

Teaching Unit 12

Planning with people: a stakeholder simulation for resilient cities

Learning objectives

By the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking and systems analysis in the context of urban development.
- Apply empathy and perspective-taking to understand diverse stakeholder views.
- Practice negotiation and collaborative problem-solving in a simulated planning conflict.
- Translate theoretical concepts into practical action using real-life case studies
- Apply theoretical knowledge to real-life planning scenarios.

Question:

What does a resilient city means to you?

Key questions of the lecture

- Who has the right to shape the city, and how are these rights negotiated in practice?
- What does a socially resilient city look like from multiple stakeholder perspectives?
- How can urban planning processes better integrate diverse voices, including those often marginalized?
- What strategies help transform conflict into collaboration in planning for sustainable cities?

Method – Why role-play?

- Experiential learning technique - simulates real-world stakeholder negotiations.
- Enhances empathy, critical thinking, and systems thinking.
- Effective for exploring governance, planning, and sustainability.

Session overview

Time	Activity
0–15 min	Introduction
15–30 min	Role preparation
30–60 min	Role play simulation
60–80 min	Debrief
80–90 min	Wrap-up

Let's form groups of 5 people!

Case study context (Please select 1 of 3)

- **Case title:** A New Street in Šančiai, Kaunas: Conflict, Community, and Civic Resilience
- **Main Challenges:**
 - ✓ Lack of alignment between top-down urban planning and local needs
 - ✓ Environmental degradation risk along the Nemunas riverbank
 - ✓ Limited civic participation in formal planning processes
 - ✓ Distrust and communication breakdown between city and citizens



Fig. 1. Nemunas River Embankment (Nemuno krantinė)
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Case study context (Please select 1 of 3)

- **Case title:** Velika Hoča: Post-Conflict Recovery, Heritage Revitalization, and Community Resilience. southwestern Kosovo (UNSCR 1244).
- **Main Challenges:**
 - ✓ Post-war trauma, emigration, and community fragmentation
 - ✓ Decay of heritage architecture and spatial identity
 - ✓ Political marginalization and low institutional trust
 - ✓ Economic precarity despite cultural and agricultural richness

Case study context (Please select 1 of 3)

- **Case title:** Public Space, Private Interests: Participatory Planning in Prague–Zbraslav
- **Main Challenges:**
 - Low public knowledge of urban planning processes and rights
 - Fragmented communication and inconsistent outreach
 - Divergent expectations between long-term and new residents
 - Maintenance underfunding despite successful initial investments

Instructions for role preparation

15 min.

Assignment of the roles:

- Initiator
- Governmental body
- Beneficiary
- Academic or consultant
- EU Policy maker

Preparation:

- Read your role brief and case background
- Identify your goals, concerns, and likely allies or opponents
- Fill out your worksheet
- Prepare a 1-minute opening statement

Discussion – debate

30 min.

Rules:

- Opening statements (1 min/role).
- Stay in character throughout
- Discuss and listen ***respectfully***
- Engage constructively and listen actively
- Focus on group dynamics and negotiation
- Facilitated negotiation round: discussion, alliances, conflict.
- Attempt to reach a ***decision*** or ***compromise***.

Reflection

- Which group reached an agreement? Were players satisfied?
- What was the key element that led to an agreement?
- Which stakeholder had the strongest position and why?
- What worked? What failed?
- What were the toughest trade-offs?
- Did you feel heard?
- What might happen in a real city?
- How could citizen participation be strengthened?

Reflection

Thank you!

Urban Planning for Social Resilience in Urban Neighborhoods. Transformative Change through Civic Engagement UPRUN

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