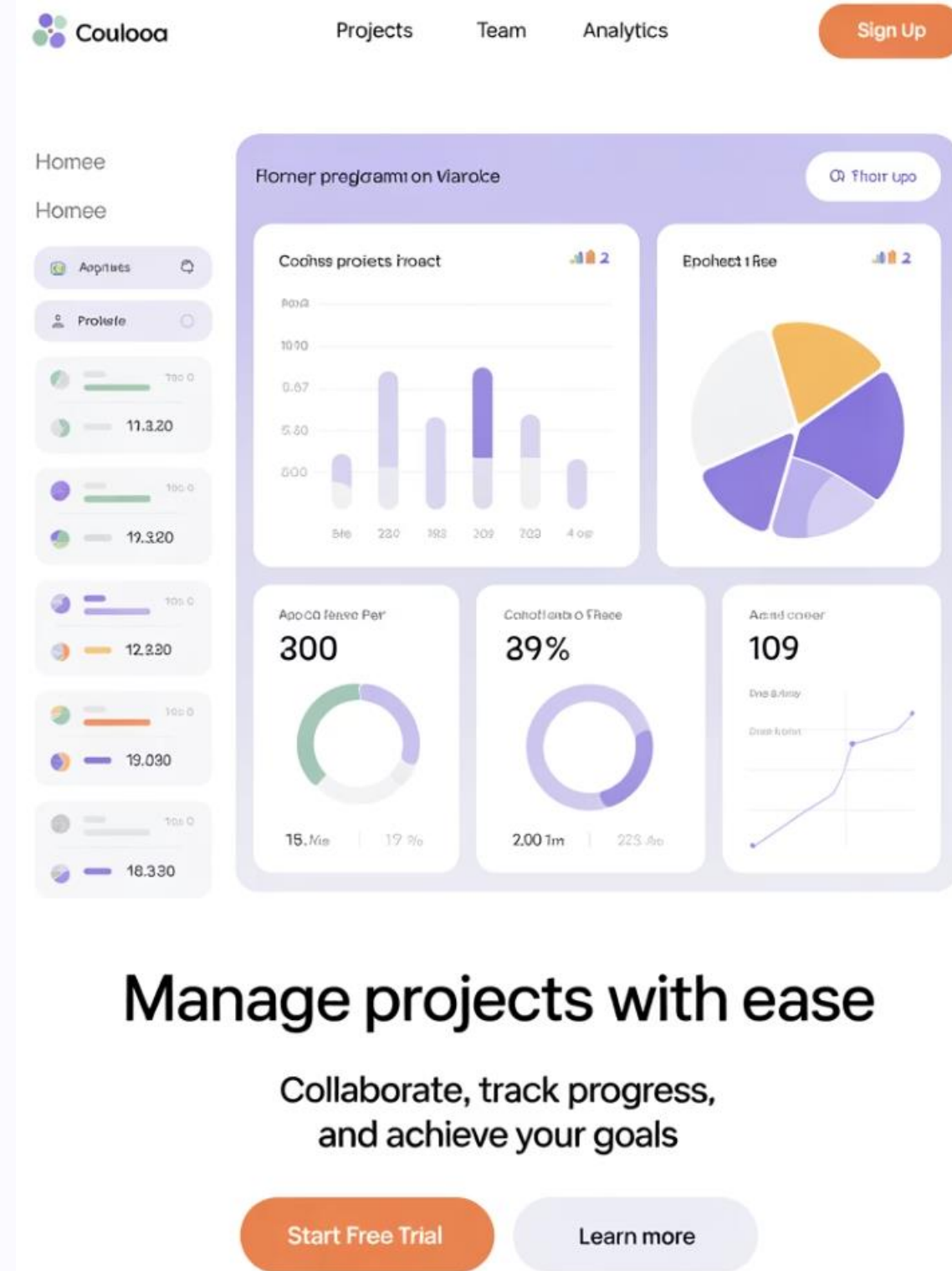


Agile KPIs vs Traditional Project KPIs

This presentation explores the key differences between Agile and Traditional project measurement approaches, helping you select the right metrics for your context.

