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


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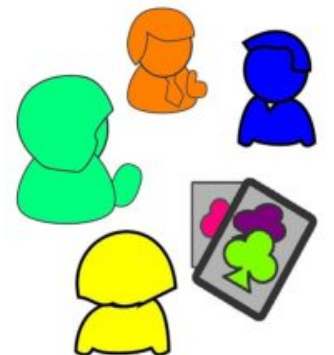
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Retrospective Prime Directive in many languages

[Ben Linders \(https://www.benlinders.com/author/benlinders/\)](https://www.benlinders.com/author/benlinders/) -  May 18, 2015 -  [All \(English/Nederlands\) \(https://www.benlinders.com/category/all/\)](https://www.benlinders.com/category/all/) / [Only English \(https://www.benlinders.com/category/english/\)](https://www.benlinders.com/category/english/) -  [2 Comments \(https://www.benlinders.com/2015/retrospective-prime-directive-translations/#comments\)](https://www.benlinders.com/2015/retrospective-prime-directive-translations/#comments)

The retrospective prime directive is a sentence that is used by facilitators to establish safety in a retrospective meeting. Safety is crucial if you want people to speak up and be open, which is an important precondition to reflect and learn; that's what [agile retrospectives \(http://www.benlinders.com/2013/whats-an-agile-retrospective-and-why-would-you-do-it/\)](http://www.benlinders.com/2013/whats-an-agile-retrospective-and-why-would-you-do-it/) are all about.



Agile Self-assessment Game
Scrum Business Agility
Kanban DevOps

2018. Last week I was at the 2015

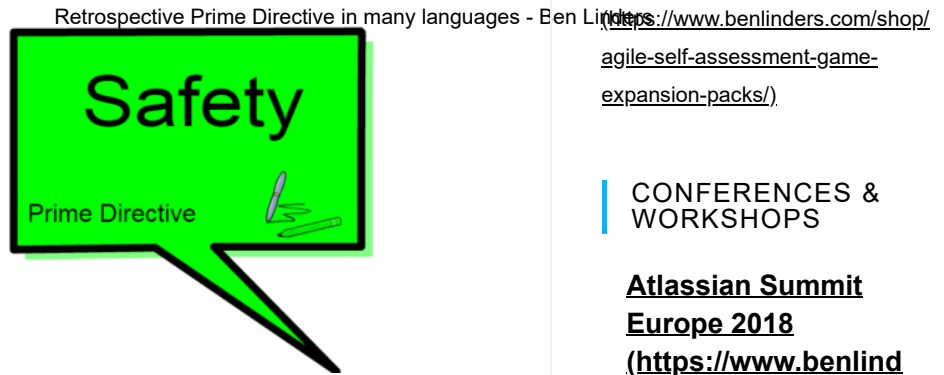
Retrospective Facilitators Gathering (#rfg2015). This is a yearly invitation-only event where people from all around the world come together to share their experiences from doing agile retrospectives and sharpen their facilitation skills. I can highly recommend this event to everybody

who does retrospectives, if you are interested then I suggest to take a look at the wiki at [retrospectivefacilitatorgathering.org](http://www.retrospectivefacilitatorgathering.org) (<http://www.retrospectivefacilitatorgathering.org/>).

Being together with many experienced facilitators reminded me how important it is to create safety when doing agile retrospectives. Norman Kerth described the retrospective prime directive

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20171006191843/http://www.retrospectives.com/pages/retroPrimeDirective.html>) in his book Project Retrospectives: A Handbook for Team Reviews (<http://www.dorsethouse.com/books/pr.html>). In our book Getting Value out of Agile Retrospectives (<http://www.benlinders.com/getting-value-out-of-agile-retrospectives/>) we referred to the prime directive as an effective way to establish safety.

Since our book is being translated into many languages we now have translations of this unique and important statement. You can find them below (in alphabetical order):



Retrospective Prime Directive in many languages - Ben Linders (<https://www.benlinders.com/shop/agile-self-assessment-game-expansion-packs/>)

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Making Agile Work for You at Agile Greece Summit 2018

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September 19, 2018

eXperience Agile 2018

(<https://www.benlinders.com/event/experience-agile-2018/>)

October 1, 2018 - October 2, 2018

Improving Organizational Agility at GOTO Berlin 2018

(<https://www.benlinders.com/event/improving-organizational-agility-at-goto-berlin-2018/>)

Belarusian

Незалежна ад таго, што мы высвятляем, мы павінны разумець і шчыра верыць, што кожны робіць усе магчымае, улічваючы вядомую інфармацыю, яго (яе) навыкі і магчымасці, даступныя рэсурсы, а таксама абставіны, якія склаліся на дадзены момант.

中文 (Chinese)

无论我们揭示了什么，我们必须理解并真正相信：考虑到当时的已知情况、每个人的技能和能力、可用资源和情境，每个人都做到了最好。

Deutsch

Unabhängig davon was wir entdecken werden, verstehen und glauben wir aufrichtig, dass in der gegebenen Situation, mit dem verfügbaren Wissen und Ressourcen und unseren individuellen Fähigkeiten, jeder sein bestes getan hat.

