



Simulation game

EU Enlargement

This result has been developed as part of the 'Let's build Europe together!' project. The project brought together six European organisations active in the field of non-formal education, to create innovative methodology for education towards European citizenship. The project has been supported within the Grundtvig Partnership action of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission.

All the methodologies created within this project are a joint product of the consortium of partners. They were tested on adult learners from various European countries during four international seminars. Feedback from adult learners was used to improve these methodologies. This is the product of this process. Please feel free to use this methodology within your own educational activities. We will be happy for any feedback from your side.



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Information sheet for educators

What is this?

This is an innovative methodology that can be used in the framework of non-formal learning. The target group are adult learners. The methodology is freely available for you to use in your own educational activities.

What is the topic?

The topic of this learning module is enlargement process of the European Union. The module raises awareness of adults about how the process works, what is the role of different European institutions as well as the candidate countries.

What are the objectives of this methodology?

To enable learners to understand more about the enlargement process and the main actors

To raise awareness about the issues and problems that countries must solve before entering the EU

To reflect on the political basis for membership in the European Union and where the borders of EU are and should be

To promote teamwork and co-operation between learners

Who is the target group?

The learning module is adapted for use with adult learners. It has been developed by experience facilitators and tested during four international seminars with adult learners from different countries. The module expects no previous knowledge of the topic or only basic one. The module is adapted for use with disadvantaged adult learners and learners with special needs. Some of the issues are tackled in a relatively simplistic way.

However, it tries to show there are different points of view. Try to introduce complexity especially during the debriefing stage.

How does it work?

You should divide the adult learners into five groups:

European Commission

European Council

European Parliament

Yellowland – a fictional candidate country

Blueland – a fictional candidate country

You can find below various materials:

An instruction sheet explaining the enlargement process and instructions for the game

A fact sheet about Yellowland with fictional issues

A fact sheet about Blueland with fictional issues

You should follow the steps described in the instruction sheet. Participants from various groups interact together, negotiate about the problems and look together for solutions. Decision-making should happen as described in the instruction sheet.

Do not forget to debrief the activity with participants. Focus the debriefing on participants' views and perspectives about whether the EU should enlarge further and what are the criteria.

How much time do I need?

2 – 3 hours including debriefing

Where can I get more information or resources?

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_enlargement_of_the_European_Union

<http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/infobox-arguments-for-and-against-eu-enlargement/>

Workshop – Enlargement of the European Union

Description of the official enlargement process

- First, the countries, that would like to become a member, must **submit a written application** to the European Commission
- Then the **accession negotiations** take place. The Candidate Countries and the European institutions negotiate about 31 chapters. The Candidate Countries must **adapt their law**.
 - Each candidate country shall meet each European institution.
- The Candidate Countries **consult the problems** with all the EU institutions.
- **All the chapters must be closed** before the accession.
- After closing all the chapters, Candidate Countries and the European Council write together **the Accession Treaty**.
 - The Accession Treaty (on a big flipchart paper) should contain main points discussed during the negotiations.
- The European Commission must express **its opinion on the Treaty**.
- The European Parliament must **accept the Treaty**.
- Then it is sent to the Member States and Candidate Countries for **ratification** – for example by referendum (presented then in the Council)

Yellowland

Information about the candidate country

The statistic figures

Number of inhabitants: 9,981,334
Unemployment rate: 12.8% (2014 est.)
Real GDP growth: 0.3% (2014 est.)
Inflation rate: 2.2% (2014 est.)

Problems

- The Roma minority faces discrimination at schools – often excluded from regular schools and placed in special educational facilities without any reason
- The new media law enables politicians to exercise political control over the news in the main public TV station through appointing members of the TV station's board that has extensive competences
- Very high unemployment, neighbouring EU Member States are afraid of a large inflow of workers from Yellowland

Opportunities

- Stable economic conditions
- Developed in the field of information technologies
- High average level of education of the population
- Low level of corruption

Blueland

Information about the candidate country

The statistic figures

Number of inhabitants: 2 317 000

Unemployment rate: 9.1% (2014 est.)

Real GDP growth: 1.1% (2014 est.)

Inflation rate: 1.5% (2014 est.)

Problems

- The ethnic minority of Yellowlandians is being discriminated at work without sufficient legal protection
- Allegations of corruption in public procurement of highways
- High level of protectionism against international trade – fears that Blueland will not be able to compete within the EU internal market

Opportunities

- High usage of renewable energy sources (wind, solar, water etc.) – almost half of the consumption
- Investments in research and development
- Many foreign investments in the country
- Low government debt