



Simulation Game on education in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Russia

- ▶ This handbook was created within the framework of the project “Simulation Game on education in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Russia”. The project is implemented with the joint cooperation of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Creative Development Center (CDC).

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ISBN 978-9941-0-9389-0

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Introduction

The project “Simulation Game on education in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Russia (SGE)” aimed to promote the principles of social justice, equal opportunity, and participation in the education system among all groups of society. The project aimed to promote society’s inclusive development through raising awareness and addressing challenges such as accessibility of education and equality of opportunity. Simultaneously, the project’s basis is to discuss similarities and differences within the EaP countries and Russia, similarities which are connected to these countries’ shared past. The project itself involved an innovative concept that illustrated the specifics of the education systems of each country, all of which having gone through difficult transitions and currently striving toward increased levels of development. Additionally, the nature of the format provided an opportunity for participants to obtain new and strengthen existing bargaining skills. The project brought together young people from all seven countries. It was thus a mechanism for evaluating current developments as well as providing a platform for youth to express themselves and grow into future leaders in the region.

The Project was jointly implemented by the FES Regional Office “Dialogue Eastern Europe”, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South Caucasus Regional Office, and the Creative Development Center (CDC).

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is a non-profit German political foundation committed to the values of social democracy, founded in 1925 and named after Friedrich Ebert, the first democratically-elected president of Germany. Today, the FES carries out activities in more than 100 countries to promote democracy, social dialogue, and social justice. The offices most involved in this project were the FES Regional Office “Dialogue Eastern Europe” and the FES South Caucasus Regional Office.

The newly established FES Regional Office “Dialogue Eastern Europe” promotes mutual understanding and exchange between the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

In addition, it works to support regional dialogue between these countries on the one hand and Germany and the European Union on the other.

The FES South Caucasus office has operate for more than twenty years in the region and aims to support democracy, peace and social justice, education, and research. It fosters civil society development and urges pluralism through the participation of multiple actors in political decision-making processes. Finally it promotes international and regional dialogues for promoting peace and security.

The Creative Development Center was established in February 2014 as a continuation of the work of an initiative group that has implemented a number of projects in Georgia and the South Caucasus since 2009. The organization works within three main directions, which are:

- Supporting youth empowerment;
- Peace building and conflict management; and
- Social Entrepreneurship and innovation.

The staff of the CDC has experience working with conflict-affected people and youth from rural areas using innovative methods including Social ART, simulation games, and Forum Theatre. The organization also actively mentors young people and students facing the challenge of entering the labor market.

The organization has experience working with participants from different countries primarily in conflict-affected areas such as Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Russia. The organization identifies two main target groups:

Young people ages 7-25: CDC empowers those groups with various tools mentioned above.

Upper age groups, who mainly represent multipliers, working with young people and conflict-affected communities: CEC empowers these groups with new knowledge and tools, including simulation games. CEC also works on ToT programs in different directions. In 2015 alone CEC trained roughly 100 trainers through long-term programs around Caucasus, Ukraine, Turkey, and EU countries.

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1. What is a Simulation Game?

A Simulation Game is an elaborate tool for training, mocking a real life situation and projecting the potential outcomes of an action. It involves games, role-plays, case studies and socio-drama circumstances to simulate representations of reality situations. In most cases, Simulation Games are used to develop the capabilities of the players/participants to take decisions by providing a model of reality allowing the players to create a particular dynamic that captures their interest through competition, incentives for success and a scoring component. Here are some academic definitions of Simulation Games:

A Simulation Game is

“a relatively open political or economical [or social] problem situation which is educational-didactical, simplified, and demands a solution”; or

“a didactical method/activity in which many participants separate into different groups and interact in given roles and different scenes.”

Simulation Games offer possibilities to test communication and organizational competencies in a risk-free environment. They also foster the development of decision-making skills while participants work to attain specific objectives. In a broader sense, Simulation Games allow creators to design, implement and optimize policies and approaches. The simulation tools allow participants to collaborate, without making costly mistakes, in order to obtain fruitful results. Simulation Games follow the “learning by doing” principle.

There are three main elements of a Simulation Game:

1. Simulation = Model of reality → constructed and simplified; cannot be totally objective.

2. Role play → participant is active in influencing the development of the game dynamic.

3. Rules → interaction between participants is organized in a concrete way, for example:

- Participants can meet only in interest groups or at a round table
- Participants must use official action forms to address each other

- Participants must prepare press releases to interact with other actors via a press team.

A crucial part of developing Simulation Games is setting learning goals, which can be formulated in the following ways:

Learning goals:

- Establish contact with unknown people/groups through role-playing
- Reflect personal opinions through a change in perspective
- Increase empathy
- Develop increased motivation/understanding of topic/simulated reality (institutions/conflict)
- Increase understanding of actors
- Develop and test new strategies in a safe environment
- Improve negotiating skills
- Work effectively in a team
- Increase self-awareness/self-reflection (how you act under pressure/how you handle conflicts/how you handle your role and personal opinions)

While working on the Simulation Game, it is important to use checklists in order not to miss any important details. Checklists are helpful for answering the following questions:

1. **Overall topic/content** of the game or seminar: What is the main topic?
2. Definition of **learning goals**: What is the purpose of the game? What should the participants learn?
3. **Problem situation**
 4. **Setting**: In which framework are the participants attempting to solve/handle the problem situation? What is the focus?¹

¹ Training Manual, Simulation Games for Transition, 2013. CRISP e.V

2. Game Structure

Based on the game scenario, the facilitator must draw out the game structure, providing an answer to the following question: how will the simulation practically take place? For the sake of strategic planning, it is important to define different time units for the participants. For example: how long will the conference last? How much time will the participants have for negotiations? A possible structure could be:

- i. Planning phase
- ii. Working in small groups
- iii. Free negotiations 1
- iv. Lunch
- v. Free negotiations 2
- vi. Free negotiations 3
- vii. Final conference

Some simulations require specific settings. Thus, the facilitator should consider the following factors prior to holding the simulation:

- *Formal versus informal*: to assist the participants in getting into the role, the setting should match the scenario given.

Ex: Simulation on the Security Council – conference

Setting: organization of tables, flags disposition on the tables, water bottles, name tags with the representing countries, etc.

- *Number of rooms (some or all actor groups could have their own private room)*: This is recommended especially if you include a press team in your simulation.

- *Adequate space (outside)*: Especially for Simulation Games that include many informal negotiations, it is helpful for participants to

have adequate physical space with which to hold private and undisclosed conversations.²

² Training Manual, Simulation Games for Transition, 2013. CRISP e.V

3. Scenario - Educational Crisis in Ednovia

Main Goal:

Find an optimal solution to the recent crises

Background Information:

Ednovia is a unitary parliamentary republic with a population of 14 million people. Ednovia's government is based on a semi-presidential representative democracy. It is currently governed by the Liberal Party. Ednovia has several modern cities but the rest of the country is considered to be poor and characterized by a lack of education and job opportunities for young people. Access to education among all sections of the population is one of the country's most pressing problems. The state shows only a minimal sense of social responsibility toward marginalized groups, especially in terms of education. High tuition fees, the high cost educational materials, and the fact that for many young people time spent studying is time not spent earning money for their families, youth from wealthy families enjoy privileged access to secondary and higher education. Ednovia's current educational system reinforces the cycle of inequality and injustice that is shaped by divisions between various social groups. Additionally, the country suffers from brain-drain due to many well-educated students leaving to go abroad. Even well-educated graduates face difficulties finding an adequate job, so instead leave the country to find a decent job and build a better life.

History of Ednovia: Ednovia was previously bigger and wealthier. However, in 1974 the state disintegrated due to internal conflicts and was mired in civil war for more than 20 years. This led Ednovia to lag behind in development compared to other states and

suffer persistent economic crises. Due to these factors, the allocation of funds for educational reform is a challenge for the state. Before the country's disintegration, the educational system was more effective but standards of education dramatically decreased as did the system's role in fostering equal opportunities. A new paradigm emerged whereas responsibility for education is viewed less a part of the public sphere and more of a private matter. Funding was cut and a heavier burden was placed on private shoulders.

