In the fictitious city of Madinet El-Shams, participants step into the roles of decision-makers and have to find creative solutions for everyday challenges related to access and availability of key public services. This way they learn about the role and functionality of Local Councils.

**DESCRIPTION**

The development of the quality of services in any given community is not possible without the contribution and active participation of its members. Local Councils are considered the most direct link between citizens and their government. Through the fictitious events of the simulation game “Helios”, Local Councils and their crucial role are highlighted. By stepping into the roles of local decision-makers, the participants understand the mode of operation of Local Councils and furthermore become encouraged to participate actively in the public sphere. During the evaluation phase, participants transfer the newly gained knowledge from the simulation game to their own communities. This includes self-reflections about their own role as citizens and their possible contribution to Local Councils whether by being active voters or even potential candidates to serve their local community.

**SCENARIO AND PROCEDURES**

The scenario of the simulation game is in the fictitious city “Madinet El-Shams”, where its citizens meet to discuss the most important challenges of their everyday-lives regarding health, education and public utilities. Afterwards, the citizens proceed with finding possible solutions that are pragmatic for “Madinet El-Shams”. At the very end, the most effective solutions will be elected and will receive funding for their implementation. The decision-making process in the simulation game is fully reflecting the Egyptian constitution and thus enables the participants to better understand processes and dynamics of the Local Councils.

**OBJECTIVES**

The main objective is to raise awareness of the importance of the role and functionality of the Local Councils. The simulation game specifically sheds light on the role of Local Council members, highlighting that they have to represent all citizens regardless of their social class and their different needs during their decision and policy making processes. Through the simulation game, participants are encouraged to be active members of society and attain constructive roles on the community level, by acquiring pragmatic decision-making skills.

**TARGET GROUP:**
participants between 18 and 35 (mixed groups desirable).

**PARTICIPANTS:** ideal number is 20

**DURATION:** 1 day

**TYPE:** fictitious

**LANGUAGES:** Arabic and English