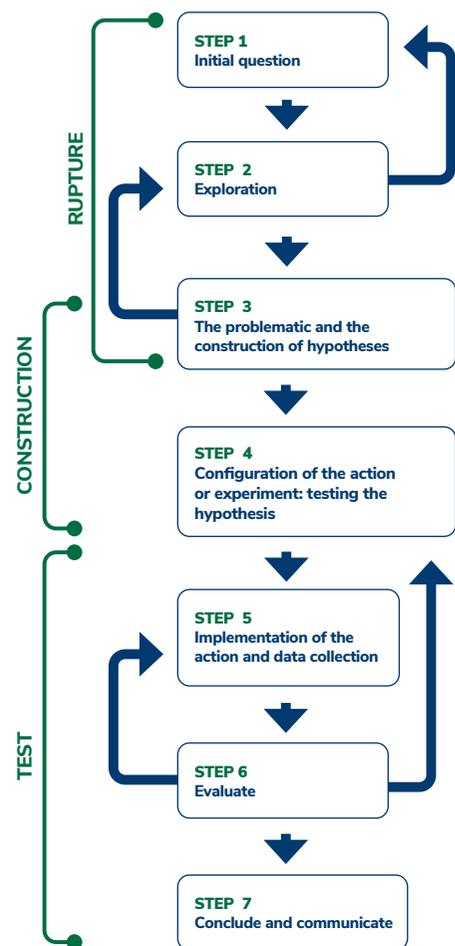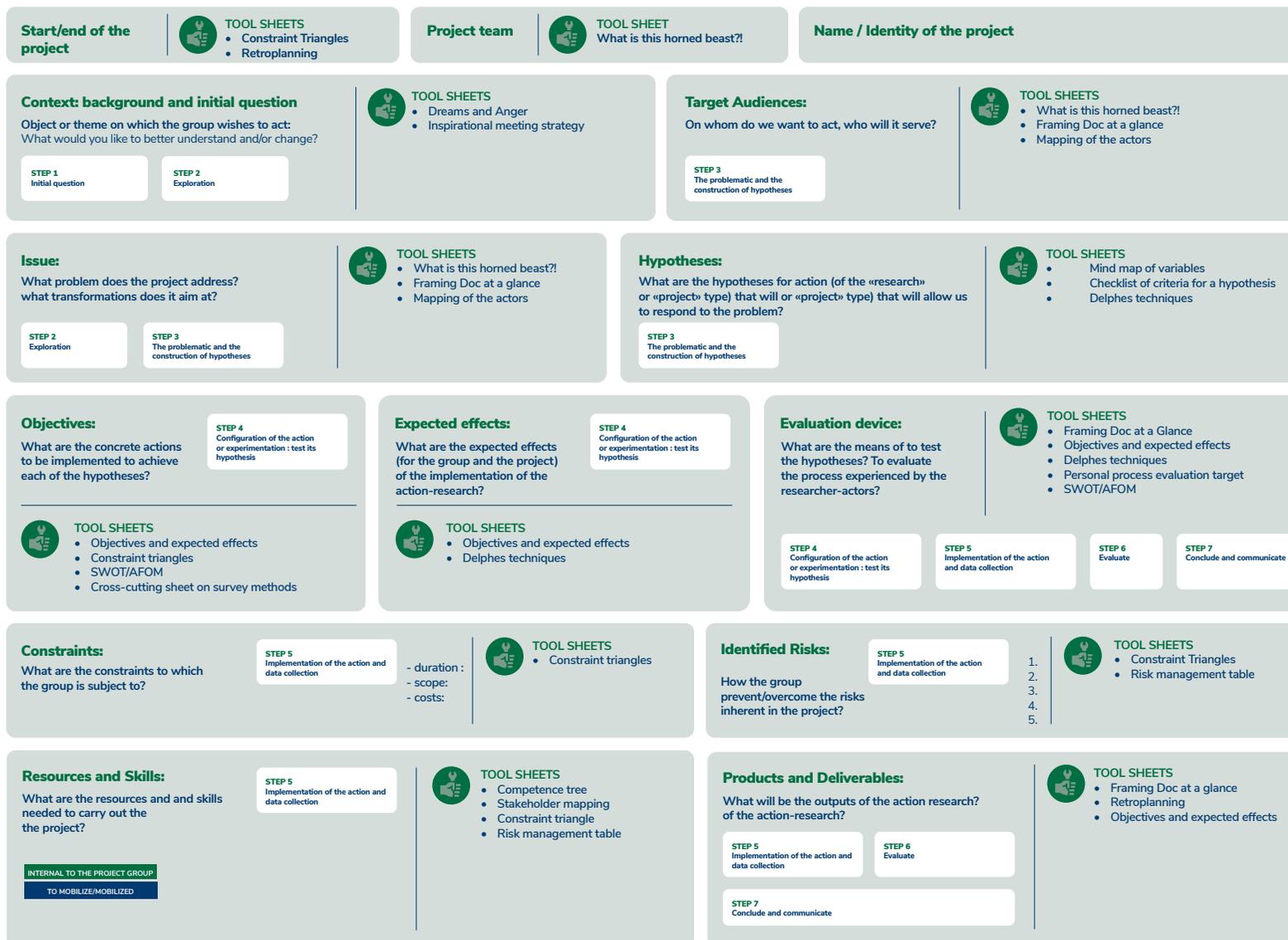# THE PROCESS OF ACTION RESEARCH