Economic Situation: The economy of Ednovia is an emerging free market currently suffering from an ongoing downturn. The leading industries are mining, power generation, and agriculture. One of the country's fastest growing industries is information technology. Fiscal revenues, which come mostly from taxes, are chronically low due to persistent recession.

Many youth are unable to receive education at all due to limited financial resources. The government justifies current education policy by referencing economic problems and the fact that expanding financial support for higher education is not a priority. The government's argument is that obtaining funding for higher education is the responsibility of students themselves, as they are the ones who will benefit from it in the future. Thus each year many students fail to matriculate and remain without higher education. Many of those who manage to obtain academic degrees don't find jobs afterwards because of a lack of job opportunities for qualified graduates and because universities often fail to prepare students for the demands of the labor market. In Ednovia education tends to be very theoretical and many graduates lack the skills to put their theoretical knowledge into practice.

Political situation: The next parliamentary elections will take place in six months. For this reason, the government fears major

developments (e.g. protests demanding reforms) in the country. At the same time, it doesn't want to lose the votes of students so is offering a window of opportunity for discussion and negotiation. Unrest is the last thing the government wants to risk ahead of the elections. The opposition parties are more on the side of the students and therefore support large-scale reforms, and accordingly hope to gain influence following the upcoming elections.

Case

Educational system:

One of the key problems in Ednovia's education system is limited accessibility for large sections of the population's youth. As the state views the responsibility for higher education to rest primarily with the private sphere, state funding for education remains low. Consequently, the quality of university education is inadequate and characterized by a lack of equipment and materials, whereas at the same time students are forced to pay high tuition fees for university education. Average tuition fees are double the average household income in Ednovia. Eighty-five percent of students have to take out loans from banks and other financial institutions, while many others cannot afford higher education at all. Additionally, what little public funding that is available for university studies seems to be allocated irrationally and insufficiently. Due to the economic situation, the government has claimed that Ednovia cannot afford valuable, constructive, and sustainable changes to the educational system. The government devotes more energy to economic questions, as until now educational reform was not a priority.

Transparent and accountable administration is another challenge facing the universities. The education system is outdated and hasn't been reformed for many years. Lecturers lack proper training in methodology and there are many documented cases of corruption at almost all universities. Moreover, the existing system for student self-government is unable to protect students' rights and its members often

abuse their power for personal benefit. Due to their discredited status they lack the legitimacy to represent the student body and the majority of students aren't willing to use the student self-government to voice complaints. Outdated institutional agencies within the universities are thus obstacle for implementing modern standards and approaches.

For these reasons, the new semester in Ednovia started with student unrest, with students protesting corruption at the country's state universities. Protests started on a small scale with students demanding equality at the university level as well as rational spending of limited resources. The increasing media coverage and growing support from civil society activists emphasized the issue and brought it to the attention of the government. Nevertheless, government representatives aren't willing to negotiate on the reallocation of resources or substantial reform of higher education. However, after protests reached their climax and especially since the elections are approaching the government expressed its readiness to talk with the students. The decision to allocate funding for higher education would mean spending less on other sectors, however, so the government first sought other ways to calm down the protesters.

Triggering the protests was the fact that several weeks ago the student self-government at Ednovia State University spent a relatively large amount of the university budget on a party to which mostly elite students were invited. Students started demonstrations to express their disapproval over the incident but also to express general dissatisfaction with the educational situation. **They demanded** equality within the university in all matters and promoted **Education as a Human Right**. As students at the other universities have similar experiences they joined the protests in the following weeks and organized large-scale, joint demonstrations. At the beginning of the protests the students' main focus was on technical and administrative issues, but the demands soon expanded into the accessibility and quality of education. Many young people worry that education is not a high priority for the government and that effecting changes at the policy level will be difficult. The

students main demand is that higher education be made available to everyone either for free or for a minimal fee, which is currently not the case as fees are very high.

University: Ednovia is part of the Bologna process. It has 27 State Universities (financed by the government) at which roughly 270,000 students are currently enrolled.

The state supports the universities by providing a certain amount of money per year but it's not near enough to cover all the costs. Therefore, the universities still need to charge high fees from their students, which many students and families can't afford. Average annual fees are higher than the average annual income of in the typical family in Ednovia. That's why the majority of students have to obtain bank loans, and even if the loan is approved they're still in debt before having even begun their professional lives. There are no dormitories, which makes life complicated for students who come from rural areas to attend the universities. Furthermore, there are very few jobs for students.

Theoretical education dominates state universities; there is a lack of practical approaches to certain topics. Universities have good exchange programs although places are very limited and only a few get the opportunity to participate. State universities are old and established and prefer traditional, conservative methods of education. The majority of university directors are not open to innovative teaching methodologies. Students complain that this presents an obstacle for the development of critical thinking and professional skills among students, as the universities are not ready to accept the new approaches demanded by students. The outdated university administrative system promotes the previous century's framework in terms of methodology, curriculum, and materials.

Each university has a student self-government which is closely linked to the university administration and is traditionally close to the government. It does not serve social or educational aims at the university level and is mostly a mechanism that the university

administration and government representatives use to control the students, especially during the active political process. Being active in the student self-government usually means having privileged access to jobs in the state government. Moreover, student self-governments are often invited by the government to participate in events.

Students' movement:

The students are extremely unhappy with the current situation and thus organized a movement in order to protest against the system. Students have been complaining for a long time, but until recently their ideas were considered neither by the former nor the current government. Additionally, it should be mentioned that previous protest movements were relatively weak, while this new movement has united the majority of students in mass protest.

This is the first time in Ednovia's history that students have managed to organize themselves and stage large protests. Thousands of students took to the streets and demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Education holding posters with slogans such as "Equal Education for all." The motivation behind their demand is that education is a human right and should be accessible to everyone. These demands require changes at the policy level, including **amendment of the state education policy** and creation of a mechanism for a free or partly student-funded state education system. The students asked for a meeting with the representatives of all stakeholders involved in the decision-making process to negotiate potential reforms. The students claim that if reforms aren't introduced they will launch larger protests and disrupt the beginning of the new semester at Ednovia state university.

Demands of the students' movement:

- 1. Foster equality of education through amendment of the state education policy/legislation and include the mechanism of free or partly funded state education system;**
- 2. Foster access to education by subsidizing education policy, meaning minimal fee or free education;**
- 3. Introduce a system of scholarships and loans for students subsidized by the state.**
- 4. Improve efficiency of spending through, efficient allocation of funds, which means higher spending for Education and government to realize more its Social responsibility.**
- 5. Eliminate corruption at the university administrative level. More democratic principles in the decision-making bodies of universities, as well as involvement of students in the process and reform of the students self-government system.**
- 6. Improve quality of education through updating syllabuses and promoting modern methodologies and enriching libraries with Ednovian Language Literature.**

3.1 Roles of the Simulation Game

Name: Jonathan Campbell
Status: Minister of Education

Personal information:

You were born in a small village in Ednovia and from youth you tried your best to study hard and become successful. You studied at Ednovia State University and admired people who worked in politics. You gained lots of contacts by doing internships with different public entities, and eventually you joined a political party. Your efforts at the leading party have been appreciated and you have recently been appointed Minister of Education. You represent the party “Strong Ednovia” and, though you are part of a coalition government, your party has the largest number of mandates. You believe in strong, authoritative government and that students should accept given norms in school and society, as well as respect the current hierarchical model of higher education.

You were taken by surprise when the students’ protest movement spread and began to receive support from various members of society.

Goals:

As you have been recently appointed Minister of Education you don’t want to radically change the system, especially in the light of upcoming parliamentary elections. In addition, since you are part of a government coalition representing parties with different political ideologies you know it will be almost impossible to find common ground within the government on education reform. Another reason for your stance is the leftist demands of the students, who demand free education that it accessible for all. This does

not fit into your ideological values; rather you are against it because you don't consider it to be the government's responsibility.

