,
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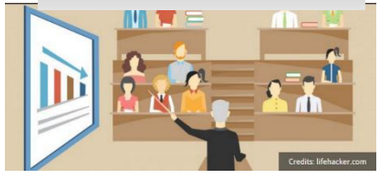
Lecture

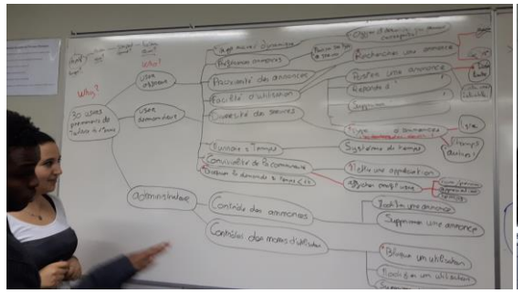


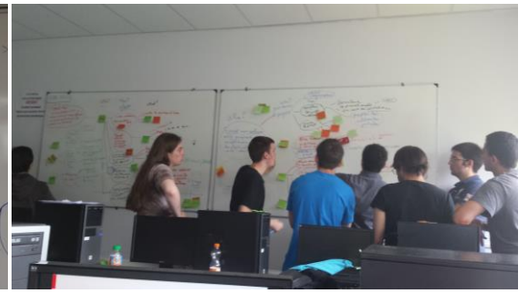
To introduce or clarify a concept

Choose the best teaching resources to engage students in learning

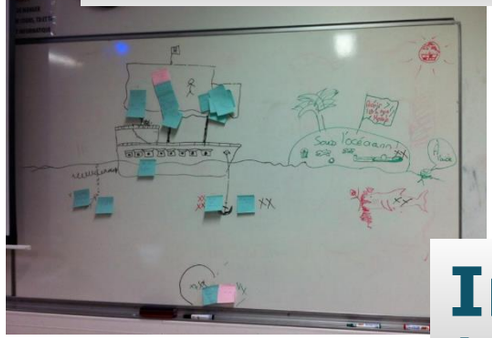
Tutorial, Lab

Collaborative workshops





Gamification



Serious Game
(to discover a concept)

Innovation Game
(to work)

Happiness to work (photos taken by students during PBL workshops)

Game/Collaborative Workshop ↔
culture happiness ↔ learning ↔ productivity

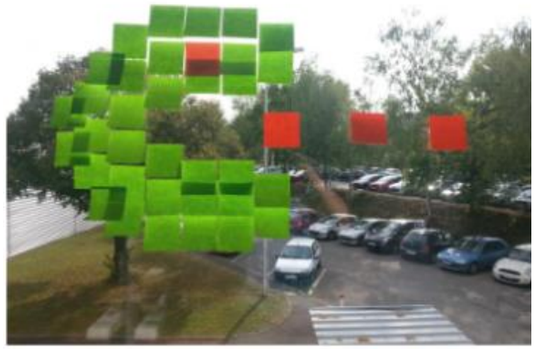
Photo prise lors de l'atelier des User Stories

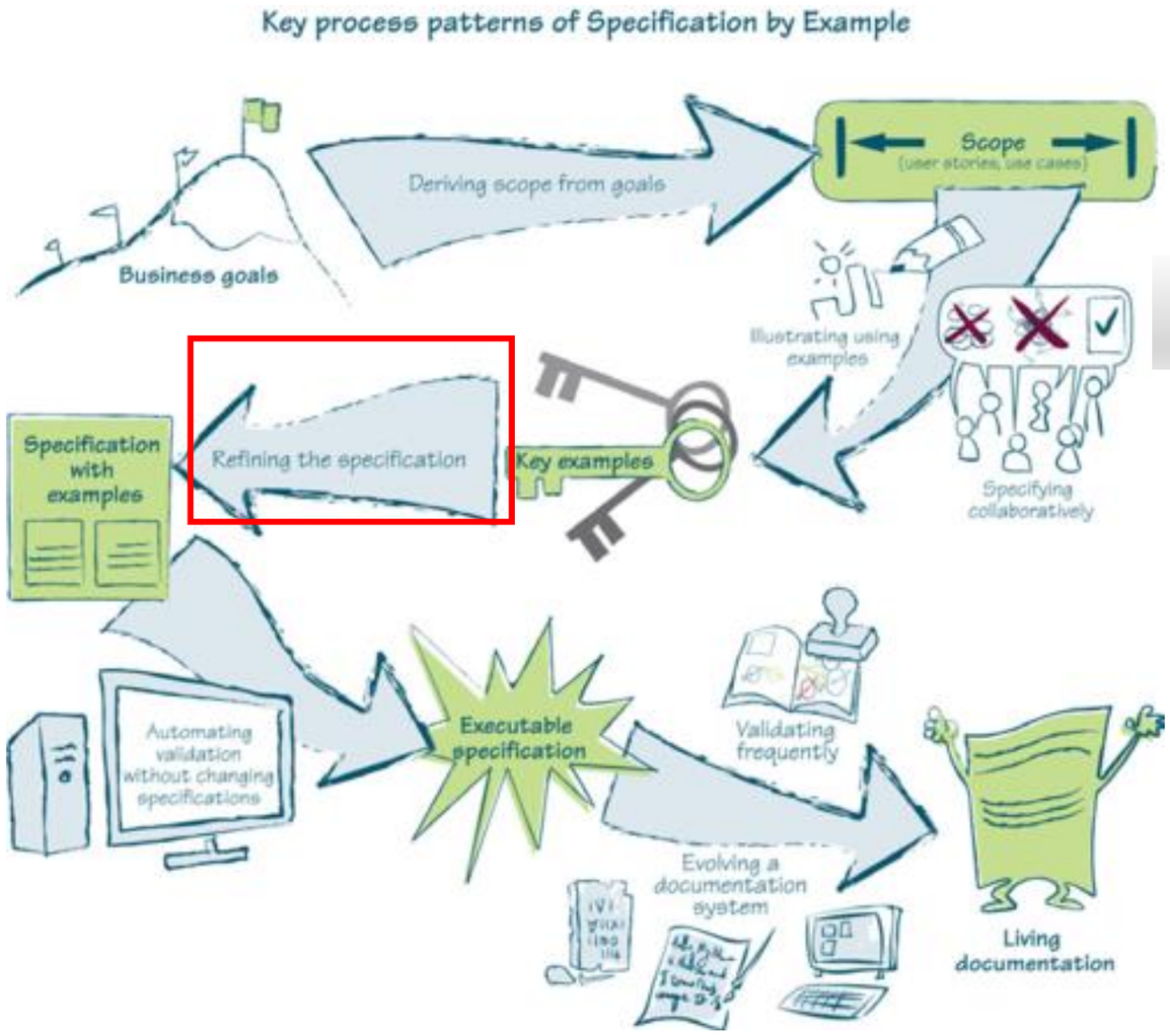
Dessin réalisé lors de l'atelier Impact Mapping, où vous étiez relativement « Speedy ».

Conclusion graphique

Pour illustrer à quel point nous formons une équipe soudée et efficace, nous avons quelques Snapchats qui vous montrent comment nous avons passé le temps lors de nos pauses.

Et enfin pour finir, la vidéo que vous attendiez depuis si longtemps : la danse de Pierre, Sébastien, et Conor, reprise et modifiée par d'autres MDI (membres du département informatique) : Cliquez ici pour voir the best conclusion ever.





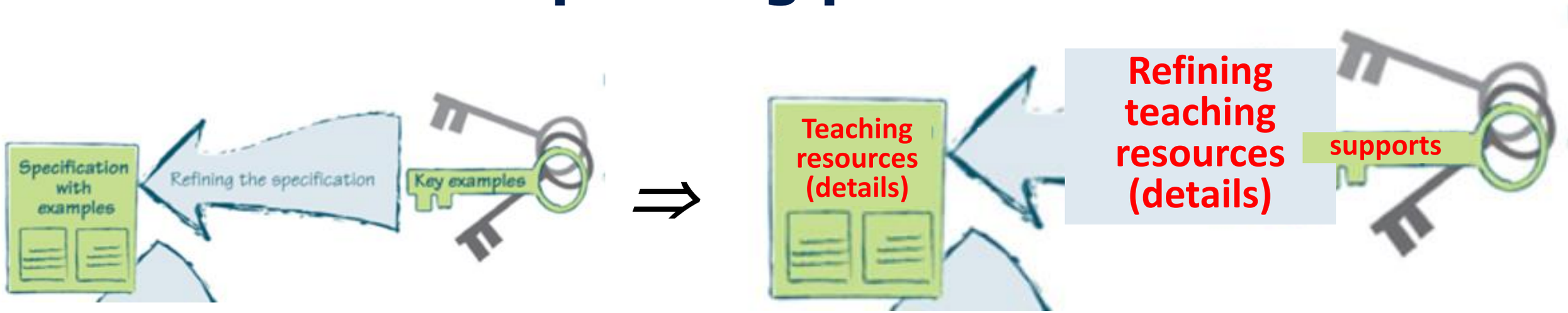
Pattern 4 :

Refining the specification

Brings further informations about the specification

(creation of a precise & concrete context)

Overview & corresponding pattern



To be unambiguous and useful
(long term documentation)

