Strategy Evaluation in a Business Simulation Game

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Contents

- Introduction to business simulation games
- Implementation at the Technical University of Crete
- Strategy evaluation
 - General framework
 - Evaluation criteria
 - Evaluation methodology
- Students' feedback
- Concluding remarks and perspective

Business Simulation Games

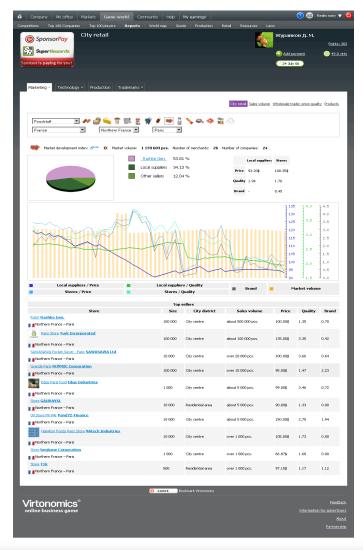
- Widely used for educational purposes
 - University education and corporate training
- Enable students to put theory in practice
- Enhance students understanding of real-life business conditions
- Experimentation and testing of different scenarios and hypotheses
- Help students to develop an entrepreneurial culture

Business Simulation Games

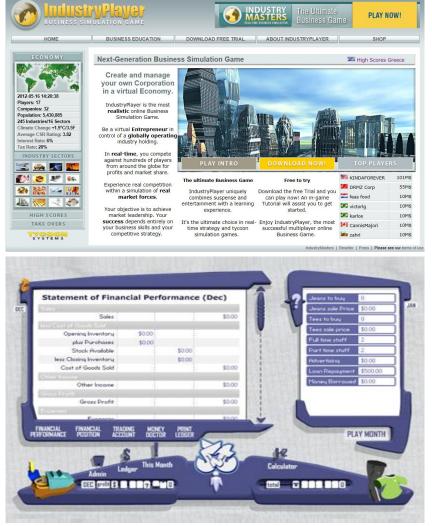
- They adopt different approaches, but they focus on the management of economic processes (business)
- In this context
 - Students are part of a group that manages a virtual company
 - They compete with other companies in the same marketplace (managed by other groups in the class)
 - It is necessary for them to take the risks of their own decisions
 - Evaluate the student's performance in terms of the economic outcomes of their companies

Examples of Business Simulation Games

Virtonomics



IndustryPlayer



Research Motivation

- Implement a business simulation gaming platform for students in engineering
- Covering as much aspect of an enterprise as possible
 - Entrepreneurial profile
 - Business plan preparation
 - Flexible scenario setting
 - Competitive operation
- Introduction of a simple multicriteria framework for strategy evaluation
 - Facilitating the student's understanding of the multidimensional character of corporate performance

The Technical University of Crete (TUC)

- Academic structure
 - 6 engineering departments, 57 laboratories
 - Production Engineering and Management
 - Mineral Resources Engineering
 - Electronic and Computer Engineering
 - Environmental Engineering
 - Architectural Engineering
 - Sciences
- Human resources
 - 120 faculty members
 - About 2500 undergraduate students, 700 postgraduate students,
 250 researchers
- Economic data
 - Annual budget: 8,600,000 euros
 - Public investments: 5,000,000 euros

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit

- Established in 2011
 - To run up to 2015
- Aims to create entrepreneurship culture to students
- How?
 - Courses & seminars virtual platforms / labs
- 'SMEs & Innovation' course contents
 - SMEs in national and global context
 - Financial management
 - Marketing of new products
 - Competitiveness and innovation
 - Total quality control & SMEs
 - Business excellence
 - Strategy assessment

