

Saving the Baltic Sea, Dramasimulation

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Goal of the simulation is to practice negotiator situations, expressing one's opinion and to use knowledge on environmental issues in practice. This is a good to use after Baltic Sea lessons or in the end of a camp when participants know each other well.

There are eight characters and to be played and it's good to have 1-2 assistants for each character plus a media group. Altogether group of 10 – 20 is a good amount of participants.

Schedule of the simulation

15 - 45 min Briefing

- What is the simulation all about?

Participants need acting skills, so it's good to brief them beforehand. Remind everyone, that it's only acting, you shouldn't take things personally.

Group of people living in a small village by the sea has gathered to a meeting, because algae bloomings have been a big problem. participants play the role of the villagers and then you can have a media group, that writes headlines and news from the meeting for everyone to see.

For the participants to think from their role's point of view?

- what is your opinion about the eutrofication
 - who or what does in your opinion cause the problem? Is there a problem
 - if the present situation continues or gets worse, does it affect you?
 - what are you ready to do voluntarily?
 - what you won't do?
 - your solutions to the problem
 - who could be your allies? Who is on the opposite side?
- make up a role name, dressing etc.

Task:

Prepare a short speech 2 – 3 minutes, where you present your view of the problem and what should be done to it.

Leaders help their groups to form a statement and and decide their opinions and views. Leaders also check the speeches when they are ready. It's good to practice the speech once or twice.

Here participants have time to change clothes and do make-up.

10 minutes

– Participants come to the meeting place Now they have time to meet each other, listen other peoples opinions and form allies. Media group can make interviews.

-Then we check that everyone knows what's going on and takes it seriously enough, which from my point of view means that you may have fun, but you may not drop your role, that's why we better deal a sign that we use if we need to say something as our self and talk about when you may use it. Then we're ready to start the negotiation. The helpers can either sit behind the negotiators and whisper for some advice when needed or they may be an audience. If we have comments from the press, protestors, lobbyists or the audience, the negotiators must somehow react for it, but the discussion is always led by the chairman.

Opening speeches and discussion, 15 - 30 minutes

- everyone keeps his/hers speech and then open discussion
- media makes headlines and tries to affect people
- chairlady /man leads the discussion

Groups present their ideas for solutions, general,
15 - 30 minutes

discussion, chairlady /man leads the discussion
- solution proposal

Conclusion, 20 minutes

Chairman makes a summary and ending the meeting, participants shake hands and leave the building.

11.10 - 11.30

- Form a ring outside, everyone on his/hers turn reads rolecard, removes the role and tells everybody:
I am N. N., a participant from place X

After that we discuss the situation and feelings of the attendants. We can also think which things of the simulation could be realistic and which couldn't, who was a good negotiator and why, what did we learn etc.

Role cards

Young girl/boy

You are a young 18 years old girl/boy, who returns to her/his home on the island only to find out how much has changed. The water on the shore is like thick green mud, disgusting and terrible looking. You have heard news, that some cows had died after drinking the water, people got sick and there is less fish to catch. Tourists have left the island, because they couldn't go swimming any more.

You left a few years ago to a big city to study. This summer you decided to arrange an ecological camp with your student friends on the island. When you and your friends arrived to the island and saw the situation, you all became unhappy, but also angry. This must be stopped, somebody has to do something! You talked long and decided to gather a meeting, to call the people from the island to find out what is the matter and what they can do about it.

You are young, talk much and get excited very fast. You believe strongly to your possibilities to do anything. You are very self-confident, you think that you know everything and can do anything. Very friendly and positive person, but talk a little bit too much.

Tourist firm owner

You are a tourist business owner, 34 years old, somewhat rich or at least have quite a lot of money. The tourist firm is next to a beautiful sand beach. The company rents five small cabins, motor boats, etc. There is also a restaurant and a tennis field. In the firm there are two people working besides you, but in the summer time you employ 2 - 5 local young people to help.

The place was very popular but now tourists are complaining and leaving because the sea is full of green stuff, algae. Also they complain that nowadays there are less salmons to catch.

From your point of view the the green coloured algae in the sea are a very big problem, because you lose your tourists and don't get any money. You are planning to build a wall or a net around the shore to keep the algae away from the swimming shore. You believe that technology is the answer to all problems.

You are honest and straight, you say what you think, but in a nice way. You let everybody know your opinions. Money is important, you value only things from where you can get money. You want to calculate everything in money, e.g. what does it mean to your business.

Your restaurant buys a lot of fish from the local fish farmer and he is a good friend of yours. The waste water from your firm and the cabins goes straight to sea, but you believe it doesn't matter because it is such a small amount. After all, there is a large sea around so some hundreds of litres of waste water a day can't hurt anyone.

The Artist

You are a 30-40 year-old-woman, lived on the island for already 20 years. You use your private boat daily. You complain that the beautiful scenery (which you like to paint) is getting messed up. You like the old fisherman, but point judging finger at the big companies like the fish farm, tourist company and the large farm.

