



Simulation game

Interest Groups in the EU

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 the role of various interest groups in the EU. The policy-making of the European Union is significantly influenced by lobby groups and interest groups representing employers, employees, environmental groups, consumer protection groups and a wide range of other groups. This module enables adult learners to think about the role of these interest groups in the process.

What are the objectives of this methodology?

To make adult learners aware about the role of various non-state actors in EU decision-making

To simulate negotiations and political discussions between conflicting interests and opinions

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 three groups:

European Commission

North Sea Oil Company – industrial company

Ecological activists

Below you can find a fictitious article which you should distribute to the participants and give them time to read it. After that, they will have time in their groups to discuss their positions and prepare arguments. They can exchange their views with other groups and negotiate. At the end, a press conference is prepared. Representatives of each group should present their positions and proposals for future action.

Do not forget to debrief the activity with participants.

How much time do I need?

1 – 1.5 hours including debriefing

The European Union Times

Ecological disaster: Oil tanker Prometheus sank in the North Sea

Brussels, 10/08/2005 – Yesterday evening oil tanker Prometheus sank in the North Sea. The tanker was carrying 5 mil. tons of oil from Edinburgh, Great Britain to Hamburg, Germany. The tanker was 27 years old and not in very good conditions. One of the tanks carrying oil had broken and the oil started to run out of the tanker. This happened at 5 p.m. on 9th August. Relief work started after 8 hours to save the ship, but after 17 hours the tanker sank.

It caused huge ecological disaster. The oil has spread more than 30 kilometers from the place, where the tanker sank. The North Sea is home to hundreds of unique sea animals. A lot of fish died. The ecological activists are calling for immediate action to eliminate the pollution. They think that the relief work started too late. They appeal the European Union to create a system of immediate relief work in the cases of ecological disasters. They also want to make the rules for oil tankers stricter.

The North Sea Oil Company, owner of the oil tanker, doesn't comment on the situation. But due to some sources, it has more than 6 other oil tankers of the same age and conditions. It can be a serious danger. Representatives of the European Union said only that they will try to solve this situation and adopt some measure to protect the environment. Press conference of representatives of EU, The North Sea Oil Company and ecological activists will take place today.