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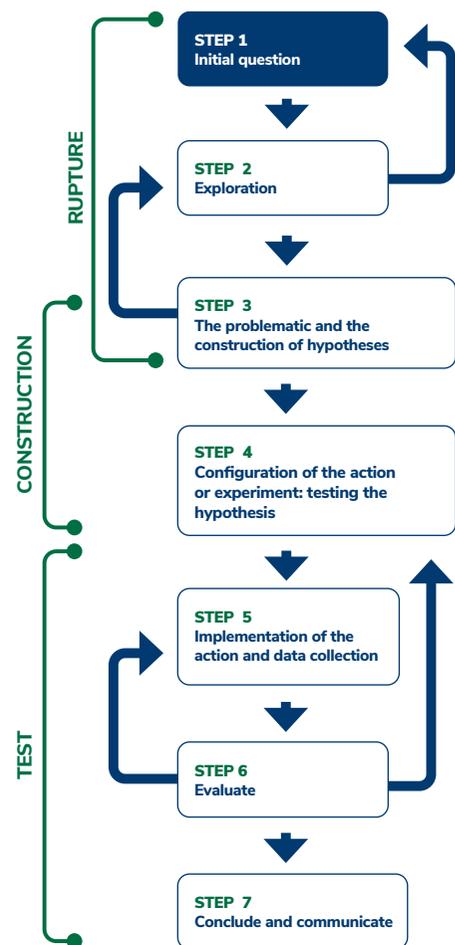
RUPTURE

STEP 1 Initial question

STEP 2 Exploration

STEP 3 The problematic and the construction of hypotheses

CONSTRUCTION

STEP 4 Configuration of the action or experiment: testing the hypothesis

TEST

STEP 5 Implementation of the action and data collection

STEP 6 Evaluate

STEP 7 Conclude and communicate

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Start/end of the project
TOOL SHEETS
- Constraint Triangles
- Retroplanning

Project team
TOOL SHEET
What is this horned beast?!

Name / Identity of the project

Context: background and initial question
Object or theme on which the group wishes to act:
What would you like to better understand and/or change?

STEP 1 — Initial question
STEP 2 — Exploration

TOOL SHEETS
- Dreams and Anger
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Target Audiences:
On whom do we want to act, who will it serve?

STEP 3 — The problematic and the construction of hypotheses

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STEP 2 — Exploration
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What are the means of to test the hypotheses? To evaluate the process experienced by the researcher-actors?

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STEP 7 — Conclude and communicate

Constraints:
What are the constraints to which the group is subject to?

STEP 5 — Implementation of the action and data collection

- duration :
- scope:
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TOOL SHEETS
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How the group prevent/overcome the risks inherent in the project?

STEP 5 — Implementation of the action and data collection

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TO MOBILIZE/MOBILIZED

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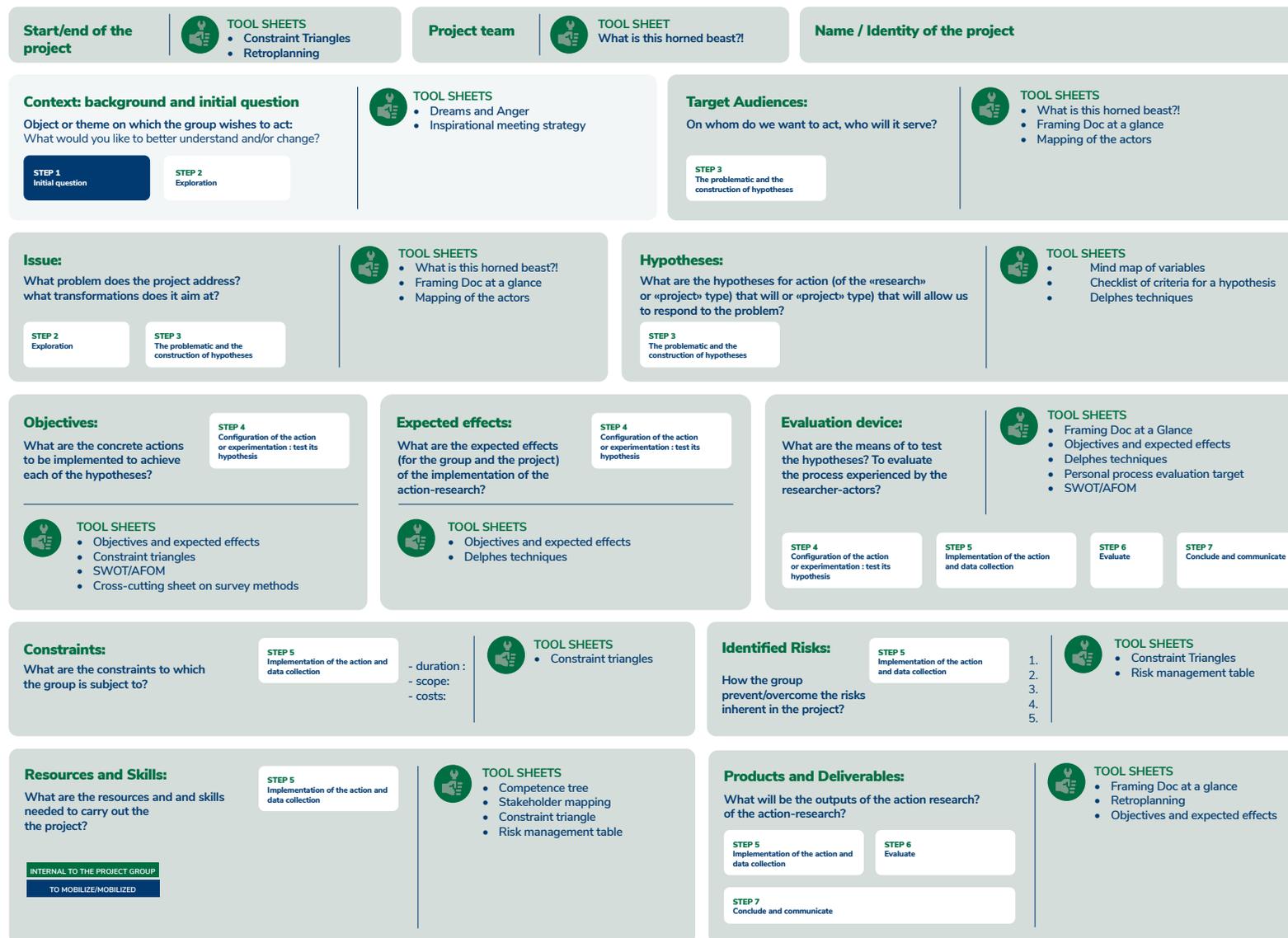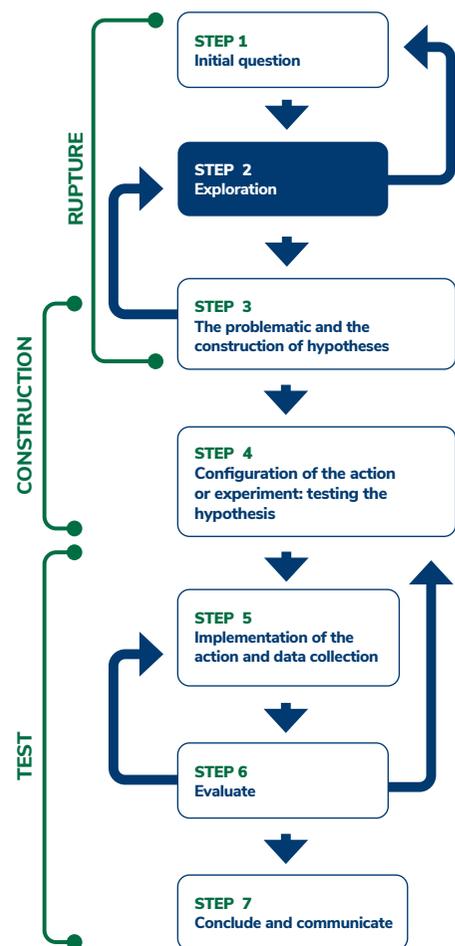
CAPEJ

