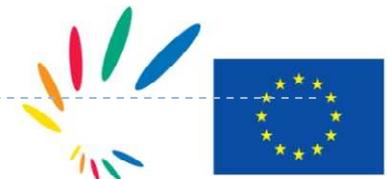




Lobby and Advocacy in the Province of Forlì-Cesena

12th seminar - 2 Forlì, 25-26 January 2012





1) Network identification: who are the key decision makers in the mitigation process (hydrogeological risk) with respect to the following:

Legislation and regulations (national/regional/provincial/municipal):

- Parliament by means of regulation especially after a disastrous event has happened

Government by means of civil protection ordinances to face the event

Resource allocation (funding):

Urgent intervention plans according to the government decisions

Extraordinary plans by the Ministry of Environment

Actual goal setting and mitigation plan

Basin Authority





2) **Network analysis:** what is the relation between your own body and these decision makers?

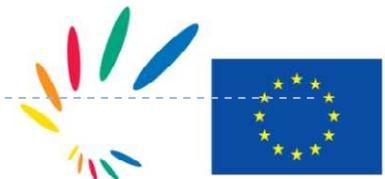
After an event has happened and the state of emergency is declared by Government, :

- provincial experts carry out technical site inspections where the emergency has happened
- the Province is a member of the technical staff and of the Regional Civil Protection Institutional Committee (in the person of the President or the competent provincial councillor)

Within the framework of the extraordinary plans prepared by the Ministry of Environment, the Province presents the interventions by the technical committee of the Basin Authority.

Within the framework of the Basin Authority Plans, the Province:

- is a member of the Technical and Institutional Committee of the Basin Authority
- participates in the programmatic conference held at the Emilia-Romagna Region before the approval.





3. **Network evaluation:** on which criteria do you decide which are the most important decision makers to influence?

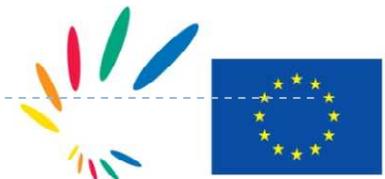
In the case of civil protection ordinances, the technical discussion is based on the following criteria:

- seriousness of the event
- magnitude
- extent of damage
- amount of damage

The decision makers to influence are:

- Prime Minister or President of the Region who declared the event
- National Department of Civil Protection or Regional Agency of Civil Defence for the subsequent allocation of funds for the damages.

This approach ensures a correct fund allocation as the administrations involved could not provide emergency funds.

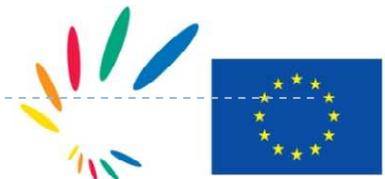




Lobby/advocacy strategies

4. Which concrete examples (instruments) of lobby/advocacy can you find?

- Regional committees involved in the process of drafting regional rules.
- Committees of stakeholders (citizens, retailers, environmental associations, professional associations, etc.)
- Consultation instruments foreseen in planning procedures and in other administrative procedures such as Environmental Impact Assessment and Integrated Environmental Authorisations
- Political parties opposed to the government (both local and central).





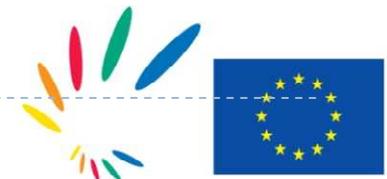
Lobby/advocacy strategies:

5. Which of these examples do you think are the most effective and why?

The committees of stakeholders are able to influence the choices of local decision-makers (municipal and provincial administrations).

The local administrations can influence political decisions at regional or national level.

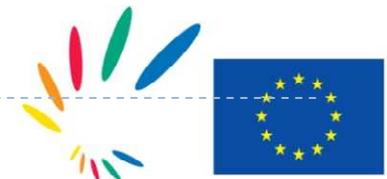
Unfortunately one critical element is the scarce capacity of the political class to take unpopular decisions.





