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- Collaborating with other organisations where there are common or overlapping interests;
- Assisting the development of advisory systems through capacity-building workshops;
- Producing articles and discussion papers based on comparative research into the science and art of scientific advice.

The following case study was used in an INGSA partnered Francophone Africa capacity building workshop held in March 2017 in Dakar, Sénégal.



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Mulikamée¹: a fictitious case study

Fighting unemployment, emigration and radicalization

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Mulikamée is a predominantly Muslim country in West Africa. Its population is extremely young, with an average age of 22 years. While the country's economic situation is promising, growth rates vary considerably from one year to the next: they are dependent on the vagaries of the weather, which influence agricultural productivity and fishing.

Data produced by the Mulikamée Institute of Statistics indicate an unemployment rate of 10%. Although this rate is comparable to that of many European countries, in the streets, the reality is quite different. Many young people find themselves under-employed in the so-called "informal" sector; they work on farms or engage in undeclared small scale commercial activities that prove to be highly unprofitable. These young people in precarious situations are not officially counted as unemployed and feel marginalized and excluded.

According to a World Bank report, with the country's youth to drive the workforce, Mulikamée could well achieve emerging country status within the next twenty years. In order for this to happen, policy-makers must deal with the issue of employment for young people who, more than ever, are aspiring to better living conditions. Some youth are turning away from government solutions, choosing to follow alternative paths such as violent radicalization and emigration.

The government is not succeeding in reducing illegal emigration from the country. "Leave or die" is the leitmotiv of the young people who decide to illegally enter the Schengen Area, embarking on makeshift boats bound for Spain. Smugglers, tempted by the lure of profit, paint an excessively idyllic picture of the conditions that await them upon their arrival. Despite the ships patrolling the waters in collaboration with the European Union, hundreds of Mulikamenes undertake this extremely hazardous crossing every week. Spectacular shipwrecks kill thousands of migrants each year, feeding the media with touching stories of orphaned families who are referred to as victims of a failing economic system.

In its more politically unstable neighbouring countries, many young people are joining radical movements, which offer them subsistence and relative security that the State seems unable to

¹ Mulikamu is the main character in an African folktale. Mulikamu was called on by the great sage Mguri-Mguri to make his people understand the value of work.

provide. Five years ago, Mulikamée came to the military aid of Samirie when radical groups staged a *coup d'état*. This intervention did not have unanimous support: a minority of Mulikamenes, most of them young people from the suburbs of large cities, openly criticized the operation in the media. Over the last three years, a number of isolated incidents across the country have attested to the emergence of radicalization: arrests of young people preparing to join armed groups, the arrest of an imam for alleged links to the movement, etc. However, the majority of Mulikamenes perceive their country as a safe haven, and do not really worry about the development of terrorist cells on their territory. Many believe that the historically peaceful Sufi religious communities constitute a bulwark against religious radicalism.

When it comes to education, while remarkable progress is being made in providing access to primary education, there is an acute need for vocational training. Curricula are considered too theoretical and do not adequately prepare young people to enter the labour market. Existing vocational training institutes are not able to accommodate all of the young people who wish to acquire more practical skills, especially in rural areas.

Seeking to better understand how her government can fight poverty in a sustainable way, the President of Mulikamée commissioned a report from a major international research firm. This report provided interesting economic insights, but little data on social issues around youth unemployment. She then turned to non-governmental organizations and her Ministry of the Interior for additional reports. These reports showed that, in rural areas, close to half of all unemployed youth are family helpers, meaning that they contribute to the family business in exchange for room and board and have no appropriate vocational training. In the cities, young graduates are particularly affected by unemployment. One of the main reasons for this is that, despite good economic growth, the structure of the economy has not changed to facilitate the creation of value-added jobs in service or industry. Young graduates are thus tempted to emigrate to countries that will offer them job prospects commensurate with their qualifications.

The President of Mulikamée made the fight against poverty the primary focus of her seven-year mandate. She is seeking to establish a wide-ranging policy involving various ministries (Education, Youth, Homeland Security, Economy, Science, etc.), whose main objectives are to stabilize economic growth and lower the unemployment rate. She is concerned by the rise in radicalization and illegal emigration and understands that youth unemployment could be the cause. Despite the studies, there appear to be a range of possible responses and the policy options need to be refined. Furthermore, she is alarmed by the significant disparities between the figures produced by the Mulikamée Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of the Interior and the research firm.

The President of Mulikamée now turns to you. You were recently appointed as her scientific advisor. You have experience in forestry engineering and management, and have a PhD in geography and environmental science from the University of Mulikamée. **She asks you to deliver, in six months' time, a report presenting the state of knowledge on unemployment, emigration and radicalization in Mulikamée, along with possible solutions. You will need to**

use a multidisciplinary approach that takes you outside your field of expertise. How will you proceed to prepare this report and what will be its main points?

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Group exercises

DISCUSSION

Capacity to access knowledge and evidence

- What are the knowledge and data needs of the Office of the President, on the short, medium and long term? In your opinion, why did the research firm, the Institute of Statistics and the international organizations fail to produce a satisfactory response?
- How do you position your work as a scientific advisor in relation to that of the research firms and international organizations? And in relation to other ministries? How do you use their data?
- What do you think of the means employed by the Office of the President to access the necessary data and knowledge? What would you recommend in that regard?

Multidisciplinary scientific advice outside your field of expertise

- As you do not have sufficient expertise, what type of resource persons will you work with? How will you select them? What status will you give them? How will you maintain your credibility and remain the liaison between the Office of the President and the scientific community?
- What challenges will you face when dealing with knowledge from multiple disciplines?
- What will be the major steps in your work plan in order to produce the report within the given time frame?

Communicating interrelated social issues

- To what extent can we affirm that unemployment, emigration and radicalization are interrelated phenomena?
- How will you express the complexity of the relationship between these phenomena and the resulting uncertainty? What false expectations do you risk creating and how can you avoid them?
- How can you communicate this interrelationship, in order for policy-makers to adopt a comprehensive strategy? What are the main challenges that the Chair will have to meet in establishing a comprehensive strategy?
- What are the cultural aspects of this dossier? How will policy-makers take into account the culture and religion of Mulikamenes? How will you take them into account in your work as a scientific advisor?

ROLE PLAYING

Each table is given a role. The table has 15 minutes to designate the participant who will embody the role during the plenary session and to prepare some content, in regard of the previous discussions.

- Four science advisors (two for the first role play, two for the second one)
- One President
- Some experts (designated directly during plenary session)

First role play: assembling an expert committee

The two science advisors will propose, in turns, experts to form a committee on the issue of youth unemployment. People among participants will be designated to play the role of these experts. The science advisors discuss with them to explain their mandates, their working conditions (short delays, cross-sectoral collaboration, etc.) Shall the experts accept these conditions?

Second role play: President briefing for an interview

The President has an interview in 30 minutes concerning the government's actions to fight youth unemployment. She asks her two science advisors to give her some key information and last-minute advice. What information should the advisers present, and how? What should be the specific demands of the president?

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