Left diagram (RUPTURE / CONSTRUCTION / TEST)

- STEP 1 — Initial question
- STEP 2 — Exploration
- STEP 3 — The problematic and the construction of hypotheses
- STEP 4 — Configuration of the action or experiment: testing the hypothesis
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RUPTURE / CONSTRUCTION / TEST

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TO MOBILIZE/MOBILIZED

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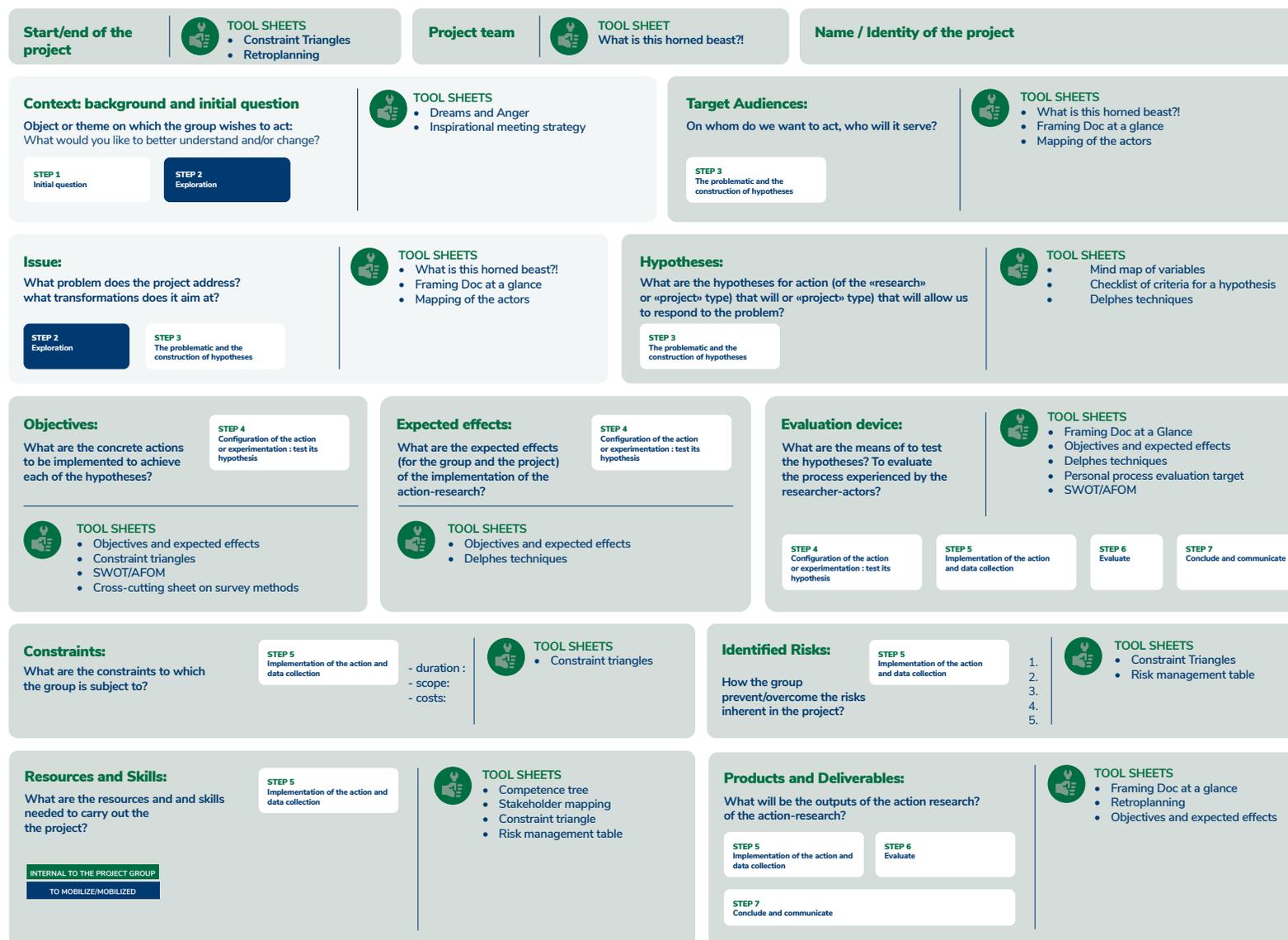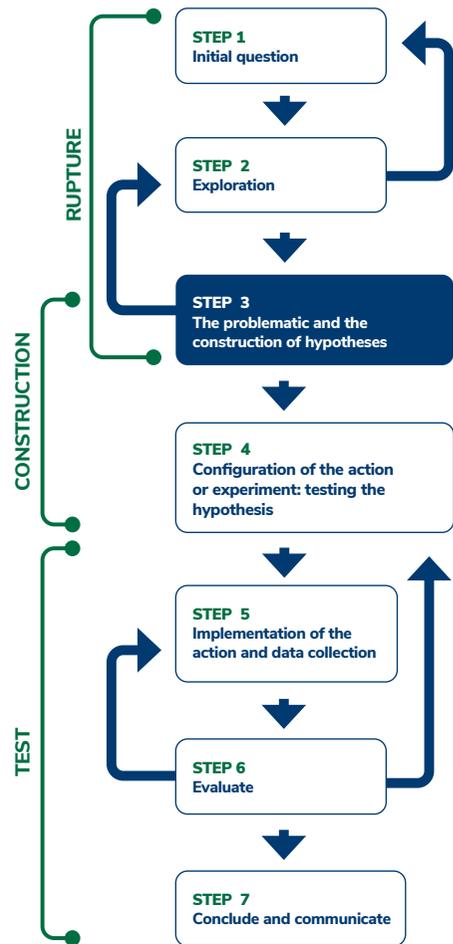
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RUPTURE

