

# ROLE SHEETS I

## **Employee in the town administration (59, Portugal)**

He/she has worked for almost 30 years in the town administration of Elvas in Portugal, near the border with Spain. He/she is afraid that the new regulation will create many new procedures that will completely restructure his/her workflow. His/her department is not yet fully digitalized, so he/she is afraid that the EU regulation will cause a lot of work at first.

## **Citizen (73, France)**

When forest fires broke out across Europe in the summer of 2023, he/she lost everything. He/she lives in France near the Italian border. When the fires raged, cooperation between the French and Italian authorities did not work well. It is about time that procedures here were simplified and adapted!

## **Paramedic (38, Croatia)**

He/she thinks that the new regulation sounds reasonable, but he/she has reached his/her limits when it comes to the challenges in his/her own area of work. After all, in cases of illness, it is usually important to act fast. If there are questions about health insurance, you can't wait until a new authority has analyzed the situation before starting treatment.

## **Environmental architect (46, Slovakia)**

He/she works as an engineer in Slovakia and lives in Bratislava, close to the border with Austria. The Danube forms the border between the two countries. There are already several projects in which both countries are cooperating to protect the river landscape and the region from flooding. However, due to the regulations in Austria, he/she is not allowed to work on the projects. His/her professional qualification from Slovakia does not meet the Austrian requirements.

## **Mayor (52, Estonia)**

He/she is the mayor of Kilingi-Nõmme in Estonia, which borders Latvia. According to the Corruption Index, Estonia is rated "good", while Latvia is rated "medium". If the authorities' inspection procedures are standardized or simplified, the mayor fears that the standards for cross-border projects could fall.

# ROLE SHEETS II

## **Police officer (47, Greece)**

He/she is a police officer in Greece, close to the Bulgarian border. He/she thinks that the new regulation is a step in the right direction, but for his/her own work he/she requires more than a new authority that mediates in complex procedures. In order to be able to better investigate criminal cases across borders, the EU simply needs more competences not only to mediate, but also to resolve issues itself.

## **Ticket inspector at DB (38, Germany)**

When the €49 ticket was introduced in Germany, his/her work became more complicated because there is no uniform regulation for passengers as to how far their "Deutschlandticket" is still valid on cross-border routes. 60 transport associations in Germany have negotiated this individually for each route, meaning that holders of the Deutschlandticket have to check for each journey how far their ticket is valid. This has caused a lot of confusion.

## **Climate activist (23, Ireland)**

He/she believes that such institutions can only be a first step. Climate change clearly shows it does not stop at borders. This is why uniformity is particularly important for adaptation and prevention measures.

## **Retailer (44, Spain)**

As a retailer, he/she primarily sees advantages for him/herself in the European single market. He/she is therefore in favor of regulations that further expand it. After all, the EU must remain competitive with other economic powers. A reduction in bureaucracy can only be helpful here.

## **Forester (55, Sweden)**

He/she is a forester in the north of Sweden. The border with Finland partly runs through forest areas. It would be much more lucrative for him/her to be able to work in Finland too, as the forests border directly on his/her own territory. However, because the regulations in the two countries are different and he/she does not want to deal with the bureaucracy, he/she does not work across the border.

# ROLE SHEETS III

## **CEO (53, Netherlands)**

He/she would like to build many offshore wind turbines in the North Sea with his/her company. The fact that he/she has to comply with different rules and go through different procedures depending on whether he/she is working off the German, Dutch or Danish coast makes his/her work much more time-consuming and expensive.

## **Apprentice (22, Poland)**

He/she has completed an apprenticeship in Poland and would like to work in a Czech company. It is the largest company in the area. For a comparable job in Poland, he/she would have to move several hundred kilometers away. However, his/her education is not recognized in the Czech Republic.

## **Citizen (41, Italy)**

He/she remembers very well what it was like a few years ago during the Covid-19 pandemic. The borders in Europe were suddenly closed and he/she could no longer visit his/her family in Austria. That's why he/she thinks all forms of cooperation between the regions are good and is happy to see more EU presence in the regions.

