# 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.

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Managing Projects The Agile Way

#AgileKPIs #ProjectManagementKPIs #AgileMetrics #WaterfallMetrics #ScrumMetrics #TeamVelocity #BurndownChart #EarnedValue #HybridProjectManagement #PMO #AgileVsWaterfall #ProjectTracking #LeadTime #CycleTime #ManagingProjectsTheAgileWay
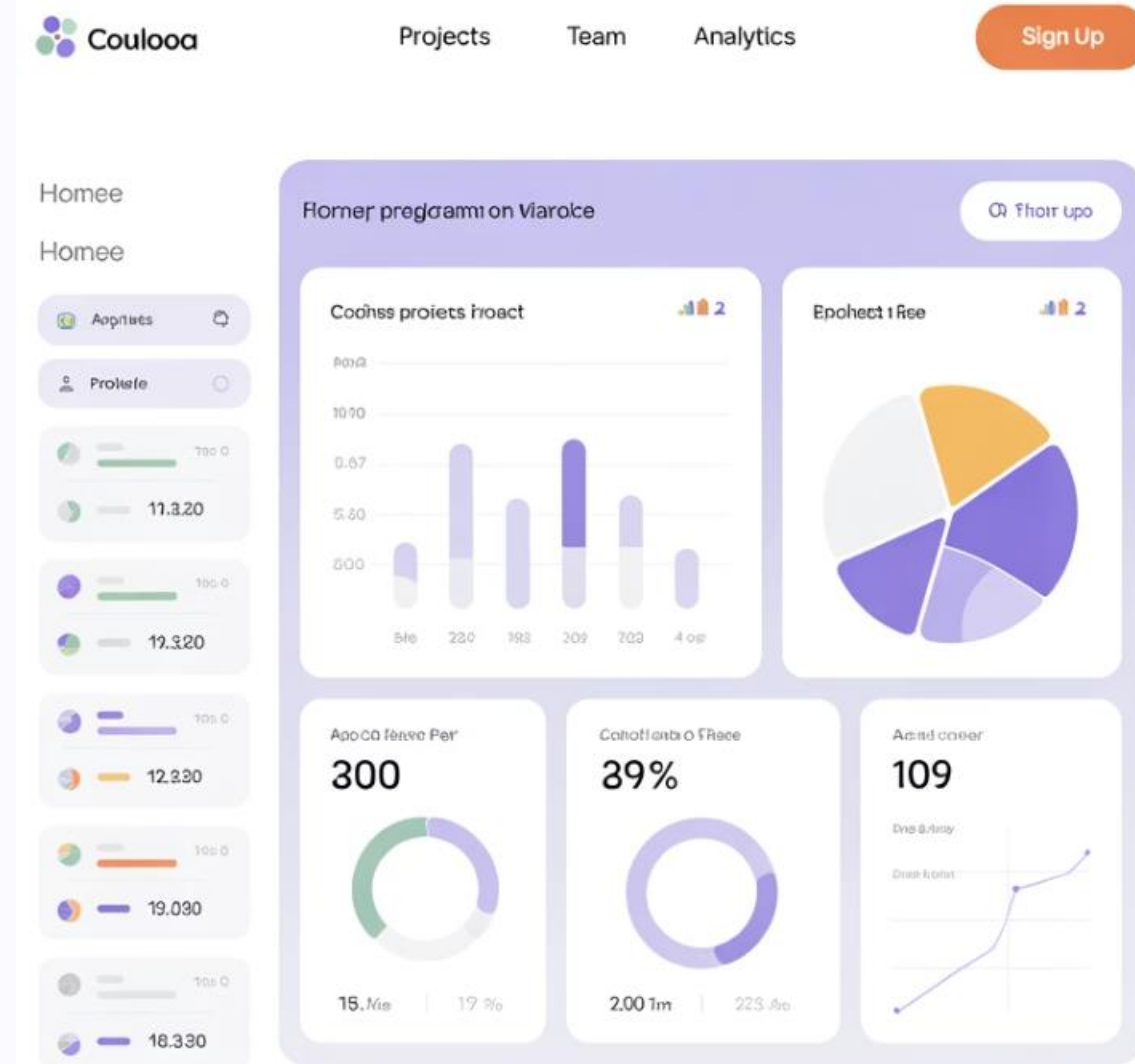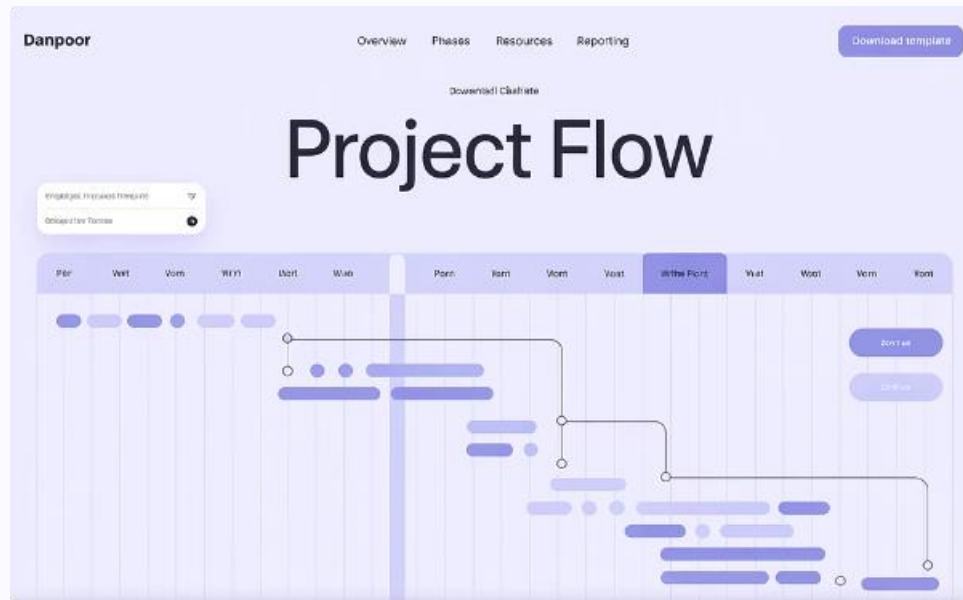
Understanding KPI Philosophies

