
Simulations: a innovative teaching and learning method in (political) education

Sebastian Schäffer, M.A.

SeminarsSimulationsConsulting Europe



SSC Europe

Seminars
Simulations
Consulting
Europe

Agenda

- Introduction 03
- What is a simulation? 04
- Implementation 05
- Advantages 06
- Programme example 07
- Simulation FTT 08
- Who is SSC Europe? 09
- Structure SSC Europe 10
- Our experts 11

Introduction

Nowadays decision-makers and opinion leaders often illustrate political decisions as without an alternative – see the debate about the Euro

However: politics is never without an alternative. But: to develop alternative approaches independently, decision-making procedures have to be comprehensible

Some decision-making procedures are very complex and traditional ways of teaching cannot provide adequate insight

Simulations can help to provide this insight better than sole ex-cathedra teaching and offer alternative ways of thinking and acting

What is a simulation?

Simulations are a teaching method to bring students into exceptional learning situations

Simulations consist of three components:

1. a (social) environment of the system, i.e. the simulated body (e.g. Council of the EU)
2. an interactive simulation component, that describes a current political problem and offers background information to the participants through a role profile
3. a rule component, i.e. rules of procedure and decision-making processes

Implementation

A simulation consists of 4 phases:

Preparation

Introduction and
distribution of roles

Simulation and
negotiation

Evaluation

Advantages from learning through simulations

Practical skills

- strengthen social competences through interaction in a group
- train rhetoric skills through formulating own points of view
- improve negotiation tactics through implementing own positions
- foster creative thinking through building alliances to achieve own goals

Academic knowledge

- insight to multi-dimensional topics
- better understanding of the basic structures of (international) politics
- illustrate the decision making process between interest and power, but also personal values and political ideals
- practical introduction to complex issues

Programme example

Simulation on the financial transaction tax (FTT)

Day 1

until 14:00 arrival
15:00 – 16:00 Uhr introduction
16:15 – 18:00 Uhr EU institutions

Tag 2

09:00 Uhr energizer
09:15 – 10:15 Uhr introduction to the simulation
10.30 – 12.00 Uhr first round of negotiations
13.00 – 15.00 Uhr second round of negotiations
15.30 – 17.00 Uhr third round of negotiations
17.00 – 18.00 Uhr closing of the simulation

Day 3

9:00 energizer
9:15 – 10:15 discussion FTT

0:30 – 12:00 future of the EU

13:00 – 14:00 evaluation and closing of
 the seminar

14:00 departure

**We gladly develop a customized
proposal to meet your specific needs!**

Simulation on the FTT

- simulation of the ECOFIN
- decision-making about the introduction of the FTT in the EU
- understanding of the decision-making procedures of the EU
- explanation of important terms as ESM, fiscal pact, euro rescue fund



Who is SSC Europe?

- Seminars Simulations Consulting (SSC) Europe is a network for mediators of (political) education
- we develop seminars, summer schools and individual events with innovative teaching and learning methods
- further information: www.ssc-europe.eu



Structure SSC Europe

SSC Europe

Pillar I

Pillar II

Seminars

Simulations

Consulting

Network

Our experts



Sebastian Schäffer

- European Neighbourhood Policy, Western Balkans, EU-Russia relations



Michael Bauer

- Middle East, EU, international security policy



Christoph Schnellbach

- European Integration, EU enlargement, minority policy



Jörg Siegmund

- Policy evaluation, Good Governance, democracy analysis



Johanna Polsfuß

- mentoring and conflict management, intercultural learning and intercultural training, coaching



Judith Hartmann

- Theory and practice of political activism, Intercultural communication, United Nations politics



Jerome Kuchejda

- North and West Africa, Democracy Promotion, Development Cooperation