ABSTRACT

SIMULATION GAMES IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The topics of international cooperation are marked by high complexity. This comes from, among other factors, the involvement of many actors from different sectors and from the necessity of decision making in dynamic contexts. The goal of our work is to make this interdependency and conflict dynamics experienceable. To accomplish this, we use the method simulation gaming.

Alongside the effective and sustainable comprehension of complex correlations which the method provides, it is also suited for testing alternative courses of action and for improving collaboration between different actors. Simulation games are therefore an excellent tool, both for the field of training and qualification of specialists as well as for practical project work on site.

THE SIMULATION GAME METHOD

Simulation games are an interactive method which models reality. The core of a simulation game is a complex problem for which a solution must be found. During the simulation game the participants take on the roles of different stakeholders and interact with each other in a prestructured framework determined by game rules.

The course of the game is divided into different phases in which the players’ actions continually allow new situations to arise and to these situations they must react.

GENERAL LEARNING GOALS

Within the general learning objectives, we determine specific learning objectives in consultation with the client.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL ACTORS

By taking on different roles, the simulation gaming method lends itself brilliantly to the development of a deeper understanding of different parties’ positions and the logic of actions and needs behind them. Through this roleplay, existing conflicts of interests will of course not be erased, but the respective interests and needs of the parties will become comprehensible and areas for cooperation visible.

These experiences can be used to improve the cooperation between institutions or to contribute to a peaceful conflict resolution in conflict situations.

OUR OFFERS

In the last years we developed different workshops and seminar formats. Some examples include:

» Implementation of simulation game
» Creation of simulation games
» Training for the implementation and development of tailor-made simulation games
» Creation of scenarios for the future

TESTING OF ACTION STRATEGIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO SOLUTIONS

Simulation games offer a safe space to experiment with procedures. In the laboratory-like situation created by the game, new and creative problem solving strategies...
can be tested. This aids in developing new options for action in retracted situations and in applying these options to real problem intricacies. The boundaries and possibilities of these alternative approaches are tested in and can be evaluated during the simulation game.

OFFERINGS
We are always happy about new challenges. Our offers include, among others, the following formats:

» Custom-made simulation games: We develop new simulation games on different topics in close coordination with the client to ensure the game is adapted precisely to the needs of the target group.

» Implementation of existing simulation games: Our portfolio already includes many dozen simulation games on a multitude of topics, which we are happy to adapt and implement for different target groups and event formats.

» Trainings for simulation game leaders: In this format we educate simulation game multipliers to apply the method with their individual target groups.

SUBJECT AREAS
In the following section we will introduce, with examples, areas of method implementation for diverse topics in international cooperation. All our formats have the goal of improving cross-sector cooperation, especially between actors from the government, economy and civil society spheres.

A. GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY
   » Participation
   » Decentralization
   » Corruption

B. SECURITY, RECONSTRUCTION, PEACE
   » Education of Specialists
   » Concepts of Conflict Transformation
   » Conflict Resolution

C. CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES
   » Climate Change
   » Resource Depletion

D. MIGRATION
   » Improvement of Local Integration
   » Legal Frameworks

E. WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING & DEVELOPMENT
   » Women’s empowerment
   » Conflict transformation

CONTACT:
We are always searching for new cooperations and partnerships, in order to link our activities and to increase their impact. Feel free to approach us:

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The construction of democratic structures forms an important basis for peaceful and sustainable development. In addition to the work with governmental institutions, this also involves the inclusion of relevant actors from civil society and economy and a stronger awareness among the population for democratic processes.

**PARTICIPATION**

The question of including different interest groups in political decision-making processes is extremely important for the construction of democratic structures. In this respect, the method can simulate an exemplary procedure of civic participation in order to sensitize local administrations to the possibilities of this approach.

Simulation games can also be used to strengthen civil society structures in this field, for example to test strategies in the exertion of influence on political decision-making processes.

**DECENTRALIZATION**

Decentralization reforms constitute a promising approach for the stabilization of democratic systems, especially in countries with strong regional differences and heterogeneous population structures.

