

Dialogue tool

Methods:

University College South Denmark has used the dialogue tool created within the framework of the “Healthy Regions” project as an inspiration for the questions used in an interview guide for interviewing a manager (Health Director) and a health consultant on the strategic level in the Municipality of Billund. We have been inspired by some of the following eight themes from the dialogue tool: 1) Health and health promotion, 2) Health and learning, 3) Health and culture, 4) Level of strategic health approach, 5) Level of health competencies, 6) Level of empowerment, 7) Level and mainstreaming, and 8) Health as an economic growth sector.

We were also inspired by the model of the mapping tool, also developed for the “Healthy Regions” project (by the University of South Denmark), as they complement each other. This mapping tool has been developed as a matrix and the final version of it is presented in an annex on the Healthy Regions website. In this model the key determinants of health were identified using the Dalhgren & Whitehead model of health as work environment, unemployment, housing, traffic, education, agriculture and food production, water and sanitation, social insurance systems and health services. The core competencies have been identified as assessment and analysis, policy and programme planning, implementation and evaluation, partnership, collaboration and advocacy, diversity and inclusiveness, communication and leadership. Some of the core competencies inspired us in planning our interview guide.

We did the interview in order to learn more about strategic planning in a municipality, how they think health promotion, how they organize the work, which dilemmas and barriers they experience, which resources they already had in the municipalities and what they wanted to do in the future, building on their experiences.

We wanted to use the WHO Health definition as a starting point and as all three tools build on this definition it was obvious to use them.

We had been working on a strategic level in the Municipality of Esbjerg and were then hired as consultants on a health promotion project among employees in the Municipality of Billund. Our experiences from Esbjerg will be described in another report. These experiences were used in the interview guide as well, and were one of the main reasons for not using the tools unaltered.

Targets/Stakeholders:

The target groups for the interview were mainly ourselves as consultants, in order to develop tools for developing health strategies – after that of course students, both trainees and those in further education and the municipalities.

Results:

The interview guide proved to be very suitable to make the informants reflect on all aspects of health promotion, and thus identify weaknesses and strengths in their strategy and their implementation of the strategy.

When we analysed the interview, we could see that the municipality of Billund, in respect of most of the themes from the dialogue tool, were between level 2 and level 3. They wanted to reach the third level in their health promotion project for the employees. In order to that, we can see that it is very important that the consultants be very specific in the questions they ask the staff members participating in the project.

Guidelines for the use of the tool:

Both tools are very good in order to get around the whole field covered by the WHO Health Definition .

The dialogue tool was on a higher level than we wanted to use in this case, but we might have used it on an introductory level in the cooperation with the municipality. However we are quite sure that they surpassed this level when preparing the health politics of the municipality.

As mentioned above, the mapping tool is very good in terms of ensuring that the whole field is covered, but it is a complicated tool with a lot of questions, which take time both to answer and to work up and adapt. Therefore we did not use it unaltered – only for inspiration.