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To Build or Not to Build

A four-dimension stakeholder simulation about an airport in a protected forest, the politics of green growth, and the secret interests behind every public position.



In the fictional Republic of Amasea, the government has proposed building a new international airport in a region of protected forest. Twelve to twenty participants are split into four 'dimensions', economic, political, environmental and social, each with three or more characters whose interests pull in different directions. Each character has a public position and a confidential personal interest. A two-thirds majority is required to approve construction. The game suits larger groups and produces some of the richest debriefs in the toolkit, partly because of the dimension structure and partly because of the ethical tension built into each role.



CHECKMATE
to Climate Misinformation

Game at a Glance

Theme	Climate, infrastructure, biodiversity, governance and the cost of green compromise
Format	Town-meeting role-play across four dimensions, with public and private interests
Duration	Approximately 3 hours (2.5 h game + 30 min debrief)
Participants	Minimum 12; works best with 16–20 (4 dimensions × 3+ characters)
Recommended age	16+
Difficulty	Medium / High
Space	Four group tables in a circular layout, plus a moderator's table
Materials	Character cards, dimension indicators, voting cards, news flash, instruction guidelines
Central question	Should the Republic of Amasea approve the construction of the new international airport?
Decision threshold	Two-thirds majority - at least 8 of 12 voting in favour

Learning Objectives

By the end of the simulation, participants will be able to:

1. Critically assess information sources, distinguishing reliable facts, misinformation and malinformation in fast-moving public debate.
2. Understand the dynamics of decision-making in a democratic setting where diverse interests and values conflict.
3. Develop communication and negotiation skills through role-play, argumentation and consensus-building.
4. Reflect on the impact of climate change and human development on natural and cultural heritage, and on the people who live with the consequences.
5. Reach a collective decision based on informed reasoning and ethical consideration, and notice how their own reasoning was shaped along the way.

The Story

The game is set in the fictional Republic of Amasea, a small but vibrant nation known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich biodiversity and deep cultural heritage. Tucked away in the region of Samaea, the land is blessed with rolling green hills, crystal-clear rivers and forests teeming with rare species of flora and fauna. It is a place where centuries-old trees stand as silent witnesses to the country's history, a natural sanctuary officially protected by national heritage laws.

Recently, the leading group of the city has proposed the construction of a new international airport in this very region. The site, though located outside the main city, lies only ninety minutes from the nation's existing central airport. Proponents argue that the new airport would relieve congestion, strengthen the economy and serve as a crucial link for trade and tourism, not just for Amasea, but also for its neighbouring countries, thanks to its proximity to the border.

However, the project has ignited a heated national debate. Environmentalists and local communities warn that the development threatens the delicate ecosystems that make the region unique, the beautiful flora and fauna. Tourism operators and hikers fear that the natural charm that draws visitors from around the world could be lost forever. Meanwhile, politicians, businesses and citizens are divided between economic growth and ecological preservation.

As the player, you step into this complex scenario: balancing environmental impact, economic gain, political alliances and public opinion. Each decision will shape the future of the region: will Amasea become a model of sustainable progress, or a cautionary tale of environmental neglect?



Roles Overview - Four Dimensions

Twelve to twenty participants are split into four 'dimensions'.

Each dimension contains three (or more) roles whose interests pull in different directions.

Each role has a public mission and a private bias, the secret interest you are not supposed to admit at the table.

Environmental dimension	• Dr. Maria Chen (Environmental Scientist) • Dr. Liam Okoro (Conservation Ecologist) • Aisha Rahman (Community Activist)
Political dimension	• Peter Halsten (Local Council Member) • Helena Vossen (Veteran Politician) • Katarina Reinholt (Political Advisor) • Marcus Lindgren (Youth-Party Rep)
Economic dimension	• John Smith (Business Investor) • Victoria Secrets (Ethical Trader) • Anastasia Papadopoulou (Economist) • Martha Snow (Unemployed Student) • Carrot O'Neil (Engineer) • Sergio Mayers (Trade-Union Rep)
Social dimension	• Sofia Marinou (Neighbourhood Association) • Jonas Petrou (Local Business Owner) • Alina Drakos (Local Nurse) • Nikos Tzane (Local Guide) • Elena Vassiliou (High-School Teacher) • Andreas Foulkes (Local Council Member)

Distribute roles confidentially.

Place three character cards face-down on each dimension's table; participants flip them only when the moderator says so.

Full character cards are in Annex 2A.

Step-by-Step Facilitator Flow

Phase 0 - Setup

- Arrange four group tables in a circle, each with a dimension indicator (environmental, political, economic, social).
- Place 3+ character cards face-down on each table according to dimension.
- Reserve a small elevated table for yourself in the centre.
- Have ground-rule and central-question signs printed and posted.
- Prepare the NEWS FLASH cards (Annex 2B) but keep them out of sight.