Simulation games custom made for the particular in-country situation can help to develop meaningful competence dispersion for the political levels, to make clear potential difficulties in implementation and to conduct accordant adaptations. Furthermore, simulation games can help to analyse the causes behind the frequently existing discrepancy between written laws and lived practice.

**FIGHTING CORRUPTION**

It is one of the most complex topics in international cooperation. Interventions in this area require a highly systemic approach as change from a single actor is not enough to break through existing structures. In this regard, simulation games can make an important contribution to the sensitization on the subject matter and, through evaluation, can give illuminating clues as to which approaches are promising as well as to the reasons why these approaches often fail in reality.
Unresolved conflicts between population groups, a lack of security and territorial disputes pose a central obstacle to development in many nations. In this area our offering encompasses both the simulation of actual conflict situations as well the creation of semi-fictitious scenarios, which reproduce prototypical conflict dynamics such as secession conflicts. The offering is therefore suitable for both the content-based education of specialists to be sent to crisis regions and for the direct work with conflicting parties on site.

Specialists in crisis regions can gain a better understanding of possible courses of action in dynamic conflicts and can test how to handle stress situations and unpredictable moments in the field. In the case of post-war societies, strategies which could contribute to sustainable stabilization can be developed through simulations. At this juncture, conflict simulations constitute an ideal link between already available knowledge and its application in complex situations on the ground.

Many local and international actors working in conflict situations are only superficially acquainted with the basic concepts of conflict, violence and peace. However, in order to be able to work effectively in such situations, at least basic knowledge in this area is required. In the framework of our formats participants learn the corresponding theoretical foundations and can apply these directly during a simulation game.

In addition to educating specialists, the method can also be used for the resolution of actual conflict scenarios. Simulation games offer an excellent opportunity to change perspectives and develop empathy for the positions of the opposing side – a basic prerequisite for a constructive dialogue. In particular, the application of semi-fictitious scenarios makes it possible to break apart a retracted pattern of thought and to develop new possibilities for solution.
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CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES

An equitable and sustainable handling of shrinking resources constitutes one of the biggest challenges to stability for many nations. In many places these challenges are intensified by climate change. In order to counteract the conflict potential brought on by climate change, long-term strategies that incorporate the needs and interests of multiple interest groups are necessary.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Adjustment to climate change constitutes one of the biggest tasks for many countries, who need comprehensive strategies. Custom-made games can simulate dealing with the consequences of climate change for specific countries or entire regions.

As a result, an understanding of different options for action can be developed through the involvement of diverse actors and their specific interests, conflicts of interest, dilemmas and how then can be dealt with, and which potentially conflict with the implementation of urgently needed measures.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The depletion of resources, especially in fragile states, often accompanies conflicts and can strengthen existing conflicts. The question of the distribution of scarce resources such as water and energy can also create conflicts. Here too, simulation games can demonstrate the needs of different interest groups (government, industry, environmental organizations, affected area residents) in order to develop options for action in a safe space.

The method can be deployed for example in the training of future specialists enrolled in “mining governance” courses of study in order to strengthen their consciousness of a conflict-sensitive approach to depletion plans. Likewise, the method can be used to more strongly involve the local population in the planning and implementation of material depletion plans.

EXAMPLE: For prospective mining engineers we, together with the GIZ Afghanistan, developed a draft of a didactical concept with the goal of sensitization of participants to a conflict-conscious way of dealing with the depletion of resources. Due to the heightend security situation, the concept could not yet be implemented.
Migration movement will in the coming years remain one of the biggest global challenges, whether it be caused by armed conflicts or the intensified environmental conditions. A successful dealing with the resulting difficulties requires both the establishment of effective integration measures on the local level and of judicial frameworks on the national and international level.

**LOCAL INTEGRATION**

The integration of migrants often creates big challenges for local municipal administrations, especially if the municipality is already struggling with economic and social problems. Conflict potential with the local population is abundant, especially when special support measures are specifically aimed at migrants.

Simulation games can be helpful in planning conflict-sensitive integration measures which include the perspectives of multiple interest groups.