A second important point is that, as part of the deal regarding your appointment, your party agreed to stick to the current education budget and as long as government has other priorities it won't consider reallocation of funds. The dilemma is that the results of the upcoming elections depend almost entirely on how you handle the education crisis.

Your goals are to engage in discussions with all stakeholders, to demonstrate to the students understanding and willingness to change, to assure the Rectorate that you are on the same page, and to delay the final decision until after the elections. On the other hand, you have to negotiate with the Ministry of Finance to allocate more money to the Ministry of Education; this means cutting the budget in other sectors. You realize that despite your political beliefs you have to show at least some steps towards reform in order to ensure the students' votes;

You must try to persuade all parties, as you need votes in the election. Otherwise, there are high chances you may lose your job.

Name: Amanda Powell

Status: Minister of Labor and Social Protection

Personal information:

You are the much-acclaimed Minister of Labor and Social Protection. You graduated from one of the world's most prominent universities. Even though you had many offers from different international organizations you decided to go back to your country and accept a job in the government. You are backed by the second-largest party in the coalition government "The Democratic Party" which stands for quality education as a right for everyone regardless of his or her economic resources. You the government and took on the position because you believe that the rights to education, healthcare, and social services are important to individual opportunities in life, and if everyone can get a good education and look after his/her health also means that more people can contribute to the workforce, making the economy stronger. In your capacity as Minister of Labor and Social Protection, you have implemented a series of much-needed reforms and you have gained the respect and support of a large majority of population. You also want your party to win in the upcoming elections so you can continue your reforms.

Goals:

In your position of Minister and Labor and Social Protection you are worried about vulnerable groups in the country. You are an open-minded and flexible person and you understand the urgent need for reforms. Additionally, due to your leftist views you are aware of the state's social responsibility. But on the other hand, you realize that the Ministry of Finance as the leading government institution is opposed to reforms due to limited economic capacity.

Your goal is to persuade the government to adopt a series of new reforms in the field of education, such as: inclusive and accessible education, affordable fees for students from vulnerable groups, and up-to date curricula. You are considering promoting the idea of reducing the

budget from other sectors in favor of education projects with social objectives, but you are simultaneously afraid that this money could be taken from your ministry.

You are also thinking about the forthcoming elections. As you want to keep your job and continue the work you are doing, the Democratic Party must secure a large number of votes.

Name: Andrew Kundera

Status: Minister of Finance

Personal information:

All your life you have been in love with numbers, so you studied hard to achieve your best in mathematics. You also always understood that having smart people be responsible for numbers is the key to the success of the country. After successfully finishing your MA exchange program in the UK, with help of your political friendship, you were asked to take post of Minister of Finance. You have a lot of experience and in the past were part of different governments. You understand that of the current unrest has a big impact on the country's unstable economy. You think it is not the time for education reforms because the budget has no room for them. You expect after the election to receive an International Monetary Fund delegation in order to ensure some additional funding from international donors. This unstable situation is creating chaos and having a negative impact on the economy, thus affecting the state's budget income. Besides, it creates a bad image with foreign investors. Therefore, you want to put an end to the protest movement.

Goals:

Your goal is to join the Minister of Education in providing arguments to protesters about the impossibility of implementing their desired reforms (which require budget adjustments) before the election, since there is such a short time left (only six months), as well as to make arguments about the impact the protest movement is having on the country's economic situation. But you also understand that the student movement could affect the final results of the elections; therefore, you are working with your colleagues to find the best solution. Your pragmatic character does not allow you to be empathic for a chaotic group of students.

Name: Ronald Ferds

Status: Rector of the Ednovia State University

Personal information:

You are 55 years old. You have dedicated yourself to science since finishing your BA studies at the same university where you presently serve as head. You are a professor and rector of the biggest state university in Ednovia. You have the highest scientific degree and you are a member of the National Academy of Science. You have a lot of honorary titles and even state awards: The Order of Wisdom and some other medals. You have good relationships with the Ministry of Education and even some good connections in higher government circles.

You have been working as Rector of Ednovia State University for 13 years. Before that you had been working as a lecturer at the same university for almost 20 years. You know all and everything about your university and are very proud of it. You work hard to maintain the university's traditions as well as its good name.

Goals

You were deeply offended by the students' protests. You see it as a betrayal of your alma mater and to the all professors and lecturers. Also, you see it as a personal insult, because your students didn't try to solve problems within the university but dared to make the issues public. You feel very ashamed in front of the government and Ministry of Education. If they made you retire you probably wouldn't survive such a shame, so you have gathered all your supporters around you to make the best decisions and statements.

You are ready to do your best in order to stop the students' nonsense. You are not going to bow their demands because you're sure their ideas will lead to you being fired from your position. You are going to take

*severe measures to punish the protest leaders and all disloyal students.
You are not going to allow them to put you in such a difficult situation.*

Name: Tom York

Status: Rector of the Free University of Ednovia

Personal information:

You are a 46-year-old man from a small city in Ednovia. You have dedicated yourself to the family business in your town, but after realizing how popular business has become among young people, you've decided to try and make changes through the education system. With the support of your friend, the founder of the Free University, you started to teach students and soon became rector of the largest private university of Ednovia. It was your dream to be useful in society. Educational method had not been updated since you were a student. You are interested in making changes. You have a family: a wife and two children – 22 y.o daughter and 20 y.o son – and you know how difficult it is for them to find jobs.

Goals:

You are interested in your university's popularity and you want to have more students attend. You know the government doesn't want to support private universities, and this influences demand from future students and their parents. The government and education system as a whole try to maintain the status quo. They are content supporting only state universities, their only interest is to receive tax revenue from universities. You think that all universities should have equal rights and that no university should be able to receive state donations, as that decreases your chances of getting higher numbers of students. The popularity and development of your university can be achieved through changes to the education system. Because plans and methodological programs are accepted by the Ministry of Education, you need the support of the student movement in order to change the system. Private universities have more autonomy than

state universities on decisions about professors' and experts' selection. This leads to higher educational quality. Future employers are interested in qualified employees who can work on real, practical cases. Increasing the independence of universities will produce better-qualified graduates and improve the situation on the labor market.

You want to be the future Minister of Education, but you understand that there is much corruption in the ministry currently. You would like to use the student movement to help bring down the current Minister of Education and make yourself a candidate for the position.

Name: Olivia Watson

Status: Lecturer of inclusive education/expert on education reform

Personal Information:

You are a 32-year-old woman from the capital of Ednovia. You graduated with a Master's degree in one of the most famous and best universities on the continent (6th rated in the World). You are an expert in Inclusive Education and would be the best candidate to serve as lead reformer. You have participated in reforms made to improve educational systems in Europe as well as in bordering countries who went through the same processes that Ednovia faces now. You provide consultations for the student movement voluntarily – you clearly support the student movement, though you also have your own ideas which differ from theirs. Additionally, you are a lecturer at a private university.

Goals:

Your main goal is to provide assistance to the students and supportive lecturers on decision-making and argumentation for the reforms to be suggested to the Ministry. You are concerned about the affordability of education for everyone, though you support a mixed system. For instance, if the student movement asks for equal opportunity for every student to study, that means publicly-funded education for everyone. You push for a more mixed policy: education can be free, but not for everybody, only for those who require it due to their financial situation. Also, you want to change the university program so that your subject utilizes high technologies during studies, as well as to update the curriculum to be modern and provide more competitive advantages for your students. You support the possibility

of all interested parties (students, government, ministers, lecturers) to participate in decision-making and execution of the reforms.

Name: Andrea Tors

Position: Dean of faculty of Economy at Ednovia State University

Personal information:

You are a 62-year-old professor, female, at Ednovia State University. You and the rector became best friends, as you mostly share the same values. You have been working for 31 years for the university as an economics lecturer with little adaptations in your subject. You think that your subject does not need improvements in providing information and experience to your students. You are two years past the age of retirement but are still working because you need money for living and because younger lecturers are more prone to work at private universities, because of the higher salaries.

