

Preparation Guide	
Choose a Topic for Exploration	Topic: Environmental governance and policy integration Students had already been introduced to: • The Water Framework Directive (WFD) • The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) • Water governance • Sustainability transitions The simulation allows students to explore how these policies interact in practice. Problem: Water quality degradation & peat soil subsidence Solution: Policy of peatland rewetting and restoration through higher groundwater levels and reduced drainage Context: Dutch peat meadow region (Veenweidegebied). A new peatland rewetting and restoration policy will be used to address water quality degradation and peat soil subsidence in the Dutch peat meadow region (Veenweidegebied).
Identify the Hidden Innovation Challenge(s) <i>This is the most important design step.</i>	How can water quality and peatland restoration be improved without threatening the economic viability of dairy farming? The challenge emerges because: • Environmental restoration requires higher groundwater levels. • Dairy farming depends on drained peatlands and productive grassland. • Existing policy instruments support both environmental and agricultural goals, but in different ways.
Select Stakeholders	Stakeholder 1 Peatland Protection Initiative A local initiative advocating for peatland restoration and improved groundwater conditions. Stakeholder 2 Dairy Farmers Farmers operating in the Dutch peat meadow region.

Define the Learning Objectives	Background Objectives • Explain the interaction between the Water Framework Directive and the Common Agricultural Policy. • Identify structural tensions between regulatory and financial policy instruments. • Understand how agricultural practices contribute to water quality challenges (eutrophication, nutrient runoff, groundwater decline). Analytical Objectives • Analyse how different actors operate with asymmetric resources (legal vs financial). • Recognise how policy legacies shape negotiation positions. • Evaluate trade-offs between environmental objectives and economic viability. Practical Objectives • Develop a policy compromise that is politically and economically realistic. • Practice structured negotiation under institutional constraints. • Reflect on the challenges or "wicked problems" of sustainability transitions
Create the Case Brief	Background The Dutch peat meadow region has historically been drained to support dairy farming. Key Theory and Facts • Water Framework Directive (WFD) • Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) • Peat oxidation • Nutrient runoff • Water quality objectives Existing Situation Improving water quality requires higher groundwater levels, but this may reduce agricultural productivity. Contextual constraints • Existing drainage infrastructure • Economic dependence on dairy farming • Environmental targets under the WFD • Existing agricultural support mechanisms Additional Resources • Students received: • Background readings • Policy documents • Examples of nature-based solutions • Dutch farmer association perspectives

Create Stakeholder Role Cards	Team 1 – Peatland Protection Initiative You are members of a local community initiative advocating for peatland restoration and improved groundwater status. You have: • Strong human resources (activists, volunteers, campaign capacity) • Legal tools (possibility of court action under WFD obligations) • Public communication capacity • Very limited financial resources You do not control: • Agricultural subsidies • Farm-level production decisions • Large-scale funding Team 2 – Dairy farmers in the peat meadow region You are dairy farmers operating in the peat meadow region. You have: • Received CAP subsidies supporting drainage systems • Farm revenues that are just sufficient to cover costs • Long-standing family ties to the land • Political voice through farmers’ organisations You do not control: • EU regulatory requirements under the WFD • Broader water management policy
Design Negotiation Challenges	Challenge 1: Goals and Priorities What outcomes are essential for each stakeholder? What cannot be compromised? Challenge 2: Policy Instruments Which policy mechanisms should be implemented? Potential examples: • CAP funding • Eco-schemes • Rural development funding • WFD enforcement mechanisms Challenge 3: Acceptable Compromises What should the final implementation plan look like?
Define the final output	Decide what students should leave the simulation with. For most simulations, a facilitated plenary discussion is sufficient. Prepare prompts that help students finalize and summarize the adapted solution: • The original solution – What solution were we given? • The key tensions – What conflicts or trade-offs emerged?

	• The adapted solution – How did the solution change? • The remaining challenges – What still needs to be addressed? Reflection prompts: • What was easy? • What was difficult? • Which arguments were most persuasive? • Where did EU policy design create tension?
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