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 = Earned Value - Planned Value

💵 **Cost Performance Index (CPI)**

Evaluates cost efficiency of work completed.

Formula: CPI = Earned Value / Actual Cost

📊 **Budget Variance**

Compares actual spend versus forecasted budget.

More Traditional KPIs

Milestone Completion Rate

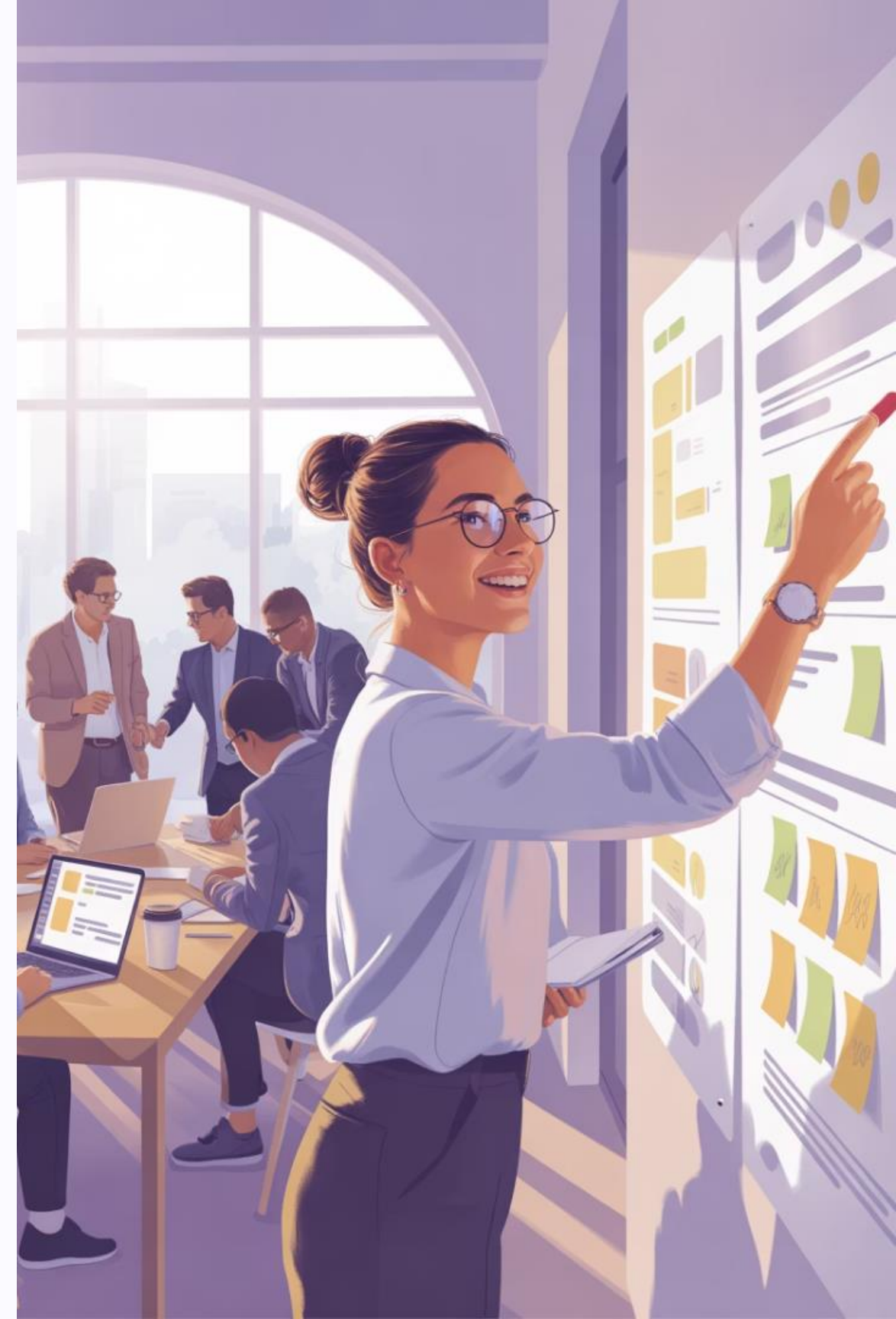Percentage of major deliverables completed on schedule.

