

As an IT consulting company with a broad portfolio of technologies, services and products, PRODYNA is familiar with the challenges of modern IT: development has to be quick, cost-efficient, possess a high quality and offer a fast return on investment.

In an attempt to save time and money, the initial specification phase is often skipped in many projects because everyone from business and IT agrees that they have a common understanding of the final result to be achieved. Moreover, both parties consider themselves excellent and so expect the outcome to be top-notch...

In reality, things rarely work out like this and projects end up overdue, too expensive and the missed goals are controversially debated.

What can we do to rescue projects in such situations and what can be done to prevent it from happening in the future?

Proper requirements engineering is an important step in the right direction.

By offering a requirements engineering training to our developers at PRODYNA, we ensure that every team member understands the importance of business specifications and the need to ask the right questions if anything is unclear. As such, when we are asked to support critical projects with limited resources in the later stages of development, we are able to bring in developers with strong requirements engineering skills necessary to discover incorrect, contradicting and missing requirements and thus help business and IT departments (re-)align their expectations.

Since professional requirements engineering training additionally covers the basics of conflict management, our colleagues are able to quickly identify conflicts and suggest sensible approaches towards resolution. This aspect of requirements engineering is vital in situations where projects have got stuck due to competing stakeholder requirements. Getting to the bottom of such issues is important both to sharpen the specifications and to retain the spirit in the project team.

Onboarding developers trained in requirements engineering is also an option to jump-start new projects with no dedicated budget for this discipline. Our professional developers are aware of the techniques needed to gather, document and verify requirements and thus lay the foundation for successful projects.

In new projects with funds allocated to requirements engineering, our business analysts with Advanced Level CPRE certifications can make use of a variety of techniques depending on the particular project circumstances. They know how to gather complex information from specialists, work together with stakeholders to analyze processes and motivate groups to think outside the box and come up with the innovations needed for great projects. Moreover, our professional requirements engineers know how to turn a collection of information, processes and ideas into a comprehensive specification. These specifications detail prioritized and consolidated requirements and permit them to be traced throughout the development, quality assurance and acceptance phases. Their knowledge of change management allows them to make educated decisions on change requests and document them appropriately. When a project has been successfully finished and team members head to new challenges, a thorough documentation of the requirements, models and contextual information remains as a reference for further development.

Regardless of whether project funds cover full- or part-time requirements engineers, and independent of whether these join the project from the start, or at a later phase during a critical situation – the CPRE certification is a significant indicator of an IT professional's ability to successfully and competently practice requirements engineering. It demonstrates that a person understands the IREB standard processes with its extensive set of techniques and more importantly, is committed to make best use of these processes to ensure that a project's result will meet the expectations of all stakeholders.

Requirements engineering is a basic module in the personal development and training scheme for all developers and consultants at PRODYNA because we want to ensure that our colleagues understand the need for, and importance of professional specifications as a means towards entirely fulfilling the demands of our customers.