→ **Focus** on business functionality

→ **precise**, self-explanatory

→ **testable**, in domain language

Teaching resources details

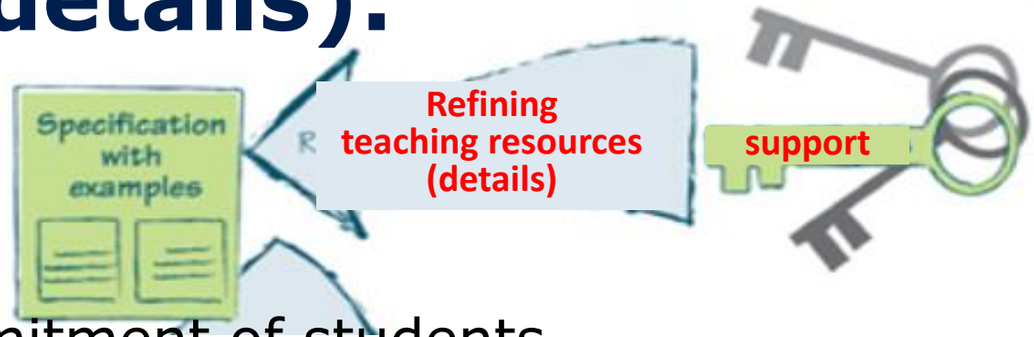
→ **Focus** on a specific competency & time-boxed, starter kit

→ **Precise :** choice of application domain to promote the commitment of students

→ **Testable :** with a definition of an outcome

Outcome :
Describes a way to verifiy and validate that the required learning goals are well-achieved

Refining a teaching resource (details): Exemple



→ Focus on a specific competency & time-boxed
→ Starter kit
→ Choice of application domain to promote the commitment of students
→ Various outcomes : oral feedback, photos, specific artifact, summary

Impact Mapping

Présentation de l'atelier

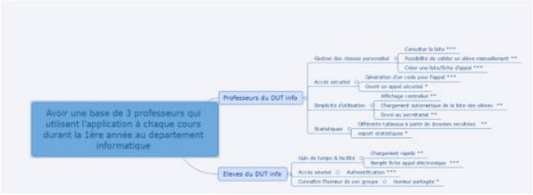
L'Impact Mapping permet de ne pas s'égarer pendant la phase de planification, en identifiant clairement les utilisateurs et leurs actions associés. Il permet aussi de prioriser l'importance des tâches pour savoir sur quelles fonctionnalités nous devrons plus nous attarder et être vigilant.

Présentation de notre travail

L'objectif (« Avoir une base de 3 professeurs qui utilisent l'application à chaque cours durant la 1ère année au departement informatique ») est bien SMART (*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-boxed*) car il est correctement spécifié et clair. De plus, il est mesurable (3 profs du dut info de Limoges), acceptable et réaliste. Il est aussi temporellement défini, en effet un an nous semble correct pour atteindre l'objectif dans les conditions évoquées précédemment.

Ci-dessus et sur la page suivante, notre Impact Mapping réalisé en cours.

Ci –dessous, la version Xmind.

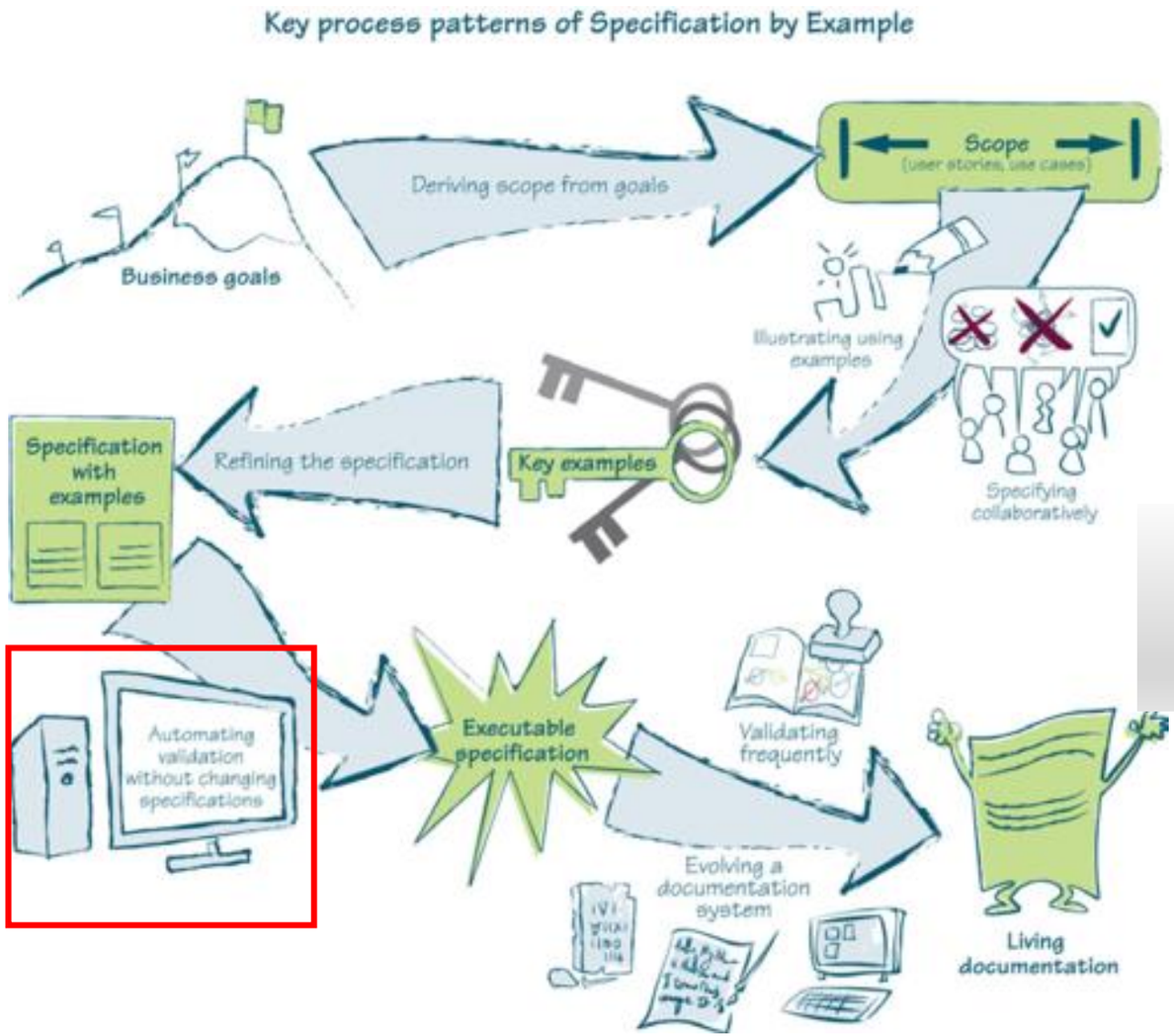


Commentaire sur l'atelier

Cet atelier nous a permis d'éclaircir les différentes fonctionnalités du projet, ainsi que la priorisation des différentes fonctionnalités, et les acteurs concernés.

Rétrospective Keep-Drop-Start

Keep qui fonctionne : - Bonne cohésion et entente lors de la réalisation de l'atelier	Drop ce qui n'a pas marché : - Certaines confusions pendant la réalisation de l'atelier
Keep mystérieux : -	Start ce qui fonctionnerait si on le faisait : -



Pattern 5 :

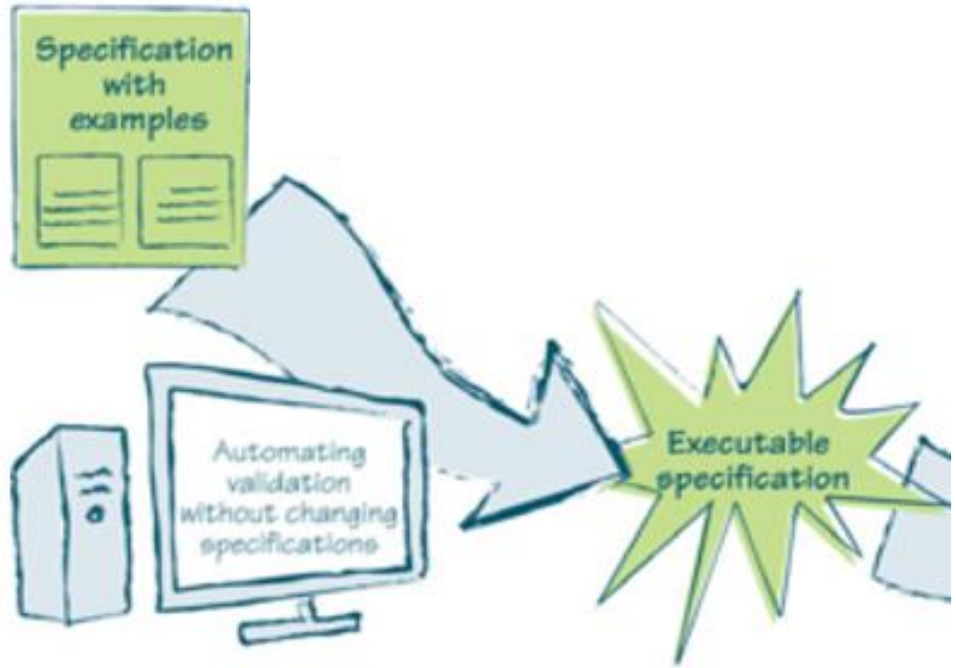
Automating validation without changing specification