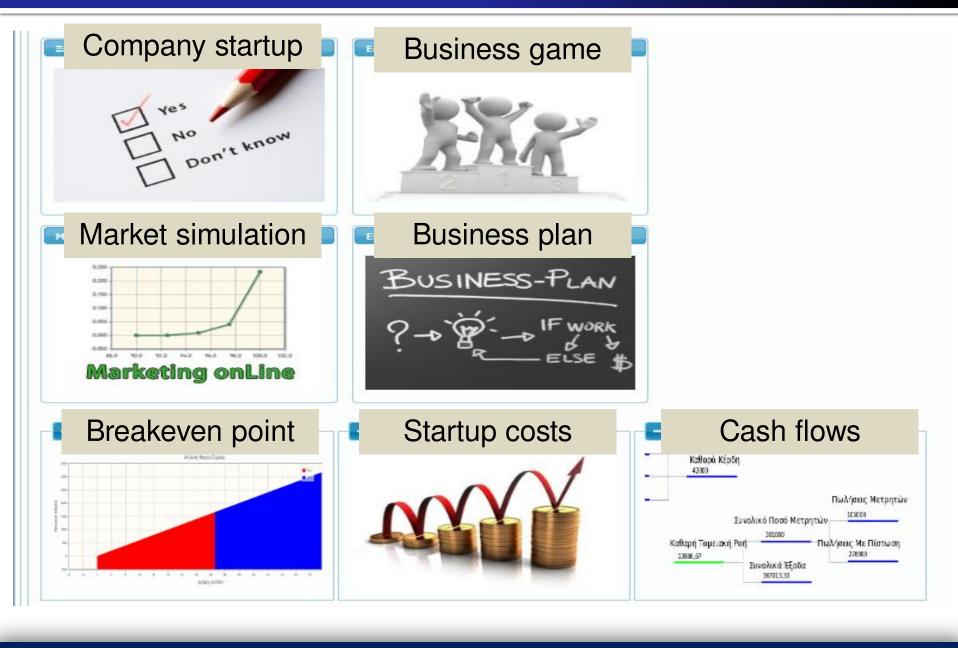
TUC Business Simulation Game

- Aim
 - Familiarize students with company operation, business decisions, competition, company assessment
- Methodology
 - Played in competitive teams
 - Run for periods of 3 to 5 years
- Result
 - Company evaluation on multiple performance criteria

Implementation

- Main features
 - Web-based application
 - Create and manage profile
- Part of a general entrepreneur platform
 - Startup business ideas assessment
 - Business plan
 - Business simulation game
 - Marketing simulation game
 - Calculators (break-even analysis, cash flows, initial investment)

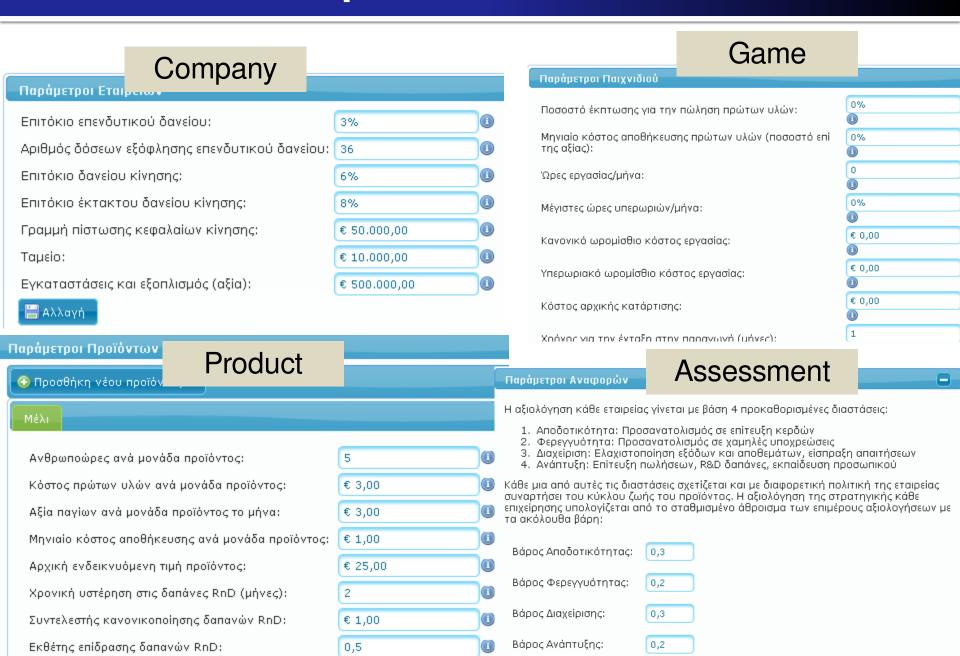
Main Platform Options



Game Setup – Instructor's Role

- Specification of game scenario
 - Initial investment
 - Fixed assets
 - Market predictions
 - Payroll
 - Loans
 - Performance indicators
- Multiple games / variations of the original scenario
 - Different markets, funding, products, etc.
- Creates companies with products in specific markets

