

The project-start check

Eight questions along the eight steps of Issue-Focused Working, to fill in before the project plan is written. Not the plan first and then looking for buy-in, but understanding first and the plan as the outcome.

Project: _____ Date: _____

- ☐ **1. Team Pulse**
Has every stakeholder, separately and beforehand, put in what they see, including those who will have to work with the result?

- ☐ **2. Issue**
Has it been established which issue this project has to solve, apart from the solution that is already circulating?

- ☐ **3. Picture-forming**
Has what all stakeholders know been gathered without judgment, including what only one person knows?

- ☐ **4. Opinion-forming**
Did everyone first form their own picture, in silence, before the group spoke?

- ☐ **5. Judgment-forming**
Has the problem statement been tested: no solution hidden in it, no cause hidden in it?

- ☐ **6. Decision-making**
Was the go decision taken by consent, and were serious objections explicitly asked for?

- ☐ **7. Action**
Is the first action the project plan, with an owner who writes it?

- ☐ **8. Team Pitstop**
Is the rhythm fixed in which the team keeps looking back and adjusting during the project?

At the go decision

Are the users involved, and are the requirements complete? Every question above that is still open is a risk the project carries with it. At the very least, name it in the plan.

At the evaluation, afterward

Besides time, money, and the intended result, two measures belong that evaluations rarely include. Adoption: is the result actually being used? And buy-in: do the stakeholders still stand behind it? Both can be measured with a simple question to the team and to those who work with the result.

Based on Stop Solving (Campman, 2026), in which this idea is explicitly presented as worth investigating. The eight steps with worksheets are in the book and the workbook. Available through Brave New Books.