

# Method transfer using an open source community

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# On Methods and working practice

## Method-in-concept:

- a method as understood by its stakeholders
- a social construction: a **shared set of values** and **assumptions** identified with a method within a professional community of method developers, proponents and users

## ***Working practice*** – an **important basis** for method development and method transfer:

“For most of software engineering’s history, authors have eagerly told practitioners what they ought to be doing. But rarely have those ‘ought’ been predicated on what practitioners actually are doing” (Glass, 2003)

# On method transfer

Method transfer is **important** and **complex**:

- “A theoretically sound [method] which cannot be successfully communicated to and adopted by ordinary organizations and businesses is of little **practical value**.”  
(Avgerou and Cornford, 1993)
- Transferring a method-in-concept into a method-in-action necessitates consideration of **both social** and **technical** issues
- Method-in-concept -> **method-in-tool** -> method-in-action  
*What is the role of an Open Source community for each?*

# A framework for reasoning about **method transfer**

## **Clear conceptual framework ...**

- Assumed value systems
- Assumptions about method use
- Method process model (i.e. an implied way of working with a method)

**... is a pre-requisite for method transfer**

# A framework for reasoning about **method transfer**

## **Transferable**

Can be learned?

Communicable assumptions

Comprehensible

Usable?

Effective

Flexible

Acceptable?

Management support

Motivation of participants

Value system congruence

# On method transfer experiences

*Experiences from method transfer of a new modelling method into a large company context:*

“... it is **very difficult** to get new approaches, especially those developed in academic environments, **accepted** and **used** in practice.” (Moody, 2002)

*We are conducting a case stud for exploring issues between different roles (developer, user, provider) in Open Source ecosystems*