Scenario Setup



Game Setup – Student's Participation

- Decisions during the game
 - Management (hire and train employees, R&D, etc.)
 - Manufacturing (raw materials, production, staffing, inventory control, etc.)
 - Marketing (advertising, market research, etc.)
 - Finance (e.g. short-term and long-term loans)
- Performance evaluation
 - Multiple criteria
 - Predefined number of decision-rounds
 - Results of decisions made during all rounds

Business Setup Costs

Έξοδα εκκίνησης

Σχεδιασμός:

Χρήματα εκκίνησης

Αλλα:

✓ X 29250.0

Δαπάνες πριν την εκκίνηση

Προμήθειες Γροφείου: 1000.0 Εξοπλισμός Γραφείου: 5000.0

Διοφημιστικά Έντυπο: 1500.0

βάλετε ότι δεν περιγράφεται στη λίστα.

10000.0

3000.0

1500.0 5000.0

Χρήματα εκκίνησης στην τράπεζα για τα έξοδά σας

💶 Οι περισσότερες επιχειρήσεις έχουν δαπάνες πριν ακόμη λειτουργήσουν. Δαπάνες π.χ. για τη δημιουργία νομικά της ε

💶 Οι περισσότερες επιχειρήσεις χρειάζονται χρήματα σε αποθεματικό όταν ξεκινάνε. Οι πωλήσεις χρειάζονται χρόνο για

750.0

Costs

Έξοδα εκκίνησης:

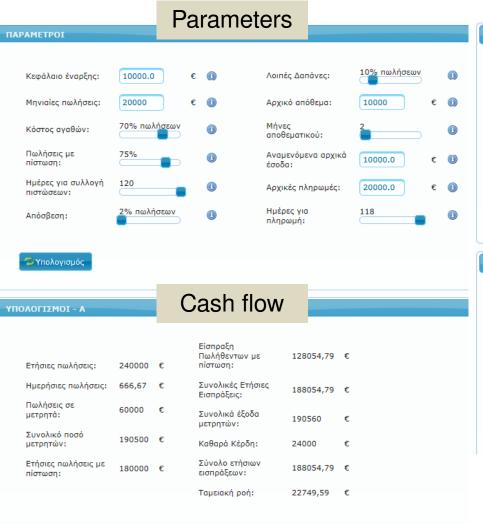
Available capital

🕕 Για να εκτιμηθούν οι ανάγκες της επιχείρησης σε αποθεματικό μπορείτε να δώσετε τις δικές σας εκτιμήσεις. 💶 Μπορείτε να επιλέξετε τον αριθμό των μηνών για τον οποίον να γίνει η πρόβλεψη με την επιλογή **Αριθμός μηνών έλ** Χρήματα εκκίνησης: Εκτίμηση μηνισίου μισθού στη διάρκεια της περιόδου του start-up: Εκτίμηση μηνισίου ενοικίου στη διάρκεια της περιόδου του start-up: Εκτίμηση άλλων τοκτικών μηνισίων εξόδων στη διάρκεια της περιόδου του start-up: 1000.0 Αριθμός μηνών εξόδων να υπάρχει σε αποθεματικό: ✓ X Απόθεμα εκκίνησης: 10000.0 Άλλες απαιτούμενες δαπάνες: 5000.0 Απαιτούμενες μακροχρόνιες δαπάνες: 15000.0 Συνολικό ποσό για έναρξη της 86250.0