STEP 1 Initial question

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Start/end of the project
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Project team
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TO MOBILIZE/MOBILIZED

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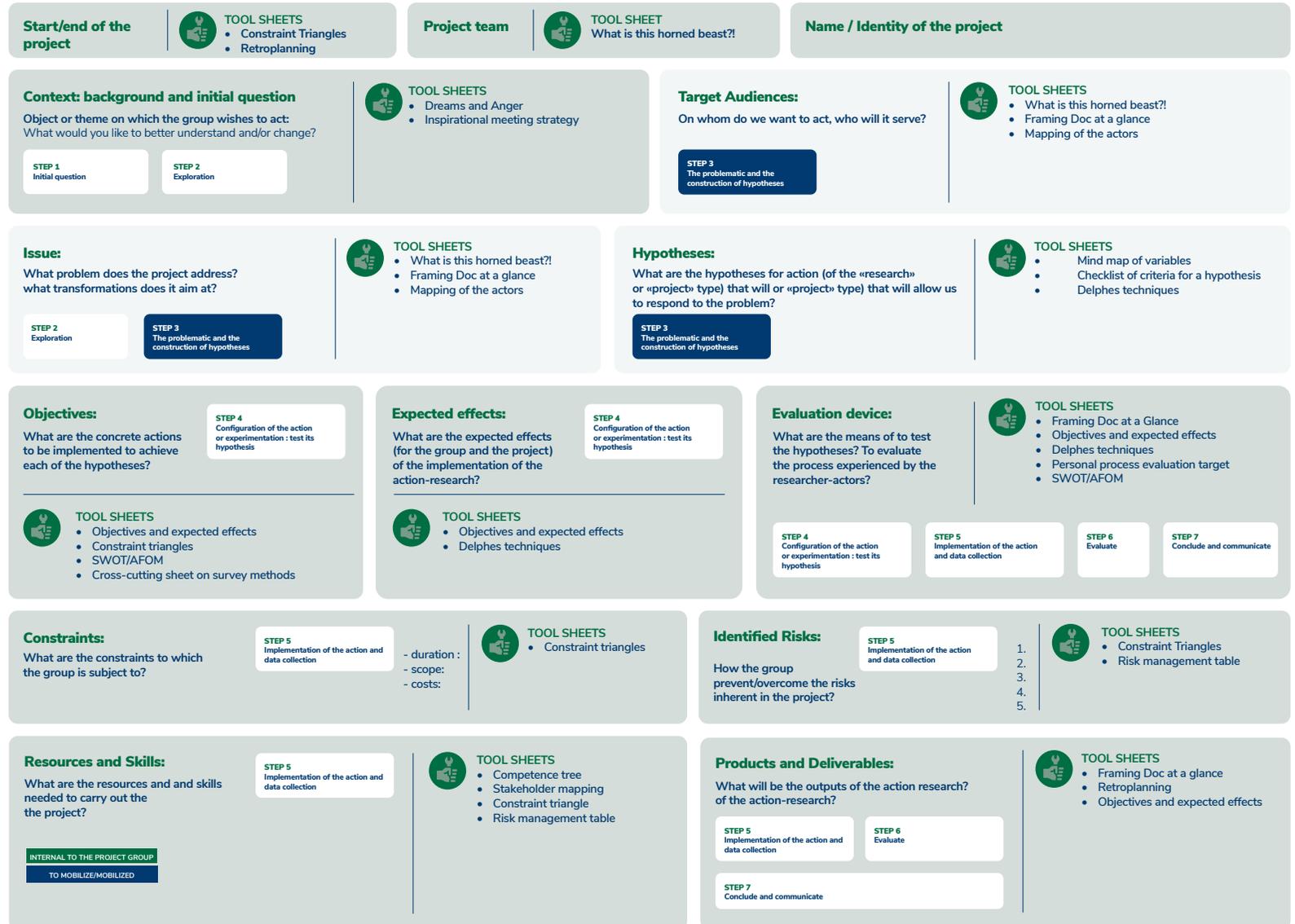- Objectives and expected effects

