

Simulation of conflicts and negotiations

*Hamza Ghedamsi**

Politics, dialogue and argumentation use negotiation. Simulation of conflicts and negotiations is a good method to learn and understand political dynamics behind negotiation.

Participants adopt roles of actors important for a chosen situation of conflict or negotiation.

To triumph during negotiation, participants must represent the interests of their characters convincingly.

A simulation is an abstraction, which necessarily implies a certain simplification.

SIMULATION INCLUDES NORMALLY THREE PARTS:

- Introduction to chosen subject
- The simulation
- Evaluation

BEFORE THE SIMULATION:

Participants should acquire basic knowledge useful for the chosen conflict or situation of negotiation. The needed information should contain:

- An overview of own goals in the negotiation/situation;
- The general interests
- The limits on negotiation

It is more effective to involve the participants in the research and data collection.

DURING THE SIMULATION:

Participants slip into the role assigned and begin to negotiate with the objective of solving problems. The outcome of the negotiation is not predictable. Everything depends on the interaction between actors and the general dynamics of the simulation.

AFTER THE SIMULATION:

Participants receive an update on the progress of the simulation and the results of negotiations. This will be evaluated and compared with reality. Participants will compare their achievements with their original objectives. They will assess the progress of the simulation to try to develop options for resolving the conflict (in reality). It is important for the facilitators and encouragers to think and develop a critical eye.

THE MAIN GOAL:

Transmission of knowledge, its promotion and training skills.

Transmission of knowledge:

- The transmission of knowledge about institutional procedures;
- The transmission of factual knowledge on some political or actual conflict;
- The transmission of factual knowledge on procedures and dynamics of some conflicts during negotiations.

KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS
Process	Communication
Content	Systemic competence
Institutional procedures	Decision-making competence

TOOLS AND PREPARATION:

- Participants: numbers depends on the situation.
- Time: 3 hours to 5 days.

Hamza Ghedamsi is the Founder and Chairperson of Modèle de L' Union Africaine, working on Human and Social rights' issues in relation to the youth and new generations, at the national and African levels.

You can view his complete profile and the organisation he is associated with at: http://www.learn2change-network.org/?About_Us__Our_Network__Activists#anker_high