Phase 1 - General presentation and rules (10 min)

Welcome the participants. Introduce yourself as the moderator of the town meeting. Explain that the meeting will decide whether to approve construction of a new international airport in a protected area. Read the ground rules aloud:

- Flip your character card only when the moderator says so.
- Card information is confidential - do not show it to anyone outside your team.
- Raise your hand to speak.
- During formal time, no speech longer than two minutes.
- Defend your character's position according to the card.
- Approval requires two-thirds in favour - at least 8 of 12 votes.
- Respect informal-time guidelines.

Phase 2 - Context (5 min)

Read the story (above) aloud. Confirm that everyone understands the scenario and the central question. Tell the participants they may now flip their cards.

Phase 3 - Discover roles (20 min, informal)

Each group reads their character cards, discusses, and formulates a common position to present. Each group selects a representative who will deliver the opening statement. Walk between tables, clarifying procedure but not content.

Phase 4 - Opening statements (8 min, formal)

Open the town meeting. Each dimension's representative delivers a two-minute opening statement. Time strictly. Do not allow questions yet.

Phase 5 - Town meeting discussions (20–25 min, formal)

Open the floor. Speaking time is limited to two minutes per intervention. Use the placard system to manage the queue. If the room is hesitant, ask procedural questions:

- Does anyone have a different perspective to share?
- What information do you still need before deciding?
- Who benefits most from this project?
- Who might be negatively affected?

Phase 6 - NEWS FLASH (5 min)

Interrupt the meeting with breaking news. Read the NEWS FLASH aloud (Annex 2B): hackers have leaked information on the project and on individual characters, exposing the misinformation and disinformation that has been circulating during the debate. Distribute the printed flash to each table.

Phase 7 - Coffee break (15 min, informal)

Suspend the meeting. Participants may move freely, talk to other groups, share information, attempt deals. This is the lobbying phase and often the richest part of the simulation. Watch for emerging coalitions; do not interfere.

Phase 8 - Final discussions (30–40 min, formal)

Re-open the meeting. Players have thirty to forty minutes of moderated open discussion to convince others. Tell them this is the last discussion before voting. Speaking time remains two minutes per intervention.

Phase 9 - Vote (10 min, formal)

Re-state the question: 'Will Amasea approve the construction of the new international airport?' All in favour vote with a raised hand. Two-thirds (at least 8 of 12) are needed for approval. Count, record, announce result. Close the meeting.

Phase 10 - Debrief (30–45 min)

Step out of the simulation. Use the 4Fs framework. Reveal the misinformation, disinformation and malinformation explicitly using the typology. The NEWS FLASH already exposed some of it; complete the picture in the debrief.

Debrief - Specific Questions for This Game

- Was the result decided more by argument or by coalition? Which groups quietly aligned during the coffee break?
- Which character had the strongest gap between their public position and their private interest? How did that gap play out at the table?
- If your dimension lost the vote, what would you have needed to win it? More speakers, better facts, a different alliance?
- Look at the NEWS FLASH - which corrections changed the conversation, and which were ignored? Why?
- Two-thirds majority is a high bar. Did it favour caution, or block progress? What would have changed with a simple majority?
- Where were the secret financial incentives in the political dimension? Did anyone catch them, or did they slip past?

Annex 2A - Character Cards

Print one card per character on its own sheet.

The bias / hidden interest is for the character themselves, they may use it to inform their actions, but should not openly read it aloud.





DR. MARIA CHEN

Environmental Scientist

You are experienced in large infrastructure projects and understand both policy and field implementation. You approve and monitor the Environmental Impact Assessment, ensure construction meets air, water and noise standards, and coordinate environmental audits.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL):

You have spent your career advocating for stricter emissions standards. You are worried that approving this airport could set a precedent for leniency and undermine your reputation. There is also a quiet temptation: a third-party consultancy contract awarded to a close associate would benefit you personally if the airport is approved quickly. You have a personal incentive to minimise environmental concerns and fast-track approvals.

MAIN INTEREST

Ensure the project complies with national environmental regulations.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 3/5
Economic 0
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Precise, technical, cites regulations and EIAs.
Defensive when conflicts of interest are raised
Uses jargon to deflect.
Watchwords: 'compliance', 'standards', 'mitigation framework'.



DR. LIAM OKORO

Conservation Ecologist

You are a conservation ecologist renowned for balancing development with biodiversity protection near transport corridors. You study the potential effects of construction on local wildlife and habitats, design biodiversity protection plans, and advise on habitat restoration once major projects are complete.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL):

The planned airport would destroy the wetland where you conducted your doctoral research, erasing years of your work. Or, perhaps you secretly own (or a family member owns) adjacent land that would rise sharply in value if certain environmental protections force the airport to alter its design.