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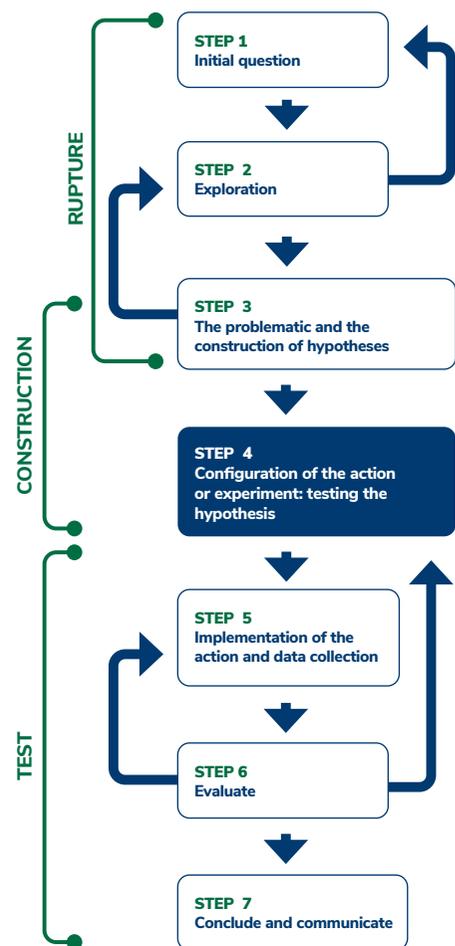
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CAPEJ