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.

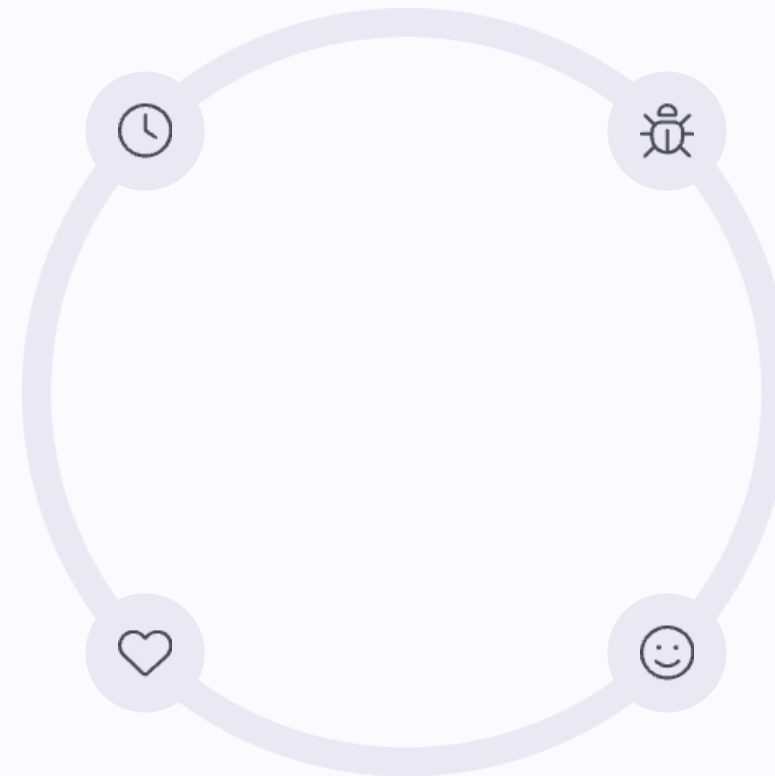Flowzen

"Unlock your team's potential"

More Agile KPIs

Lead & Cycle Time

Lead Time: From request to delivery.

Cycle Time: From work start to completion.

Escaped Defects

Number of defects found after release.

Key quality metric for development teams.

Team Happiness

Measures team morale and psychological safety.