Goals:

You are against any changes, as you understand that your qualification is not enough for current developments. You do not want to change curriculum or methodology as you understand you will not be able to work with that amount of new information and technologies, and you are certain that the education you provide is a classic example of how economics should be taught. You don't want to spend your time researching up-to-date examples and cases for your students, because you do not see these innovations as useful. You are very conservative and oppose students trying to be more creative during home task preparation. You need your position because in one year you will receive a second flat as a bonus of your work. Your main goal is to maintain the situation as it was before the protests.

Name: George Hugo

Status: Ex-Student at Ednovia State University (who was forced to quit his studies for financial reasons)

Personal information:

You are a 20-year-old male. You quit your education because your family does not have the capacity to pay tuition or take out loans as long as they have very high rates. Additionally, while enrolling in university you refused to pay bribes to the lecturers when taking exams. You are a civil activist that is involved in the student movement. You always stand for the rights of students and speak out against inequality and corruption, and you support the student movement which could lead to positive changes in the education system. You are smart and get good marks in university with the lecturers that you consider to be fair. Other students trust you for your honesty.

Goals:

Your main goal is helping the student movement to reach its aims of: establishing equality by making education accessible for all; cutting down the corruption and harmful influence of political parties in the education system; and bringing fresh approaches into the educational system. You want to reform the system and try to create a change of perspective in all the parties involved in the conflict between students, authorities, university policymakers, lecturers, political parties, and others.

You want others to have the opportunity which you were denied due to financial constraints; that's why your main focus is to introduce a system of scholarships and loans for students that is subsidized by the state.

You permanently conduct demonstrations at the university or near the Ministry of Education. You attempt to organize students to produce a document with precise demands and recommendations from students. You collect signatures from the students and will submit a petition to the authorities. In this way you seek to shed light on the situation, highlight the problems facing the education system, and prevent future students from sharing your fate.

Name: Bryan Kenyon

Position: Pro-government TV journalist at Ednovia State TV station

Personal information:

You are a 26-year-old TV journalist who represents pro-government media. You present news only from the perspective of the political party for whom you work. You are not objective but you must hide your bias and demonstrate that you are trying to express the views of both sides involved in the conflict. The ruling political party gives you additional money to invite only guests from their party to appear on your TV shows and interviews. You want to avoid clashes with students while at the same time serve the ruling party. You clearly understand that they could kick you off the air for failing to act accordingly.

Goals:

Your main goal is to serve pro-government media and fulfill their requirements. You should show everything in a natural way, trying to show that the ruling governmental party, educational system, and approaches to education are in the right and that the student movement is a project of the opposition, who are using the students for their own interests. Your task is to maintain good relations with all parties of conflict while at the same time presenting in a positive light only the government while spreading distrust in the student movement.

Name: Adam Shunts

Status: Reporter at Ednovia State TV station

Personal information:

You are a 23-year-old reporter working with Bryan Kenyon. Bryan is your supervisor and has had a huge influence on your work. You cooperate a lot; Bryan gives you suggestions on what reports you should write, whom you should report on, etc. You are the son of one of the lecturers at the university which is dealing with the student movement, and you always try to stand up for the university and show in your articles that the system satisfies current needs, the approach of lecturers is creative and fresh, the lecturers are qualified, and there is no corruption because everyone works with devotion and passion.

Goals:

Your goal is to show that the student movement's demands have no grounds, they have no vision or mission, and they disturb the normal rhythm of student life and studies. You should try to help Bryan and cooperate with him in order to split the student movement and arouse suspicions of the movement.

Name: Ana Kandeliani

Status: Independent media house: CITY TV journalist

Personal information:

You are a 31-year-old, experienced, highly-skilled TV journalist. You are neutral. You graduated from the Ednovia State University. You are quite knowledgeable about the educational system, both the positive and negative sides of it. You try to portray it as objective as possible, trying to build bridges between both sides of the conflict. You are trying to organize press conferences and round tables where both sides can express their opinions and find the “Golden Middle”, the best solution to the problem. You represent the CITY TV company that you and your friends established and that is now a successful independent media house.

Goals:

Your main goal is to portray reality, to be neutral, and to give space for students to express their ideas, ideologies, and what they want to change and how. You clearly see that pro-government media representatives are not objective and instead serve a specific political body. You oppose this because you believe that mass media should show objective information and serve the needs of society at large. You try to speak with your colleagues to improve their strategies and listen to other parties to the conflict. Students trust you and always ask you for suggestions for their future activities.

Name: Martin Dorman

Status: The Leader of the Student Self-Government at Ednovia State University

Personal Information:

You are a 22-year-old student at Ednovia State University. You are the leader of the university's Student Self-Government. You got this position through your contacts in the government. You are doing your MA in International Relations. You pass the exams and get high marks through your "reputation". You participate in all activities that support the government.

Goals:

Your main goal is to oppose changes to the education system and passage of new laws initiated by the student movement. Your other aim is to keep your powerful post by any means necessary. For this, you support the current education system and laws, and do your partner students. You also support the ruling party and government. Because you have close relations with them, see yourself as a future politician. You and your organization form the best youth policy "model" for the government. It is suitable for you that the current situation doesn't change. First of all, if a new system is established you may lose your post and the comfort it provides as well as your chances for a political career. You also spend most of your time working on self-government issues.

Name: Laura Archon

Status: Member of Self-Government

Personal Information:

You are a law student at Ednovia State University in your final year. You are 21. From the age of 12 you wanted to be lawyer. You are an active member of the Student Self-Government and you participate in all activities. But, you consider the leader of Self-Government to be unworthy of the post. You know he was appointed by the government. Also, you are activist in the Women's Movement. You support the leadership of women and you are against keeping all higher posts in Self-Government with men.

Goals:

You want to become the new leader of Self-Government. For this, you get close to the student movement. You think that if a new system is created, Self-Government will be reformed democratically and you would be elected leader in democratic elections. But you are neutral in this movement, because you are not entirely displeased with the education system and laws. Though you are part of Self-Government, you want democracy in the student organization, not bureaucracy. Correspondingly, you are torn between changing the self-government system and trying to maintain its influence at the university.

Name: Tony Taylor

Status: The leader of the Student Movement

Personal Information:

You are a 24-year-old male. You are a master student at Ednovia State University's faculty of Management. You also did your BA in the same university but you participated in the Erasmus exchange program, which gave you the chance to be part of the European education system and filled you with many ideas. You are displeased with Ednovia's education system and laws, you are tired of inequality and firmly against the self-government. Therefore, you established the movement seven months ago with your partner students. You lead the movement and have decided to keep it very active and radical.

Goals:

Your aim is changing the current education system at the policy level, as long as small scale changes don't make a difference. You have a strictly-leftist ideology and are keen on equality principles and stressing the social responsibilities of the government.

From the beginning, you raised complains about corruption and misallocation of funds within the university. While protesting, you realized that all these problems are part of a bigger process which requires systemic changes. That's why you decided to concentrate on real problems and highlight issues such as the equal accessibility of education for all.

Taking into consideration all these issues, you started a large movement in the country with your friends. You aim to influence not only the Ministry of Education, but also other bodies of government such as the Ministry of Finance (because to make these changes the government should cut the budget for other agencies or institutions),

the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (because the movement has a strong social issue-oriented character), and others. You try to involve everybody: NGOs, the Media, governmental authorities and others to strengthen the movement.

