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Simulation exercise

-60 minutes

Objectives

- To define: stakeholders, gaps, functional possibilities, resources, plan components;
- To test: efficiency of training, adaptability, multi-sectoral cooperation, mobilization of resources;
- To practice: plans, communication, roles and tasks;
- To improve: decision making skills, awareness of different situations, internal and multi-sectoral cooperation, communication, reaction on situations.

Tool Description

The **simulation exercise** is a controlled activity where the situation that can exist in the reality is imitated for the training purpose or evaluation of possibilities and evaluation of plans.

Types of simulation exercises:

Discussion oriented: workshop, training, indoor session

Operational: practical, functional, full-scale

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Connection of the tool with the module

Community engagement

The connection between simulation exercises and community engagement training is a practical way to bridge theory and practice.

Simulation creates real-world or hypothetical scenarios where participants practice how they would respond in community engagement situations. It focuses on understanding the social, cultural, and psychological aspects of a community to improve communication, trust-building, and collaboration. Simulations give participants the chance to apply these skills in a controlled environment, helping them build confidence and competence before facing real situations.

Effective community engagement relies heavily on good communication, including active listening, empathy, and clarity in messaging. Simulations provide opportunities to practice these skills in scenarios where participants interact with different types of community members, stakeholders, or leaders.

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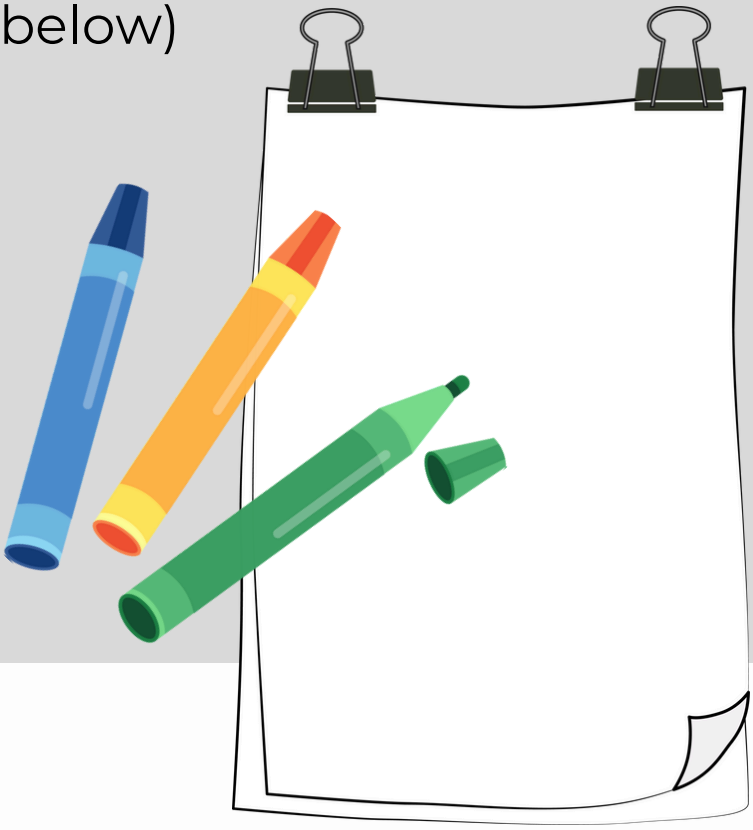
Resource materials

- Flip chart
- Markers
- Screen and videp projector
- Description of the village (prepared in advance according to the criteria provided here below)



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How to apply the tool

Step 1: To define the need of the simulation training
Step 2: To describe the situation and existing problem
Step 3: To establish the time framework for the simulation training.
Step 4: To define the objective and tasks of the simulation training
Step 5: To choose the type of the simulation training and target group
Step 6: To develop scenario of the simulation exercise
Step 7: To implement the simulation exercise on practice
Step 8: To evaluate the results

Scenario

It is a content of simulation exercise where an imagined event is joined with real data (e.g., initiative to transform a village in SMART, real data: village community, its infrastructure, functions of involved players). This scenario is played in an artificially created milieu and stimulate the participants to take individual or common justified decision how to act in this given situation, if some practical skills and competencies should be trained.

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How to apply the tool

The trainer provides the information introducing data step-by-step and enlarging the tasks and circle of participants.
The trainer / facilitator is in contact with players, helps them if need. The decisions are documented.

To make simulation exercise successful

- use real data or analogical to real ones;
- use some information from media: articles, photos, internet publications, video;
- use the experience of other simulation exercises carried out, if you don't have this experience, start with a simple content with limited number of initial data.

The simulation training goes from simple to complicated. First training, then indoor simulation, then functional one, then full-scale.

Our scenario:

1. The description of one village is given to players: its infrastructure, geographical placement, present economic activities, natural resources, historic and cultural heritage, population (age, education, social and economic situation)

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How to apply the tool

Criteria for the description of the village:

Geographical Placement: distance to nearby towns, cities, presence of river or other water sources, forest, climate and its impact on the economic activities, topography.
I**nfrastructure:** roads, bridges, public transport, water supply, sewage system, waste management, Internet, mobile network, hospitals, access to emergency services, school, nursery school, college, parks, sport facilities, cultural centers.
Economic Activities: crops growing, livestock, farming system, non-agricultural activities: local industries and services, local markets, retail, internet-sell, tourism.
Natural Resources: fertility of the soil, biodiversity, water resources, forests, minerals.
Historic and Cultural Heritage: origin of the village, local traditions, legends, related historical events, local songs and dances, local cuisine, historical buildings and monuments, museums, specific architectural style.
Population: number of inhabitants, age distribution, gender ratio, ethnic compositions, education level, literacy rate, key social institutions in the village (such as community centers or local councils), employment rates, income levels, sources of income, and economic disparities within the village.
The village can be real or imagined.

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How to apply the tool

2. The payers are divided in four groups: initiative group and three groups of village residents: enthusiastic, hesitating, aggressive.

The initiative group obtains the village description a day before and is asked to prepare the plan and scenario of the village development toward to its SMART transformation and presents the plan and scenario to the imagined village residents. Every group (enthusiastic, hesitating, aggressive) should present their arguments for supporting or rejecting the ideas. A

All arguments are noted the reaction on these arguments are proposed by all members of the group. Finally the base for the Community engagement strategy development is created that is the second tool for leaning the module.

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What to learn

To develop communication skills, to lean to build trust and relationship with rural residents, to identify stakeholders and to practice human-centered approach based on the knowlege of local resources and traditions, to develop leadership and cooperation in community.

This tool may help to obtain the following competencies:

- self-regulation and empathy
- engagement and collective empowerment
- interpersonal communication and collaboration
- communication and presentation skills
- flexibility and coping with ambiguity
- motivation and goal orientation
- taking initiative

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