CSAT Score

Captures stakeholder feedback at each release.
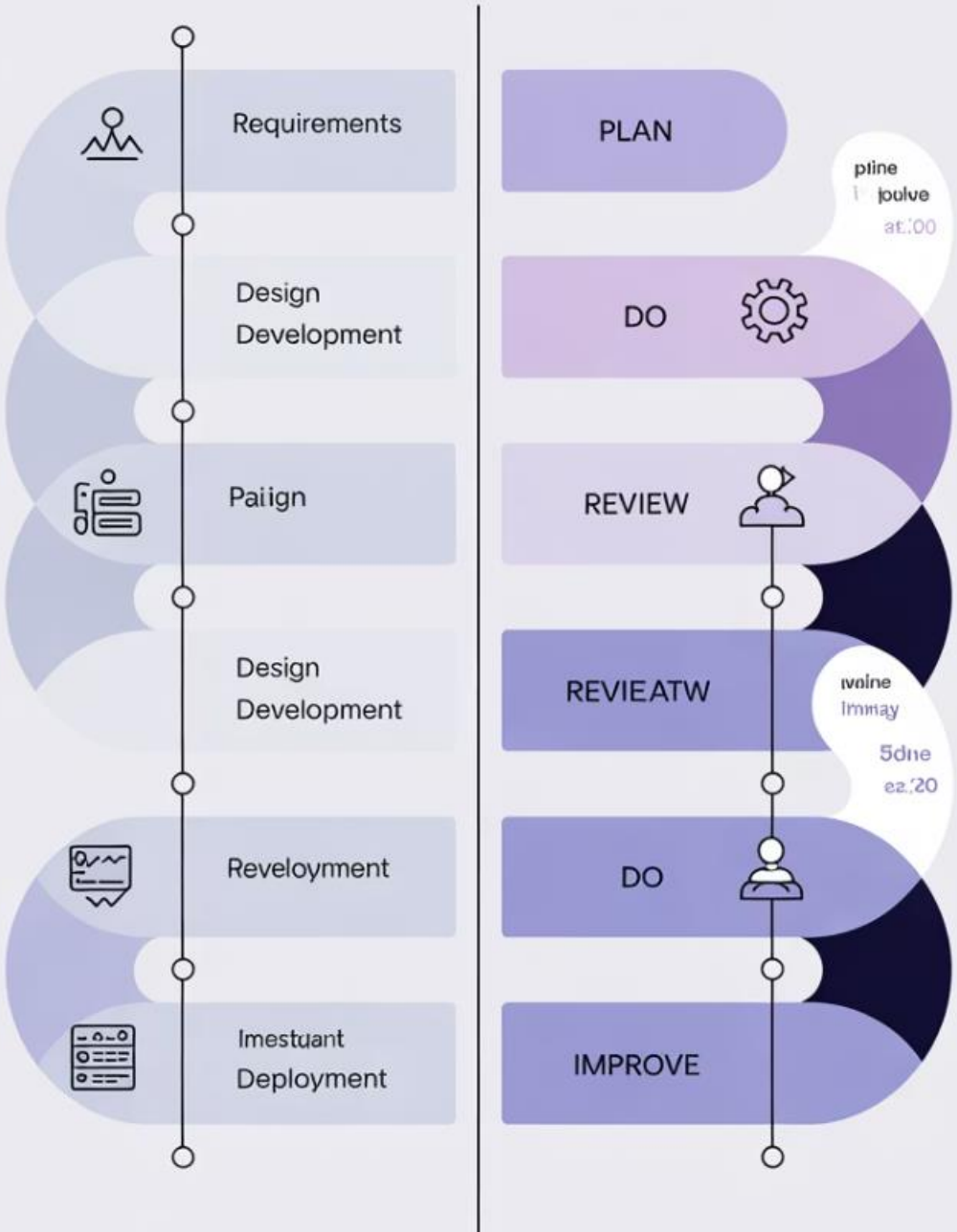
Visual Comparison of Approach