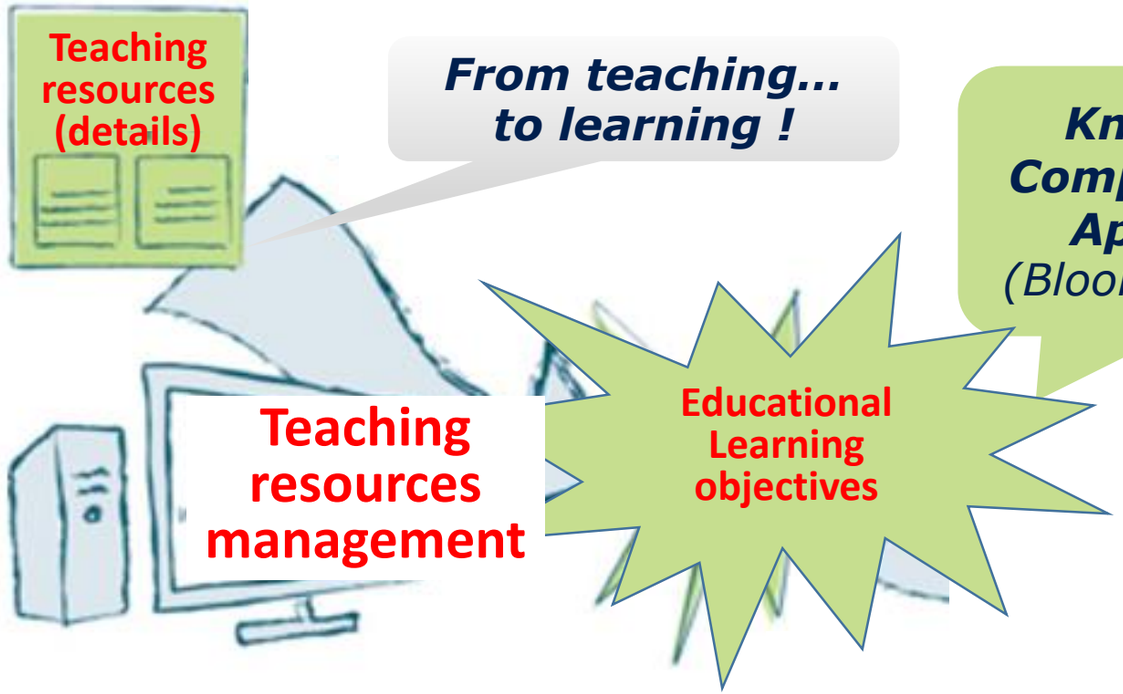
Focus on automation, as a solution of quick feedback

Specification with examples & automation testing tool
⇒ Executable specification

Overview & corresponding pattern

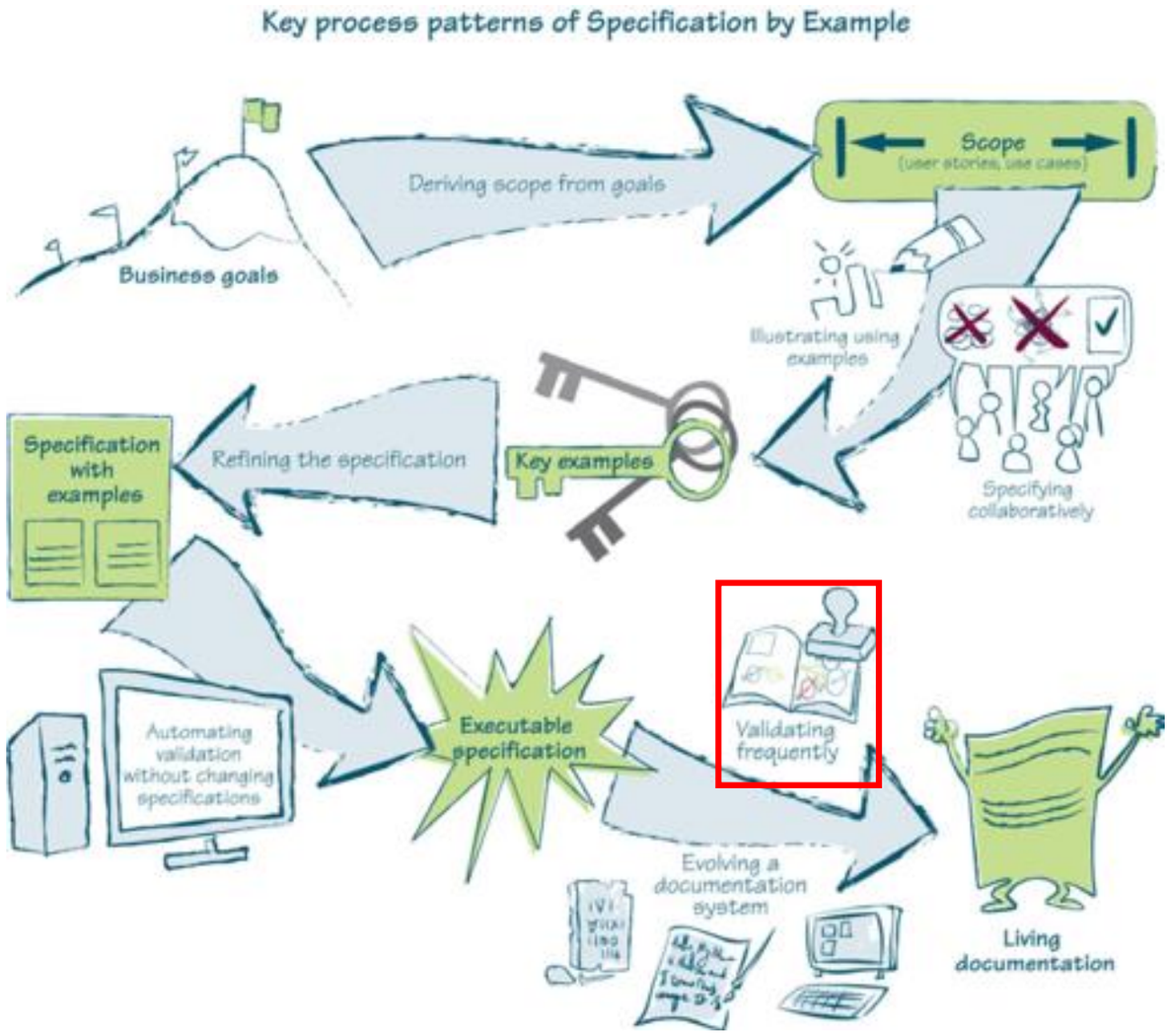
Thinking about automation,
Thinking about repetition of teaching resource
to aim educational learning objectives into differents levels)





Focus on resources management :
→ **schedule** : sequence of topics, sequence of various teaching resources for a specific topic
→ adaptation of schedule according to students behavior and feelings (feedback)

Example of repetition for a specific topic :
Lecture or game, collaborative workshop and application in a PBL

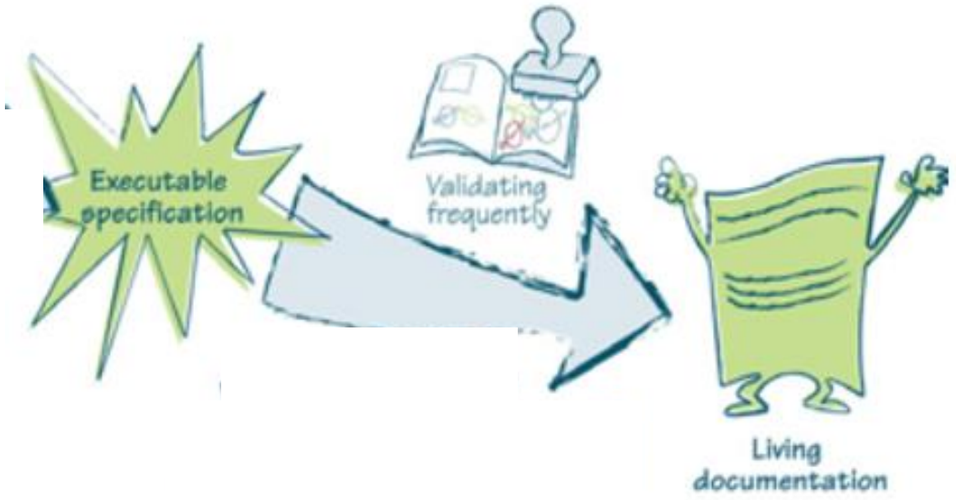


Pattern 6 :

Validating frequently

A continuous integration systems builds the product and runs the tests

Overview & corresponding pattern



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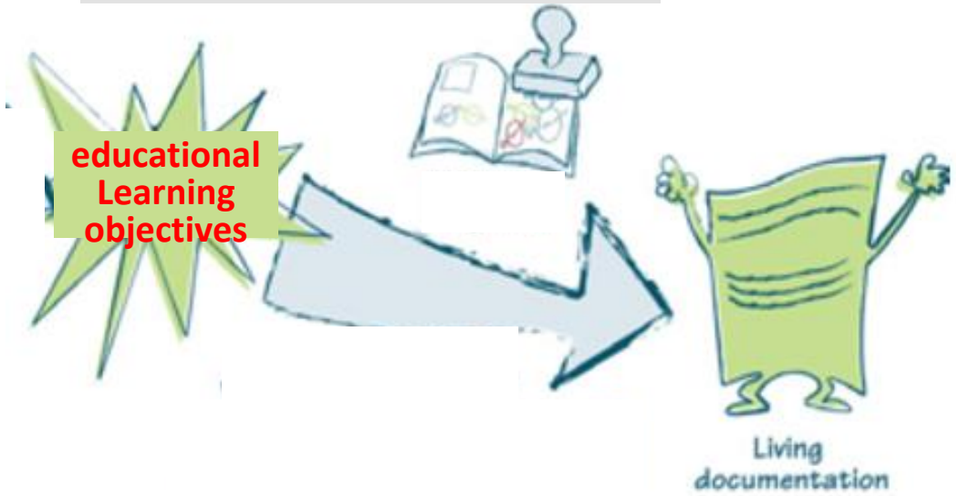
Knowledge evaluation Process



