

THE PARADOX GAME

A 3-DAY HUMANITARIAN SIMULATION EXERCISE

Description of the Simulation Exercise

The *Paradox Game* is a three-day role-playing exercise focussed on disaster preparedness and humanitarian crisis response planning to be held in the Brussels area.

This simulation exercise, taking place in the fictional country of Paradoxia, has been developed by humanitarian crisis practitioners and academics with extensive backgrounds in humanitarian work, both in the field and at senior decision-making levels in NGOs, the UN, and government. In addition, senior-level practitioners from humanitarian organizations will participate in various capacities to enhance the realistic aspects of the exercise.

The *Paradox Game* is designed to present a series of complex humanitarian challenges to the participants, necessitating their thinking and acting in a creative and responsive manner to events focusing on disaster preparedness and response, all within a framework of conflict and internal displacement. The participants will need to address questions related to issues of human rights and the impact to national and local policy. Questions related to protection, both legal and physical, will come into play as well. Participants are encouraged to examine their concerns and individual assumptions on these humanitarian challenges.



Format

Participants will work in small teams. Each team represents a specific actor, such as a local NGO or government entity, faced with challenges that need to be addressed in an interactive and cooperative manner under dynamic circumstances and within limited time.

Prior to the game's commencement, participants will receive briefing information, including team assignments and situation-specific readings designed to prepare them to become active participants.

Facilitators

Dr. ir. Leonard van Duijn, Humanitarian Advisor, Guest researcher at Globalisation Studies Groningen (GSG).

Prof. Howard (Roy) Williams, Visiting Professor, University Swiss Italia, Lugano, Switzerland, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, and former Director, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), USAID.

Xabier Garay Barayazarra, NOHA Deusto Faculty.

Jules Pieters, MAS, former Coordinator of Emergency Operations Support of the World Health Organization, and former manager, MSF Holland Emergency Desk.

Dr. Bruno Haghebaert, Coordinator Humanitarian Aid Services, Belgian Red-Cross Flanders.



General information

Duration: 3 days, 9am to 5 pm

Dates: 1st-3rd December, 2016

Place: Brussels, Belgium

Language: English

Fees: free-of-charge
(includes participation and materials)

Participants: NOHA 3rd semester students*, NOHA alumni & externals

Application deadline: 10th November, 2016.
https://docs.google.com/a/rug.nl/forms/d/1uPmaijZnruQF21z64_IMZ2cyOCS19yrqKQkwgxeLuHA/prefill

Contact information & application submission

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* applicable only to NOHA students currently enrolled in their third semester and who have not participated in the first round (June 2016).