



Simulation of a Council Meeting – Supporting Materials

STUDENT SCENARIO SHEET

The municipality is deciding between two options:

- **Option 1: Buy a new municipal utility tractor for 75,000 EUR**
 - Pros: new, reliable, more environmentally friendly, longer lifespan
 - Cons: expensive, requires careful budgeting or loan
- **Option 2: Repair the old municipal utility tractor for 25,000 EUR**
 - Pros: cheaper immediate cost
 - Cons: may require further repairs soon, less reliable, higher operating costs

Municipal Budget (simplified):

- Revenues: 125,000 EUR
- Expenditures: 92,000 EUR
- Remaining funds: 33,000 EUR

Guiding questions:

- Can the municipality afford either option without taking a loan?
- What are the risks of each option?
- What might happen if the municipality delays the decision?
- How does this decision affect different groups of citizens?

STUDENT WORKSHEET – SIMULATION & REFLECTION

1. What role did you have?
2. What arguments did you use?
3. What was the final decision?
4. Which argument was the strongest? Why?
5. What did you learn about democratic decision-making?



ROLE CARDS:

MAYOR

Role: Chair of the council meeting

Goal: Ensure a fair discussion and a final decision

Key responsibilities / arguments:

- Give everyone the opportunity to speak
- Make sure the discussion follows the rules
- The final decision should benefit the whole municipality

COUNCIL MEMBER – BUDGET-FOCUSED

Role: Council member responsible for finances

Goal: Protect the municipal budget

Key arguments:

- The municipal utility tractor costs 75,000 EUR
- The municipality does not currently have enough money
- Buying the municipal utility tractor may cause debt or cuts in other areas

COUNCIL MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL

Role: Council member focused on the environment

Goal: Protect nature and sustainability

Key arguments:

- New municipal utility tractors can be more environmentally friendly
- Lower emissions and lower fuel consumption are important
- Long-term environmental benefits should be considered

COUNCIL MEMBER – TECHNICAL

Role: Council member focused on functionality and quality

Goal: Ensure reliable equipment for the municipality

Key arguments:

- A high-quality municipal utility tractor can save money in the long term
- Old equipment is inefficient and breaks down often
- Good technology improves municipal services

COUNCIL MEMBER – SPORTS & LEISURE

Role: Council member supporting leisure and sports

Goal: Protect funding for sports and community activities

Key arguments:

- The money could be used for sports facilities or playgrounds
- The municipal utility tractor may not be the top priority for citizens
- The municipality must balance different needs



CITIZENS

Role: Member of the public

Goal: Express public opinion

Key arguments:

- Ask questions about the decision
- Support or oppose the purchase
- Represent the voice of local people

VOTING BALLOT

Decision:

- YES – Buy a new municipal utility tractor
- NO – Repair the old municipal utility tractor