To ensure that the product stays right

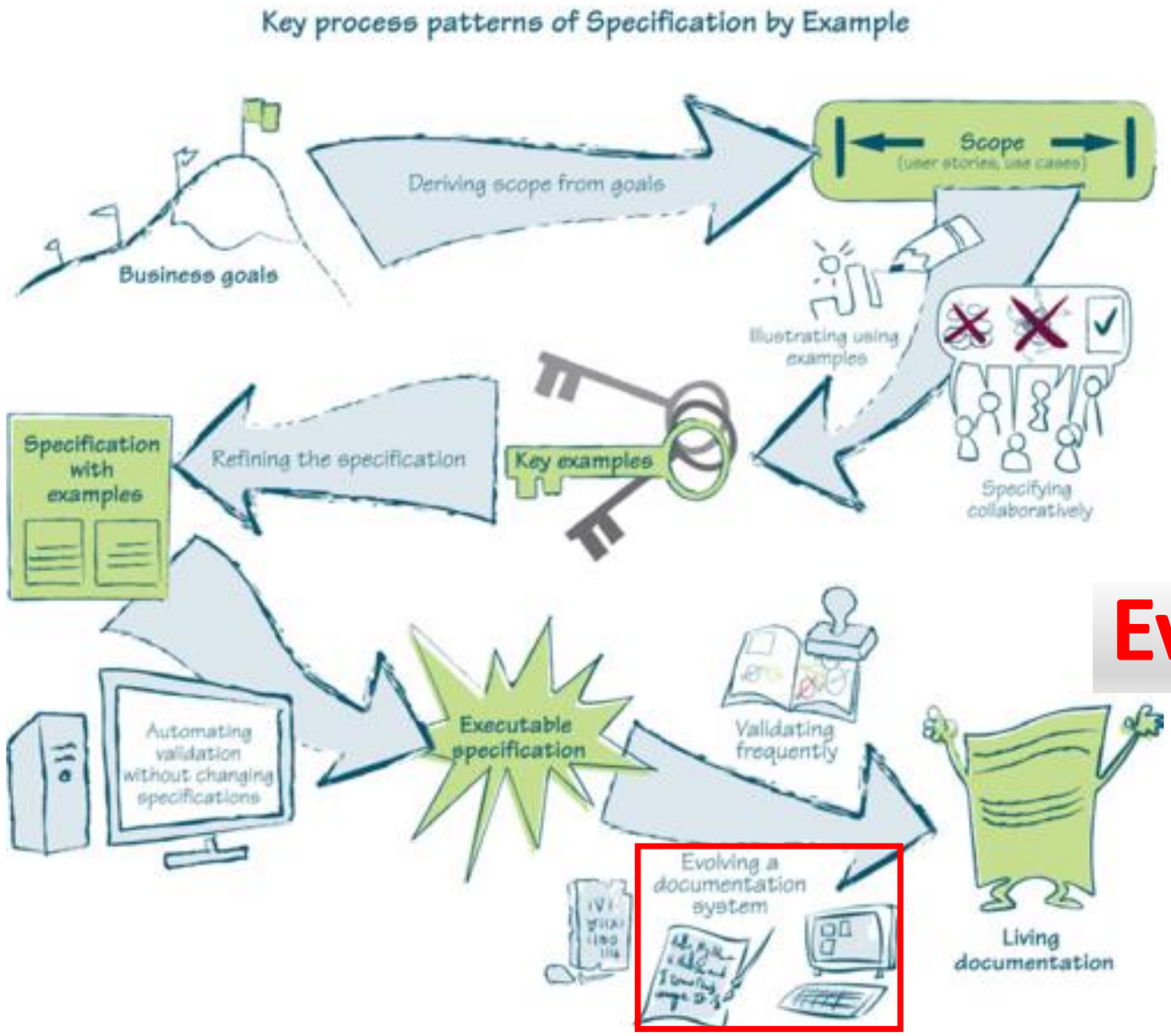
→ validate executable specifications frequently
→ reducing unreliability
→ looking for ways to get faster feedbacks

→ teacher : responsible for the reliability
→ students : responsible to get faster feedback

Practices : assignments, with or without grades, individual or collective, frequency

Knowledge evaluation Process Exemple

→ Evaluation at the end of each workshop
→ Summary of the workshop (based on a predefined template)
→ Report about PBL like a cookbook
→ collective grade in respect to CI process

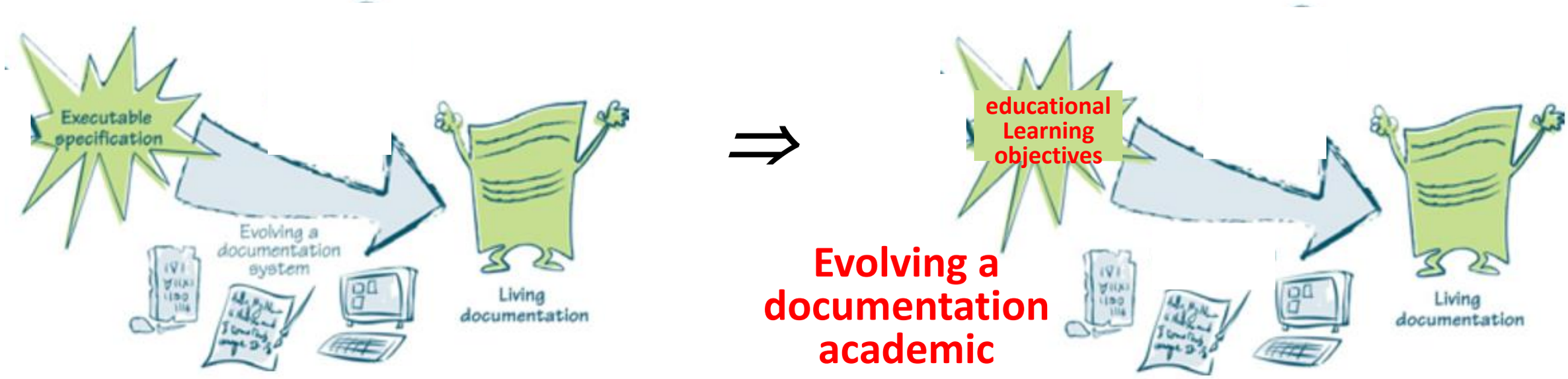


Pattern 7 :

Evolving a documentation system

Living documentation : artifact & the end-product

Overview & corresponding pattern



Living Documentation
(authoritative reliable source information on system)

→ Easy to access ⟶ repositories in a version control system

→ Easy to understand ⟶ by encouraging to share & update materials

→ Each change needs to be reflected ⟶ Be alive : notification system to alert all the skateholder when a new document is added or updated

