

Project Management Cameos - 7. The bed of Procrustes



Tailoring

Procrustes was an innkeeper. He invited travellers for a rest and he strapped them to an iron bed. If a person was too tall, its legs were cut off to fit the length of the bed. If a person was too short the bed, acting as a rack, stretches the body till it fits.

“One size fits all” doesn’t work for projects. Each project is unique by nature and asks for a unique set of approach and techniques. Filtering tools (i.e. Bohem and Turner, 2004) can help the project manager to identify the best approach for managing the project (predictive, iterative, incremental, adaptive, hybrid). Chosen the approach, the set of techniques (quantity, type and details) must be fitted to project features and not viceversa!