Your movement demands:

- 1. Fostering equality of education through amendments to the state education policy to include a mechanism for a free or partly-funded state education system;*
- 2. Fostering accessibility of education through subsidizing education policy, which means minimal-fee or free education;*
- 3. Introducing a system of scholarships and loans for students that is subsidized by the state;*
- 4. Improving efficiency of spending through efficient allocation of funds, which means higher spending on Education and pushing the government to more realize its social responsibilities.*
- 5. Eliminating corruption at the university administrative level, with more democratic principles in decision-making bodies of the university and involvement of students in this process; and reforming of the student self-government system;*
- 6. Improving quality of education through updating syllabuses, promoting modern methodologies, and enriching libraries with Ednovian Language Literature.*

Name: Clary Martins

status: Students representative at the office of the Ombudsman of Ednovia

Personal Information:

You are student representative at the office of the Ombudsman. Your main duties are to represent students in the government, to protect their rights, and to be their voice when the government makes decisions about education. You have good contacts in the government. You are well-accepted by the government because of your background and positive reputation. The student's respect you and, simultaneously, you can also influence government decisions. You are the link between students and the government.

Goals:

Your aim is to assess the current situation correctly and to choose the best path toward a solution that would make students better off. However, due to your position it is required from you to keep a neutral profile and consider the perspectives of all groups of students: one group supports the current education system and legislation, others want to change it. It hampers your work, because you should listen to both sides and choose a diplomatic position. If you cannot find a balance, dissatisfied sides will attempt to replace you as their representative. Correspondingly, you should analyze the entire situation and listen to all sides carefully.

You personally support reforms, having positive attitudes toward the student movement's demands. Therefore, your personal values bring you to emphasize more the voice of the movement, rather than that of Self-Government

Name: Sandra Portman

Status: Student movement member representing the Free University

Personal Information:

You are a Business student at Free University. Your university is the most famous private university in your country. You always achieve success in your internships and non-curricula activities, while your friends from Ednovia State University seem to always discover that their knowledge and skills are not relevant to the labor market's demands. Your experiences, languages skills, theoretical, and practical knowledge are always sufficient because of your relevant university preparation. So you joined the student movement in order to support your friends getting better education. You are now an active member of the student movement and participate in all its activities.

Goals:

Your aim is to support the student movement and its actions. You are against the old education methodology. You think that the current education system can't prepare students for the labor market and this leads to unemployment. Every student needs practical and theoretical knowledge, language skills, computer and high-tech skills, experience working with companies, and other skills. Unfortunately, the current education system can't give all students these things. You want to give all students the chance to get a good education, as you did.

Name: Pem Kenner

Status: Representative of the National Council of Youth Organizations

Personal information:

You are a representative of the National Council of Youth Organizations. You started being active while in school, and as a student did lots of voluntary work. Currently, you are 32 years old and represent the largest union of NGOs in the country. As you mostly work with students, you understand their needs and demands and support them in ongoing processes. You think the students' demands are fair and timely and you believe that there have to be changes to the system. You also write a blog about youth life in Ednovia which is very popular and has many followers. You regularly organize meetings with the student movement and try to give them expert support from a civil society prospective.

Goals:

As a very active youth supporter, it is your duty to help students make the university environment both better and accessible for all. You try to give interviews on TV and raise your voice to support changes to the educational system. You encourage young people on your blog to come and protest with students and change the system for the better. You also post their stories online.

You demand the government spend more money to make education accessible for everyone. As elections are coming you try to negotiate with the ruling and opposition parties' representatives to get promises and responses to satisfy the students' demands. You know that politicians are also interested in resolving the situation right before the elections because they can't afford to lose votes. You are often invited to plenary meetings of Parliament. All the actors are aware that you have influence on CSO, which can either help them or make the elections difficult.

As you work with youth associations all over Ednovia you know that it's very hard for young people outside the cities to come to study and pay their tuition fees and living costs. Correspondingly, your goal is to promote subsidizing the education system and special student loan programs and get a promise from the government of a real reform plan. Additionally, you ask that they build campuses for students.

Name: Taras Koto

Status: Representative of the NGO “Educational Activism”

Personal Information:

You are a 28-year-old man. You started to attend trainings as a student, and now you use your knowledge and skills as head of the NGO “Educational Activism”, working in the field of non-formal education. You think the country’s education system is not efficient and needs major changes; that’s why you decided to start your own NGO and contribute to young people’s development. You fully support the demands of the students and take part in their protests.

Goals:

Your goal is to support the students in order to reach their goals. As you were working for seven years in the field of education you are well-aware that the current university methodology is outdated and professors are not sufficiently qualified. Additionally, you are aware of the situation facing young people in the regions, as your NGO works all over the country and protest is one of the ways for students to meet their demands. You are cooperating with the leader of the student movement and representative of the National Council of Youth Organizations. You also regularly organize meetings with them to support their development in the best and most efficient way, as you have strong experience in activism as well as in European Organizations. Therefore, you have lots of advice to give the movement about choosing the right strategy, including avoiding becoming too radical.

Name: Marry Tolla

Status: Representative of “Universal Perspective” Ednovia

Personal Information

You are a 30-year-old female having worked in the field of supporting socially-vulnerable groups for more than 5 years. Currently, you are a representative of the very large and famous NGO “Universal Perspective” working in Ednovia. As an active citizen you are trying very hard to change the existing situation for the better. You at your organization have consultants on social inclusion and support promoting this topic in the agendas of the political parties as well as in the universities.

Goals:

Your goal is to strengthen the students’ demands in terms of the government’s social responsibility toward vulnerable groups (students with disabilities and families who can’t afford tuition fees and living costs). You want the government to reduce fees for students who can’t afford to pay for university and to adapt universities so that disabled students can study. Additionally, you aim to push universities to adapt their study materials for people with visual and hearing impairments. You seek to find likeminded allies and important people to raise your voice and highlight the necessity of changes. Also, as representative of an international organization, you are appreciated by governmental bodies; you have worked with the Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, presenting them with ideas on how to create more inclusive projects. Therefore, you know that you can become a bridge between the students and the government.

Name: Michael Loren

Status: Representative of a business association in Ednovia

Personal information:

You are a 50-year-old man, currently head of a business association of Ednovia. You have been in business for a long time and you know the sector's ups and downs in Ednovia, in addition you're an expert in the field of human resources. Your opinion is valued in society and in the business sector in particular. You yourself have two kids, students, who just started internships in your association. As long as you often give interviews on TV on various issues, you are a very famous and respected person in Ednovia. Also, you unite the majority of employers in Ednovia.

Goals:

Your point of view on the student movement is clear: you see in your everyday work that students trying to find jobs don't have enough skills. You support the changes the students require, but if you show that openly you will have to stand against members of the government. At the moment you don't want to directly oppose them. But on the other hand, due to your liberal perspective you do not support more spending on education by the government nor the policy of making education free for all, as you believe that only the students who are capable of studying and paying for tuition should be enrolled. Your goals are to negotiate with both sides, to promote your ideas within the student movement, and to support a discourse that would benefit both sides, but your priority is your own interests. That's why as a fallback position you have some hidden cards. If the situation goes into deadlock, in order to maintain your good relations with the government and get more benefits you will push for the students to get low-interest loans offered by financial Institutions, where guarantor will be the government (these loans will last only for three years, for all state universities).

Name: Pikto Grammer

Status: Independent politician

Personal information:

You are a 28-year-old man. You do not belong to any political party, but you are taking part in the elections as an independent candidate for Parliament. You are a fan of ancient philosophy and believe that Aristotle's ideas about state and government could have the answers to Ednovia's problems. You also reckon that Ednovian society needs stronger moral and ethical norms.

Unfortunately, you are not very popular in your country. Some people consider you to be eccentric and odd. What you need is a strong public relations campaign, but you don't have money for this. Therefore, you try to create links with other organizations and you see the students as a way of getting more attention for your campaign.