Evolving a documentation academic Exemple

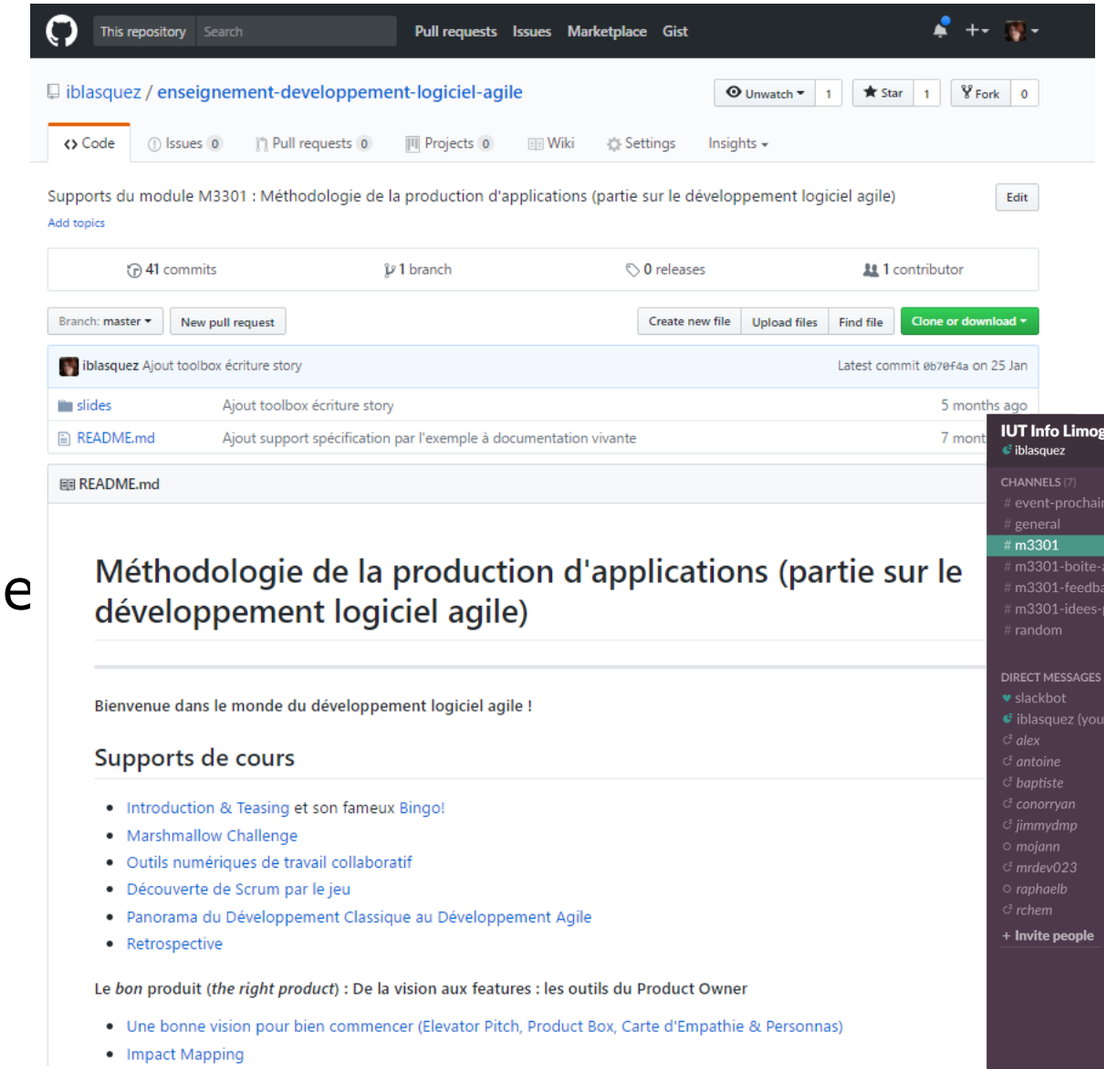
GitHub

Easily access on line public material course

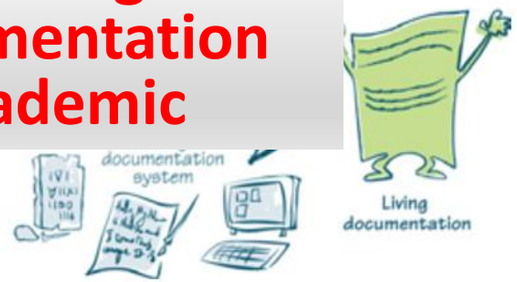
Recipe

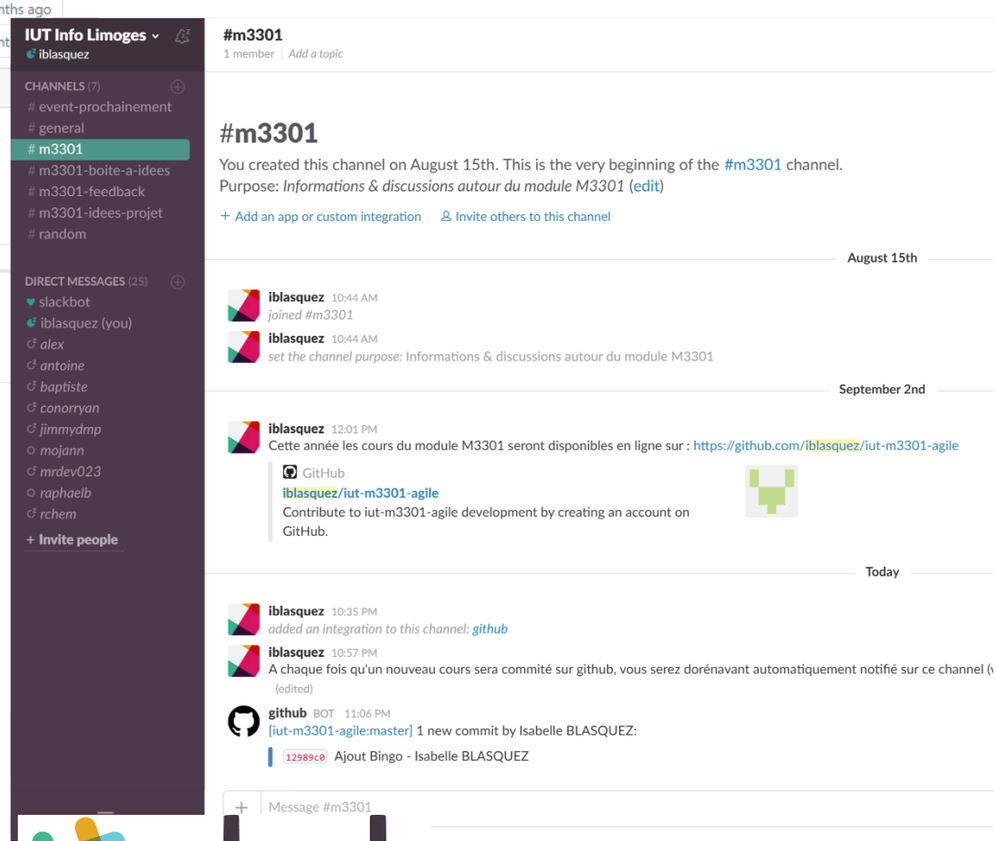
if this then that

Trigger Action



Evolving a documentation academic

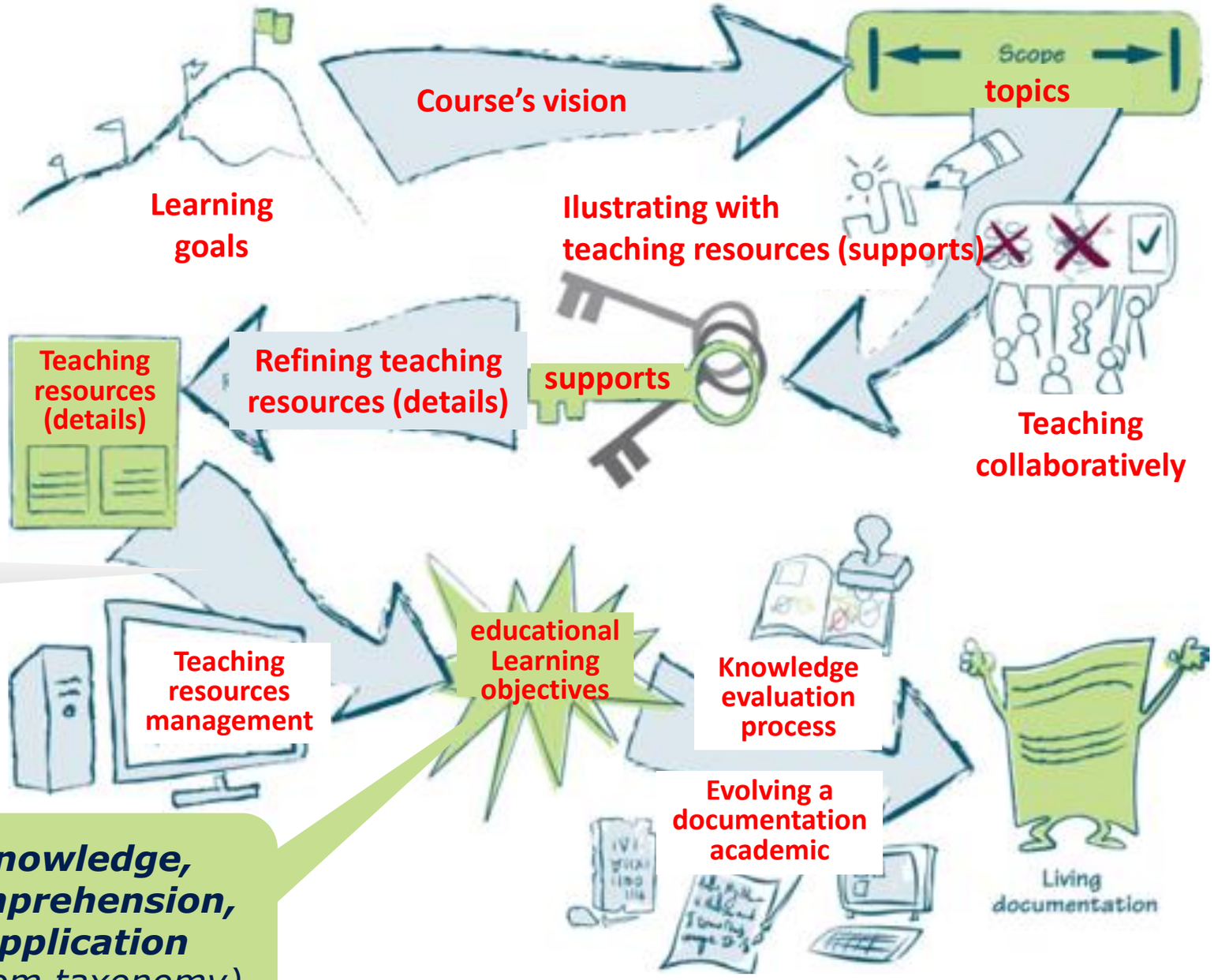




more understandable
& automatic notification system

slack

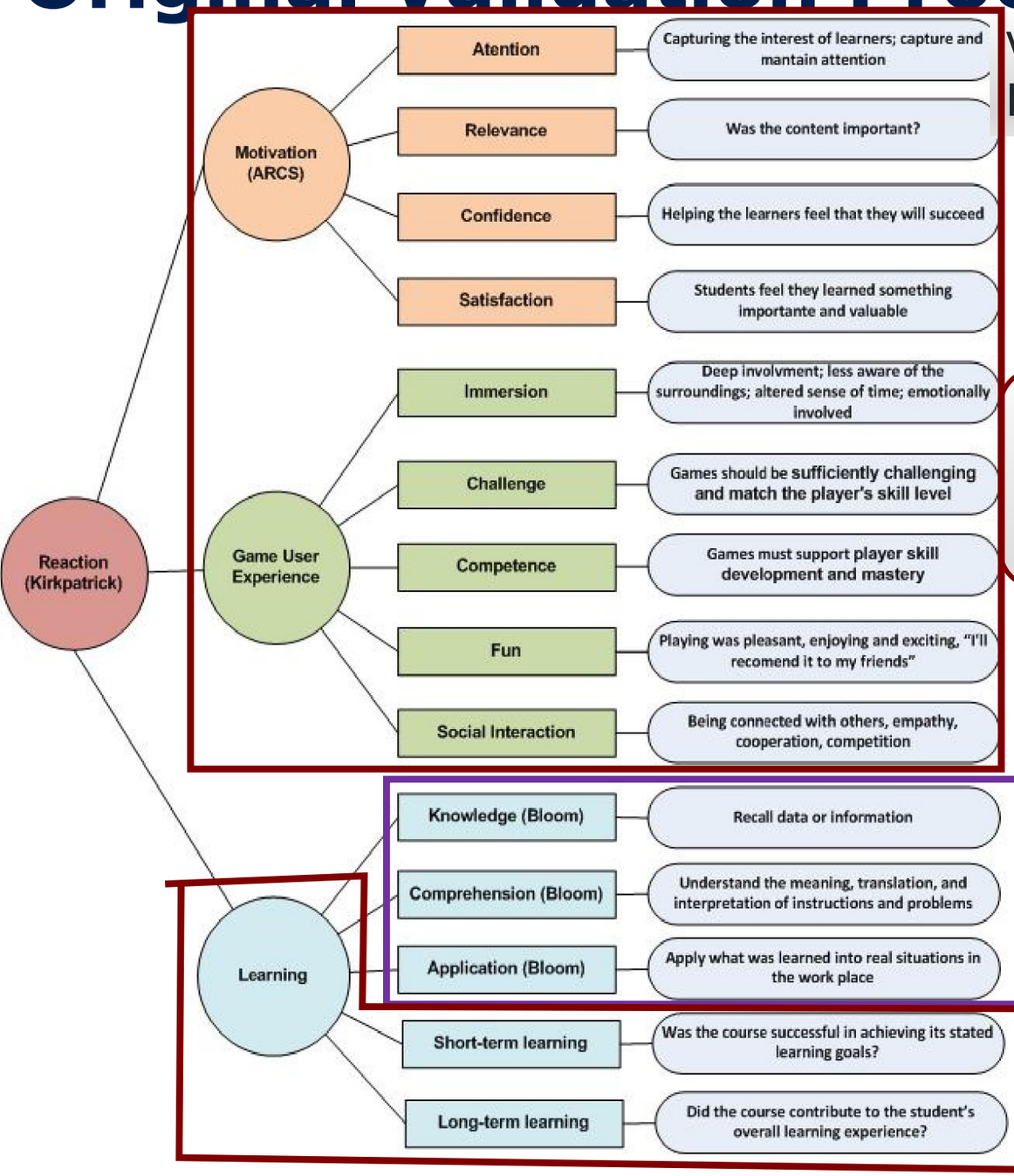
Key process patterns of Specification by Example **for Education Purpose**



Validation

... Towards a right course ...

Original Validation Process



Validation process adapted from an original model **Model for the Evaluation of Educational Games** [1]

Evaluation kit of the model available on
http://www.gqs.ufsc.br/meega-a-model-for-evaluating-educational-games/

A questionnaire based on Kirkpatrick Evaluation
27 items asking motivation, user experience, and learning through 11 dimensions (*attention, relevance, confidence,…*)

A questionnaire based on Bloom Taxonomy
Evolution of learning in the competencies taught before and after the game

[1] C. G. von Wangenheim, R. Savi, and A. F. Borgatto. Deliver! - an educational game for teaching earned value management in computing courses. *Inf. Softw. Technol.*, 54(3):286–298, 2012

Adapted validation process to our case study (1/3)

1. Revise/adapt the objective of the evaluation

→ A definition of **quality** in the context of educational game in [1]
"a game is high-quality, if it provides a positive learning effect, motivates students to study and provides a pleasant and engaging learning experience."

