THINK
TANK
Lab

POLICY
LANDSCAPE
ANALYSIS

WORKSHEET

What is it for?

This worksheet is designed to guide you through a structured reflection on a specific policy issue.

It helps you move beyond surface-level observations by breaking down the issue into its core components—clarifying the problem, mapping relevant stakeholders, identifying knowledge gaps, and understanding the broader policy and political context.

By working through each section, you'll gain a deeper, more strategic understanding of the issue and how it sits within the wider policy landscape—providing a solid foundation for your research going forward.
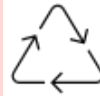
POLICY LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

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What exactly is the <u>problem</u> you aim to address – and how is it currently framed? Is it clearly a problem statement, or is it actually a solution in disguise?

What are potential <u>root causes?</u> Think beyond the symptoms: what systemic, political, economic, or social drivers are at play?

Where in the <u>policy cycle</u> does your issue currently sit? How might this influence your approach?

Who is <u>affected</u> by the problem and and what do they need or expect?

Who <u>holds power or influence</u> over this issue —and what motivates them?

What <u>evidence or knowledge</u> do you already have?

Blind spots: Where are the knowledge gaps? What needs further investigation to better understand the issue or inform action?

So what –<u> why bother?</u> What would change if this problem were addressed? What's at stake?