This guide presents the general structure of the expert interviews and the focus group conducted in Phase 3 of the research.

Estimated interview time: 60 minutes

Before the interview, the participant(s) are asked to confirm their consent to recording the interview for research purposes.

Interview Structure

Part 1: Description of the framework and the case study (20-30 minutes)

- Explaining general concepts (sustainability concern, dimension, impact level, etc.)
- Going through the decision maps
- Discussing the identified KPIs

During this part, the participants can ask clarifying questions at any moment.

Part 2: Feedback collection and detailed discussion (30-40 minutes)

In this part, we ask general questions corresponding to the research questions we want to answer. Based on the participant's response, we further discuss more specific topics. The general questions are listed below with some of the specific topics explored during the interview.

- What are your overall thoughts on the presented framework and the case study?
  - Gathering more context and knowledge
  - Questioning any part of the case study results
- What kind of challenges do you think architects or other stakeholders might face while applying this framework in practice?
  - Identifying potential stakeholders

- ○ Determining relevance for different levels of architects
- ○ Discussing challenges based on stakeholder scopes and responsibilities
- How can we validate the results derived from the framework in a structured and meaningful way?
  - ○ Understanding currently established processes
  - ○ Pinpointing gaps and problem areas
  - ○ Discussing possible solutions
- Do you see this framework resulting in any short-term or long-term benefits for sustainable software architecture design?
  - ○ Discussing benefits for different use cases and stakeholders

The interview ends with some general remarks regarding the future of the research from the interviewer as well as the participant(s).