MAIN INTEREST

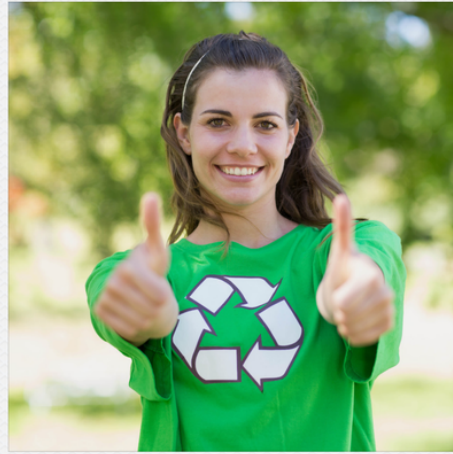
Protect biodiversity in the proposed development zone, particularly migratory birds and wetlands.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 3/5
Economic 0
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Passionate about specific habitats; tells stories about field research.
Quiet authority.
Watchwords: 'ecosystem', 'once it's gone, it's gone', 'migratory corridor'.



AISHA RAHMAN

Community Environmental Activist

You are a trusted community leader with deep knowledge of local environmental conditions. You mediate between airport planners and local residents, advocate for sustainable job creation, and push for fair compensation when development is unavoidable.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL):

Your home and your family's small organic farm are within the affected zone. You fear displacement, declining property values and the loss of your neighbourhood's sense of community. You are also secretly using the community platform to build a base for a future political run, and you may be willing to inflame local opposition (including amplifying unverified claims) if it helps your campaign.

MAIN INTEREST

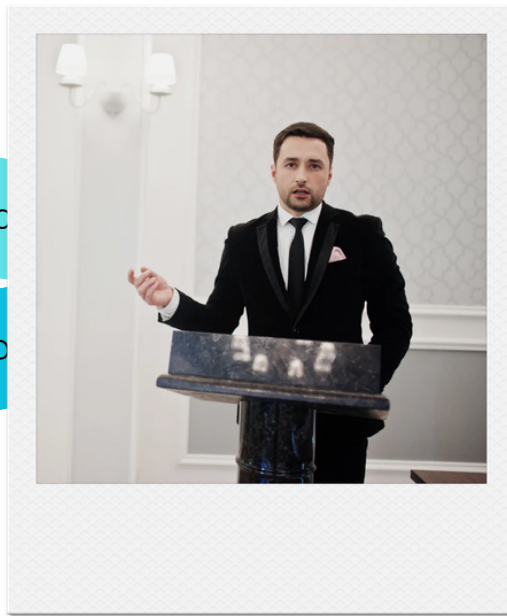
Safeguard local residents' environmental quality, clean air, low noise and green public spaces

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 3/5
Economic 0
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

warm community voice, peppered with everyday detail ('my neighbour Mrs. Kazem...'). Knows how to mobilise emotion. Watchwords: 'our home', 'not for sale', 'the people behind the numbers'.



PETER HALSTEN

Local Council Member

You hold a degree in Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Development and were a regional planner before entering politics. You are known for a pragmatic but visionary approach to national infrastructure, and you specialise in sustainable-development policy. You combine technical expertise with a strong commitment to environmental responsibility, at least in public.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

Your cousin owns farmland that may be expropriated if the airport proceeds. You are conflicted but hiding it. You may quietly favour the airport because approval could increase your family's land value, even where it conflicts with community concerns.

Misinformation in your pack: the airport will be 'Europe's first carbon-neutral rural airport'. (Correct info: only a small percentage of operations will be powered by renewable energy; 'carbon-neutral' is a substantial exaggeration.)

MAIN INTEREST

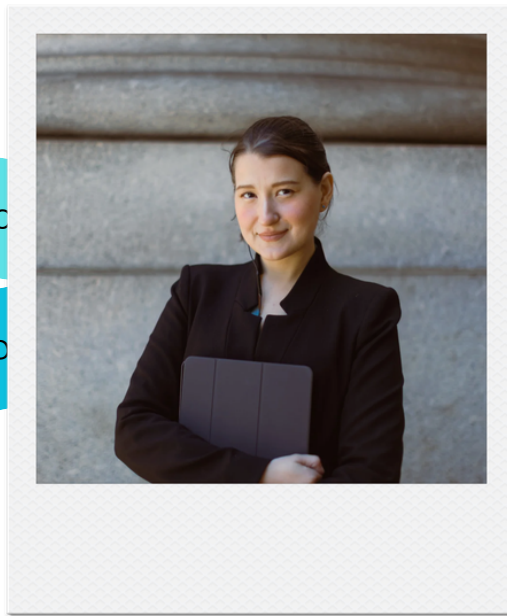
Shape infrastructure policy while navigating political and community pressures.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 1/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 0
Political 3/5

BEHAVIOUR

Smooth, reasonable-sounding.
Frames everything as 'balanced'.
Drops in technical-sounding sustainability vocabulary.
Watchwords: 'pragmatic compromise', 'best of both worlds', 'evidence-led policy'.