## **Scientist (31, Belgium)**

He/she is part of the "European Travellers Club", a research group that focuses on how cross-border traffic in the border region between Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany can be improved. In recent years, he/she has noticed one thing: While Germany continues to rely on paper tickets, in the Netherlands chip cards are used to pay on the bus or train. These different systems complicate cross-border transport in the region.

## **Mayor (57, Rumania)**

He/she is the mayor of a small rural community in Romania. He/she thinks the idea itself makes sense, but is very worried about the actual consequences. He/she already suffers from a shortage of well-trained specialists in the countryside, especially those who are already familiar with EU law.

# ROLE SHEETS IV

## **Student (18, Lithuania)**

He/she grew up in Lithuania near the Polish border. Although he/she went to school in Lithuania, he/she also speaks Polish because his/her mother was born in Warsaw. He/she could therefore have imagined finishing school in Poland and then studying there. However, the recognition of his/her transcript was too much effort for him/her. But he/she doesn't know what a placement authority, which can only determine this and not change it, is supposed to do.

## **Job applicant (21, Poland)**

He/she has completed training in Poland and would like to work in a leading Czech company. Although he/she has already found an employer, he/she and his/her potential employer are prevented by bureaucratic obstacles on the part of the Czech authorities from facilitating the start of his/her career.

## **Senior citizen (88, Hungary)**

He/she is currently very worried because some countries - including his/her home country - increasingly block EU regulations and isolate themselves more and more. He/she is in favor of any form of cooperation.

## **Civil servant (33, Denmark)**

He/she is very proud of the new equipment at his/her office. Administrative processes in Denmark have been largely digital for a few years now. He/she has heard that Germany has not yet reached this level. Due to the new regulation and the associated cooperation, he/she fears that his/her authority in the border region with Germany will be held back in terms of digitalization.

## **Economist (49, Spain)**

He/she works at the University of Madrid on the European internal market. A few years ago, he/she was involved in a study that showed how the EU could increase its GDP and create jobs if it removed cross-border barriers. In his/her eyes, the new regulation needs to be introduced.

# ROLE SHEETS V

## **Craftsman (45, Germany)**

Since 2015, France has introduced a law requiring foreign craftspeople to register all employees, appoint a representative in France and translate all documents if they want to work in France. He/she lives in the Saarland and used to carry out many orders in France. But since the new regulation, the bureaucratic effort has become too complicated and it is no longer profitable. It would be good if the EU could mediate at this point!

## **Truck driver (48, Italy)**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, he/she was stuck in traffic jams at intra-European borders for days. At that time, there were no European regulations for such exceptional situations to ensure that vital goods could continue to be transported. Therefore, it is particularly important to him/her that authorities in border regions have crisis plans and coordinate these with each other.

## **Member of the CoR (39, Slovenia)**

As a member of the EU Committee of the Regions, he/she is enthusiastic about the new regulation. After all, it helps regions to increase their economic growth and creates jobs. In his/her eyes, it is therefore a very sustainable way of ensuring long-term improvement in the regions, regardless of ongoing financial support.

## **Member of a regional parliament (54, Croatia)**

He/she is very happy about the new regulation! He/she is a member of a regional parliament in Croatia near the Hungarian border. They have been trying to build a partnership with the neighboring Hungarian community for years, but the Hungarian community is refusing to cooperate. This makes life difficult for the residents. He/she knows from other regions that there is good cooperation on the border with Slovenia, for example. He/she hopes that the directive will facilitate negotiations.

## **Doctor (61, Austria)**

He/she is a doctor in Austria on the border with Germany. Due to the shortage of doctors there, many patients consult him/her. However, many of them don't know that they need permission from their health insurance company beforehand so that he/she can treat patients outside of Germany. He/she has often witnessed frustrated patients who then have to leave without treatment.