 **by Kimberly Wiethoff**



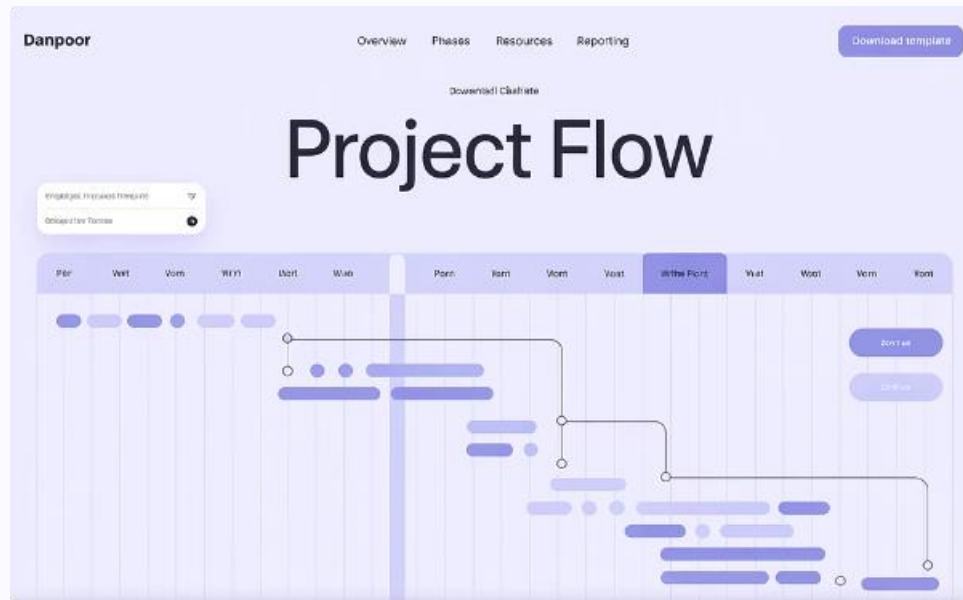
Manage projects with ease

Collaborate, track progress,
and achieve your goals

[Start Free Trial](#)

[Learn more](#)

Understanding KPI Philosophies



Traditional Approach

Linear, phase-driven planning with defined scope and fixed timelines.

Focus on plan adherence: budget, schedule, and scope control.



Agile Approach

Adaptability, customer feedback, and incremental delivery.

Measures team performance, product quality, and continuous value delivery.



Traditional Project KPIs



Schedule Variance (SV)

Measures how far ahead or behind schedule the project is.

Formula: $SV = \text{Earned Value} - \text{Planned Value}$



Cost Performance Index (CPI)

Evaluates cost efficiency of work completed.

Formula: $CPI = \text{Earned Value} / \text{Actual Cost}$



Budget Variance

Compares actual spend versus forecasted budget.

More Traditional KPIs

Milestone Completion Rate

Percentage of major deliverables completed on schedule.

