

Exercise: Simulation

Overview

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| ▪ Grade: from 10 th grade | ▪ Subjects: Politics |
| ▪ School form: general and vocational schools | ▪ Operators: deduce, discuss |
| ▪ Duration: 90 min | ▪ Group size: 20 |
| ▪ Method: Spontaneous Simulation | ▪ Social form: plenary discussion |
| ▪ Subject: How does the EU work | |

Description

The EU Commission is proposing a new EU-wide regulation. Border regions are to be strengthened with the help of coordination bodies. The exercise "Spontaneous simulation - EU regional policy and the internal market" allows participants to playfully explore how the EU works and simulate an EU consultation procedure.

Thanks to the prepared role cards, the simple and clearly formulated problem description and the reduced parliamentary discussion rules, the discussion can be started without much preparation. The exercise is very suitable for introducing students to parliamentary procedures.

Learning objectives

- Strengthening judgement skills.
- The students will be able to understand the position of their assigned role in relation to the problem and argue in line with their role.

Materials

1. Factsheet on the EU regulation
2. Role cards
3. Optional: role badges

Preparation

1. If possible, you can rearrange the tables and chairs into a plenary seating.
2. Print out the factsheets and role cards.

Procedure

1. The teacher briefly explains the background (see factsheet on EU regulation) and explains the rules of procedure for the discussion.

2. Depending on the size of the group, the roles should be selected to balance the positions. The roles can be played alone or in pairs.
3. The participants can be asked to prepare a sign indicating the role they are simulating and their EU country of origin so that all participants know who is taking part in the discussion.
4. The chair opens the meeting, takes attendance in turn and then indicates the majority.
5. The chair can then give the floor to each participant for a short opening statement.
6. Formal proceedings:
The Chair opens the list of speakers:
 - a. Each participant can be added to the list of speakers by a show of hands.
 - b. Each participant may only be on the list of speakers once at a time.
 - c. Each speaker has one and a half minutes to argue in favor of their own position. (The chair can set the time)
 - d. Possible addition: If there is still time after a speech, the speaker can either give up his/her time or declare him/herself open to questions.
 - i. If he/she gives up his/her time, the next speaker can speak.
 - ii. If he/she declares him/herself open to questions, the other participants can raise a question if they have one. The chair allows a question, the speaker can use their remaining speaking time to respond. (The question does not count as speaking time, but may not be used to make a statement).
7. Informal negotiations:
The formal discussion is dissolved and the participants move around the room to negotiate a compromise that is acceptable to the majority. Prior to this, the chair restates the majority ratios.
8. The chair ends the meeting when a proposal has been accepted or the time is up.

Timetable

1. Introduction to the exercise - 10 min
2. Role allocation and preparation - 15 min
3. Simulation - 45 min
4. Debriefing - 20 min