NIA Quick Scan™

A Rapid Assessment of Narratives, Belonging, and Invisible Boundaries

Introduction

The NIA Quick Scan is a practical self-assessment tool designed to help municipalities, organisations, community groups, and project teams identify potential narrative risks and opportunities.

The tool can be completed in approximately 10–15 minutes.

It does not provide definitive answers.

Instead, it helps reveal questions that may otherwise remain invisible.

How to Use the Quick Scan

For each statement, select a score between 1 and 5.

Score	Meaning
1	Strongly Disagree
2	Disagree
3	Unsure
4	Agree
5	Strongly Agree

NIA Quick Scan™

Score **Meaning**

Section 1

Visibility

People affected by this initiative are clearly represented in discussions and decision-making.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

Different perspectives are actively included.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

The initiative recognises communities that are often overlooked.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____
Section subtotal			_____ / 15

NIA Quick Scan™

Score **Meaning**

Section 2

Belonging

The initiative strengthens people's connection to place.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

People can recognise themselves in the future being described.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

The initiative encourages participation rather than passive acceptance.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____
Section subtotal			_____ / 15

NIA Quick Scan™

Score **Meaning**

Section 3

Narrative Risks

The initiative avoids portraying communities primarily through deficits or problems.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

The language used avoids stigma and exclusion.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

The initiative does not unintentionally create an "us and them" dynamic.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____
Section subtotal			_____ / 15

NIA Quick Scan™

Score **Meaning**

Section 4

Future Narratives

The future being promoted is inclusive.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

Multiple futures remain possible.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

The initiative creates hope rather than resignation.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____
Section subtotal			_____ / 15

NIA Quick Scan™

Score	Meaning

Section 5

Strategic Alignment

The initiative's actions support its stated values.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

Communication aligns with intended outcomes.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____

Belonging is considered alongside economic and operational goals.

Score	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	**Notes / comments**	_____
Section subtotal			_____ / 15

Total Score

Total score	_____ / 75

Interpreting Your Results

60–75

Strong Narrative Alignment

The initiative appears to support visibility, belonging, and inclusive futures.

Continue monitoring for unintended consequences.

45–59

Moderate Narrative Risk

The initiative contains strengths but may overlook certain groups, places, or perspectives.

Further reflection is recommended.

30–44

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Significant Narrative Risk

The initiative may unintentionally reinforce exclusion, invisibility, or territorial stigma.

A Narrative Impact Assessment is recommended.

Below 30

High Narrative Risk

The initiative may contribute to people, places, or communities being talked away.

A comprehensive review is strongly recommended.

Reflection Questions

Who is most visible in this initiative?

Who is least visible?

Who benefits?

Who may be overlooked?

What future is being promoted?

Who is invited into that future?

Who may struggle to see themselves within it?

Reflection notes
_____
_____
_____

Guiding Principle

The purpose of the NIA Quick Scan is not to determine whether an initiative is good or bad.

Its purpose is to ask a simple but often overlooked question:

Who becomes more able to belong as a result of this initiative?