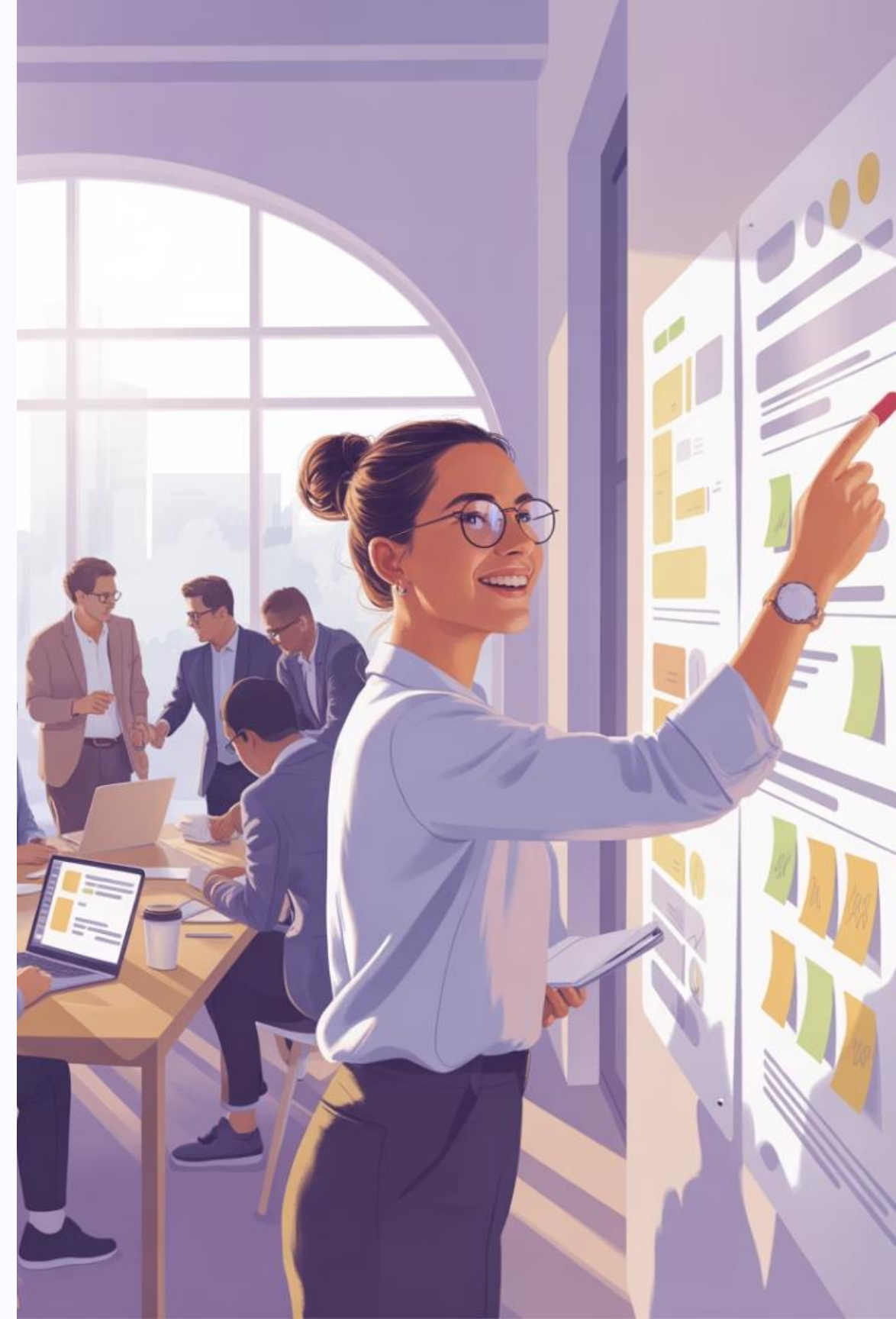
Risk Exposure

Tracks the impact and likelihood of potential project risks.

Requirements Stability Index

Measures the number of requirement changes over time.

Lower score signals higher volatility in requirements.



Agile Project KPIs



Team Velocity

Amount of work completed per sprint. Used to forecast future delivery capacity.



Sprint Burndown

Tracks how quickly the team completes work in a sprint.



Epic/Release Burndown

Longer-term views of progress across features and releases.



Flowzen™

"Unlock your team's potential"