HELENA VOSSSEN

Veteran Politician and Traditionalist

You hold a degree in international law and have decades of political experience as a former regional planner. You value stability and community traditions, and you feel an obligation to protect the area from what you see as a catastrophic, irreversible change.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

Your son leads the local farmers' association strongly opposing the airport, and you secretly help them gather documents against the ministry. You also have personal memories of the area that drive your opposition more than any briefing could.

Misinformation in your pack: *'the government will take land without paying fair value'. (Correct info: compensation is above market value, following EU standards.)*

MAIN INTEREST

Preserve community stability and traditions while influencing political decisions.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 1/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 0
Political 3/5

BEHAVIOUR

Gravitas of long service, slightly old-fashioned. Quotes proverbs and 'in my day...' references. Suspicious of progress for its own sake. Watchwords: 'heritage', 'our roots', 'careful what we throw away'.



KATARINA REINHOLT

Political Advisor to the Minister

You are a political advisor to the Minister of Transportation: loyal, strategic, used to working behind the scenes rather than in the spotlight. You attended this town meeting specifically to manipulate the result toward YES, and you believe the rest of the room may not realise quite how skilled you are at doing so.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

Private investors are already lined up to build logistics facilities adjacent to the new airport. The project will create over 2,500 construction jobs across three years, and more than 1,200 permanent positions. You know more about the deal than anyone else in the room, and that knowledge is leverage.

MAIN INTEREST

Advance government priorities and strategic political outcomes.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 0
Environmental 0
Economic 2/5
Political 3/5

BEHAVIOUR

Cool, calculating, prefers backstage to spotlight. Speaks softly but with authority; pulls people aside during the coffee break rather than pressing the room. Watchwords: 'strategic alignment', 'the Minister's view', 'behind the scenes'.



MARCUS LINDGREN

Youth-Party Representative

You are a recent political-sciences graduate and a rising spokesperson for a youth party, and you are widely seen as ambitious. You see the airport as a symbol of innovation and progress, and you strongly believe the project will modernise the area, attract low-cost airlines and bring regional tourism to a town that has waited too long for its turn.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You hope the Minister will notice your performance today and offer you a role in the Ministry's communications office. You may push the vote in favour to strengthen ties with investors and secure a future career, even if doing so bends procedural transparency a little.

***Misinformation in your pack:** the airport will be 'Europe's first carbon-neutral rural airport'. (Correct info: only a small percentage of operations will be powered by renewable energy; 'carbon-neutral' is a substantial exaggeration.)*

MAIN INTEREST

Promote innovation and regional development while strengthening your political visibility.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 0
Environmental 0
Economic 2/5
Political 3/5

BEHAVIOUR

High-energy, modern, social-media-fluent. Speaks in soundbites; mentions 'our generation' frequently. Visibly performs for the room. Watchwords: 'the future is now', 'innovation', 'young Europeans'.



JOHN SMITH

Local Business Investor

You are a self-made entrepreneur who owns several small businesses across the city. You see the proposed airport project as a catalyst for economic growth and foreign investment, not just business, but a way to modernise the region and create jobs. You occasionally dabble in local politics, but your real focus has always been expanding your ventures and building partnerships.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You own land near the proposed airport zone and stand to profit substantially from rising property values if the project is approved.

MAIN INTEREST

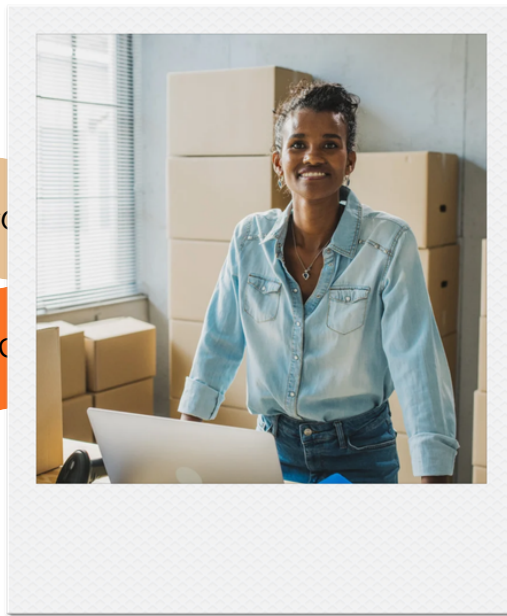
Maximise business and tourism opportunities through infrastructure growth.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 1/5
Environmental 0
Economic 3/5
Political 1/5

BEHAVIOUR

Confident self-made energy; tells stories of 'when I started with nothing'. Treats objections as obstacles to manage rather than concerns to engage. Watchwords: 'opportunity', 'growth', 'we either build or we fall behind'.



VICTORIA SECRETS

Ethical Trader

You have spent over a decade as a trader specialising in local and eco-friendly products. You welcome the additional trade growth that an airport would bring, but you are genuinely worried about the destruction of nearby forests and the loss of local biodiversity. You are pragmatic and believe progress must be balanced with sustainability, though where exactly that balance sits is something you find easier to invoke than to define.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

Your trading company would gain exclusive rights to supply the new local airport shops if the project proceeds, a contract worth several years of stable revenue.