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Start/end of the project

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Project team

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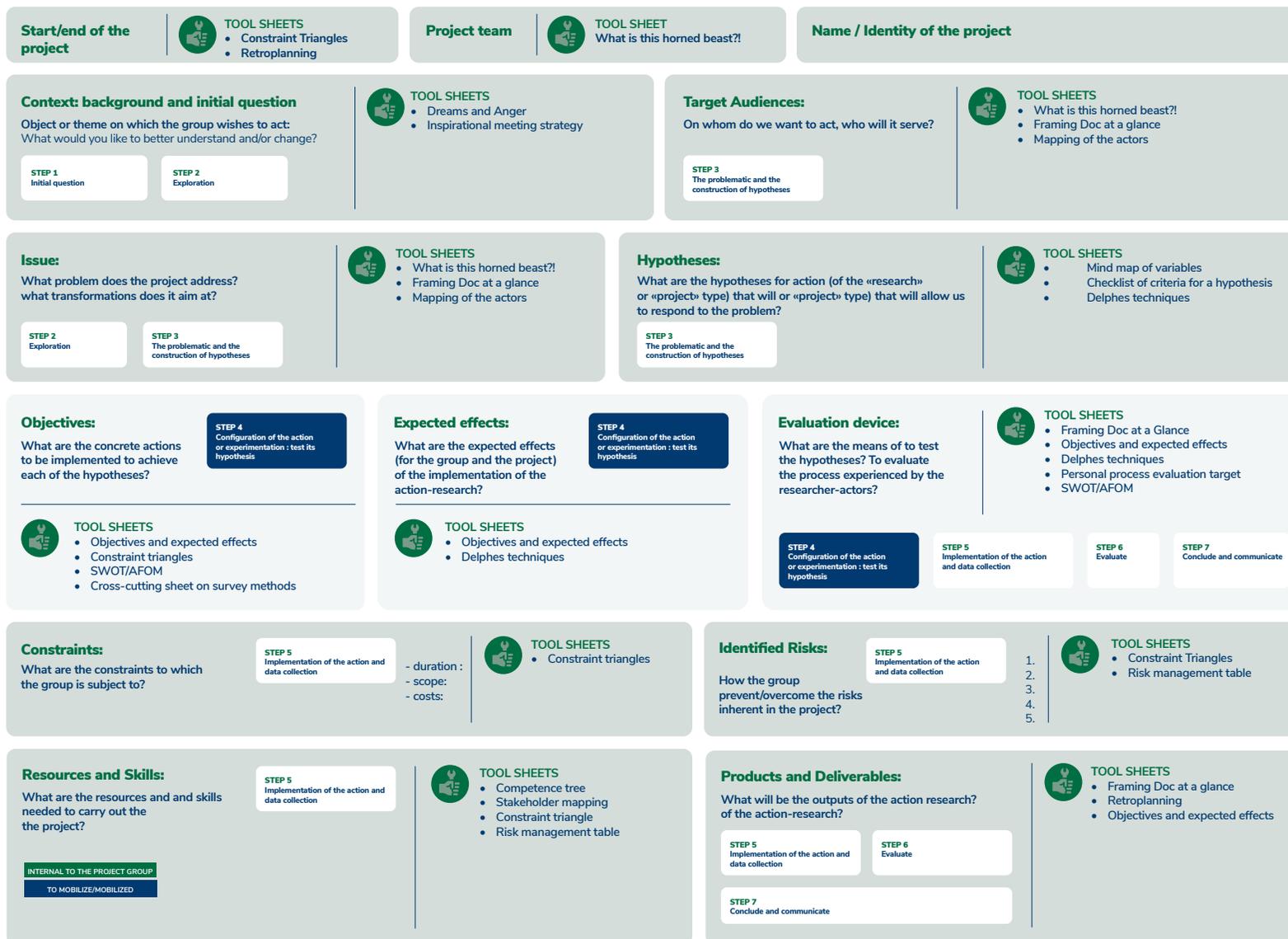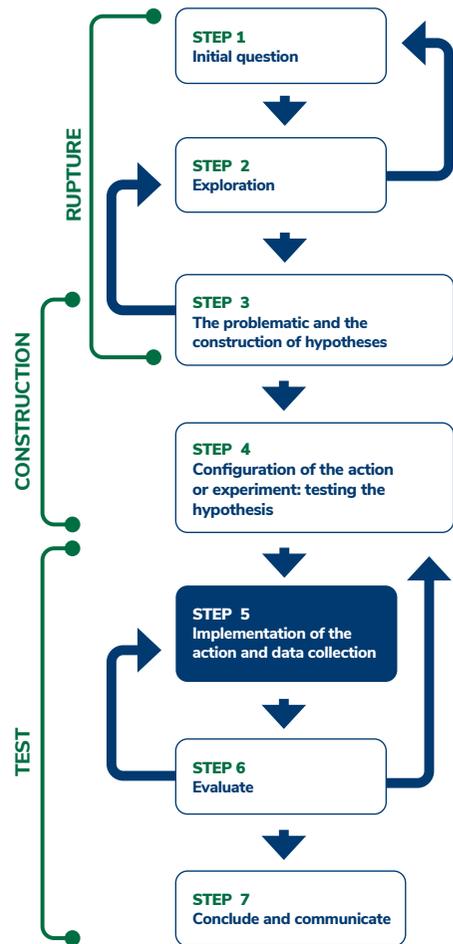
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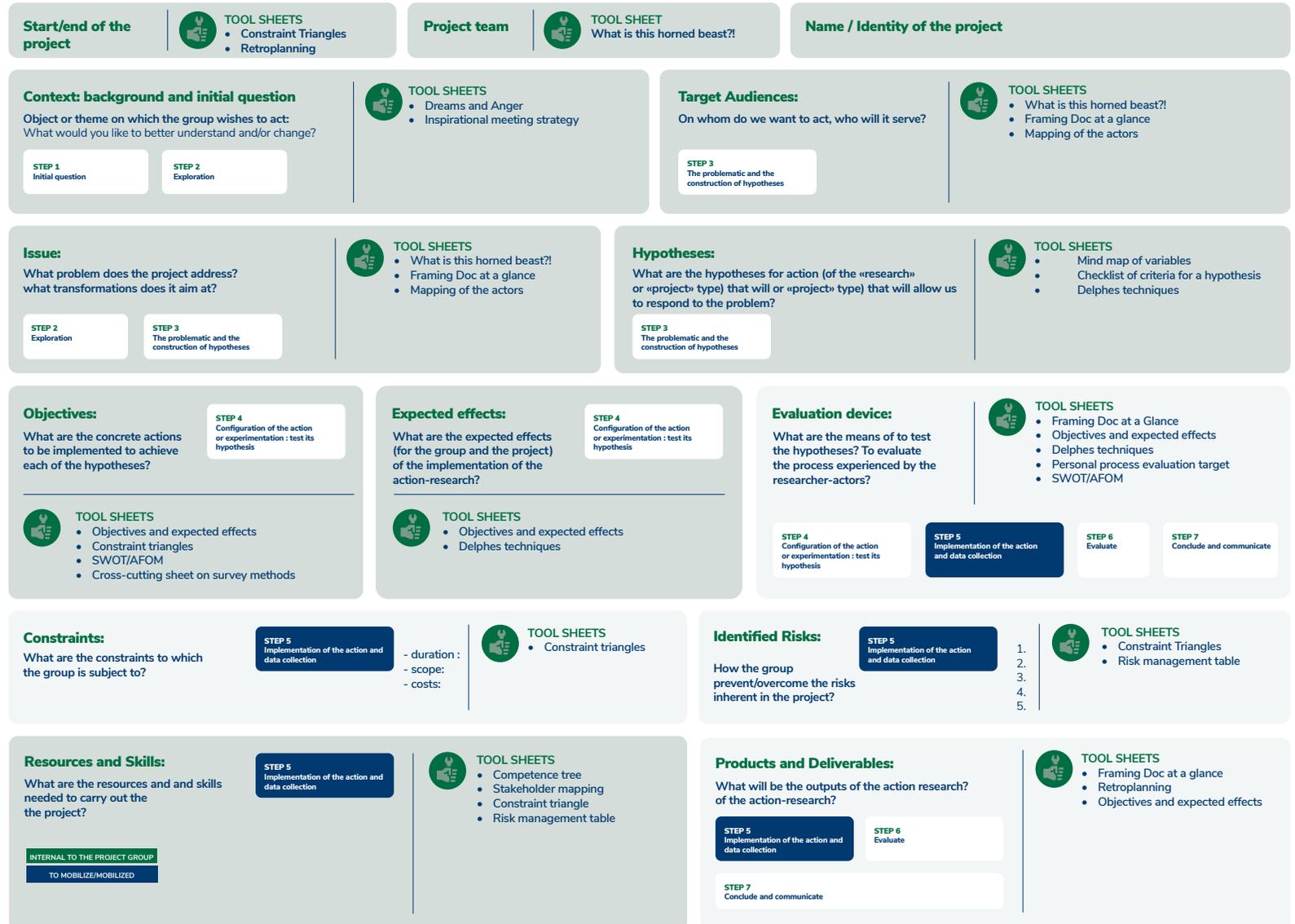- Objectives and expected effects