→ Extension of this definition to the ***right* course** whose the expectations in terms of **learning**, **collaboration**, **commitment** and **happiness** to work are similar.

→ The basic hypothesis is that the right course contributes positively to achieving theses learning objectives.

[1] C. G. von Wangenheim, R. Savi, and A. F. Borgatto.
Scrumia : An educational game for teaching scrum in computing courses.
Journal of Systems and Software, 86(10):2675–2687, 2013

Adapted validation process to our case study (2/3)

2. Revise/adapt the research

→ **research strategy** is based on the ***quality*** of a ***right course***.

→ **Our case study** :

- ***Agile Software Project Management Course*** *presented as example*
- ***80 two-year French undergraduates*** *(technical college specialized in Computer Technology)*
- *10 weeks with 2 * 2-hours sessions per week*

→ **Overview of Bloom Taxonomy** (knowledge-comprehension-application)

- Doing Agile & Being Agile

→ **Overview of Kirkpatrick** :

- Terminology adapted from game to course
- Only 21 items to only focus a set of teaching resources

Adapted validation process to our case study (3/3)

3. Plan the evaluation

→ Course designed & delivered in the fall 2015

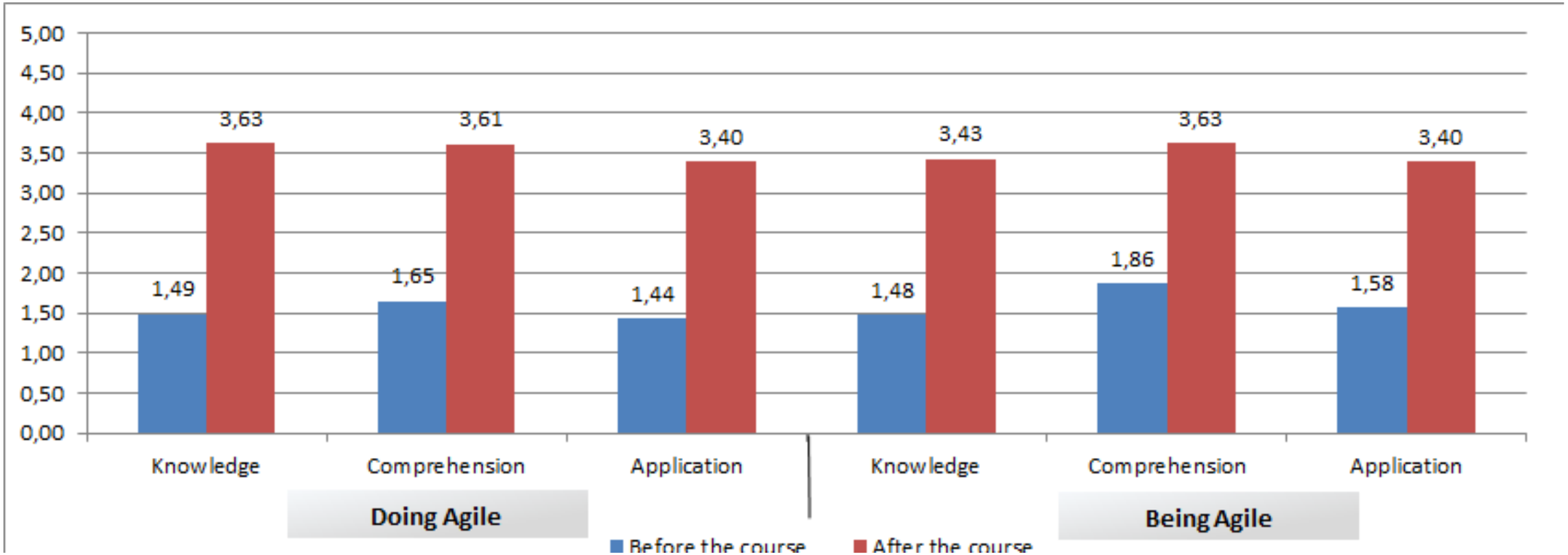
4. Execute the evaluation collecting data via questionnaire

→ on line via google form (http://unil.im/sondage3301 in french)
→ Each student anonymously filled out these questionnaires
→ once at the end of the course, **totalling 80 participants**.