**EXAMPLE:** In cooperation with the GIZ Morocco we implemented simulation game workshops for local administrations, migrants’ unions and civil-society organizations to gain a better understanding of the different perspectives and to develop together initiatives to improve integration efforts.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

A sustainable handling of results of flight and migration requires the creation of legal frameworks and treaties on the national and international level. This pertains for instance to the questions of the distribution of large flows of refugees, to the legal status of refugees, or the financing of protective measures. Included in this is the controversially discussed creation of a climate refugee status, which would have far-reaching results.

Simulation games can help to attain an understanding for the different positions during the development of treaties and to make the difficulties and common interests visible. In an expanded version, simulation games can also be used to make the impacts of legal regulation on local work experienceable for decision makers.

**EXAMPLE:** On behalf of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, we implemented a simulation game workshop on EU migration policy for representatives of the Moroccan civil society. The goal of the workshop was to strengthen the voice of Moroccan NGOs in the discourse.
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WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING & DEVELOPMENT

To empower women means to guide them in reflection processes to recognize their potential, which they may believe to be limited by their culture and socioeconomic conditions. As a result of the reflection processes women expand their range of activities, which can change their role in the family, community and society in the long term.

Simulation games can accompany the process in that they allow participants to test new courses of action and help women to gain a new perspective on their own situation. The inclusion of men in the process is of special importance, then without an attitude change from their side no sustainable change is possible.

EXAMPLE: In cooperation with GIZ Morocco, CRISP created and implemented a simulation game to sensitize young people to the importance of and challenges for young women entering the job market. Through the simulation game, we created a space that allowed space for conservative and liberal actors with very different norms and values to discuss if women should enter the workplace and in what way.

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

The involvement of women in peacebuilding and development increases the chance of creating long-lasting change that benefits all members of society. When women are involved in development or peace processes, they obtain agency over their own situation. Empowered women speak out for their rights, work for their communities and become involved in development and peacebuilding activities, changing the lives of women and men.

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Women are disproportionally affected by conflict through becoming widowers, through rape, etc. The attention paid to women-specific needs during recovery and rebuilding is oftentimes inadequate. However, the view that women are simply victims of conflict and violence is too narrow.

As peacebuilders, women tend to promote policies that benefit other women, children and other disadvantaged groups which lead to a better distribution of resources from which all members of society profit.

GOALS: We will develop initiatives that involve women in decision making processes in development and conflict transformation. In order to foster their involvement, women and girls will be first empowered through life skills education (communication, relationship and decision-making skills), aiding them in becoming critical and competent members of their communities. By involving men in the conversation, we hope to contribute to a long-lasting paradigm change in the areas we work.
REFERENCES

In the following we want to draw your attention to some selected workshops or workshop-series we have implemented in the last years, in order to give you a more concrete idea of our work. At the same time we got familiar to adapt to new topics and different target groups. For any kind of request, please do not hesitate to contact us.

YOUTH AND RELIGION IN KYRGYZSTAN
German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)

In 2017 we developed a simulation game for the GIZ in Kyrgyzstan with the tensions between religious and secular groups in the society as the central theme. The process was implemented by training multipliers who afterwards organized workshops for local youth in seven locations. In addition, the needs and interests of youth in religious education were raised in an interactive way in the workshops.

Contact: Oermann, Christiane: christiane.oermann@giz.de

MÍ COMUNA, MI PAÍS - CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN CHILE
Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Chile (KAS)

We developed a custom-made simulation game about civic engagement on the municipal level for the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Chile, implemented it there and passed the knowledge on to local trainers in the context of a training of trainers. Within the framework of the simulation game the participants try out different, real existing mechanisms for civic engagement. At the end, the students had a clearly increased awareness of the available mechanisms and their functions.

Contact: Klein, Andreas: Andreas.Klein@kas.de

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS IN MOROCCO
German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)

In 2017/18 we implemented many simulation game workshops in Morocco for the GIZ in cooperation with the Moroccan interior ministry. The target group of the workshops consisted of representatives from local municipal administrations, national agencies, migrants’ unions and civil society organizations. The goal was to create a better understanding of the different perspectives and the development of common initiatives for the improvement of integration efforts.

