

Representation in Klimatriksdagen's Climate Deliberations

Klimatriksdagen arranged local climate deliberations in three municipalities: Sollefteå, Malmö and Borås. The graphs below summarize how well the recruitment of participants worked in each location. In each municipality, our goal was to recruit at least 100 candidates (preferably three times the number of intended participants) and to select 39-41 participants among them.

The six graphs show, for each municipality, the representation for one criterion chosen by Klimatriksdagen; sex, age, highest education, geographic spread, occupation and climate worry. The leftmost bar in each graph shows the shares for each alternative in the population. Ideally, the other bars should look similar to that one.

The second bar shows the shares in the candidate pool. This one often deviates considerably from the ideal. The idea with the sortition program is to select a subset of the candidates that will be as representative as possible.

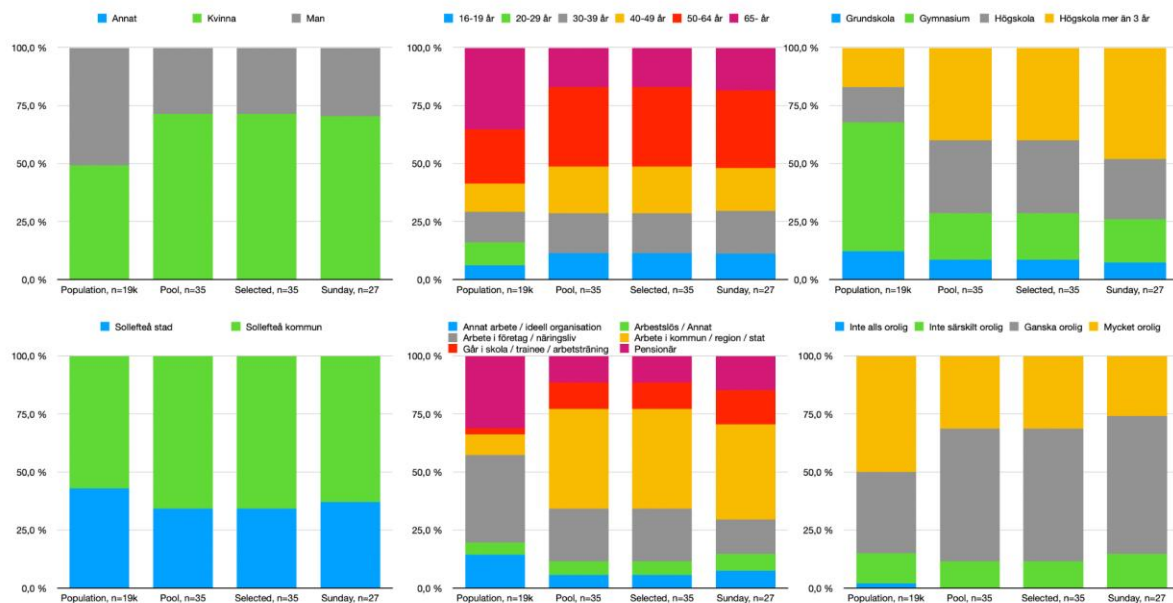
The third bar shows the shares among the participants at the beginning of the process. Unfortunately, some will inevitably dropout due to illness or other events in life during the month-long process. The fourth bar shows the shares among the participants at the end of the process. If there have been no dropouts, bar number three and four will look the same.

Finally, the sortition program also gives a sortition distance score, which indicates how much the group deviates from the ideal; i.e. a kind of measure of how representative the group is as a whole. Smaller distance means better representation.

Sollefteå

The goal was to recruit a representative group of 40 participants for the climate deliberation in the rural municipality of Sollefteå. In order to get a representative group, a candidate pool of well over 100 would have been needed. The recruitment stage of the Sollefteå climate deliberation failed, however; only 35 people were willing to join.

The organizers decided to go through with the deliberation anyway. Even a deliberation that is not representative may have certain good effects, but in that case clear communication is important to avoid overstating.