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.
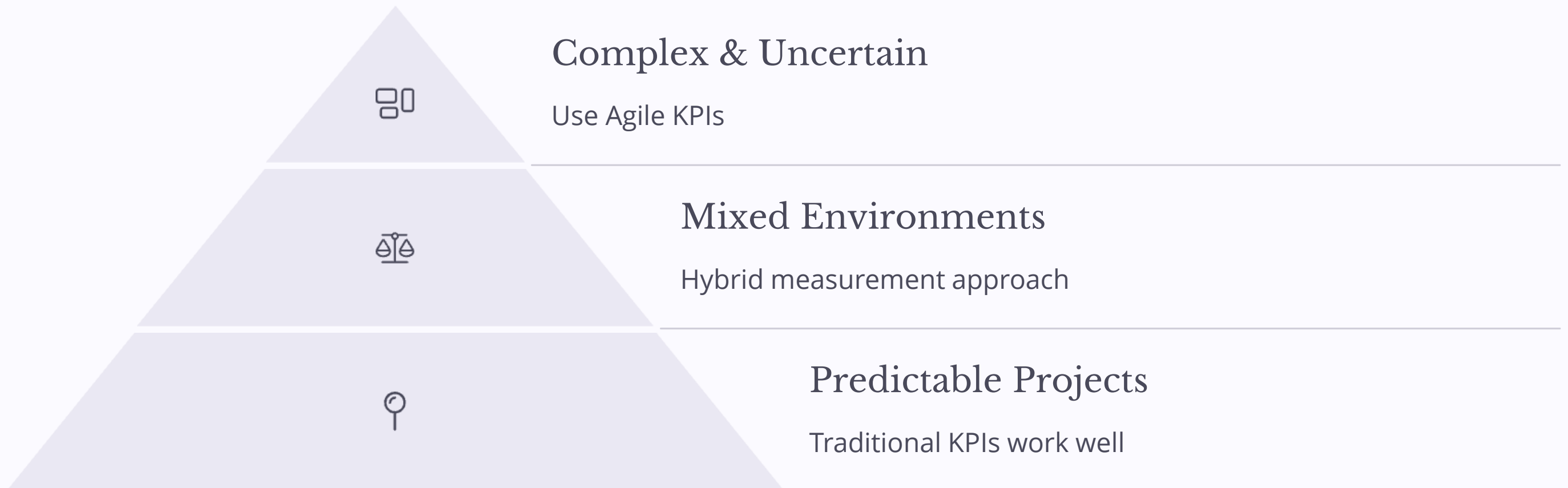
Validation

Both methods require appropriate success metrics.

When to Use Each Approach

Complex & Uncertain
Use Agile KPIs

Mixed Environments
Hybrid measurement approach

Predictable Projects
Traditional KPIs work well

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
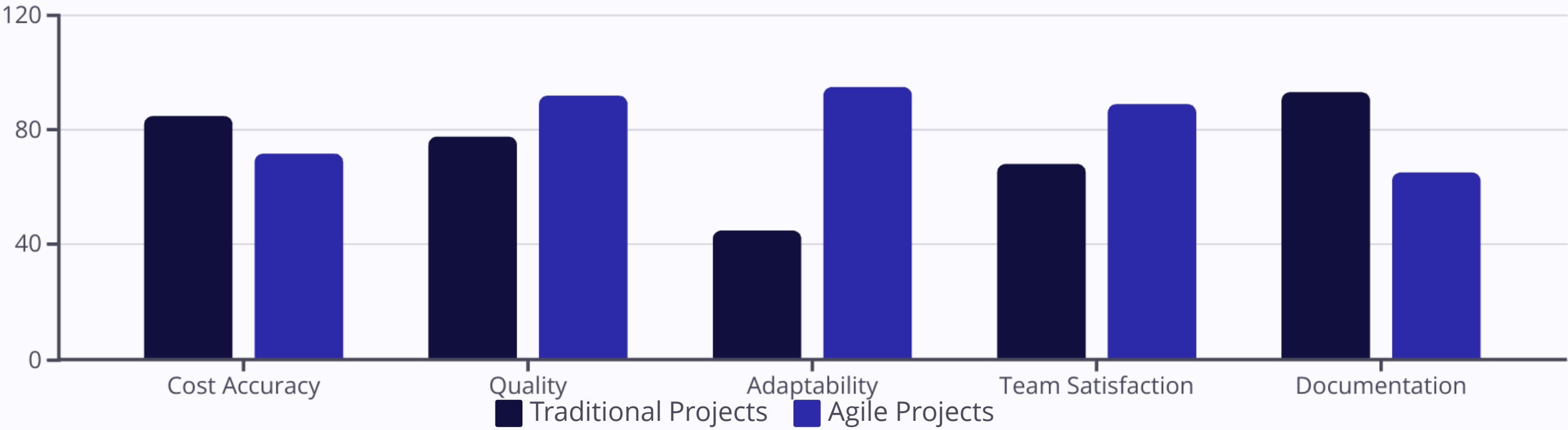
Adjust metrics as projects evolve

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.

Assess

Determine project type and appropriate measurement model

Configure

Set up dashboards and data collection processes

Adapt

Refine your metrics based on project evolution

Monitor

Track KPIs and gather insights from the data

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.