



NOTE

DG COMM

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ConSIMium 2025

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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 and 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.

Recently, the GSC launched the **ConSIMium**, a Council simulation experience dedicated to students in higher education. Every year, the simulation hosts teams of **six students**, each accompanied by a national coordinator, from **all 27 Member States**.

During the simulation, each student takes on a specific role:

- one Head of State/Government;
- two national experts;
- one ambassador;
- one minister;
- one journalist.

According to their role, each student simulates **one or several meetings**, with the student acting as a journalist **covering the negotiations** to produce a final press article and other online and offline content.

Given the success of the project, the GSC is currently preparing the 2025 edition that will take place in Brussels on **20-21 February 2025**.

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** - shall be selected nationally, following the shared principles laid down in the annex to this note. 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, provide the necessary guidance for their preparation, and assign each student a specific for the simulation. Therefore, we suggest that the designated National coordinator should be a **professor, teaching assistant or researcher**. Before the simulation, the students will receive the necessary training materials and online informative sessions from the Council.

The structure of the simulation will be as follows:

19 February 2025
Arrival of the participants
20-21 February 2025
Simulated meetings in the Council's building in Brussels and other activities for the students
22 February 2025
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. 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 preparations, the timeline for ConSIMium 2025 should be as follows:

September/October 2024	Identification of a single national contact point in the person of the national coordinator
By 4 November 2024	Selection of the participating students and communication of the names to the GSC
December – January 2024-25	Training to the students by the GSC
20-21 February 2025	ConSIMium 2025 in Brussels

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