



SCRUM4SCHOOLS, or: kids do not need school

Boris Gloger

Profound thinker, author, scrum pioneer

Let us be honest: all too often, kids have to learn things at school that neither interest them nor—bar a few exceptions—will be of any use to them in their adult life. As a consequence, unenthusiastic pupils struggle through their lessons and are not sufficiently prepared for life and the world of work. This is also a dilemma for our economy, which will increasingly depend on capable, resilient people in future.

Schools provide education for life? I do not think so. Rather, they serve as roofs to put over children's heads, built for the benefit of the minister of education, teachers, educational authorities, and to enable parents to go to work. Pupils, on the other hand, are not even asked for their opinion. Their potential is not unleashed, but stifled. This is why it is time for a paradigm shift which, as I see it, allows for two possibilities only:

1. We need to radically change the teaching methods. The **focus must be placed on the pupil**, rather than contents. **Self-directed learning** is the solution—at school, too.
2. So-called unschooling is another alternative. I think it should become common practice in Germany. In the meantime:

Let us use Scrum, making pupils the product owners and users of their own material.

Early initiatives in Germany and Austria have shown that motivation and learning success increase many times over.

Boris is profoundly convinced that self-organization and the principle of voluntariness help us to reach targets in the best possible way and really lead a self-determined life. In his view, Germany continues to be a leading nation as far as the educational system is concerned, but he advocates being more courageous and using these well-educated people. This is the only way for Germany (and the EU) to keep up with global innovators such as China, Asia, and the US, and not be outpaced in the long term. Education is key for a nation that wants to take a leading role in innovation and progress.

ABOUT BORIS

Boris Gloger is a German Scrum pioneer and opinion leader for new forms of working. With his management corporate consultancy borisgloger consulting, he not only supports DAX® and ATX companies with agile organization management, but also drives new ways of working in his own company's daily business. In 2002 he successfully led his first Scrum team at the Austrian ONE (later called Orange Austria Telecommunication). From that point on, he has been playing a leading role in establishing Scrum as the standard in agile software development in Europe, South Africa and in Brazil.

He is the author of several specialist books on the topics of agility and Scrum and has educated more than 5000 managers and teams in Scrum until today. As the first certified Scrum Trainer in Germany, he has been passionate for that framework for almost two decades.

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