



REFUGEES, RELIGION, AND RESISTANCE: A European Mass Migration Crisis Simulation

EXERCISE DESCRIPTION

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**Case Study #0818-06
PKSOI TRENDS GLOBAL CASE STUDY SERIES**

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“We do not know who these people are, what their plans are, how they wish to maintain their own ideals, and we do not know if they will respect our culture and laws. This is an unregulated, uncontrolled process, the definition of which is invasion.”

Viktor Orban, Hungarian Prime Minister

“I am convinced that, handled properly, today’s great task presented by the influx and the integration of so many people is an opportunity for tomorrow”

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor

“We need efficient controls to prevent so many unregistered asylum-seekers keeping on entering via Austria ... [Border police] should be able if need be to have recourse to their firearms -- as laid down by law.”

Frauke Petry, right-wing populist AfD party leader

The current large-scale influx of refugees into the European Union presents unprecedented challenges for governments, relief agencies and the general population alike. The rapidity of the mass migration into Europe has left little time for receiving governments, host-nation citizens and the refugees themselves to prepare for a crisis of unexpected proportions, let alone tackle its roots in the Middle East.

This role-play simulation is designed to develop an understanding of the complexities of global migration and, more specifically, the current refugee crisis in Europe. Since Germany is destination to the largest number of refugees within the European Union, the simulation is set in a small fictional German town where several national and local scenarios unfold.

The simulation encourages critical thinking about current policy dilemmas by placing participants in the roles of refugees, public officials, administrators, and concerned citizens. Participants experience some of the strategic and tactical challenges involved in managing and resolving complex policy decisions with impact at the local, national and global levels.

The simulation is designed for use in a range of academic classroom settings as well as in professional and executive education and training environments addressing the following learning objectives:

- Draw attention to and develop empathy for the complexity of international migration in general and contemporary refugee issues specifically.
- Understand and personally relate to the multicultural and intercultural dynamics that affect the refugee crises.
- Appreciate and consider the economic (employment, wages, social services) and demographic (age, education, skills) dynamics affecting a small, fairly homogeneous local community.
- Familiarize participants with (some) immigration policies and regulations in the European Union.
- Appreciate and recognize the complexities among local, national and international (migration) policies.
- Understand and learn to navigate the relationships among governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector corporations and the general public.
- Experience and appreciate some of the challenges, difficulties and opportunities of public policy management and administration.