5. Analyze the data collected using the analysis template

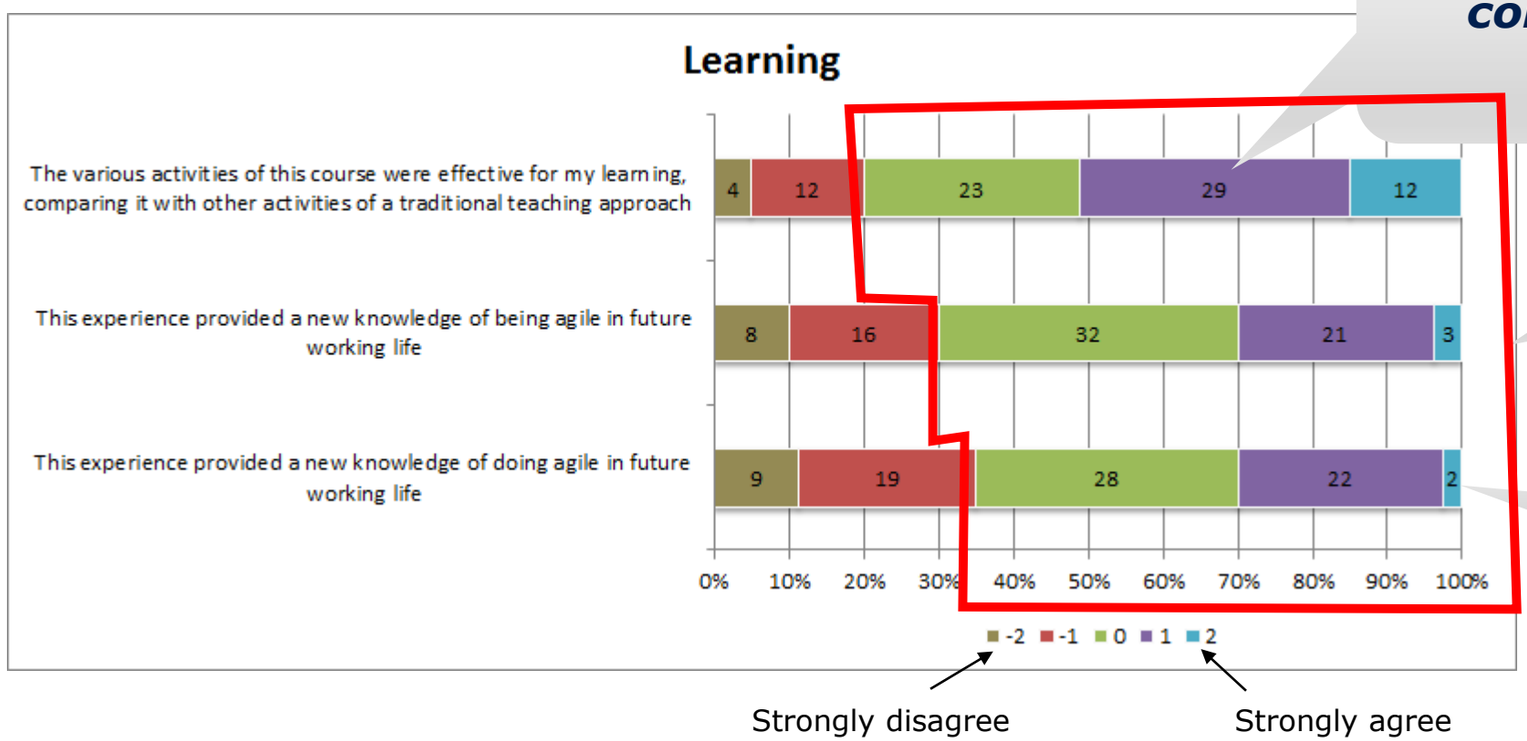
→ collected data analyzed through frequency diagrams in order to identify which are the most positive and negative aspects of the game with respect to each sub component/dimension.

Results : *Bloom Taxonomy*



Course has offered the opportunity to learn not only technical skills but also some values in a new mindset

Results *Kirkpatrick Evaluation*



Short-term

Effectiveness of various teaching resources comparing it with traditional teaching approach activities

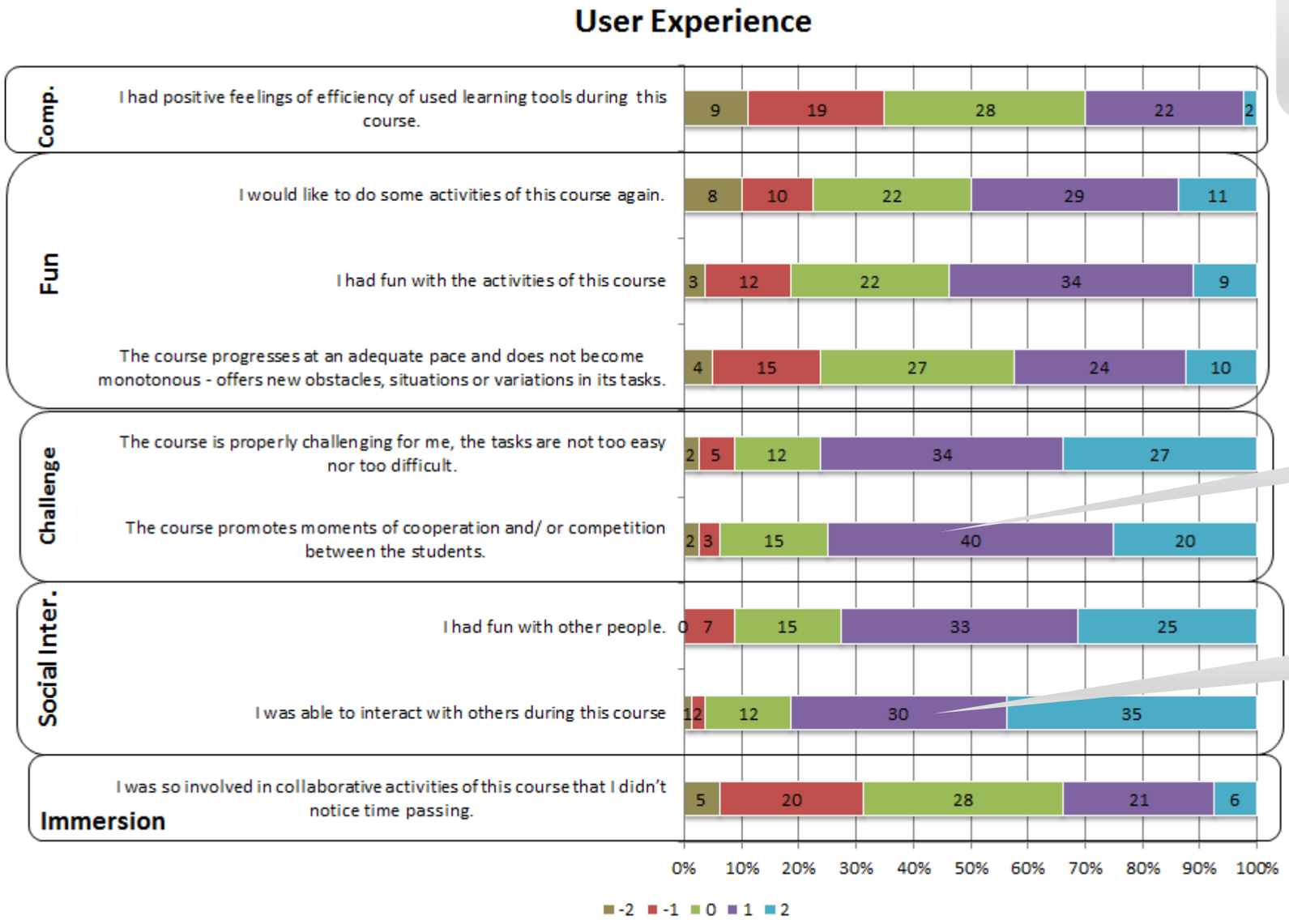
Long-term

being agile in the future

doing agile in the future

Course offers the opportunity to learn not only technical skills but also some values in a new mindset