The Doctor

You are a young man (20-30 years old), who loves to cruise around with you big yacht boat. You are concerned for your patients who suffer serious illnesses because of polluted environment. You are natural scientist and understand the problems of dumping all the wastewater while bacteria grow and multiply. You are very eager to blame the summer cottage people for this.

Fish farmer

You are a 55-year-old fish farmer, who owns fish farm company. It's tradition in your family and your great grandfather built the farm. Growing salmon in the Baltic Sea lets nutrients to leach to the sea and eutrophication increases. Now suddenly the situation of sea is getting worse, the salmons are not growing well and the quality of the fish is bad. You are planning to get the fish farm bigger. Many people who live in the island are working in the fish farm. So it's very important for the whole island.

You know tourist firm owner very well and you are good friends with him/her. The tourist firm buys lots of fish from you. Now the tourist company owner has complained about the quality of fish. He/she asked if your fish farm lets nutrients to go to the sea. You are very angry for this, but you can't show your real anger, because tourist firm is your main customer.

You think the eutrophication can't get worse because some food from your fish farm may leach to the sea. Well, you know there would be some technique that would prevent nutrients from getting to the sea. But you think it's very expensive and you don't really need it. You think that the farmer puts too much fertilizers to his/her fields and much of that goes straight to the sea.

Worker at the fish farm

You work in the fish farm. Growing salmon in the Baltic Sea lets their nutrients e.g. in the feed to leach to the sea and eutrophication increases. Now suddenly the situation of sea is getting worse, the salmon are not growing well and the quality of the fish is bad. You are planning to buy this company when the older man gets on pension. Many people who live in the island are working in the company. So it's very important for the island.

Your boss knows tourist firm owner very well and he/she is a good friend with him/her. The tourist firm buys lots of fish from the fish farm. Now the tourist firm owner has complained about the quality of fish. He/she asked if the fish farm lets nutrients to go to the sea. The owner of fish farm is very angry for this, even if he/she doesn't show his/her real anger. Maybe that's because the tourist firm is the main customer of the fish farm.

The owner of the fish farm thinks that the eutrophication can't get worse if some feed from the fish farm may get to the sea. You have thought about it and don't agree with the owner with everything. You know there is good technique that wouldn't let nutrients to go to the sea and you have talked about it to the owner. But he thinks it's very expensive and the fish farm doesn't really need it.

Fisherman & family

You are an old fisherman, and you have lived all your life in the island. Also your father and grandfather have been fishermen. You are now 67 years old and you have an adorable husband/wife and two grown-up children. You have noticed, that there is much less fish in the sea than it used to be years ago. You have also noticed that fish species have changed, and water isn't so clear anymore. For example you can't see underwater rocks anymore, and fishing near shore is much more dangerous. Nowadays your fishnets are also full of algae, and you think this might be a reason, why you don't get fish.

Now you have heard a name for this phenomenon: eutrophication. The reason of the eutrophication is nutrification of the sea. That's why you blame fish farm of eutrophication. Fish farm is already your enemy, because it has stolen jobs from all your fisherman friends, who were forced to move from the island, because nearly no-one bought fish from anyone else but the fish farm.

You think, that whole eutrophication problem goes away, if the fish farm moves away. Also old farmer and his/her family think like that, and they are your friends. Once the farmer told you, that your old fishing boat isn't at all environment friendly. But you don't believe that it could make any difference as long as fish farm is here in the island. And on the other hand, he/she is a farmer, what could he/she know about boats? You also think that farmer fertilizes his/her fields too much. He/she turned a little angry when you told that him/her. Despite of these disagreements you are still very good friends and you will defend each other.

Farmer and family

Old farmer

You are an old farmer and you grow grain and cows. You are 65-years-old and you dream about pension. The only problem is your son/daughter, who is willing to continue farming, but he/she wants to change your farm to organic farm. You think that is foolish, and waste of time and money.

Nearly a week ago there was a tragedy in your farm. Two of your cows died when they pastured in seashore field. Veterinary told you, that the deaths were caused by a plant called warte hemlock, *Cicuta virosa* in latin. This plant is extremely poisonous and it grows in eutrophicated places. This was something that made you think about eutrophication, and you think (as your good friend fisherman also), that the biggest reason of eutrophication is the local fish farm. Your son/daughter has also noticed, that fishermans fishing boat is quite old, leaches e.g. oil and is not so enviromental friendly.

When you told that to fisherman, he/she turned a little mad and told that you fertilize your fields too much. But he/she is a fisherman! What he/she could know about farming? Despite of these disagreements you are still very good friends and you will defence each other.

Farmer's son/doughter

You are a son/doughter of the local farmer, and you will once become a farmer too, after your parents retire. You will change the farm to an organic farm, but your parents think that it is foolish, and waste of time and money. Now you need to prove to your parents, that organic farming is not wasting money at all!

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You have also noticed that your fields do not have any buffer zones that are not cultivated between the fields and the sea. Now much of the fertilizers drain from fields to the sea much easier, and you have to fertilize more. These buffer zones are the first thing that you will build, when you will be the main farmer.