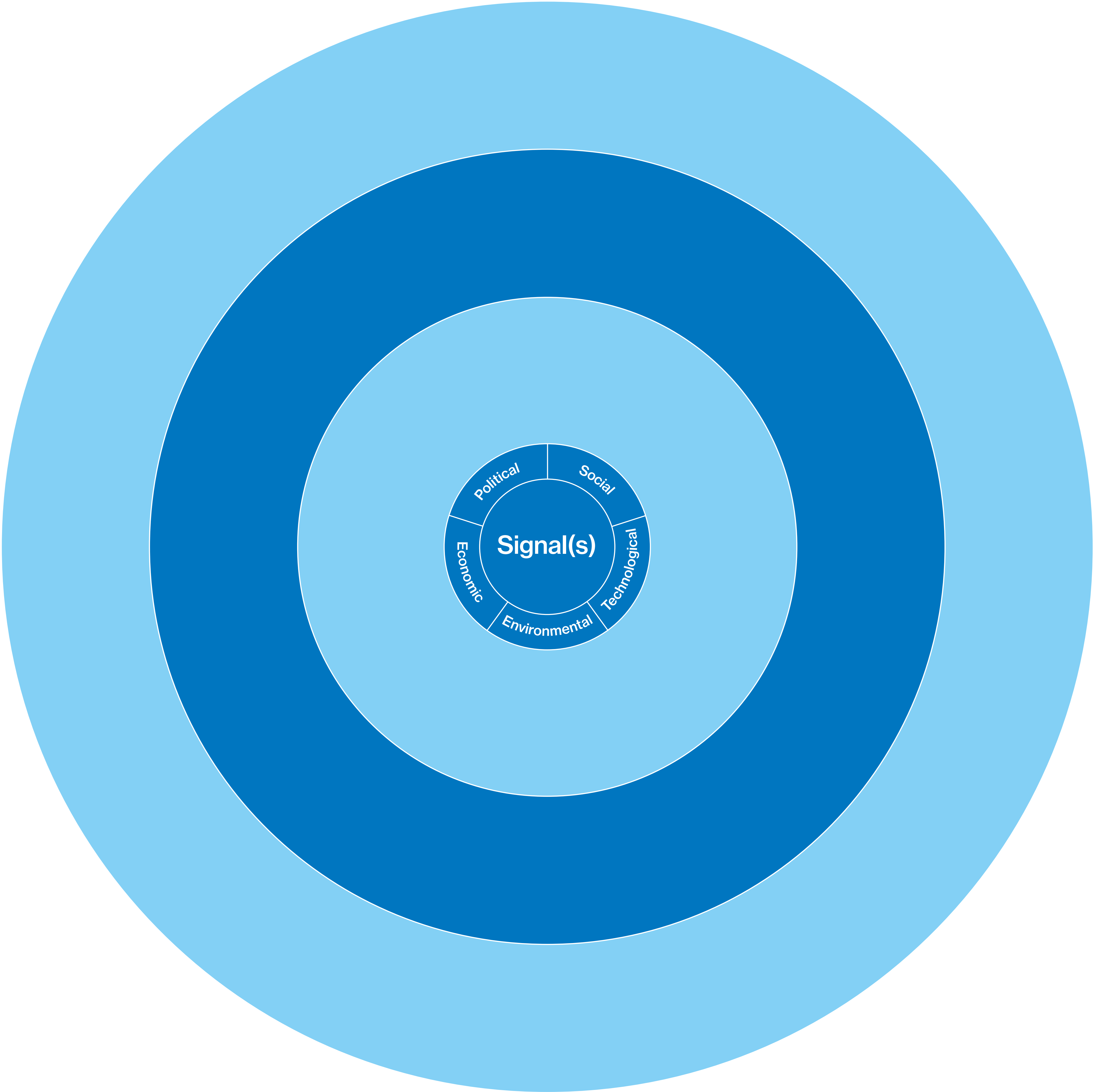


Futures Wheel



Basic flow for developing the Futures Wheel

(Feel free to adjust according to workshop's focus and goal)

Exploring first-order impacts

- Starting question:** If your signal(s) occurs, what impacts would be triggered?
- Step 1 Ideation** (5–10 min): Each participant adds 1–2 impacts per STEEP (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political).
- Step 2 Sense-making** (20 min): Ensure each first impact is understood and readable by everyone. Choose the 2 most interesting impacts per STEEP dimension (let the group decide). This is done to ensure that there is enough time to explore interesting impacts for each STEEP dimension in the next part.

Exploring second-order impacts

- Starting question:** If your first-order impact occurs, what second-order impacts could be triggered?
- Step 1 Ideation** (5–10 min): Each participant adds 1–2 second-order impacts per selected first-order impact.
- Step 2 Sense-making** (20 min): Ensure each second-order impact is understood by everyone. (If you are planning to do the optional steps, choose the 2 most interesting ones per STEEP category for further exploration.)

(Additional step: Exploring third-order impacts)

Third-order impacts are interesting if you want to explore long-term consequences. This step is similar to the exploration of second-order impacts. Here, the focus shifts to exploring consequences of second-order impacts.

Identifying themes

Emerging themes refer to issues that appear in the Futures Wheel and are supported by several impacts.

- Step 1 Identifying the themes** (5–10 min): Look at the first and second-order (additionally third-order) impacts and circle those that collectively form an emerging theme.
- Step 2 Naming the themes** (5–10 min): Give a name to the emerging themes and discuss their importance concerning the workshop topic.

Optional step: Identifying risks and opportunities

Apart from exploring relevant themes, you may select other approaches relevant to the workshop goal, for example, identifying future research questions, funding needs, or policy actions, or exploring risks and opportunities. The optional approach to identify risks and opportunities is illustrated below.

- Starting question:** If the previously identified impacts (2nd or 3rd order impact) occur, what risks or opportunities could arise? Focus only on direct cause-and-effect relationships.
- Step 1 Ideation** (5–10 min) Add 1–2 risks or opportunities per impact.
- Step 2 Sense-making** (20 min) Ensure that each risk and opportunity is understood by everyone.