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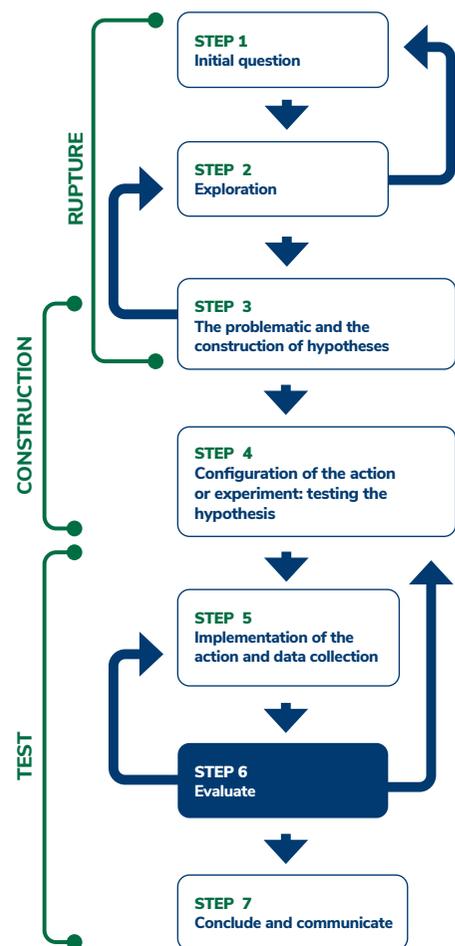
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CAPEJ

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What are the constraints to which the group is subject to?

STEP 5 — Implementation of the action and data collection

- duration :
- scope:
- costs:

TOOL SHEETS
- Constraint triangles

Identified Risks:
How the group prevent/overcome the risks inherent in the project?

STEP 5 — Implementation of the action and data collection

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

TOOL SHEETS
- Constraint Triangles
- Risk management table

Resources and Skills:
What are the resources and and skills needed to carry out the the project?

STEP 5 — Implementation of the action and data collection

INTERNAL TO THE PROJECT GROUP
TO MOBILIZE/MOBILIZED

TOOL SHEETS
- Competence tree
- Stakeholder mapping
- Constraint triangle
- Risk management table

Products and Deliverables:
What will be the outputs of the action research? of the action-research?

STEP 5 — Implementation of the action and data collection
STEP 6 — Evaluate
STEP 7 — Conclude and communicate

TOOL SHEETS
- Framing Doc at a glance
- Retroplanning
- Objectives and expected effects

THE PROCESS OF ACTION RESEARCH

When conducting research, it is particularly important to conceptualise things before collecting data and to anticipate the different stages through which to proceed. Van Campenhoudt, Marquet & Quivy (2017) propose to describe the social science research process in 7 steps. The diagram below indicates that feedback loops are possible and even welcome between the stages. The research process is not always linear and sometimes requires backtracking.

RUPTURE

STEP 1
Initial question

STEP 2
Exploration

STEP 3
The problematic and the construction of hypotheses

CONSTRUCTION

STEP 4
Configuration of the action or experiment: testing the hypothesis

TEST

STEP 5
Implementation of the action and data collection

STEP 6
Evaluate

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THE PROJECT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

