# Specifying the Strategic Context
## To identify how your project fits with the existing policy and strategy environment

### Before you start

➤ You need to have a very good understanding of what your project seeks to achieve (i.e. aims and objectives, target groups, types of activities, results and outcomes to be achieved).

*Tools useful to support this exercise*

- *Funders Map*
- *Funders Requirement*
- *Nested Wholes Diagram & Iceberg Model*

Identifying the relationship of your project to the existing policy and strategy objectives is key for paving the way to a successful approval and, if required, funding application.

This task helps you assessing if a close match and good fit with existing policy priorities and strategies is very important to gain approval and/or funding for your project.
The tool is a list of assessment criteria with which you can identify how well your project fits a particular policy or strategy and to what extent the project will be able to contribute to the aims and objectives of these policies and strategies.

### What for?

➤ To narrow down the project aims and objectives into achievable and realistic proportions.

### How to use it?

**Step 1**    Identify all relevant policies at the local, national and European level that could possibly relate to your project theme (use the Funders Map for possible linkages).

**Step 2**    Scan the policies/strategies and identify those that address the same themes as your project. Note their name in the table.

**Step 3**       Those policies that cover suitable themes, read in more detail and note in the table their aims, objectives and priorities, geographic focus, target groups and performance targets, goals, that fit your project best.

**Step 4**       Reflect on your findings and assess which of the policies/strategies could provide the best fit. Rank the policies/strategies accordingly. This could support your search for funding.

**Step 5**    In the last row of the table, describe briefly how your project could improve its fit with each policy/strategy and how it could contribute better to their objectives and targets.

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| Strategic Fit and Ranking Table | *Name of Policy/Strategy 1* | *Name of Policy/Strategy 2* | *Name of Policy/Strategy 3* | *Name of Policy/Strategy 4* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aim/s of policy/strategy | | | | |
| Objectives or priorities that fit your project best | | | | |
| Geographical target locations that fit your project best | | | | |
| Target Groups that match or could match those of your project | | | | |
| Performance Indicators and targets of the policy/strategy that your project could contribute to | | | | |
| Rank in terms of best fit to your project | | | | |
| Comment on how the fit with your project could be improved | | | | |