## Highlights:

* We have a working solution to conduct the DCE, check it out here and try out the experiment here:

<https://www.adventuresinsweden.com/reloc-dce>

* It’s deployed on a private server – Hetzner. The costs are marginal: ~2000 kr a year.
* I’ve been able to enable basic security practices:
* https, signed certificates (*I just set this up this morning and have attached a test domain – I need to update with our “www.reloc-age.org” domain next*)
* There is only one (secure) login – me.
* We can conduct the survey, get the results, and close it down – there is no reason to store any data on here long term. We have other solutions for that – LUSEC.
* The question is if we should hire the author to enable the options he has hidden. We can hire him to install the polished version with full functionality and better security. I believe this to be a good idea if we plan to use the platform long term. We’ve been quoted between 18,000-90,000 sek for his services depending on what he provides. (His quote is attached)

## What is the solution?

**Formr** - a fully-fledged survey platform that is an opensource (free of cost) alternative to others survey providers such as SUNET, Arlogiks, etc. Allowing multiple user accounts to conduct complex and interactive surveys.

You can read more about it on their website:

<https://formr.org/>

If you want to click around on a demo survey that shows types of questions/widgets and some capabilities, feel free to explore here:

<https://test-widgets.rforms.org/>

It allows implementation of R programing into surveys. Allowing the ability to incorporate anything one could do in R, into a survey interface. In this sense, the only limit is your imagination as surveys become interactive, allowing us to create “apps” if you will. Some ideas:

* Take the input of a respondent – run it though a model and return the results. “Here’s the results: you received a score of 3.4 on our sustainable housing scale. Here’s a figure to illustrate. That suggest that your housing situation is …”
* Log into a respondents Facebook account, perform a sentiment analysis on the last post, and ask them how they feel about it? “Here we see that Tom Jones shared a political post on your wall that is deemed to contain negative associations. How do you feel about this?”
* Get a user’s location with a click of a button (with permission), find the nearest vårdcentrallen and ask them about it. “Why or why not are you not registered here?”

## The Pros:

It has a nice separation concept. Your surveys are created in a spreadsheet, then uploaded to the platform (or stored on Google sheets). This way you will never lose your created surveys if something unexpected happens.

It works seamlessly on both desktop and mobile – many people prefer mobile devices for convenience.

There are no subscription costs. We have to pay to rent a server – but that’s it.

With full functionality, there are features such as email and text message reminders which would be nice for things like Diary studies. Email administration (send custom emails to many respondents with links to the surveys, confirmation codes, etc)

## The Cons:

Do we need another survey option?

Like all new things, there is a learning curve in creating surveys with Formr.

Fundamentally, I don’t like the idea of paying the author for setting up his opensource platform as this goes against the opensource ideology. He’s funded by grants to create a “free” service and it’s become popular – they now have too many users and recommend to self-host (what we are doing now) if you want to use Formr. He then provides code with certain elements hidden to encourage his consulting services.

I’ve figured out most of the hidden parts and got a functioning solution that I would argue is good enough for our DCE. However, it might be a good idea to move forward with him if this is in the budget and we would like some peace of mind.