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Netherlands × U.S.
Dialogue on Governance Capacity for
Extreme Heat

Session 4 · Heat-watching: from misalignments to actions

Now we will identify gaps in science-policy-public alignment and identify action plans to enhance the alignment.

Map the alignment
Identify real examples

Prioritise and act
Pick the top 3 blindspots and suggest actions to improve alignment

One blind spot per group
Blind spots and key actions

Each group works on one scenario printed on the chart provided to you

Scenario 1
Acute heat
A few days of extreme temperatures

Scenario 2
Prolonged heat
Weeks of hot days and warm nights

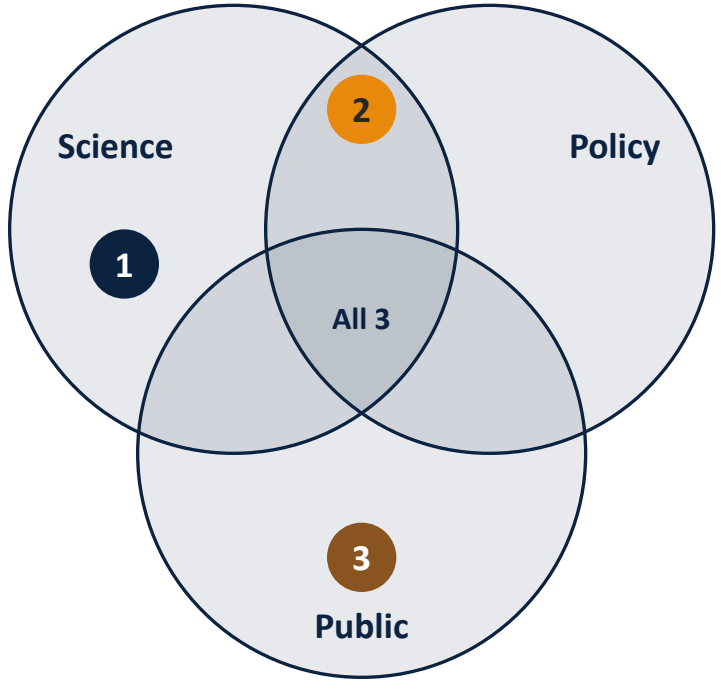
Scenario 3
Chronic heat
Higher averages as the new normal

Scenario 4
Cascading heat
Heat that triggers drought, grid failure or wildfire

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Part A: Map where science, policy and the public line up (30 min)



Outside if no one is watching

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Round 1 - Science **Round 2 - Policy** **Round 3 - Public**

Science = evidence, data, monitoring. **Policy** = plans, rules, thresholds. **Public** = what people perceive, expect or do.

Worked example

1. **Science only**
   Hot nights raise heat deaths; warnings ignore them
2. **Science + Policy**
   Evidence-based warnings, but older adults don't act
3. **Public only**
   Parents report hot classrooms; no data, no programme
4. **Outside**
   Gig-economy outdoor workers: no one tracks exposure

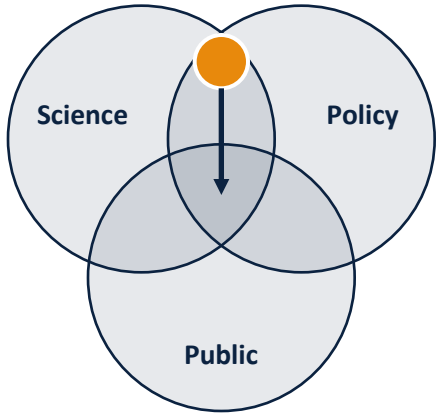
Part B: Turn the top 3 blindspots to plan actions

Vote the top blind spots
Identify the top 3 blindspots, with at least one NL and one U.S. example.

Set the target alignment block
Draw an arrow to the centre or to a realistic overlap. Do not move the note

Discuss action list
Per blindspot: one quick win (within 12 months, existing budgets) and, if needed, one structural change.

Example



Top blindspot	Target	Action	Owner(s)	Type
Older adults ignore heat warnings	Science + Policy → all three	Co-design warning messages with GPs, home-care staff and community groups	Municipal health service; home-care providers	**Quick win**
		Link warnings to a register of at-risk residents and home-care visits	Municipality; regional health authority	**Structural**