



# NOTE

DG COMM

15-06-2023

## ConSIMium second edition

- I. The project
- II. Objectives
- III. Structure of the simulation
- IV. Timeline

## I. THE PROJECT

The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) serves **two EU Institutions**: the Council of the European Union and the European Council ([www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu) and [www.european-council.europa.eu](http://www.european-council.europa.eu), respectively).

*The Council of the EU, informally known as the Council, is the House of the Member States. In it, government ministers from each EU country meet to discuss, amend and adopt laws and coordinate policies. Together with the European Parliament, the Council is the main decision-making body of the EU.*

*The Presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every 6 months. Currently, the Presidency is assured by the Czech Republic until the end of December 2022, and Sweden will hold it until the end of June 2023.*

*The European Council, instead, brings together EU leaders to set the EU's political agenda. It represents the highest level of political cooperation between EU countries. It is convened and chaired by its President (currently Charles Michel), who is elected by the European Council itself for a once-renewable two-and-a-half-year term.*

In 2022, the GSC launched the **first edition of ConSIMium**, a Council simulation experience dedicated to students in higher education. The first edition of ConSIMium took place on **2-3 February 2023** on the Council's premises in Brussels. The simulation hosted teams of **six students**, each accompanied by a national coordinator, from **all 27 Member States**. During the simulation, each student took on a specific role: one Head of State/Government, two national experts, one ambassador, one minister, one journalist.

According to their role, the students simulated **a sequence of five meetings** (European Council, two parallel working parties, COREPER and Council), with the student acting as a journalist covering the negotiations, with the aim of producing a final press article and other online and offline content.

The pilot edition has been a major success: **90%** of the participating students who provided their feedback believed that their knowledge of the (European) Council increased significantly, while **97%**

would encourage other students to participate in the next edition. Among coordinators, **100%** of those that filled in feedback forms said that ConSIMium was a useful tool for them as teachers/lecturers and that it would help students in their future careers.

After the success of the pilot edition, the GSC is currently preparing a second edition that will take place in Brussels on **18-19 April 2024**.

## II. OBJECTIVES

In line with our strategy, the objectives of the simulation would be to:

- enable young citizens to understand the role of Member States in EU decision-making,
- increase awareness of how the institutions of the EU, and in particular the Council, function,
- invite students to reflect on potential professional opportunities, traineeships in various EU institutions, job profiles, etc.
- create long-lasting partnerships with universities to extend our mutually beneficial cooperation in the future.

## III. STRUCTURE OF THE SIMULATION

The simulation will be conducted in the **Council's premises in Brussels**, in the **same rooms** where the real work of the Working Parties, the COREPER, the Council and the European Council take place.

Participants - **6 students per Member State**, ideally in their third year of Bachelor's or in their Master's and with some knowledge of EU affairs - will be assigned specific roles during the simulation. The exact distribution of roles will be communicated to the selected students at the beginning of 2024. To coordinate the national groups, partner universities/Institutions will have to identify a **national coordinator** that could accompany the students during their trip to Brussels and provide the necessary guidance for their preparation beforehand. Therefore, we suggest that the designated National coordinator should be a **professor, teaching assistant or researcher**.

**Before and after the simulation**, the students will receive the necessary training materials from the Council and some agreed training from the designated national coordinator to get a better understanding of the Institutions.

The structure of the simulation will be as follows:

<b>17 April 2024</b>
Arrival of the participants
<b>18-19 April 2024</b>
Simulated meetings in the Council's building in Brussels and other activities for the students
<b>20 April 2024</b>
Departure from Brussels

At the end of the second day, during the wrap-up session, the participants, guided by their mentors, will assess the **outcome of the exercise**. In particular, achieving an agreement will be the criterion for success. As for the acting press officers, we will assess the winning against their ability to create coherent and high-quality press and information materials.

At the end of the simulation, all the students will receive a **certificate of participation**. To ensure equal opportunities for participation of all students, the GSC intends to contribute to the **travel and accommodation costs for all selected students**. Specifically, the GSC will cover the travel of the students and national coordinator from the city of their University to Brussels and vice versa. No financial contribution is required from universities.

## IV. TIMELINE

To allow for all the logistical preparations and ensure time for the students' training, the tentative timeline for the second edition of ConSIMium should be as follows:

end July/beginning September 2023	Identification of a single national contact point in the person of the national coordinator
mid October 2023	Selection of the participating students and communication of the names to the GSC
January - March 2023	Training to the students by the GSC
18-19 April 2024	ConSIMium second edition in Brussels

### *Contact points:*

Oana Dutescu – Head of Unit, Outreach and engagement  
[oana-diana.dutescu@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:oana-diana.dutescu@consilium.europa.eu)

Cinzia Giaconia – communication officer  
[cinzia.giaconia@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:cinzia.giaconia@consilium.europa.eu)

---

Suggested shared principles for the selection of 6 students  
for the second edition of ConSIMium

The selection of the participants should be conducted at the national level. Each country will select a total of **six students** who will compose the national team, and will establish, to this end, the selection procedure that it deems appropriate.

Together with the students participating in the simulation, the national selecting body will appoint a **national coordinator** that will coach the national team, liaise with the GSC and the contractors providing the logistics for the simulation, provide ad-hoc training to the participants and accompany them to Brussels during the simulation.

To ensure sufficient equivalence among the national selection procedures, we invite all the selecting bodies to bear in mind (also) the following criteria when designing and organising the selections:

- Selected students should enjoy full rights as a **citizen of a Member State of the EU**
  - Selection should be based on the **student's merit**, as defined and measured in the national university system,
  - **Fairness and equal treatment** of all participants should be ensured
  - Students should have a **good understanding** and demonstrate an **interest in EU affairs**,
  - **Gender balance** should be ensured within the selected team,
  - A balance in terms of **study course** (i.e. students should come from at least two different types of studies) is recommended in the selected team,
  - A **balanced geographical representation** within the Member State is recommended, in line with the specificities of each Member State,
  - All the participants should be **proficient in at least two of the official languages of the EU**; a **good level of English** - at least B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) – would be an asset.
-