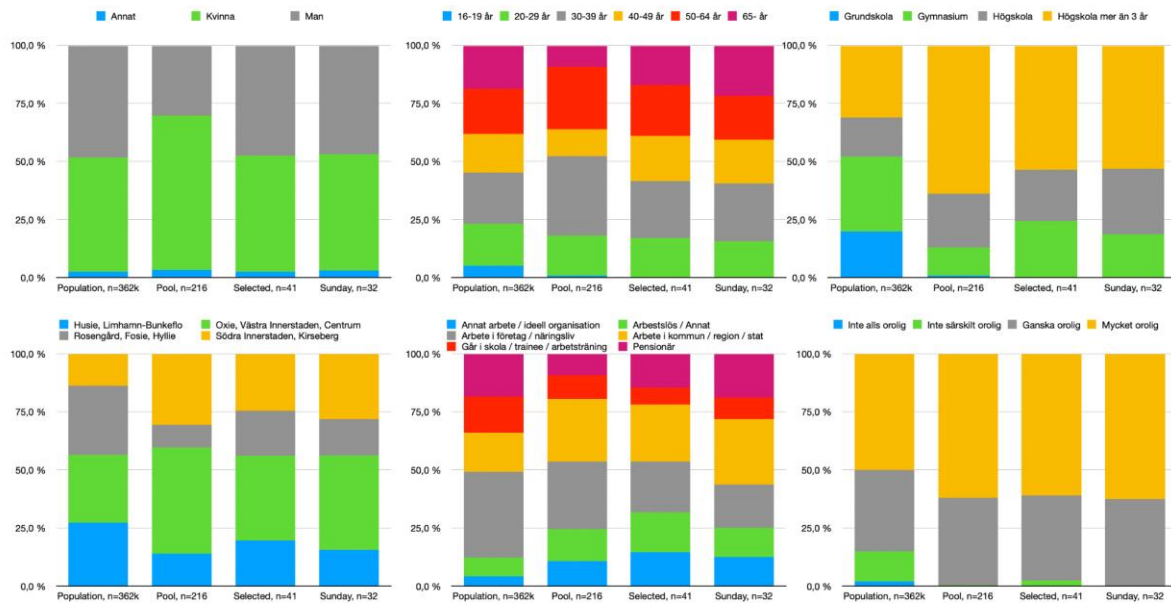
All graphs here clearly show the population (leftmost bar) is significantly different from the candidate pool (second bar from the left), and the participant composition on day one (third bar from the left) and on the last day (final bar).

This is in effect a clear example of what it looks like when a group is not representing the population.

The sortition distance score for the selected participants was 16.4. Not good.

Malmö

In the city of Malmö, it was considerably easier to recruit a large number of candidates. Our goal was to recruit 41 participants. In order to get a representative group, we needed a candidate pool of well over 100 candidates, but in the end 216 candidates were willing to join.

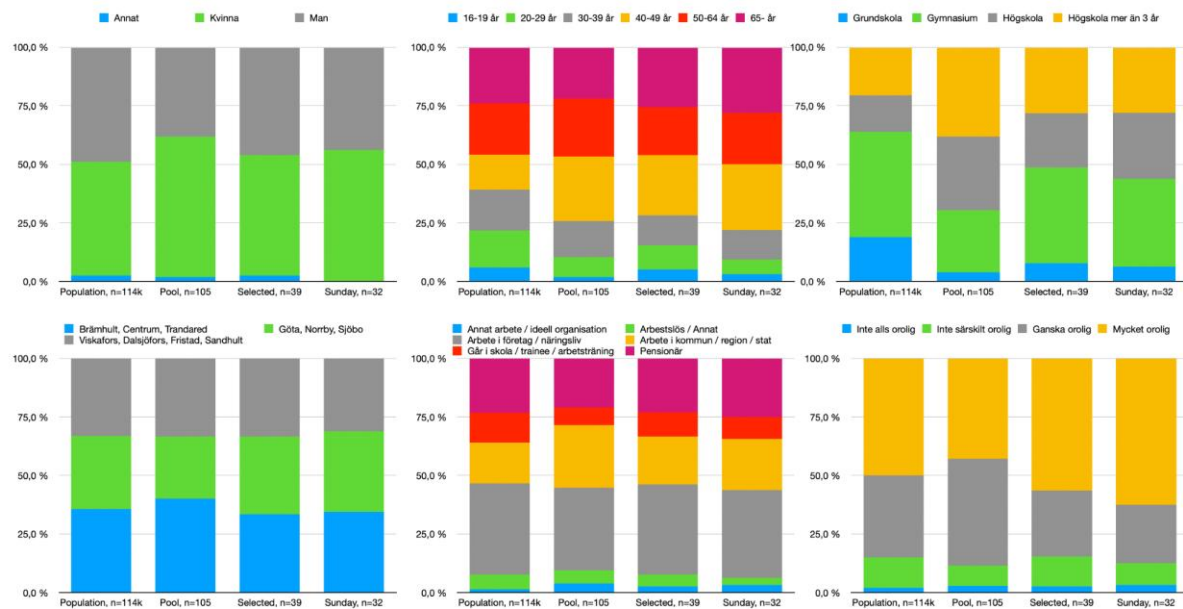


The sortition program could now do its work and select a group that was considerably more like the population than the candidate pool. It is still clear that the recruitment of Malmö residents with lower levels of education did not work well, and that certain geographic areas were underrepresented.

The sortition distance score for the selected participants was 9.0.

Borås

In the town of Borås, our goal was to recruit 39 participants. After extensive recruitment efforts, we secured 105 candidates willing to join.



In Borås, the candidate pool was fairly close to the ideal already before the sortition program made its selection. Therefore a pool of 105 candidates was enough for a good result.

With the possible exception of a somewhat higher share of participants who were very worried about the climate at the end — since some of the less worried participants fell ill, this is a good example of a representative group.

The sortition distance score for the selected participants was 4.5. It is very hard to reach better representation than this in a voluntary activity, regardless of recruitment method.