Break-even Point Analysis



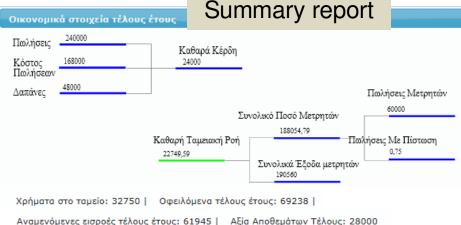
Estimation of Cash Flows



Income statement

ΥΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΜΟΙ - Β

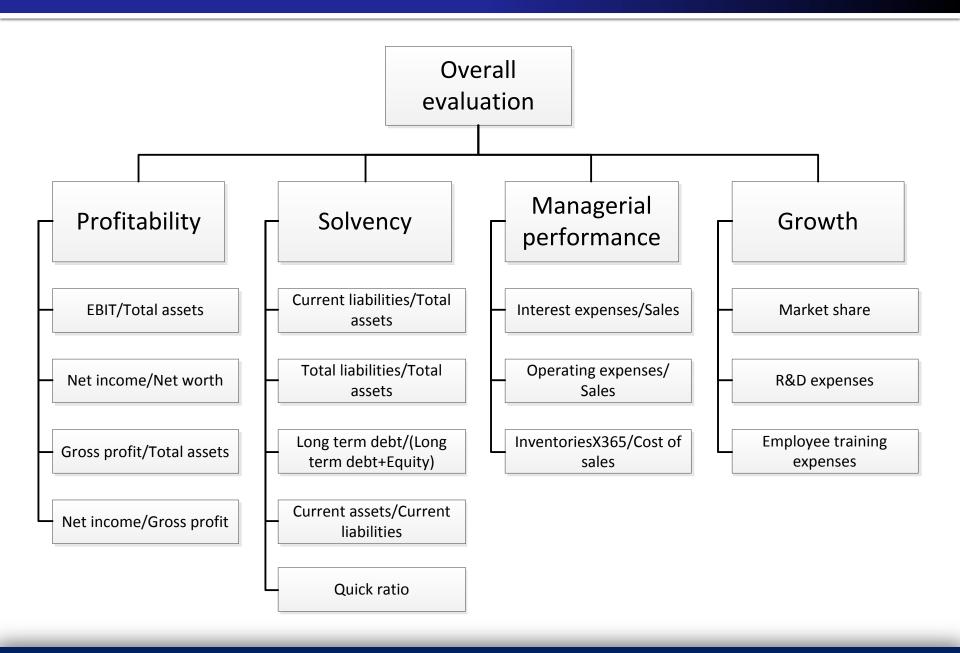
Πωλήσεις:	240000	€	Χρήματα στο ταμείο:	32749,59	€
Κόστος αγαθών:	168000	€	Οφειλόμενα τέλους	69238.36	€
Λοιπές δαπάνες (πλην αποσβέσεων):	28800	€	έτους:	0,200,00	
Λοιπές δαπάνες:	24000	€	Αναμενόμενα έσοδα τέλους έτους:	61945,21	€
Πωλήσεις μετρητών:	60000	€	Αξία αποθεμάτων τέλους:	28000	€
Πωλήσεις με	180000	€	Καθαρά κέρδη:	48000	€
πίστωση:	100000	E	Radapa Keporj.	40000	



Strategy Evaluation

- Simple additive weighted sum formula
- 15 financial ratios and performance indicators grouped in 4 evaluation dimensions:
 - Profitability
 - Solvency
 - Managerial performance
 - Growth
- Overall and marginal performance scores in [0,1]

Evaluation Criteria



Evaluation Methodology

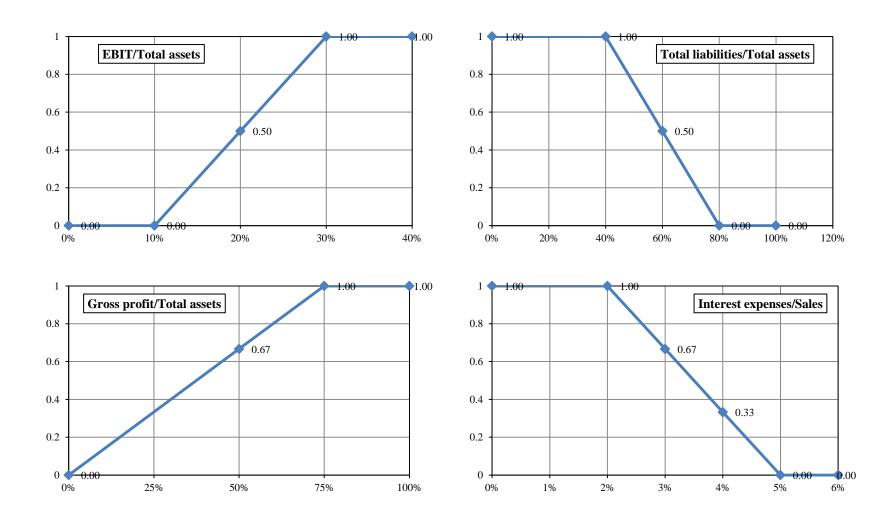
$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{4} w_i S_i$$

where S is the overall performance score, w_i and S_i is the weight and the performance score of the i-th dimension, respectively

