

Appendix 3. Semistructured interviews

In this section, we describe how we conducted the interviews in this study. The interviews were based on Kvale and Brinkmann (2009), as well as Wagenaar (2011). They were semistructured, meaning that they followed an interview guide with different topics, but remained flexible for unplanned questions (Kvale and Brinkmann 2009:130). The topics usually started with a broad question, followed by suggestions on more specific follow-up questions (see examples below). Sometimes the interviewees answered many questions at once, but then the interview schedule was used to ensure that all relevant topics had been discussed. During the interviews, we were concerned both with building a relationship with the interviewees and receiving high quality interview data, for example by getting detailed and spontaneous descriptions by the interviewees (Kvale and Brinkmann 2009, Wagenaar 2011).

Six informants were interviewed and three of them twice, before and after the workshop. These were the two initiating planners and the crisis manager. The reason was to gather more information on the background of the project, the current work with sustainable development and crisis management, as well as their expectations on the resilience assessment. In total, we conducted nine interviews, seven face-to-face of approximately 1–1,5 hours each, and two telephone interviews of approximately 15–30 minutes each while taking notes. The telephone interviews were with the Municipal Commissioner involved in initiating the project, and a spatial planner working in the comprehensive planning process. The interview schedule was adapted to fit the specific interview, depending on the interviewee's position and expected knowledge, where we were in the resilience assessment process, and where we were in the research process. The last six interviews, conducted shortly after the workshop, were used specifically to test earlier interpretations and clarify questions that had emerged earlier in the project. All the face-to-face interviews were recorded and transcribed. Afterwards, the interviewees had the possibility to comment on the transcriptions. While reading through the transcriptions (including the transcription of the reflection session of the workshop) and notes, we wrote short memos between the quotes as a part of a preliminary analysis, or sense making, of the findings.

Examples of interview questions

These are examples of the interview questions, translated from Swedish. Questions 1–5 were used in interviews with the strategic environmental planners before the workshop (in October 2012), and 6–8 in interviews after the workshop (in February 2013).

1. Can you tell me the story of how you decided to work with resilience?
 - a. When did you hear about it the first time?
 - b. How did it happen that you sent the first e-mail to SRC?
 - c. What was the catalyzer?
 - d. Follow-up questions: Who did what? When? What happened before? What happened after?

2. What are your expectations of the resilience assessment?
 - a. Expectations on the workshop and how it could influence the work in the future.
 - b. Expectations on how resilience could be used to market Eskilstuna municipality.
 - c. Worries before the workshop? What are the risks?
 - d. What is it in the resilience thinking that you find especially interesting?
 - e. Personal professional goals, and if the resilience assessment could assist you in reaching them.
3. How do you think resilience relates to sustainable development?
 - a. Were you there when sustainable development entered the municipality's agenda?
 - b. What do you think sustainable development has contributed to the planning work? Examples (positive and negative) of how it has affected your work.
 - c. Do you think sustainable development has been watered down and is that why resilience is interesting?
 - d. What do you relate to a "sustainable municipality"?
 - e. What do you relate to a "resilient municipality"?
 - f. What differs between a sustainable and a resilient municipality?
4. Is there any relation to the municipality's crisis management work?
 - a. How do you think they are connected?
5. Personal background, education and interests, etc. (if I would like to ask more about it).
6. What is it that is special about resilience? What do you think it adds to what you are already doing in the municipality?
 - a. How does it relate to the municipality's work with sustainable development?
 - b. How does it relate to the municipality's work with crisis management?
7. What are the challenges with using resilience thinking and doing a resilience assessment?
8. What potential has the resilience assessment in changing current municipal planning and in what way could it change/in what direction?