More Agile KPIs

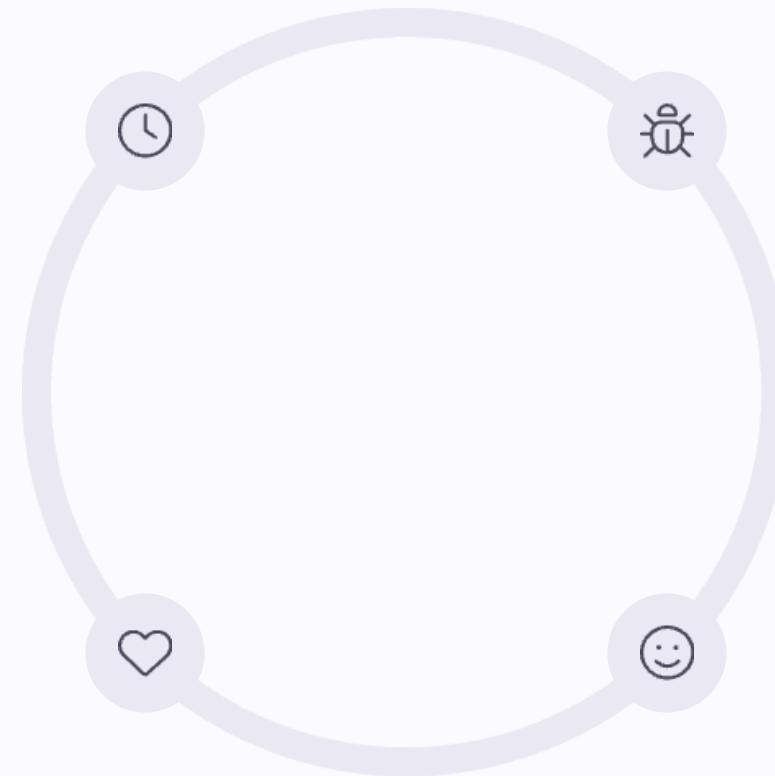
Lead & Cycle Time

Lead Time: From request to delivery.

Cycle Time: From work start to completion.

Team Happiness

Measures team morale and psychological safety.



Escaped Defects

Number of defects found after release.

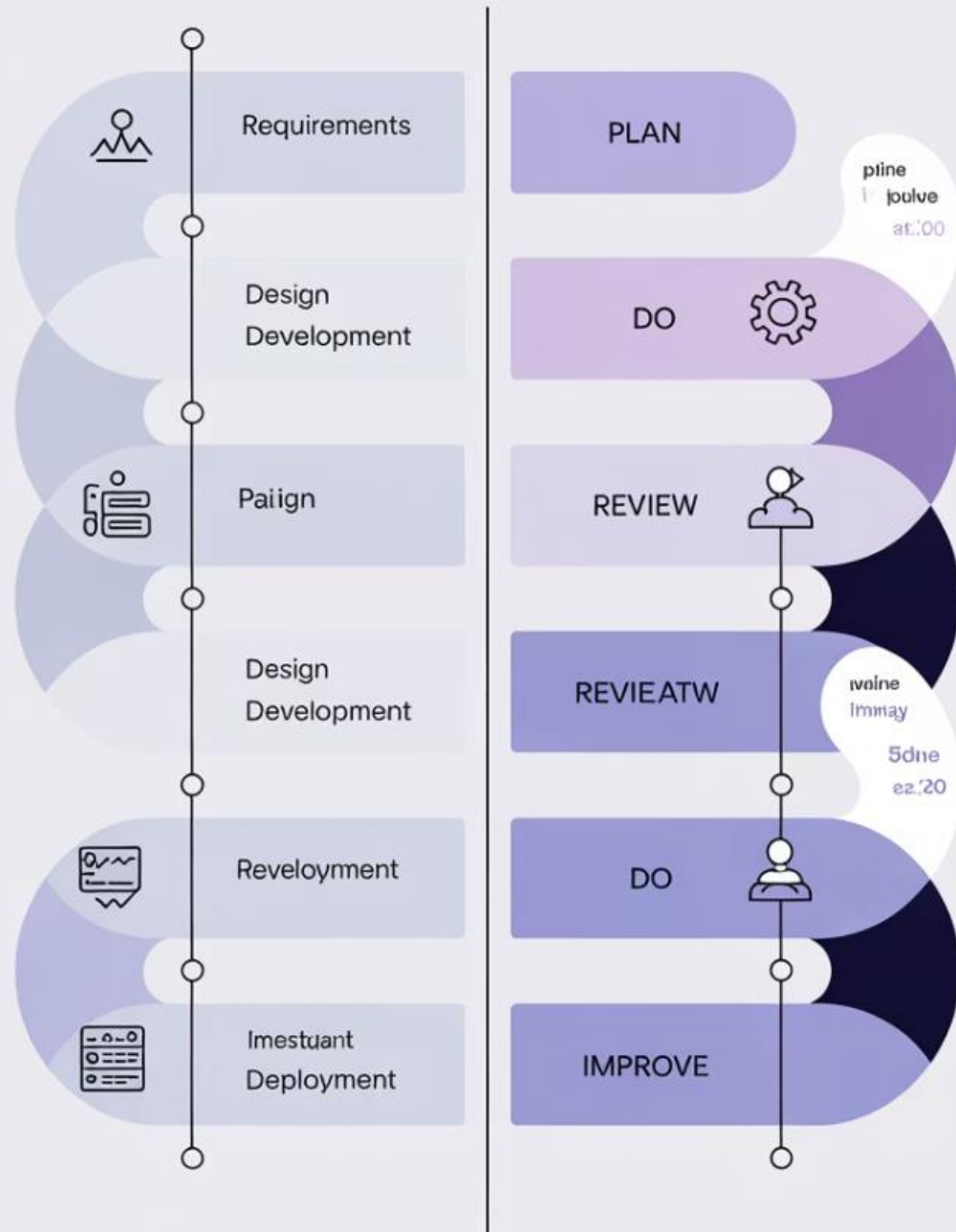
Key quality metric for development teams.