MAIN INTEREST

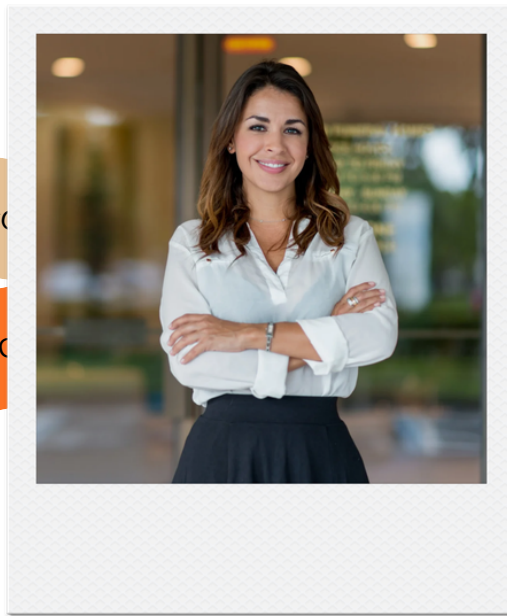
Encourage trade growth without compromising the environment.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 0
Environmental 2/5
Economic 3/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Poised, ethical-sounding, distances herself from 'pure profit' language but rarely actually opposes the deal. Watchwords: 'sustainable trade', 'conscious commerce', 'both / and'.



ANASTASIA PAPADOPOULOU

Economist and Policy Advisor

You are a university lecturer and policy consultant specialising in regional economics. You view the airport as a potential growth engine, but only if it serves people, protects the environment and follows transparent governance. Your pragmatic yet ethical approach often places you between politicians, activists and business leaders, and you have learned to be careful with whom you agree publicly.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You advise a consultancy firm hoping to win the economic feasibility study for the airport. The contract would be lucrative and would establish your firm in the region for years.

MAIN INTEREST

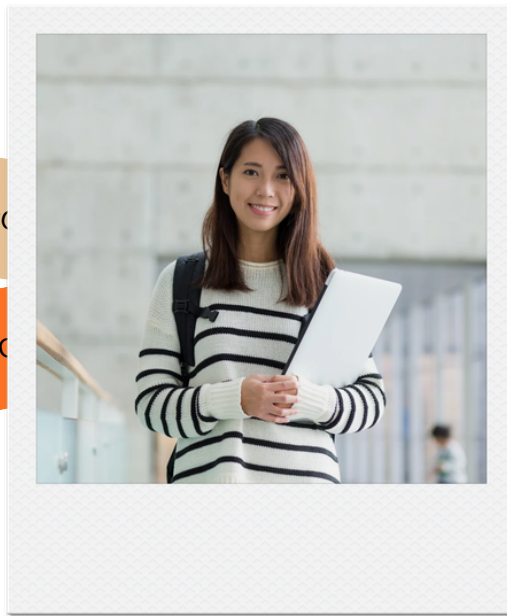
Balanced economic development rooted in ethics and sustainability.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 1/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 2/5
Political 1/5

BEHAVIOUR

Lecturer-mode, citation-heavy, careful balance. Frequently says 'the literature suggests...'.
Watchwords: 'evidence-based', 'structural drivers', 'in the medium term'.



MARTHA SNOW

Unemployed Environmental Student

You are an environmental-studies graduate who recently lost a part-time job. Financially strained and searching for stability, you are torn between your ecological values and your need for employment. You dream of protecting nature, but you also know the airport might offer you and others like you a real chance to rebuild, and that thought is heavier than you would like to admit out loud.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You have applied for a paid internship with the airport's environmental management division. You haven't told your activist friends.

MAIN INTEREST

Reconcile personal economic needs with environmental ethics.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 1/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 3/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Torn, sincere, sometimes contradicts herself within a single statement. Tries to be honest about both sides. Watchwords: 'I know I should care more, but...', 'rent', 'a chance'.



CARROT O'NEIL

Community Engineer

You are an engineer with years of experience in sustainable construction projects. You believe in progress that benefits both economy and society, and for you the airport could symbolise innovation and renewal, if it is done responsibly. Known for your optimism, you enjoy mentoring young engineers and advocating for ethical development.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

Your engineering firm is shortlisted for a major construction contract on the project. Winning the contract would secure your firm and your team for years.

MAIN INTEREST

Build infrastructure that benefits both community and economy.

