

Guidelines for semi-structured expert interviews

Context and background to the research project

As part of the *TransLoss* research project, we are looking at climate-related risks in Austria at national, regional and local level, their potential impact on different actors, and how these risks are dealt with in practice now and in the future. In particular, this research project deals with those climate-related catastrophic events that push society to the limits of its coping capacity.

Interview background

Why were you chosen for the interview?

Because you practical and/or research and/or policy making experience in natural hazard management and climate adaptation.

What do we want to achieve with the interview?

We want to take stock of the situation in Austria, future developments in terms of natural hazard risk and resulting damage, and management measures. Above all, adaptation barriers and potential limits, their nature and influence on society should be examined.

Outlook

Information from the discussion feeds into an analysis of cooperation between relevant institutions (stakeholder mapping), an inventory of measures, and a stock take of possible "concerns" for the future regarding adaptation barriers and limits.

Interview questions

Natural hazard trends in Austria

1. In your opinion, how is the risk of natural hazards and the extent of the associated damage developing? How has it developed in recent years and how will it develop in the coming years?
 - a. In your opinion, which natural hazards cause the greatest risks in Austria? Will they be the same in the future?
 - b. What have been the reasons for the development of this risk so far? Is the frequency and intensity of the natural hazard itself increasing, or is the risk increasing due to greater exposure or vulnerability? Will the same reasons play a role in the future?
 - c. Which areas of society were and are most affected (public sector, private sector, private households)? Which areas of society will be most affected in the future?
 - d. What socioeconomic changes do you expect that will in turn have an impact on climate-related risks?

Roles in disaster risk management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and effected sectors

2. In which area are you or your institution specifically active (e.g. natural hazard management, climate change adaptation, financing, planning, implementation, flood protection, water management and drought)?

- a. With which other departments/sections/institutions are you in contact and where do you have strategic and operational cooperations?

CCA measures, potential limits, and transformation

3. How do you assess the current natural hazard management and climate change adaptation measures? Are the implemented measures sufficient to deal with all disaster events that can be expected? (Have there already been natural hazard events in Austria that were no longer manageable with the current risk management options?)
4. Do you think that there will be more climate-related catastrophic events in the future to which we will not be able to adapt and which will also cause lasting damage?
 - a. What does "no longer being able to adapt" mean to you?
 - b. In which areas of society (public sector, private sector, private households) and economic sectors will there be limits to adaptation?
 - c. What causes these adaptation limits? (e.g. lack of technology, economic reasons or social acceptance?)
 - d. What improved or novel risk management approaches and measures would in your opinion be necessary to deal with these limits?
 - e. What challenges do you see in their implementation?
 - f. What changes would be necessary at institutional level (i.e. in risk governance)?
 - g. How do you deal with the uncertainty regarding future natural hazards?

Risk tolerance and intolerable risks

5. in your function, are you confronted with people/institutions/companies who come to you with concerns about their livelihoods due to natural hazards?
 - a. What are these concerns?
6. Do you know of any cases in which the lives of people/institutions/companies have been permanently changed/impacted by climate-related impacts (e.g. by no longer being able to carry out their usual activities/ live in their usual environment)?
 - a. Were these planned changes, reactions to unexpected events, or rather unexpected consequences of planned measures?
7. When you think about the future, with the knowledge you have now: what intolerable effects of a catastrophic natural hazard event do you expect, and what could such a damage scenario look like? Intolerable is defined as damage that must be prevented from the outset, "whatever the cost":
 - a. From the perspective of your institution?
 - b. From your personal perspective as a citizen?

International dimension

8. Do you believe that climate risks in other regions of the world could have an impact on Austria?
 - a. If so, what could be the nature of these indirect effects?
9. Are you familiar with the term "Loss and Damage from Climate Change"?

- a. If yes, how do you interpret the "loss and damage" debate that is currently being discussed by the UNFCCC and during the annual COP conferences, among others?
- b. If yes, what influence could the L&D debate have on Austria? Do you believe that topics such as adaptation limits and irreversible damage caused by natural hazards will also increasingly become the focus of public attention in Austria as a result of the international loss and damage debate?
- c. If yes, what is Austria's position on this?

Concluding questions

- 10. Who do you work with who could give us more information on the subject of today's interview?
- 11. Is there anything else you would like to add that we have not covered?
 - a. Would you like to emphasize another point that is particularly important to you?
- 12. May I contact you if I have any follow-up questions?