CSAT Score

Captures stakeholder feedback at each release.

Project Management Approaches

Waterfall vs. Agile



Visual Comparison of Approach

- 1 — Traditional
Long-term planning with fixed scope
- 2 — Hybrid
Mix of fixed milestones with iterative execution
- 3 — Agile
Short sprints with regular reassessment

Cultural Differences



Control

Traditional KPIs emphasize adherence to plans.



Adaptability

Agile KPIs promote flexibility and iteration.

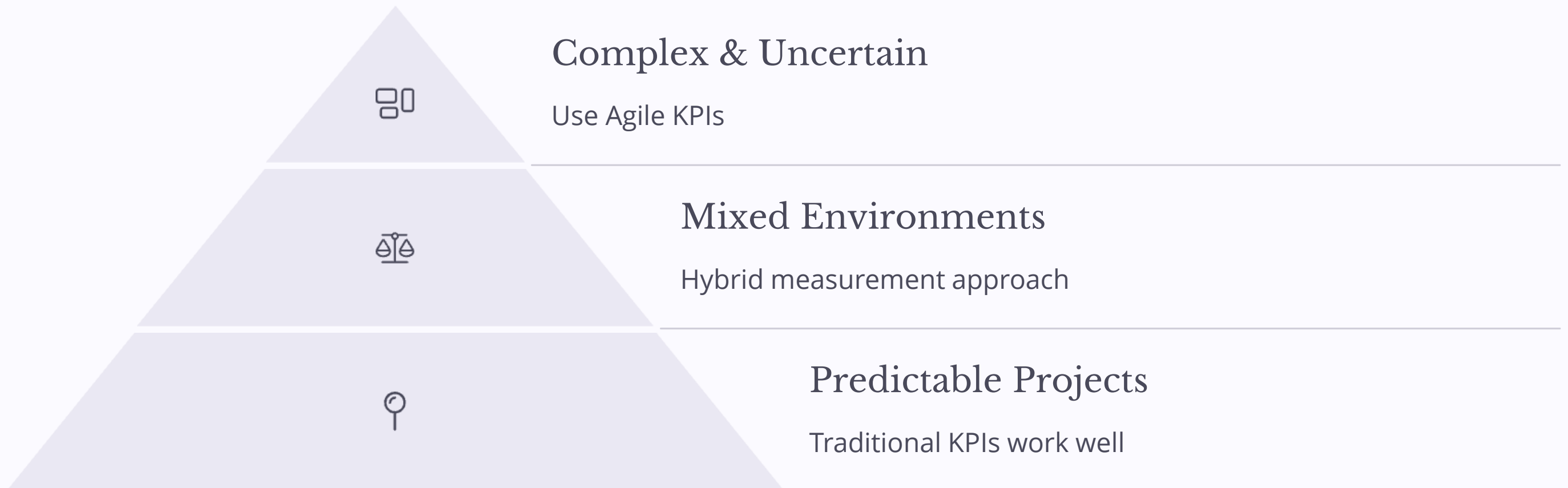


Validation

Both methods require appropriate success metrics.