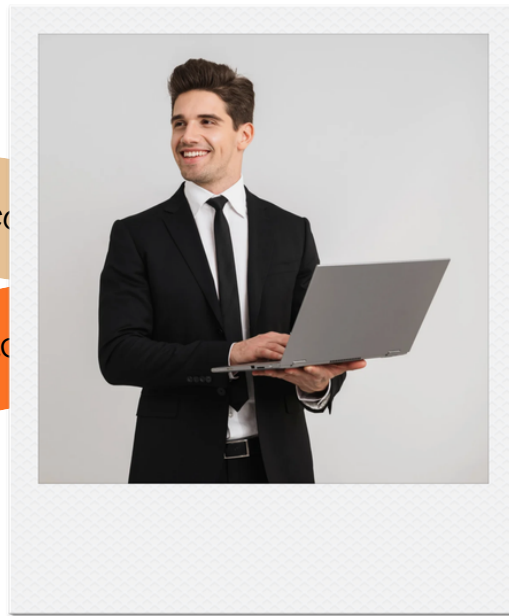
ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 2/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Practical, cheerful, solutions-oriented. Talks about specific designs ('we could put the runway here...').

Watchwords: 'build it right', 'hands-on experience', 'young engineers like...'.
ECONOMIC DIMENSION ECONOMIC DIMENSION



SERGIO MAYERS

Trade-Union Representative

You are a respected union leader who has championed workers' rights and economic stability for years. You see the airport as a potential boost for employment and public infrastructure, but you worry about labour exploitation and wage inequality during construction. You are a skilled negotiator, a bridge between the working class and the political elite, and you know exactly how thin that bridge can be.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You are under pressure from a political ally to publicly endorse the project, regardless of what your members would prefer.

MAIN INTEREST

Secure fair labour conditions and sustainable economic growth.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 0
Economic 2/5
Political 1/5

BEHAVIOUR

Blunt, working-class register, protective of his members. Watches for any sign workers are being sold short. Watchwords: 'the workers', 'fair wages', 'where are the guarantees?'.



SOFIA MARINOU

Neighbourhood Association Representative

You have lived in the same district your entire life. You organise local fairs, help elderly neighbours and take pride in preserving the town's identity. You have seen gentrification push out families you grew up with, and you worry that the airport will accelerate that. At the same time, you are aware that many young people are leaving in search of work.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

Your brother owns property near the proposed site and could profit substantially if land prices rise.

MAIN INTEREST

Protect the community's cohesion and affordability.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 3/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 1/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Warm, gossipy, well-connected. Knows everyone's name. Speaks in 'we' and 'our'.
Watchwords: 'our neighbourhood', 'the people who built this place', 'character of the area'.



JONAS PETROU

Local Business Owner

You own a small café and souvenir shop near the old harbour. The last few tourist seasons have been slow, and you are struggling to pay off a loan. You believe an airport would revive the city's business scene and bring back foreign visitors. Your optimism borders on desperation, you need change to survive, though you are not blind to the risks of overdevelopment if things move too fast.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You were promised a supply contract by a company linked to the airport project. The promise has not been put in writing.

MAIN INTEREST

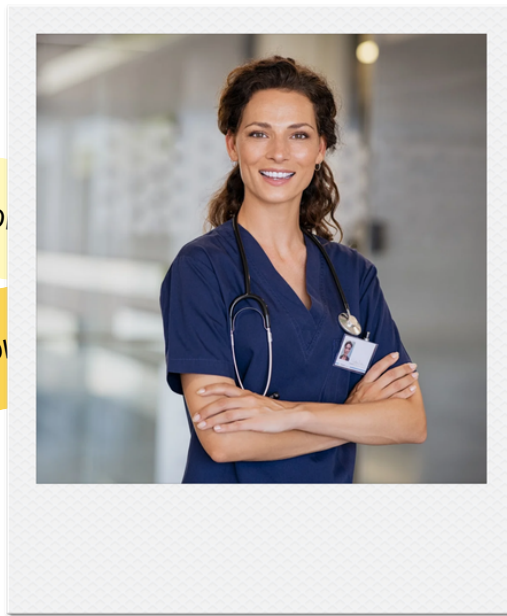
Boost local business through tourism.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 0
Economic 3/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Anxious cheerfulness; pivots fast between optimism and worry about the loan.
Watchwords: 'bookings are down', 'we just need a chance', 'something has to change'.



ALINA DRAKOS

Local Nurse

You work at the regional hospital, where you often see medical cases delayed by poor transportation links. You are tired of watching patients miss critical treatment because ambulances cannot reach the capital fast enough. You value the environment, but your central concern is saving lives, and you are frustrated by political theatre that gets in the way of practical solutions.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

A pharmaceutical company sponsoring your hospital is lobbying for improved logistics, and you stand to benefit professionally from a more connected region.

MAIN INTEREST

Improve emergency access and public-health infrastructure.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 0
Economic 1/5
Political 2/5

BEHAVIOUR

Tired, no-nonsense, frustrated by political theatre. Tells short, vivid hospital stories.
Watchwords: 'lives', 'ambulance', 'every minute counts'.