The action research project can be viewed from the framing document at a glance. This document borrows the codes of project methodology to enable you to configure the action-research project and to find your way through the different stages of the process, each of which is essential for conducting action-research. This document also enables you to visualise the tools in the pre-training kit that you can use as the process unfolds. This document is not set in stone; it can and should be modified throughout the action-research process based on the experience of the process that the group of researchers-actors experiences.
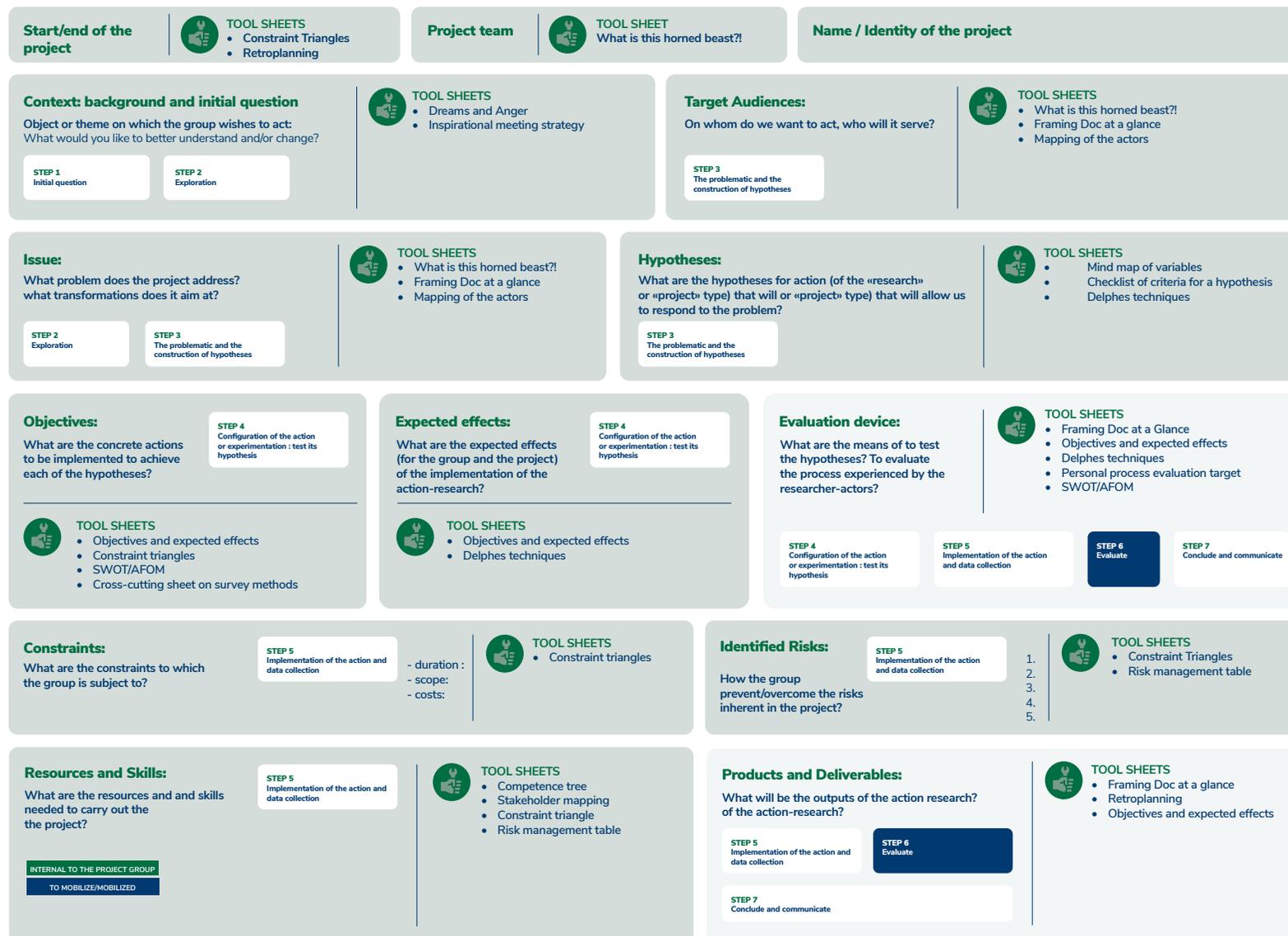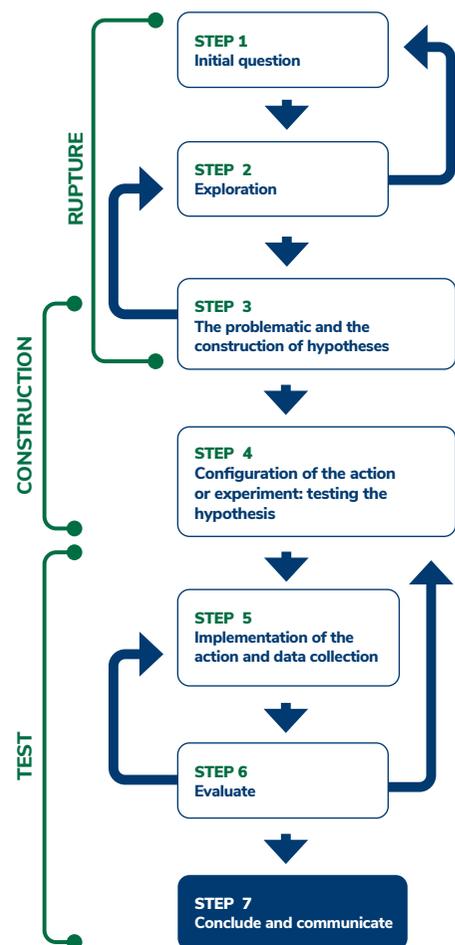
CAPEJ

Start/end of the project
TOOL SHEETS
• Constraint Triangles
• Retroplanning

Project team
TOOL SHEET
What is this horned beast?!

Name / Identity of the project

Context: background and initial question
Object or theme on which the group wishes to act:
What would you like to better understand and/or change?

STEP 1 — Initial question
STEP 2 — Exploration

TOOL SHEETS
• Dreams and Anger
• Inspirational meeting strategy

Target Audiences:
On whom do we want to act, who will it serve?

STEP 3 — The problematic and the construction of hypotheses

TOOL SHEETS
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Issue:
What problem does the project address?
what transformations does it aim at?

STEP 2 — Exploration
STEP 3 — The problematic and the construction of hypotheses

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Hypotheses:
What are the hypotheses for action (of the «research» or «project» type) that will or «project» type) that will allow us to respond to the problem?

STEP 3 — The problematic and the construction of hypotheses

TOOL SHEETS
• Mind map of variables
• Checklist of criteria for a hypothesis
• Delphes techniques

Objectives:
What are the concrete actions to be implemented to achieve each of the hypotheses?

STEP 4 — Configuration of the action or experimentation : test its hypothesis

TOOL SHEETS
• Objectives and expected effects
• Constraint triangles
• SWOT/AFOM
• Cross-cutting sheet on survey methods

Expected effects:
What are the expected effects (for the group and the project) of the implementation of the action-research?

STEP 4 — Configuration of the action or experimentation : test its hypothesis

TOOL SHEETS
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Evaluation device:
What are the means of to test the hypotheses? To evaluate the process experienced by the researcher-actors?

TOOL SHEETS
• Framing Doc at a Glance
• Objectives and expected effects
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• Personal process evaluation target
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