When to Use Each Approach



Real-World Success Patterns



Align KPIs with business goals

Metrics should connect to organizational objectives



Balance leading and lagging indicators

Track both predictive and outcome-based metrics



Adjust metrics as projects evolve

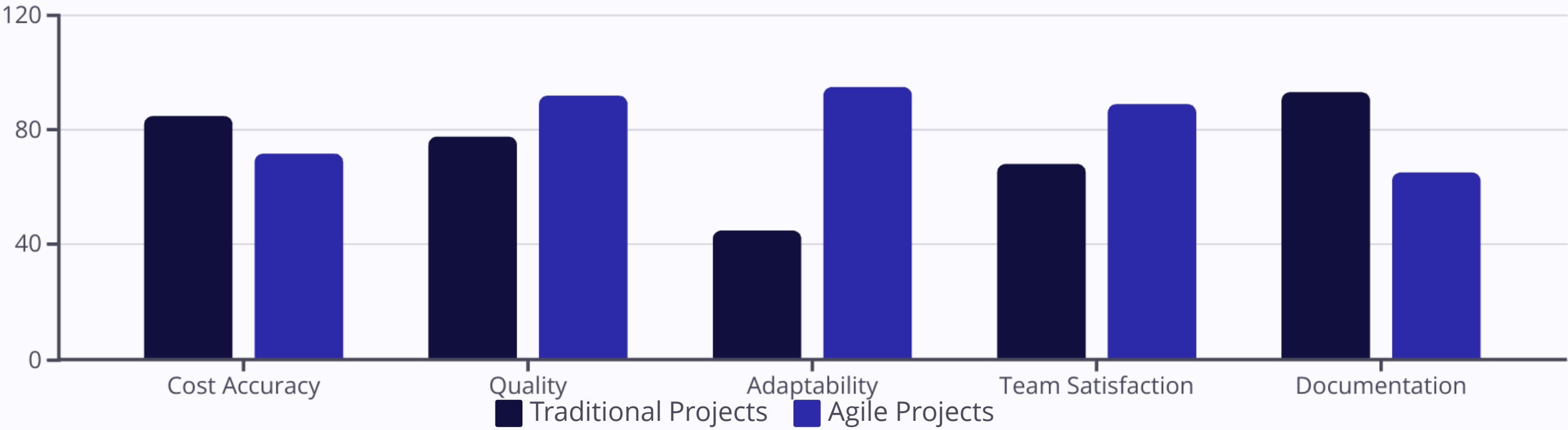
Regularly review and update your measurement approach

Implementation Roadmap

An implementation roadmap is a set of deliverables, accelerators, role descriptions and additional guides that outline the activities involved in implementing, upgrading, or enhancing solutions. It is a one-page visual summary of how a program of work will move towards a desired future state, launch or release date.



Performance Data Comparison





Key Takeaways

Choose Context-Appropriate KPIs

Select metrics that match your project methodology and goals.

There's no one-size-fits-all approach to project measurement.

Balance Metric Types

Include both delivery efficiency and value creation metrics.

Consider team health alongside technical performance.

Foster Measurement Culture

Use KPIs to improve, not just report.

Create psychological safety around metrics to drive honest reporting.

Final Thoughts

There's no one-size-fits-all KPI framework. The best project managers understand both worlds and tailor their performance tracking accordingly. Whether you're forecasting milestones in a Waterfall ERP deployment or tracking team velocity on a mobile app sprint, choosing the right KPIs is key to project transparency, stakeholder confidence, and business success.