NIKOS TZANE

Local Guide

You are an eco-tourism guide. For nearly a decade you have led visitors through the forests and ancient ruins of the region, and you have seen first-hand how fragile the local ecosystems are, and how visitors can both help and harm them. You believe sustainable tourism is the key, but you fear mass tourism will erase what makes the area authentic.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

A large tour company has offered you a marketing contract if the airport is built. You haven't told your fellow guides.

Misinformation in your pack: the airport will cut overall emissions because it reduces long ground transfers from the capital. (NEWS FLASH reveals: the supporting study was financed by a marketing firm hired by the airport consortium; total flights would actually rise by 40%.)

MAIN INTEREST

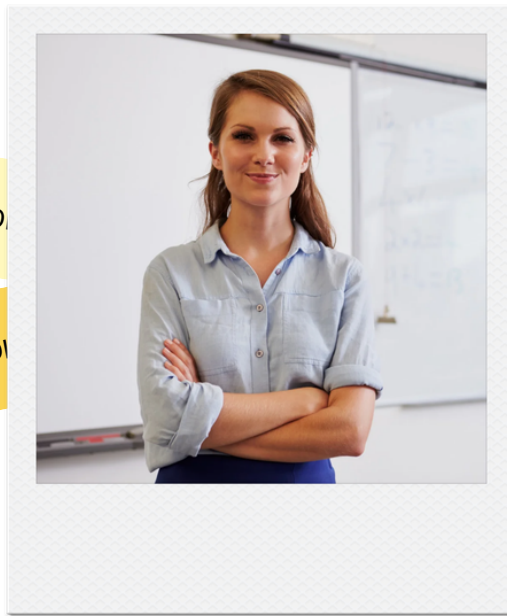
Preserve authentic culture while staying economically relevant.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 2/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Laid-back outdoor energy, slightly idealistic. Speaks about the land in personal terms. Watchwords: 'the trail', 'visitors who really listen', 'once it's gone'.



ELENA VASSILIOU

High-School Teacher

You teach history and social studies. You try to instil critical thinking in your students, but lately you have been overwhelmed by the volume of misinformation circulating online, especially about the airport. Your brother works in construction, so you feel torn. You believe in development but worry about fairness and transparency in the process.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

You unknowingly shared misinformation from a biased source in class last term, and have been quietly anxious about it ever since.

MAIN INTEREST

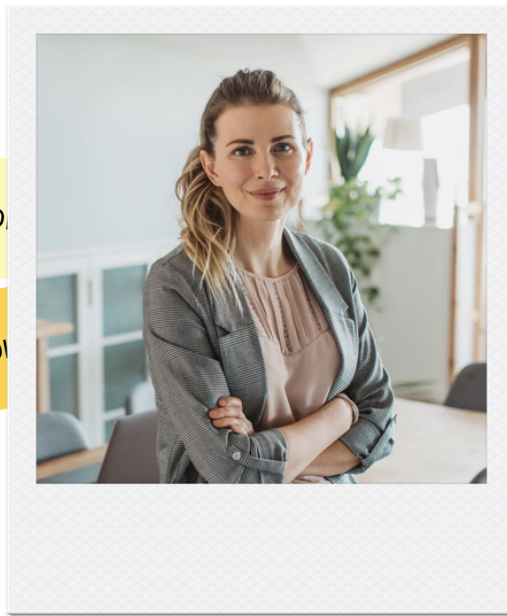
Defend truth and informed debate in the community.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 2/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 1/5
Political 1/5

BEHAVIOUR

Thoughtful, slightly self-conscious. Tries to model the critical thinking she preaches.
Watchwords: 'sources', 'context', 'what are we actually being asked to believe?'.



ANDREAS FOULKES

Local Council Member (extra social character)

You are a history teacher and long-time council member, born and raised in this village. You consider yourself a guardian of community values and you can be judgemental when others fall short. You care deeply about how taxation money is spent and about the transparency of any major construction project.

PERSONAL INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL)

A business indirectly linked to the Ministry has offered you a consultancy position if you support the construction and help the voting process move smoothly. You also fear losing your seat in next year's elections if the airport causes severe damage to the area.

MAIN INTEREST

Guard community values and the transparency of taxation and contracts.

ATTRIBUTES

Social 3/5
Environmental 1/5
Economic 1/5
Political 0

BEHAVIOUR

Principled-sounding, somewhat performative. Likes the gravitas of council meetings. Watchwords: 'transparency', 'the ratepayers deserve...', 'due process'.

Annex 2B - The NEWS FLASH

Read this aloud FLASH NEWS at the end of Phase 5.

Distribute a printed copy of news articles to each table at the start of Phase 7.

Print-ready click-bait articles (to circulate before the NEWS FLASH)

Print these on plain paper as if they were real online articles. Distribute them informally during Phase 5 (town meeting discussions), slip them onto a table, hand them to a single team, or post on the wall.

They are participant-ready: no facilitator labels.



BREAKING NEWS

OFFICIAL MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

Serious concerns have arisen regarding the proposal for the new airport. The Ministry has issued the following clarification:

(1) All property acquisitions related to the airport will follow EU guidelines and pay landowners above market value. No expropriation will take place without full consultation.