Results *Kirkpatrick Evaluation*

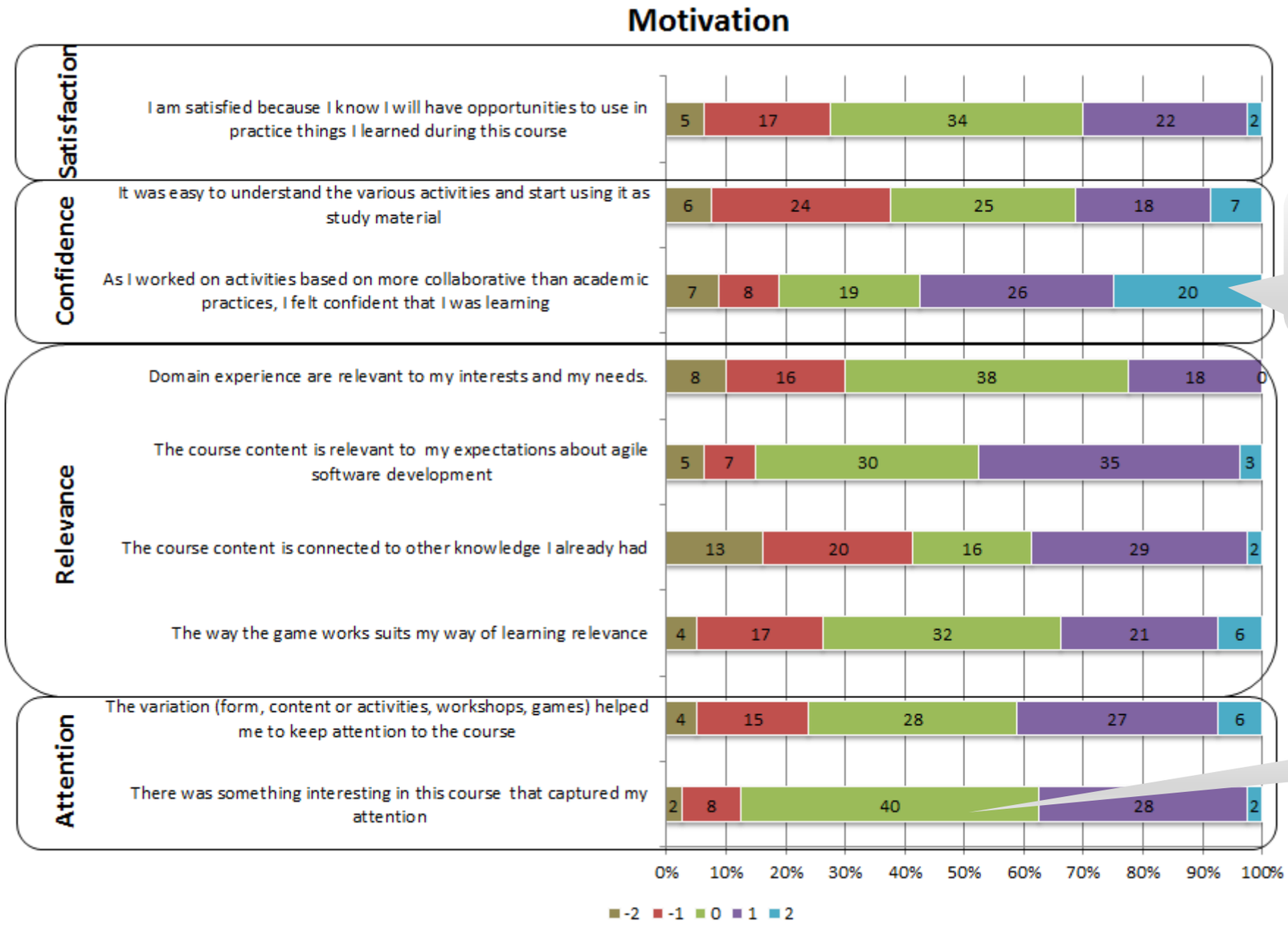


Positive results in terms of fun, challenge, social interaction

Moment of cooperation

Fun while interacting with others students

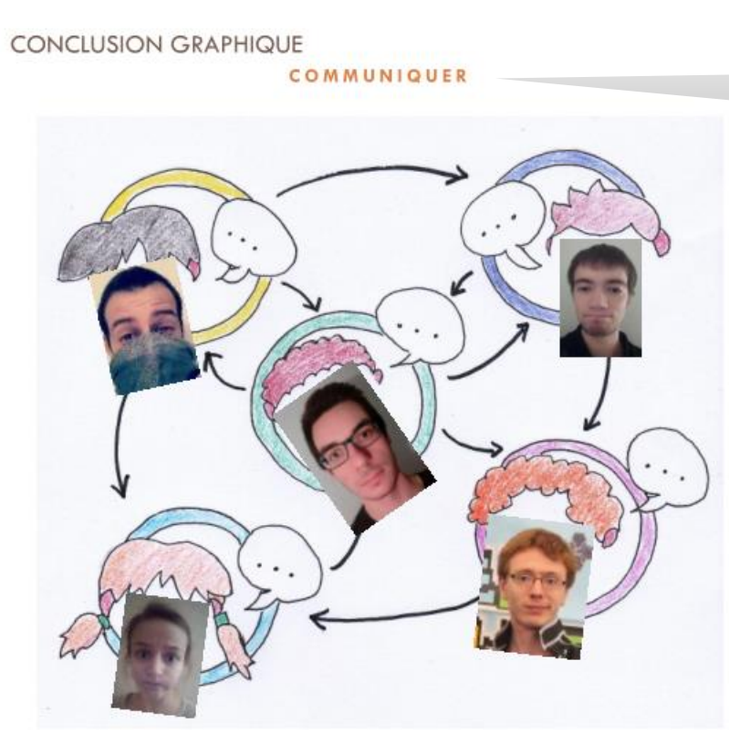
Results *Kirkpatrick Evaluation*



Feeling confident with more collaborative than academic practices

Better alignment : more attentive

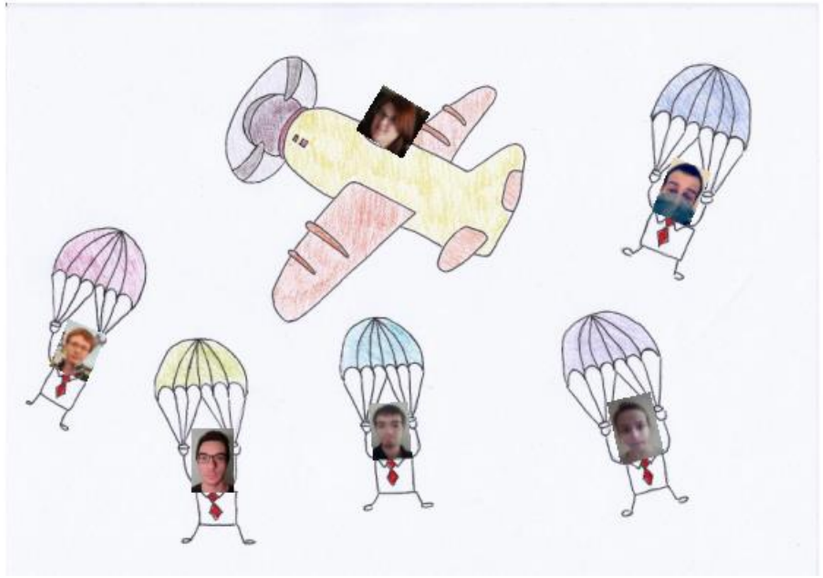
A graphical conclusion from a student report …



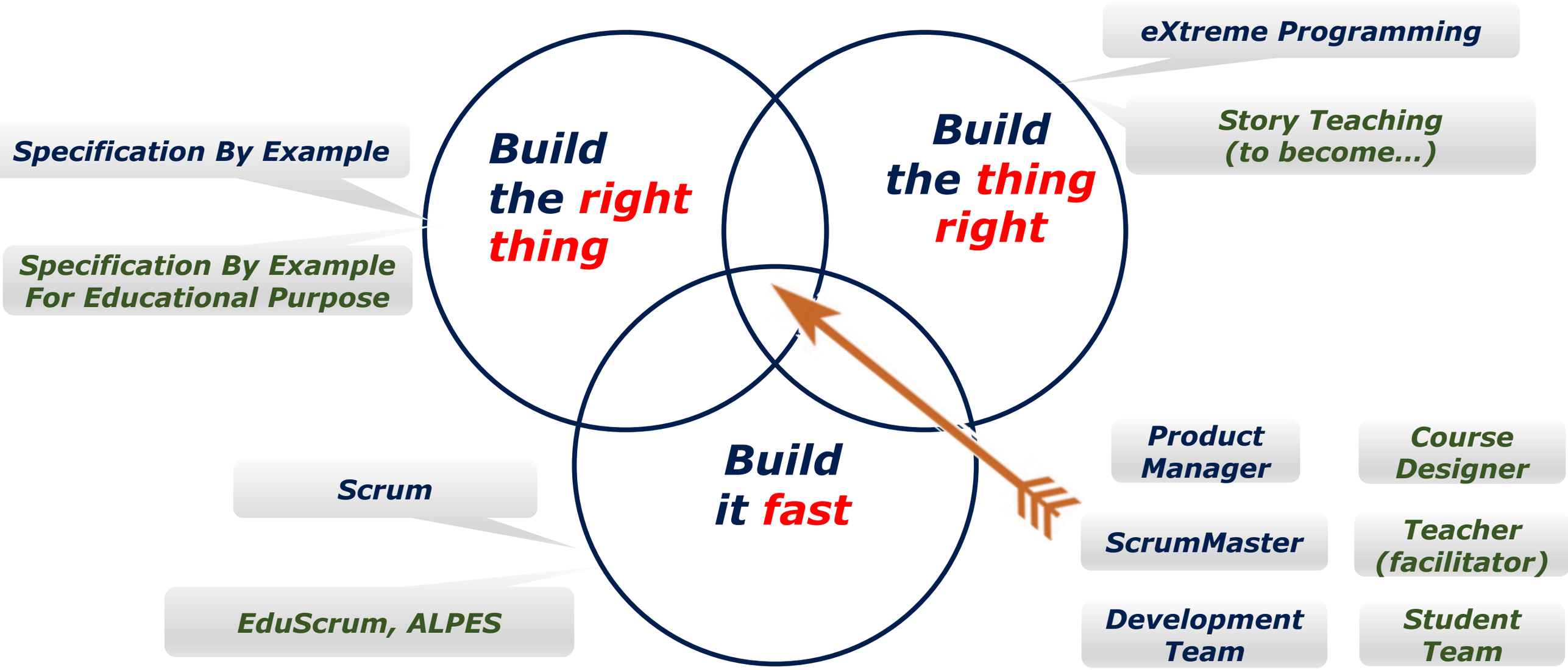
Communicate

Demonstrate respect

Dare …



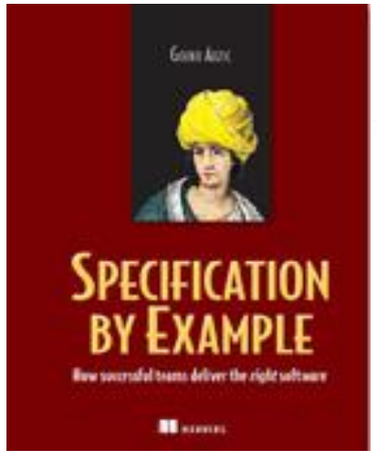
Teaching approaches in analogy to an agile software development & Future work



Three circles inspired by Henrick Kniberg

Thanks !

From 3 July 2013 to 3 July 2017



SPECIFICATION
BY EXAMPLE

Dear Isabelle
Thank you very much
for your interest in
Spec by examples
I hope you will be
able to use it to
improve your team!
Yours Aslak
3. July 2013