Goals:

You see the student protest situation as a great PR opportunity. You have a brilliant plan for education system reform. "The fulfilled person is an educated person" is your motto. You think there should be deep concern for the ethical and political aspects of education, that it should be made more humanistic. You are going to attract as much attention to your project as possible. Your plan is to make good connections with the student movement leaders and persuade them to demand from the government realization of your ideas. Your dream is for students to see you as the ideal Minister of Education and support your election campaign. Your idea is to convert the universities into centers of 'balanced' development. You consider the aim of education to not only be the attainment of knowledge but also the attainment of happiness and goodness in life. To achieve these aims, Ednovia needs to invest in the material base of the university system in order to create spaces of harmony. Professors should treat

students as equals and appreciate each student's individuality. Of course, lecturers should be trained in new approaches and some of them should be replaced from the younger generation of teachers.

Name: Balash Genodo

Status: Representative of the opposition

Personal information:

You are female, 32 years old. You are very ambitious and dream of a big political career, maybe even of becoming Ednovia's first female president one day. You admire dynamic, innovative, democratic approaches in politics, the complete opposite of Ednovia's existing patriarchal, conservative political system. You have to be strong and flexible in order to compete with men in the political sphere. But you believe that women could be the leaders of change in Ednovia and lead the country to prosperity.

You belong to the "New Seeds" Party which is in opposition to the ruling party. It is a liberal-democratic party. You are in the top five leaders in your party.

Goals:

You decided to intrude on the students' protests in order to score some points for the upcoming elections. You are interested in the young, educated people because they are part of the electorate themselves and because they have sympathy for big part of Ednovia's population, especially the youth and active civil society. You would also like to recruit new, young members, especially girls, to your party. Your aim is to create your own political image as a reformer, a "friend of youth", and "future of the country" on the wave of the student's protests. But the problem is that you do not agree their main demand, which is to foster equality of education through amending the state education policy to include a mechanism for a free or partly-funded state education system. As a leader in the liberal-democratic party, you have different views, but in order to gain the support of youth you

must compromise your ideology and support not free education for all, but rather subsidizing education only for those who require it.

You have very useful contacts in media and some loyal contacts in government, but you have very limited financial resources.

Name: Gamur Onore

Status: Representative of the ruling party

Personal information:

You are a 48-year-old male. You belong to the “Strong Ednovia” party, which is the ruling party at the moment. You are an important figure in your party. “Strong Ednovia”’s political credo is a strong, hierarchical power vertical and authoritative government. You personally believe that a “strong ruling hand” is what your country needs. You consider that democracy is not the best way to rule the county and actually could be destructive for Ednovia. You are sure that democratic values are in contradiction with the historical traditions and mentality of the Ednovian people. Even you agree that some changes are required in Ednovia, but you won’t allow any reforms to harm the country’s traditions.

Goals:

You are totally outraged with the current situation of student protests. You believe that they should be proud and honored to be citizens of Ednovia and be grateful for the opportunity to have any education at all. In their protests, they demand irrational things. Moreover, you think that they have neither knowledge nor experience on such serious topics as the educational system. Mainly you consider that they have no rights to demand things from the country as far as they do not contribute anything to statehood. You personally would like to apply strict measures to all protesters. But you are a wise and experienced politician, so you would play this game carefully. You will ensure a positive image of your party and support from your electorate. For this you will pull strings with the pro-government media. They will portray the protesters as violent, greedy,

and unsteady hooligans. At the same time, you will promise some minor education reforms to appease the electorate, perhaps even replacing the Minister of Education (with someone who supports your party, of course).

Name: Ved Guptan

Status: Representative of the opposition

Personal information:

You are a 40-year-old male. You belong to the “Prosperity and Growth” Party which is in opposition to the ruling party. You are one of the top five leaders in your party. You are a pragmatist and your party’s politics is aimed primarily at the country’s economic development. You are very skeptical about the populist programs of some other opposition parties such as “New Seeds”, who never work hard on the economic basis of their plans.

Goals:

You sympathize with the students because you are a father of two schoolchildren and know firsthand about educational problems in the country. But you also know well the situation regarding the state’s budget deficit. You can’t see how government could invest any significant funds in education right now. You are going to send your children abroad for university, because you don’t believe that anything will change in the education system in Ednovia. You wish the country to have a free education system and for every youth to have the possibility to study without any obstacles, but as a realist you can’t see the way to achieving those goals. You know the financial capacities of your country.

Nevertheless, you are going to use the situation to fight your political enemies in the ruling party. Your motto is: “Everything bad for the ruling party is good for me”.

Name: James Connery

Status: CEO of successful IT company "Smart tech"

Personal Information:

You are the 34-year-old CEO of "Smart tech", a successful, leading IT company in Ednovia. You believe that the Educational system in Ednovia needs reform. You joined the protest movement in order to share your experience with the students. You believe that good education is crucial and that everyone should have equal access to it. You think the government should cooperate more with business on education issues.

Goals:

Your main goal is to include practical lessons in the students' syllabuses. You believe that university bodies should create internship opportunities for students during their studies. You think that practical experience is the best way to get meaningful education. You are ready to provide 10 paid internship positions per semester for young students. One of your aims is to obtain special advantages for companies who hire young professionals. That's why you joined the movement and are trying to promote your ideas with Parliament members.

Also, you are aware that if you take more interns you might face problems. You can only take best of the best, and IT skills are not really a priority of the educational system, so you don't have luxury of taking on more students who don't have the necessary skills.

Name: Tom Shmit

Status: Student activist from the Student Movement

Personal Information:

You are a 21-year-old male, an ambitious student who joined the student movement to achieve your own personal goals. You want to become a famous and powerful politician. You are the member of a conservative youth party. Your representation of young people in the protests can help you create your own name in politics. Although you don't agree with all the demands of the movement, you're trying to bring more people from your party to increase your power and participation in the student movement's decision-making processes.

Goals:

Your goals are to actively participate in all activities and to be interviewed by the media. You want to become a leader in the movement. Your idea is to organize more protest actions yourself. To reach this goal you are trying to form a group of supporters around you. As a result, you want to be a representative of the youth Conservative Party and become elected as a member of Parliament. You are also trying to develop your conservative ideas into demands and slowly become more active in taking a leading role in the movement, so you will be more visible and have more chances to portray the results of the movement as results supported by your party.

Name: John Young

Status: Reporter from independent media

Personal information:

You are reporter with the independent foreign TV channel “World of News”. Your country wants to create a business partnership with Ednovia. You are eager to learn all aspects of the social life of Ednovia and to communicate them to your audience. You just came to the capital and found the student protests going on in Ednovia, so started to perform research into it and to prepare a photo reportage and video reportage. You are personally a very leftist person and thus support all demands of the students. Besides your work, you also actively support the protests.

Goals:

Your goal is to be involved in all stages of the protest and to present a clear and balanced opinion to your audience. In order to do so you want to be in touch with local newspapers and involved in political debates connected to the Parliamentary elections. You need to have an overview of all actors involved in the movement, be it governmental bodies, CSO, students, university management or any other parties involved in the student movement.

Name: Garcia Gonzalez

Status: Video blogger who supports the Student Movement

Personal Information:

You are 24 years old, a brilliant video blogger in favor of the student movement. The name of your blog is "Keep walking". Every day you observe the activities of the students. You record all the activities in your blog and give your opinion on the students' ideas. Once you were forced to pay a bribe in order to pass an exam at the university. You did not pay. As a result, you were expelled. You are also preparing a reportage on the story to show the true face of the university. It will be a sensation.

Goals:

Your aim is to promote the ideas of the students and bring positive changes to the education system in your country. Some politicians are trying to use your popularity to influence public opinion and show people that "there are no problems in the country". You are unhappy with such pressure being put on you. You want everyone to know the real situation regarding education in Ednovia.

Name: Dave Marvelo
Status: Public Defender

Personal Information

You are 35 years old and male. You studied law at Ednovia State University and were a trainee at the Council of Europe Human Rights Department. You did your best to obtain a post with the government not because of political ambitions but to make changes promoting equality.

Your mission as public defender is to strike a balance between equality and state policy, though you personally try to push reforms that bring more access to goods to all groups, especially those most vulnerable in Ednovia.