(2) The environmental report confirms that while the airport will feature renewable energy systems and modern efficiency standards, full carbon neutrality remains an ambition for the future, not a current reality. The Ministry disproves the recently circulated study suggesting the airport would significantly cut CO₂ emissions through shorter travel routes - the underlying data was unverified.

(3) Private investors are confirmed and preparing logistics facilities nearby. Construction is expected to generate more than 2,500 jobs, followed by approximately 1,200 permanent positions once operations begin.

The Ministry remains committed to open dialogue and accurate information.

BREAKING: Bulldozers to Roll Into the Valley Next Week - Locals Fear the Worst!

[Amasea Today | by N. Karras | 14:22 - 8 comments]

Sources close to the airport project have confirmed that heavy machinery will move into the protected valley as early as next Monday. ‘They are not even waiting for the council vote,’ said a local resident who declined to be named. Photos circulating online appear to show construction equipment already being delivered to a nearby depot.

Environmental campaigners say the move proves what they have suspected all along: that the decision has already been made and the public consultation is theatre. ‘What is even the point of voting?’ asks a local activist. ‘They are coming for the forest whether we agree or not.’

The Ministry has not responded to requests for comment.

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EXCLUSIVE: Minister's Former Donor Among Airport Bidders - Conflict of Interest?!

[The Daily Pulse | Investigations Desk]

Documents seen by this publication show that one of the companies shortlisted to build the new airport gave significant donations to the Minister of Transport's last political campaign. The company, which we do not name pending further confirmation, is one of three finalists in the procurement process.

The revelation has prompted calls for the Minister to recuse himself from any decision relating to the airport. ‘This is exactly the kind of cosy arrangement that erodes public trust,’ commented one anonymous source familiar with the matter.

The Ministry insists that ‘all procurement procedures have been followed’ and that an Ethics Committee review found ‘no evidence of preferential treatment’. Critics call the Committee's review a whitewash.

Sleepless Nights Ahead? Locals Brace for 24-Hour Flights at New Airport

[The Citizen Daily | Lifestyle | 12 March]

If the new airport is approved, families across the valley could face round-the-clock takeoffs and landings, according to projections circulating in environmental circles this week. 'We will not sleep again,' said a mother of three from the village nearest the proposed site.

Health professionals interviewed by this publication warn that chronic noise exposure is linked to elevated stress, cardiovascular issues and impaired learning in children. 'The science is unambiguous,' said one paediatrician. 'There is no safe level of unrestricted nocturnal aviation noise.'

Pro-airport voices counter that 'modern aviation is quieter than ever' - a claim that critics call disingenuous given the projected number of flight movements.

CITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Crime rate 'up 200%' since airport plans announced

[Excerpt from a leaked summary report]

A bar chart on page 14 of the report shows a striking spike in reported incidents in the airport corridor during the consultation period. 'Crime rate up 200% since airport plans announced!' reads the chart's headline. The report calls for 'urgent action to restore order in the affected communities'.

(Visualisation: a bar chart with two columns. The first column is short and labelled 'Before'. The second column is approximately three times the height and labelled 'After'. The y-axis numbers are too small to read in the leaked image.)

Facilitator cheat-sheet: the misinformation reveal

Cheat-sheet: misinformation in To Build or Not to Build

Article 1: 'Bulldozers to roll into the valley next week' → DISINFORMATION.

The article claimed full construction equipment was being delivered. Reality: site inspections only, soil and terrain assessment, fully disclosed in advance. The article was a deliberate fabrication seeded to inflame opposition before the vote.

Article 2: 'Minister's former donor among airport bidders' → MALINFORMATION.

The donor's company really is on the shortlist (true fact). The framing implies favouritism. Reality: procurement rules required open competitive bidding; the Ethics Committee reviewed and found no preferential treatment. The truth has been stripped of context to create suspicion.

Article 3: 'Sleepless nights ahead - 24-hour flights' → MISINFORMATION.

The article was shared by people who genuinely believed it. Reality: the project's environmental report explicitly restricts night flights and mandates noise-control measures. The fear was real; the claim was wrong.

Article 4: 'Crime rate up 200%' → MANIPULATED STATISTIC.

The chart is technically correct: incidents went from 2 to 6, which is indeed a 200% increase. Reality: the base rate is so small that the figure is meaningless. Use this to teach the '200% of what?' check.

In-character misinformation (carried by individual roles):

- 'Europe's first carbon-neutral rural airport' (Peter Halsten, Marcus Lindgren): exaggeration. Only a small share of operations will be renewable-powered.
- 'Government will take land without paying fair value' (Helena Vossen): wrong. Compensation is above market value, EU standard.
- 'Airport reduces overall emissions through shorter ground transfers' (Nikos Tzane): study was financed by an airport-consortium marketing firm; emissions actually rise 40%.