



Image: Colorbox

JOINT INTERDISCIPLINARY SESSIONS: SYSTEMS THINKING AND CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
Bergen Summer Research School 2025

Guidelines for project work

YOUR TASK

During the interdisciplinary sessions, you will work in teams to produce a **policy brief** on just climate mitigation options. As a team, you will have to decide on the climate mitigation options that you want to propose and elaborate on in your policy brief. You can focus on just one option (maybe with some complementary measures to support justice and/or mitigate undesired consequences) or you can propose a selected bundle of options. The scale of your policy brief can be global or more localized on regional/national/sub-national level.

This document provides guidelines for producing the policy brief. The policy brief is due on **June 19, 2025 by 5pm**. It needs to be uploaded as a group assignment to mitt.uib). All teams are encouraged to use their policy brief for their own purposes and to register them as publications.

JUST CLIMATE MITIGATION OPTIONS

Exploring potential climate mitigation options

Throughout the interdisciplinary sessions, you will work with an integrated assessment model that helps you explore the direct and indirect, anticipated and unanticipated consequences of potential climate mitigation options. The model is being developed in the Horizon Europe project “WorldTrans – Transparent Assessments for Real People”. You can access the model through this link:

<https://exchange.iseesystems.com/public/worldtrans/frida/index.html>

The FRIDA model is a new Integrated Assessment Model for climate, using the tools of system dynamics to integrate the two-way coupling between the human and climate side of the system. Both sides are given equal importance, and we focus as much on the feedbacks and relationships within the system as on the mechanisms within each component (module) of the model. Nevertheless, the climate module is front and central in FRIDA, and climate impacts are introduced through a number of process-based impact channels, including damages to agriculture, energy production, the finance sector, and people's perception of climate risk. The model is modular - the climate module is developed by climate scientists, the economy module by economists and so forth. The model is developed for clarity and intuition building, and it comes with transparent tools for using the model.¹

While the model allows you to explore the multidimensional impact of climate mitigation options, it does not explicitly address justice considerations. As a team, you will have to discuss and reflect on the justice implications of different mitigation options and on ways of alleviating undesirable impacts of mitigation options on justice.

Justice considerations

Climate justice can be effectively understood through the lenses of **distributional**, **procedural**, and **recognition** justice:

1. **Distributional Justice** focuses on the distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change and climate policies (e.g., Tribaldos and Kortetmäki, 2022: 249). Besides questions of intragenerational justice - whether all people have the right to access environmental goods that allow them to enjoy wellbeing (Sovacool, 2015), it is equally important to consider intergenerational justice considerations (Parsons et al., 2021). Intergenerational justice is rooted in the idea that the environment we leave behind should be as viable and life-supporting for future generations as it has been for us (Sovacool, 2015).
The FRIDA model allows you to explore some distributional justice aspects such as labor share of GDP (gross domestic product), which indicates the share of GDP going to labor rather than to capital, income inequality or unemployment.
2. **Procedural Justice** emphasizes the importance of inclusive and transparent decision-making processes in climate governance. It advocates for the meaningful participation of all stakeholders, especially marginalized and indigenous communities, in shaping climate policies and actions. This ensures that diverse voices are heard and that decisions are not made solely by powerful actors without considering the needs and knowledge of those most affected (e.g., Fraser, 2009; Rawls, 1971).
3. **Recognition Justice** involves acknowledging and respecting the rights, identities, and experiences of all communities, particularly those historically marginalized or oppressed. It calls for the validation of indigenous knowledge systems, cultural values, and the lived experiences of frontline communities. Recognition justice is essential for addressing systemic inequalities and ensuring that climate solutions do not perpetuate existing injustices (e.g., Fraser, 2000; Schlosberg, 2007; Young, 1990).

¹ <https://worldtrans-horizon.eu/frida/>

POLICY BRIEFS

A policy brief is a short and to the point document focused on a single topic. It explains the urgency of an issue, presents findings and provides recommendations. A good policy brief is an effective tool for reaching and influencing policy makers.² Under “Deliverables”, we will describe in more detail what your policy brief needs to look like and contain. This section provides some background information on policy briefs.

Types of policy briefs

There are two basic types of policy briefs:

- An advocacy brief argues in favor of a particular course of action.
- An objective brief gives balanced information for the policymaker to make up their mind.

For the Begun Summer Research School 2025, we want you to write an objective policy brief.

What should a policy brief do?

A policy brief should:

- Provide enough background for the reader to understand the problem.
- Convince the reader that the problem must be addressed urgently.
- Provide information about alternatives (in an objective brief).
- Provide evidence to support one alternative (in an advocacy brief).
- Stimulate the reader to make a decision.

Your policy brief is due on **June 19, 2025 by 5pm.**

It needs to be uploaded as a group assignment to mitt.uib.

What should your policy brief contain?

To achieve its objectives, a policy brief should:

- Be short and to the point. It should focus on a particular problem or issue. Do not go into all the details. Instead, provide enough information for the reader to understand the issue and come to a decision.
- Be based on firm evidence, not just one or two experiments or a single year’s experience. It should draw evidence from various sources – preferably from several different areas or organizations.
- Focus on meanings, not methods. Readers are interested in what you found and what you recommend. They do not need to know the details of your methodology.
- Relate to the big picture. The policy brief may build on context-specific findings, but it should draw conclusions that are more generally applicable.

Structuring your policy brief

You are free in structuring your policy brief but include the following elements:

- A title page with an image/figure/illustration
- 2 pages of text
- Final page with highlights, authors and list of references.

² <https://www.cmi.no/guide/policy-brief>

USEFUL RESOURCES

Policy briefs by previous Bergen Summer Research School cohorts: see [mitt.uib](http://mitt.uib.no)

Other useful resources for preparing policy briefs

- <https://www.cmi.no/guide/policy-brief>, particularly: 5-step guide <https://www.cmi.no/file/4295-5-step-policy-brief-writing-guide.pdf>
- <https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/idrcpolicybrieftoolkit.pdf>
- <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/policy-briefs/>
- <https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/idrcpolicybrieftoolkit.pdf>