Goals:

You personally are a very fair person and you will make any effort to guarantee the equality and integration of all groups in society. You are even ready to make harsh statements in line with your own values but which are inconvenient for the government. You were very active as a student and have friendly relationships with the student movement. You also believe that being part of the public sector does not only give you power, but responsibility as well. As you have very good international connections you try to give voice to people not only at governmental level but also at the international level. You know that elections are coming and this might be a good moment to push the government to accept students' demands and support more equality in the education system. As all parties are aware, student movements can be powerful for changing public opinion.

Name: Jane Mironia

**Status: Independent economist with the influential organization
“Rational Planning”**

Personal Information:

You are a respected and famous economist, 40 years old and female. You consider reforms to be necessary for the education system, but the students do not have rational demands. You studied at the University of Ednovia where you currently teach some economic courses and are aware of the challenges the university faces.

Goals:

Even though you consider reforms to be essential for Ednovia’s education system, the students’ demands are irrational. From your viewpoint, they are totally led by emotions and don’t take the state budget deficit into consideration; you oppose subsidizing education and reallocating funds from other areas to the education system. In terms of updating university methodology and curriculum you are more open, though you’re still against more spending by the government. You believe that the university should finance itself from its own income. Therefore, you try to articulate your position and redirect student demands to a more market-oriented direction.

Name: Michael Lasko

Status: Independent expert at the organization “Polimeria”

Personal information:

You are male, 30 years old. You have always admired Ednovia State University. As your parents told you, it is your dream university. After graduation you obtained your MA degree from a leading foreign university (which is a top-10 university in the world). Besides your experience in foreign countries you consider there to be a necessity to create a unique model for Ednovia itself. You currently represent the prominent local organization “Polimeria”. Usually you are considered to be an intellectual with an important social voice. But on the other hand, due to your intellectual capacity some people consider you to be cynical toward the reality in Ednovia.

Goals:

You are the well-respected head of “Polimeria” and are always supporting reforms, which you consider to be necessary. But on the other hand, you do not fully agree with the students’ demands as they promote the social state model of education. Taking into consideration the current level of development in Ednovia, you support a mixed system: education could be free, but only for some people and after a certain stage it must be financed by the students themselves. You think that state scholarships should be given only to the best students and not to all students based on social circumstances.

As you know that implementation of their demands is utopian and will never be satisfied by government, you attempt to promote your

position within the student movement. You are pushing to renegotiate their demands and assure them that only your position has a chance to be implemented by the government. You are motivated to strengthen your reputation and achieve a productive solution to the university issues, and you do really care about making positive changes.

Name: Jana Mascova

Status: Adviser to the Minister of Education

Personal information:

You are a 30-year-old female. You were born in the capital of Ednovia as the oldest daughter of a journalist. After studying political science and economics you managed to get a job in the municipality of Ednovia and in 2008 started working in the Ministry of Education. After working very hard for many years you finally were promoted to be an adviser to the Minister last year. You dedicate all your life to work. You are not married and have no children.

Goals:

As adviser to the Minister, you have the responsibility to promote and even justify his decisions. Therefore, for you it is important that he finds feasible solutions and avoids getting entangled in opposing interests. Even though you are not very competent on education issues, you realize that during crises it's very important to make trade-offs. That's why you're pushing the Minister to renegotiate the deal about his appointment and to cooperate with the Ministry of Finance to cut the budgets of other sectors (or ministries).

You are well aware of the difficult situation facing the Minister, who is struggling to bring into accordance the lack of sufficient funding for major reforms and the importance that overcoming the crisis has on winning the elections. Personally you do not agree with the student protesters, as it is your impression that they protest only to avoid having to study or to work. But your professionalism makes you distinguish between your personal and professional attitudes.

Name: Leo Trentino

Status: Deputy dean of the faculty of social and political sciences at Ednovia State University

Personal information:

You are a 32-year-old male. You are not only one of the youngest professors at the university, but you are also the youngest deputy dean in Ednovia.

You studied Social Sciences at Ednovia State University and during your time there you became very involved in the Student Self-Government. That is why you are very proud to still have good connections with the current Self-Government and to closely collaborate with them.

Goals:

You are proud of having been appointed a project expert on education by the Self-Government. Therefore, you want to represent the interests of the Self-Government while at the same time you see yourself as a positive example of how the education system is indeed functional and successful. Not only did you get a good education from the university, but you are also now engaged in a good career in the academic field.

Therefore, even though there is always room for improvement, you feel like it is important to also acknowledge the positive aspects of the education system.

You and the Self-Government that appointed you profit from the current, elitist system of education. While you are open to some sorts of reform, you aim to maintain some of the privileges that the Self-Government enjoys.

Name: Nona Davydova

Status: Independent expert on government-civic relations

Personal information:

You are a 36-year-old female. You are the youngest daughter of a teacher and a doctor and grew up in a little town in Western Ednovia. As you have always been a good student and eager to learn, you managed to get a scholarship to study in Sweden, where you made your B.A. in Social Sciences. After you graduated from university you came back to Ednovia, where you have been working for a small NGO that's active in strengthening civil society in the country. After working for three years for this NGO, you returned to the EU in order to pursue a Master in Governance and Public Policy. Now that you are back in Ednovia and a mother of two small children, you work as a trainer in government-civic relations.

Goals:

Your main goal is to facilitate understanding between the government and the protesters. Even though you were lucky to have been able to study abroad, you have a good knowledge of the education system in your country and share the concerns of the protesters.

However, you are also aware of the fact that change is most likely to happen and the outcome could be more positive and impactful if the government is willing and supportive of reform. That is the reason why you aim to mediate between the different groups. Your main goal is to convince the government to collaborate with the students and to plan and implements reforms together.

Also you really want to include all different stakeholders in the discussions and negotiations, especially vulnerable groups. You collaborate closely with Council of Youth Organizations as well as with "Universal Perspective".

Name: Valdemar F. Andresen

Status: Leader of the Union of Lecturers

Personal information:

You were born in 1958 in South Ednovia. After finishing school you first worked for a couple of years in your parent's car repair shop before moving to the capital to study Mechanical Engineering. For your PhD you went to the USA but you were happy to return home and start a career as a lecturer at a university.

You are living together with your wife in the suburbs of the capital of Ednovia. You have two adult daughters, who both already have families of their own. You keep in close contact with your daughters and grandchildren.

Goals:

You are aware that the situation in the education system in Ednovia is not perfect. However, you feel like protesters are making the situation worse by driving a wedge between the students and the lecturers. After all, the situation is not good for the lecturers either (small salaries, poor materials, etc.), but you get the impression that instead of showing solidarity with them the student movement is blaming the lecturers for many things. In this way they are stopping them from doing their jobs.

In your opinion, the students should put their energy into studying rather than protesting, and you believe that major reforms are not possible in the current economic situation anyway.

As you represent the union of lecturers you also want to make sure that the trustworthiness of the lecturers and of the university is maintained, and that accusations of bribery are silenced.

You hope that this nonsense with protests and demonstrations will stop as soon as possible so that you can go back to your daily work routine.

3.2 Rules & Procedures

General:

Simulation Games are an interactive learning tool which put the participant in the very center of the exercise. Our simulation games aim to create a maximum range of freedom of action, within which the participants can take their own decisions that actually affect the course of the game. But therefore the simulation game also relies heavily on the contributions of the participants. It is important that they try to get as much as possible into the roles of the actors they simulate in game. So the simulation game needs your active contributions. Whenever you have difficulties playing your role, please approach one of the facilitators.

Goal of the Game:

The central parts of the simulation game are the conflicts between a large part of students and other actors in the education system. After protests of many thousands of students and with the upcoming elections, the government is pressured to take action in order to settle the conflict. As the financial situation of ednovian state is quite tight, there is small room for reforms in the educational system in order to settle the conflicts. Therefore, the actors involved need to agree on certain reforms, which are not too costly but still satisfy all parties, so that the situation calms down. It is totally up to the course of the simulation game, whether some kind of reforms are implemented, the situation is calming down, or whether the conflict will continue. From this derives the fact that the main goal in the simulation game is not about “winning”, but much more about having a change of perspective.