Contact: Rhorfrani, Lamia: lamia.rhoufrani@giz.de

CLIMATE-INDUCTED CRISIS SCENARIOS
German Federal Foreign Office

During our frequent simulation game workshops as part of the international diplomats program of the German Federal Foreign Office, we developed a game about dealing with the results of climate change for a group from the Pacific island states. This included prototypical challenges for the region and gave the young diplomats the opportunity to try out different solution strategies and to discuss the need for strengthened international cooperation.

Contact: Behr, Heinz-Peter: 1-da-col@auswaertiges-amt.de

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (YLP4) - “INNOVATING FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT”
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

During the regional seminar of the UNDP Youth Leadership Program for the MENA-Region around 120 youth representatives and policy makers and representatives of the National and Regional UNDP offices came together, in order to discuss the chances and limitations of National Youth Policies. We developed a tailor-made simulation game that shifted attention to the most crucial questions.

Contact: Zerouali, Kawtar: kawtar.zerouali@undp.org

ACADEMY FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION
forumZFD

We have been a part of the full-time course at the Academy for Conflict Transformation of the forumZFD since 2015. Here we use simulation games to offer the participants a safe space in which to apply and test the conflict resolution techniques they learned at the academy.

Contact: Walker, Jamie: walker@forumzfd.de

CONTACT:
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WHO WE ARE

ORGANIZATION
CRISP was founded in 2007 under the concept of adapting and utilizing the Simulation Game Method for conflict management purposes. We are an independent, non-profit, non-partisan and non-confessional organization. CRISP is based in Berlin.

THE TEAM
The staff of CRISP has extensive experience in the development and implementation of simulation games, project management, and cooperation with international partners and organizations.

All in all we are an experienced team that possesses different skills, qualifications and regional expertises, what gives us the possibilities to adopt to many different needs and requests.

Florian Dunkel
Executive Director
M.A. Political Science
Personal Focus: Civic Participation and Civil Society

Erzsébet Lajos
Project Coordinator
M.A. Cultural and Political Sciences
Personal Focus: Diversity + Complexity, Non-formal Learning, Sustainability

Nathalie RückEr
Project Coordinator
M.A. Int. Politics and Int. Law
Personal Focus: Human Rights & Conflict Transformation, Women’s empowerment

Tommaso Galli
Brussels Liaison Officer
researcher, project manager and policy officer focusing on Central and Eastern Europe

Annette Reinecke
Accounting
Personal Focus: Numbers and foreign currencies

Andreas Muckenfuß
Executive Director
M.A. Public Administration
Personal Focus: Conflict Transformation, Anti-Corruption Policies

Sarah Walther-Young
Project Coordinator
M.A. Conflict Transformation
Personal Focus: Peace and Democracy Education, Women’s Empowerment

Oliver Wiechmann
Project Coordinator
M.A. Educational Science
Personal Focus: Democracy Building and Peace Education

Kateryna Pavlova
Project Coordinator
M.A. Cultural Diplomacy
Personal Focus: Eastern Europe; Evaluation and Impact Assessment

CONTACT
As the self-conception of CRISP is not only to center around our own ideas, but to be an open platform for other projects having a similar motivation as we do, we aim for a lively exchange of information and ideas.

We look forward to receiving your message and to getting in touch with you. Please feel free to contact us with your request. Email: hello@crisp-berlin.org

„CRISP team brings forward the human dimension, the honesty of engagement and learning from the contexts where they work, the opportunities for co-creation and the openness to options balanced with the firm guidance of peacebuilding values, tools and concepts.“

Andra Tanase
PATRIR, Romania

Furthermore we are a hosting organization for the European Volunteer Service and regularly have two team-members from our target countries for a period of 12 months. Moreover we work with one assistant/intern a regular period of 3 months and additionally we cooperate with external trainers in order to satisfy the requests from our partners.