

Explanatory note to the interview guide for the Regional Signal Panel

The principles of the questionnaire

The questionnaire is intended to enquire into regional planning on the basis of a wider definition of regional development than that associated simply with economic performance. In this it is introducing a range of factors that concern social capital & ideas of regional 'wellness'.

It should be pointed out that the Questionnaire is not seeking to find 'all the answers' but to draw out the tensions, balances and compromises that are inherent in trying to address all the factors under discussion. This will then have the effect of being able to portray where particular difficulties lie, where the divergences between aspiration and reality may be and what sort of prioritisation exercise may be required.

General comments:

The interview is planned to last approximately 45 – 60 minutes.

It has to be leaded rather tough to be finished within this frame. Each question must be answered explicitly and it may be necessary to ask further questions to clarify the meaning of the answer.

The questions are formulated rather openly to make the interviewed reflect and think in another way, than they usually do. The automatic answers is not that interesting, we want the unexpected.

Try to have that in mind when you ask further questions. Answers should be specific and preferably visionary.

Each interview-person answers the interview according to his/her role in the signal panel, politician, expert or citizen. They might use experiences from other roles. If there is a conflict between roles you make it explicit in the interview (as an expert I see this, but as a citizen I think we should value other things).

At each interview there are two participants. One acts as an interviewer and the other acts as a reporter, record the interview and take notes. The interview should be processed from the report and the recorded file is just supplying the report.

Analysis of the answers:

The answers should be analysed in respect to the different themes and in respect to the different groups of participants in the Regional Signal Panel. The 3 groups being:

- 1) Private and public decision makers / policy makers / managers
- 2) Traditional Experts
- 3) Alternative experts or "wildcards"