6. Can you think of combinations of instruments which together make an effective strategy? (whether possible, specify the decision-makers you wish to influence)

- In Italy, there are laws applied to specific sectors, namely in the environmental sector – on ‘participated process’. They set for the public administration to involve stakeholders in the process stages leading to a decision that will affect the whole community.
- Besides, the activity of the Public Administration is regulated by a key law, no. 241/1990 that has a general application and sets for a general ‘participation in the process’ by the subjects who will be directly affected by the final decision and the ones who have the right to intervene by law.
- This methodology is very helpful in correctly identifying the common interest.





Good practice:

**7. Which actors were involved? Which of them pays and which benefits?
(CBA)**

Event: Flood occurred in 1996 in the territories of Cesenatico, Cervia, Cesena – difficulties of Cesenatico waterway system.

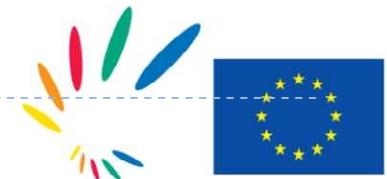
Subjects involved in taking decisions on resource allocation:

Water Management Body, Regional Basin Technical Service, Basin Authority, Municipalities of Cesenatico, Cervia, Cesena, Provinces of Forlì-Cesena and Ravenna, Emilia-Romagna Region.

Subjects involved benefiting from it:

campsites, local retailers, associations of bathing-establishment owners, citizens.

The categories having local economic interests (tourism, trade) support the advocacy action and benefit from it.



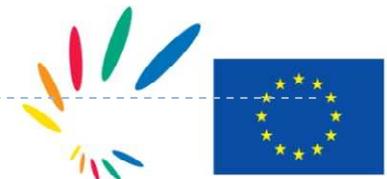


Good practice:

8. Which decision maker(s) did you/they try to influence?

The interest groups tried to influence the subjects involved in the elaboration of the mitigation project: Water Management Body Basin Authority and Emilia-Romagna Region.

In fact the first mitigation project foresaw the construction of works that would have a negative impact on the interest groups' areas.



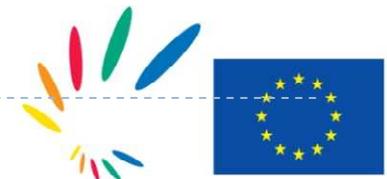


Good practice:
9. By what means?

The interest groups, organised in committees, mainly put pressure on local decision-makers to plead their cause.

They also promoted media action to raise public awareness and share with the whole local community strategies and actions.

Their activity led the decision-makers to choose projects that took into consideration the interests of the different categories.





Good practice:

10. What was the result? Was it successful?

The advocacy actions carried out led to the review of the original project. The original project was designed in order to guarantee the draining of extraordinary flow with a return time of 200 years.

Once the project was presented to the community, the interest groups did not approve it because it didn't take the local interests into consideration.

Therefore the project was revised by external experts appointed by Emilia-Romagna Region who searched for a different solution with lower impact on the territory, ensuring at the same time identical mitigation results.

These actions aimed at 'putting pressure' on local policy-makers turned out to be positive both for the interest groups and the community as a whole.

As a result a good level of safety in the territory was ensured and the areas occupied by business activities were maintained.





Good practice:

11. What are the lessons learnt (good/bad)?

- The involvement of the interest groups allowed to find a mediated solution between the original project and the realisation of the intervention plan.
The final project led to the realisation of mitigation works maintaining almost unchanged the land use.
However, a minimum percentage of residual risk remains but it has been considered as acceptable by all the subjects involved.
- Before planning mitigation measures, the analysis process must necessarily take into consideration not only the physical and environmental factors, but also the social aspects linked to the acceptability of the final solutions.
- In order to reach this objective, new interdisciplinary skills are needed in order to support the engineers' work.