English

Regardless of what we discover, we must understand and truly believe that everyone does the best job he or she could, given what was known at the time, his or her skills and abilities, the resources available, and the situation at hand.

español

Independientemente de lo que descubramos, debemos entender y creer de verdad que todo el mundo hace el mejor trabajo que él o ella podría, dado lo que se sabía en ese momento, sus habilidades y capacidades, los recursos disponibles y la situación actual.

français

Peu importe ce que l'on découvre, nous devons comprendre et vraiment croire que chacun a fait le meilleur travail qu'il ou elle peut selon ce qui était connu à ce moment, ses aptitudes et capacités, les ressources disponibles et le contexte du moment.

Magyar (Hungarian)

Függetlenül attól, hogy mit tárunk fel, értjük és teljes meggyőződéssel hisszük, hogy mindenki a tőle telhető legjobb munkát végezte, figyelembe véve az akkori ismereteit, tudását, képességeit, a rendelkezésre álló erőforrásokat és az adott szituációt.

italiano

Indipendentemente da ciò che scopriamo, dobbiamo capire e credere davvero che ognuno fa del suo meglio, rispetto alle conoscenze attuali, alle sue competenze e abilità, le risorse disponibili e la situazione corrente.

日本 (Japanese)

[ers.com/event/improving-organizational-agility-at-goto-berlin-2018/](https://www.benlinders.com/event/improving-organizational-agility-at-goto-berlin-2018/)

October 30, 2018

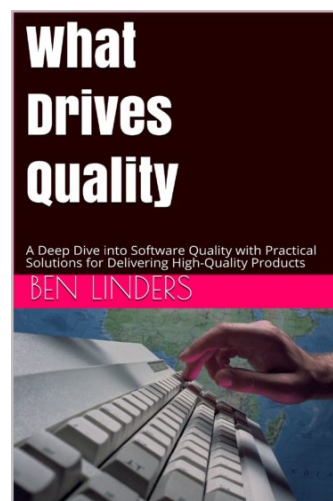
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それは、「私たちが何を見つけたとしても、その時点で分かっているスキルや能力、利用可能なリソース、手元の状況を用いて、誰もが自分のできる最高の仕事をするのを、私たちは理解し、心から信じています。」ということです。

Nederlands

Ongeacht wat we ontdekken, moeten we begrijpen en er op vertrouwen dat iedereen het uiterste heeft gedaan om zijn of haar werk te doen, binnen de grenzen van de kennis van het moment, zijn of haar vaardigheden en capaciteiten, de beschikbare middelen en de situatie zoals die was.

polskie

Niezależnie od wniosków do jakich dojdziemy, rozumiemy i wierzymy, że każdy wykonał swoją pracę najlepiej jak mógł w zastanej sytuacji, dysponując swoją wiedzą i umiejętnościami.

русский (Russian)

Вне зависимости от того что будет обнаружено, мы должны понимать и искренне верить, что каждый из нас выполнил свою работу настолько хорошо, насколько мог, с учетом знаний, доступных на тот момент, его или её умений и возможностей, имеющихся ресурсов и текущей ситуации.

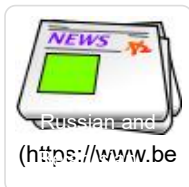
I want to, again, thank Norman Kerth for coming up with the prime directive for retrospectives. It aims to help teams to establish safety in the retrospective meeting; the provided translations make it possible for teams to do just that in their local language.

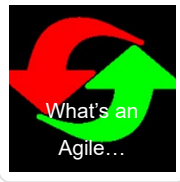
A big thanks to all the teams of volunteers that have translated our book into many languages (<http://www.benlinders.com/translations-of-getting-value-out-of-agile-retrospectives/>), you rock! Thanks also to Konstantin Razumovsky, Professional Scrum Trainer at Scrum.org (<http://scrum.org/>) for the Belarusian translation and to Gábor Erényi from Sprint Consulting Llc (<https://www.sprintconsulting.com/>) for the Hungarian translation.

Please share this post to help teams doing agile retrospectives all around the world!

(This post has been updated on August 18, 2015: Belarusian and Russian translations added and July 10, 2018: Hungarian translation added).

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I help organizations with effective software development and management practices. Active member of several networks on Agile, Lean and Quality, and a frequent speaker and writer.

> THIS POST HAS 2 COMMENTS



Fabrice Aimetti

18 MAY 2015 [REPLY](#)

Hello Ben, thank you for this post. By the way, I've made the french translation in 2010 here : [La Directive Première de la Rétrospective](http://www.fabrice-aimetti.fr/dotclear/public/traductions/pagesretros/retroPrimeDirective-fr.html)
(<http://www.fabrice-aimetti.fr/dotclear/public/traductions/pagesretros/retroPrimeDirective-fr.html>).

Regards, Fabrice



BenLinders (<http://www.benlinders.com>)

18 MAY 2015 [REPLY](#)

This is great! I wasn't aware that it exists!
Thanks for sharing this Fabrice 😊

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