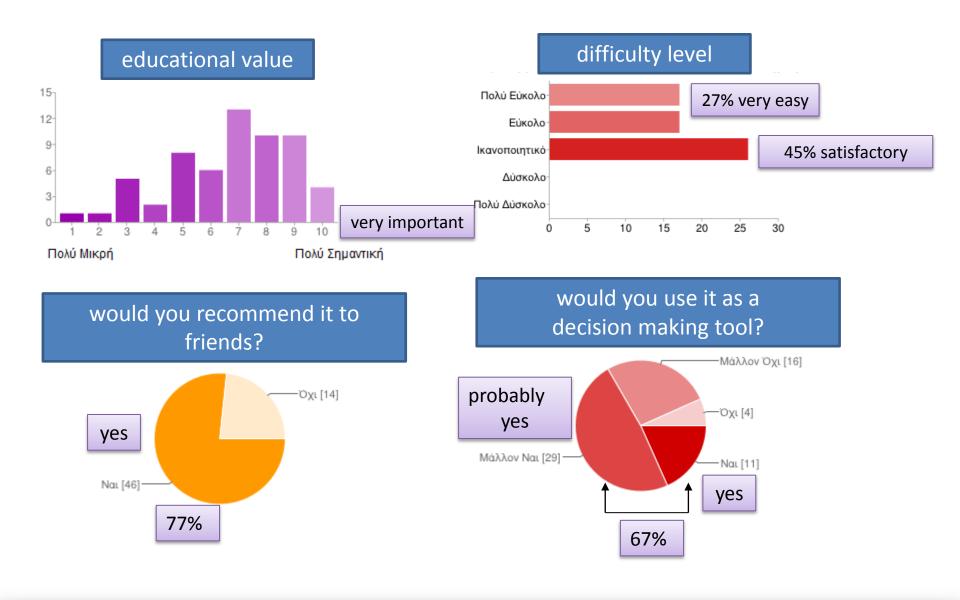
$$S_i = \frac{1}{n_i} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} S_{ij}$$

where n_i is the number of criteria in the i-th dimension and S_{ij} is the performance score of the j-th criterion in the i-th dimension

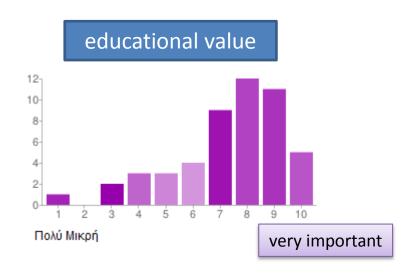
Examples of Marginal Value Functions

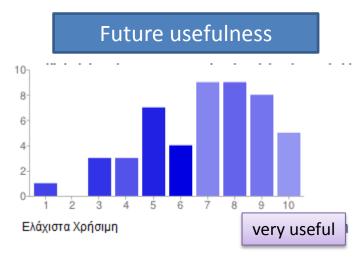


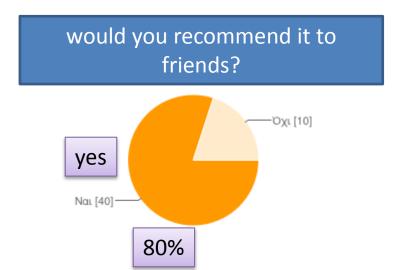
Platform Evaluation – Company Start-up

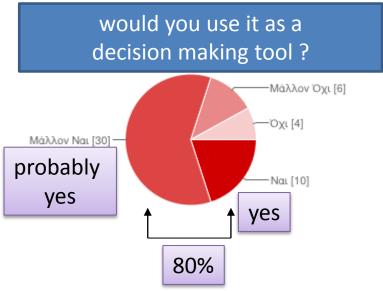


Platform Evaluation – Business Plan









Concluding Remarks

- Implementation of a framework strategy evaluation in a business simulation game
- The proposed framework is based on a multicriteria decision analysis approach
 - Simple weighted sum formula
 - Predefined set of evaluation criteria
- Parameterized platform enabling
 - Different scenarios
 - Modification of problem parameters
- Preliminary feedback by students has been very positive

Benefits and Perspectives

- Main benefits
 - Improvement of the strategic and analytical thinking of students
 - Improvement of students' team working abilities
 - Students get used to working
 - In a competitive environment
 - Under time pressure
 - Without full information
 - More importantly, students practice business theory
- Future perspectives
 - Optimization of the platform's operation
 - Getting and analyzing students' feedback
 - Communicating the platform to entrepreneurs
 - Implementation to other universities