From a new angle things might look different. Furthermore, you will learn a lot about your own skills and capacities in negotiating, bargaining and persuading. So enjoy your role!

3.3 Schedule

Session	Description	Duration (min)
1. Creation of Interest groups	<p>Free negotiations where the participants can find their allies and form interest groups.</p> <p>You find some hints to what interests you have in your role profile.</p> <p>The space is divided by the facilitator, so that different interest groups are in separate areas of the room.</p>	15
2. Meeting in Interest groups	<p>Actors should come together in small groups with their party/organization colleagues to build up strategies, develop measures they can propose to improve the situation and think about possible coalition partners by talking to other stakeholders to find out about their respective positions and interests.</p> <p>Student protest interest group prepares a paper with topics of concern and where they see a need for change</p>	30 Min
3. Presentation of Paper	<p>Student interest group presents their paper of suggestions and demands to the media.</p>	5 Min
3. News Show	<p>The media teams will report about the current events in Ednovia. Each of them gets the same amount of minutes to present. <i>In</i></p>	10 Min

		<i>general press is always free to report about urgent events live.</i>	
4. Panel Meeting		<p>Formal Panel meeting, where all participants are present.</p> <p>The panel is hosted by the Minister of Education, who is giving an opening speech (2 Min) and is then moderating the panel.</p> <p>Each interest group chooses a representative who gets 2 Min speaking time to express the opinion and concerns and then there is time for moderated debates.</p>	30 Min
5. Break		Coffee Break	30 Min
6. News Show		<p>The media team will sum up the panel meeting and other events. <i>In general press is always free to report about urgent events live.</i></p>	5 Min
7. Round Tables		<p>Different actors come together in round tables to develop ideas which should settle the conflict between the protesting students and the other actors in the educational sector.</p> <p>There is one round table hosted by the Ministry of Education, one by the University Administration and one by the Leader of Student Protests. Other participants are free to join any round table they want to attend and are also able to move between the tables.</p> <p>The actors start to develop proposals and petitions.</p>	20 Min
8. TV Debate		<p>The hosts of the round tables come together in a TV Debate, moderated by the media team. In this debate, the actors discuss their ideas for the future of the education systems and their proposals/petitions.</p>	20 Min

9. Free negotiations	<p>The members of the Government work on their proposals, while other actors have the opportunity to develop petitions.</p> <p>All actors can freely move around to find supporters for their proposals and petitions. They can also merge their proposals and petitions or formulate new ones.</p>	45 Min
10. Break	Lunch Break	1 Hour
11. Interest groups	<p>Interest groups come together and discuss the petitions/proposals that have been developed so far by members of the interest groups and vote for which of the petitions/proposals they want to present to the media. There is a vote on each petition (simple majority).</p> <p>Individuals can also develop own petitions and proposal.</p> <p>Each actor developing a petition and proposal needs to find at least 7 people to support it in order to be able to present it to the media.</p>	30 Min
12. Press conference	<p>The decided recommendations of each interest group/actor are presented in a press conference.</p> <p>The media can then also ask questions and comment on the events.</p>	20 Min
13. Free negotiations	<p>All actors can freely move around to find supporters for their proposals and petitions. They can also merge their proposals and petitions or formulate new ones, as well as adapt their petitions based on the current</p>	40 Min

		events and proposals/petitions from opposing interest groups.	
14. Break		Coffee Break	30 Min
15. Interest groups		<p>Interest groups come together and discuss the petitions/proposals that have been developed so far by members of the interest groups and decide which petitions they want to present during the public hearing.</p> <p>This time each proposal needs 10 supporters in order to be presented during the public hearing.</p>	20 Min
16. Public Hearing		The Minister of Education together with other members of the Government organizes a public hearing, where the members of the government present their proposals and they invite the other actors to present their petitions, as long as they have the required amount of supporters.	30 Min
17. Panel		<p>The members of the government (ministries and politicians) form a panel and they can choose if whom they want to invite.</p> <p>They discuss the proposals and petitions and make a decision (majority vote), which of them they want to implement. There needs to be a majority vote on each proposal or petition for it to pass. (51 %)</p>	20 Min
18. Final decision		Minister of Education announces the decision in form of a press conference.	10 Min

3.4 Proposals and Petitions

In order to solve the conflict with the student movement, members of the government and politicians develop proposals on which steps should be taken in order to calm down the situations. These proposals consist of concrete measures related to different challenges the educational system (Accessibility, Fees, Bribery, outdated materials etc.).

In order to influence the panel's decision, the other actors develop petitions with their demands. The more supporters a petition has, the more likely is it that the decision makers take it under consideration.

For the final decision it is important to consider the limited financial resources of the country.

Actions

Additionally to the petitions and proposals the actors involved can also conduct actions. Therefore they have to hand over their action cards to the game supervisors. They can do so during any kind of negotiations but not during the panel meetings, the TV debate and the Public Hearing. The media team will then report about those actions and the influence they are having on the situation in the Ednovia. You can fill out the action card on your own. It can include any kind of agreement, or measure which lies within the resources of those actors proposing it. Examples for actions: Social Media Campaign, Door-To-Door Campaign, Support from International NGO, Demonstration etc.

Action Card

Name of Action	
Description	
Effect (This field is filled in by game supervisor)	
Signature	

Petition to the Government of Ednovia

The undersigned actors propose the following petition:

Please make explanations what the measure is about

Resources needed (estimated):

Money:

Staff/Human Resources:

Other materials:

Own Role

Please explain what you will do to implement the measure and/or which effects the measure would have on you.

Actors involved:

Signatures:

Proposal of Action

The undersigned actors criticize the following conditions:

Please name the reasons why the students are protesting and explain what you think is going wrong in educational system

Demands and Suggestions:

Which steps need to be taken in order for the protests to stop? What are your proposals?

Signatures:

4. Facilitation of the Simulation Game

At the beginning of the simulation it is important for the facilitator to explain the rules and procedures in detail so that every participant is fully aware of his/her tasks. It is also crucial to make it as easy as possible for the participants to get into their roles (the facilitator can always come up with new methods to this end), as follows:

1- *Crossing a line*: after crossing the line, the participants become the characters (actors) of the Simulation Game. Thus, before they cross the line between reality and simulation, the participants should state their real name out loud, and afterwards they can state their identity for the simulation. “*Now I’m the president of Xland*”, for instance.

2- Giving the participants *name tags* with their actor’s name as well as their position/function helps them feel more comfortable in the role they are simulating. Furthermore, it also helps the other actors to easily notice their fellow actors.

After the game is over, it is very important to give participants the chance to step out of their roles in the same manner in which they stepped into them. Afterwards, the Simulation Game is usually evaluated on different levels, such as: Personal/emotional; Process of Simulation Game; and Simulation Game as a tool. The following de-briefing plan with guiding questions can be used:

- **Repeating:** What happened? Was everybody involved? Who was leading the process/group/agenda?
- **Remembering:** What went well, what did not?
- **Emotions:** What emotions were present and how did these influence the course of the game? What was irritating about the game? What do the different teams think about each other? How

were the stressful situations managed? Has someone been personally blamed?

- **Summing up:** What did we learn from of all this? What is the impact on real life? •

Understanding: What would you do similarly in real life? What would you definitely do differently?

Golden rule: Facilitators should interfere as little as possible, but as much as needed. The facilitator’s role is primarily to motivate the players for active and self-directed participation. As most of the participants are used to playing a much more passive role, the facilitator should accentuate this alternative learning atmosphere. The facilitator should not be judgmental of any questions raised. There are no ridiculous questions, only ridiculous answers. The facilitator is not required to answer all questions; it is best to try to elicit answers from the participants. Also, supporting and accepting alternative problem solving ideas is essential rather than pushing for the facilitator’s own ideas and solutions.³

³ Training Manual, Simulation Games for Transition, 2013. CRISP e.V