



SIMULATION GAME

Terra Incognita - Commodity and Territorial Conflict

Socio-environmental land conflicts / national dialogue



LEVEL

Experienced, Expert

TARGET GROUP

Civil and Military Experts in Conflict Transformation and interested persons, starting from age 20

DURATION

4-6 hours, > 6 hours

PARTICIPANTS

12 - 30

LANGUAGES

English, German, Spanish

Background

This simulation game focuses on illustrating conflicts that revolve around land. The issues are manifold: What are different perceptions and ideas about how to use and cultivate land? How to distribute land and what it produces? How to govern the land in order to mitigate ecologic disaster, quell societal conflicts and secure economic growth? The participants simulate a large national conference in which the actors try to cooperate in order to find common answers to these pressing issues.

Scenario & Procedure

The simulation game takes place in the fictitious country of Bosconia where actors meet at the 1st National Unity Conference (NUC). Bosconia's people are divided over a host of socioecological questions. Large groups feel discriminated against; minorities fear for their traditional territory and ways of life; parts of the country are looking for places to create new livelihoods; youth and women are challenging the conservative status quo. The NUC's main goal is to develop a charta for an unpopulated part of the country called Terra Incognita (TI). Experts from all over the country gather, in order to develop a road-map on how to define the legal status of TI, how it should be developed economically and on how cultural heritage could be preserved. During the first phase, each committee will develop a needs assessment to better understand possible courses of action. The second phase aims at finding solutions, while the third phase focuses on finding agreements to the previously developed solutions.

LEARNING TARGETS

- > Understanding the context of socio-environmental conflicts on local and national levels
- > Better understanding of concepts and methods in conflict analysis and peaceful conflict resolution
- > Understanding the processes of national dialogue



SIMULATION GAME

Objectives

The simulation game provides the participants with the adequate space to test conflict resolution skills. It allows the participants to enhance their decision-making and rapport building skills within challenging negotiations. Here they can directly experience the dynamic nature of conflicts. On a practical level participants learn how to deal with a group of diverse advocates, how to deal with hidden agendas and how to reach collective agreements.

Moreover, participants gain in-depth knowledge about prototypical conflict lines of land related conflicts, e.g. rural & urban divides, agriculture & pastoral land use, subsistence vs. industrial farming, cultural differences regarding land clearing, spiritual vs. pragmatic perceptions of land, etc.

