Conducting the 3Es Knowledge Interviews

The 3Es Knowledge Interviews are conducted through three stages:

I. Entry Interview

The entry interview is conducted to acquire initial insights from employees, in the form of implicit knowledge they possess, when they are new recruits. This is also the time to assist new employees by sharing information with them that they may need to become more familiar with their job setting. In this way, employees can feel professionally supported and employers learn more about their expertise, motivations and goals so as to engage them effectively in the workplace.

II. Expert Interview

The expert interview is organised with employees to obtain information once they have developed the required level of skills through on-the-job experience and can be considered proficient in their domain. Questions at this stage can relate to the professional network they have established and the methods they employ to attain their targets. Additionally, gathering information from employees once they are subject experts can prove useful for analysing general staff learning and training needs across the organisation.

III. Exit Interview

The exit interview should include questions that help in gathering concrete know-how from employees about how they performed the particular tasks assigned to them, why they handled these tasks in a certain way, and what competencies they considered essential for meeting their responsibilities. Since knowledge would have been consistently tracked through the Entry and
Expert interviews, this places less pressure on collecting all the pertinent information at the final Exit interview. Attention must be paid, however, to which individuals at the organisation (e.g. HR officers, line managers or peers) are best suited to be interviewers in this context.

**Points to keep in mind when planning the 3Es Knowledge Interviews:**

- The organisation needs to have a knowledge sharing culture.
- The interviews should be conducted in person.
- Interviewers need to be appropriately trained, or external experts can be engaged, to acquire essential information from interviewees. Neutrality, honesty, empathy and subject matter understanding are essential for interviewers.
- The interview should be conducted in a way to acquire information that is precise and practical in nature.
- In order to make the overall process meaningful, inputs gathered should be reflected upon and, at minimum, considered for implementation.