

# Lobby and Advocacy in Epirus-Greece

Forlì-Cesena seminar January 2012





# Network identification: The key decision makers in the mitigation process (1)

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## **Legislation and regulations**

National level: the Parliament (laws ), Ministers ( Ministerial Decisions )

Regional level: the President of the Region/Vice Presidents of the R. Units, the General Secretary of the Decentralized Administration

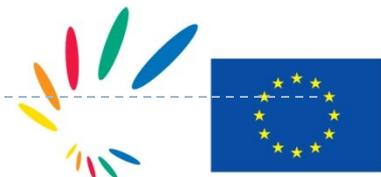
Municipal level: the Mayor

## **Resource allocation**

National level: The Parliament approves the national budget. The original proposal is made by the Ministry of Finance and the final proposal is formed by the competent committee of the Parliament. The final distribution of a budget line to works/actions is made by the Ministries

Regional level: The Regional Council

Municipal level:The Municipal Council





# Network identification: The key decision makers in the mitigation process (2)

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## Goal setting and mitigation plans

National level: the General Secretariat of Civil Protection

Regional/Municipal level: the departments of Civil Protection, the Coordinating Body of the Regional Unit/Municipality, other services (e.g. Technical services for works concerning flood mitigation )





# Network analysis: Relation of Regions with the decision makers (1)

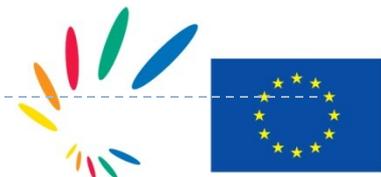
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-The coordinating body of the the Regional Unit (representatives of Municipalities, civil protection, fire brigade, volunteer organizations) under the presidency of the Vice President of the R. Unit has formal meetings at least twice a year

-The departments of Civil Protection of the Regions give data to the General Secretariat of Civil Protection which are taken into consideration into their planning/goals setting

-Regions express formally their opinion for works/actions that will be materialized by Ministries and will affect the environment or every day life of citizens. According to the law that opinion does not commit the Ministry to their final decision

-The President of the Region might be called to express his/her opinion at the competent committee of the Parliament discussing actions that affect the Region significantly



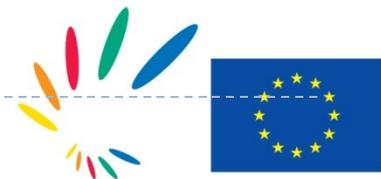


## Network analysis: Relation of Regions with the decision makers (2)

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-The President/Vice Presidents of the Region can have informal meetings with local Parliament representatives.

-Generally a decision can be blocked by the final decision maker (e.g. The Parliament may not approve a law, a Minister may deny to give the final approval for the implementation of a work etc.), unless there are legal issues giving the right to justice or to a service to block it.





# Network evaluation:

## On which criteria do we decide which are the most important decision makers to influence?

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**-General rule:** for each decision you want to influence find the “the decision path” and contact the persons on that path. Emphasize on the persons who a )make the original proposal b )take the final decision c )have the right of veto to the process

-e.g. When a new law is being prepared by a Ministry: start by informing about your opinion Parliament representatives of your area. They can make a formal question to the Minister in charge at the Parliament and inform their colleagues. At the same time send a memorandum to the Minister and try to have a meeting with him. Inform about your opinion the members of the competent committee of the Parliament.





# Lobby/advocacy strategies: Examples (instruments) of lobby/advocacy

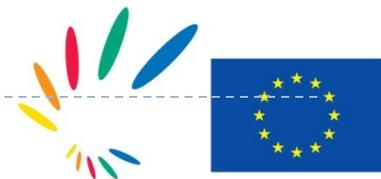
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## -Local society/organizations of citizens/groups with common interests:

- lists with signatures
- participation in public consultation (e.g. new law, environmental study for a work )
- meetings with the authorities
- protests.

## -Regions/Municipalities:

- Give officially their opinion, in cases the law says they should be asked
- Send official memorandums to services of the Ministries or letters to Ministers/members of the Parliament
- Meetings with Ministers/members of the Parliament/members of committees of the Parliament
- Inform the local society/chambers in order to put more pressure on the political decision makers on national level.





# Lobby/advocacy strategies: Which of these examples could be most effective (and why)?

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-Services have a more technocratic approach towards things, so in order to influence their decision the best way is to send a memorandum, where your point of view is made clear and your arguments are explained. Use the opinion of experts when it is needed. At the same time informing the political head of the service could help.

-When a decision is clearly political the best way to put pressure on the political decision makers is via their voters. Lists with signatures of citizens or official letters by the representatives of chambers/unions are taken into consideration. The formal opinion of a Region/Municipality can also influence the decision makers on national level.





# A combination of instruments which together make an effective strategy

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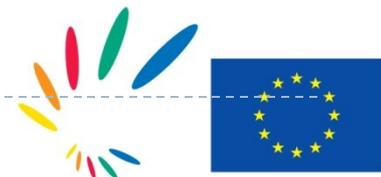
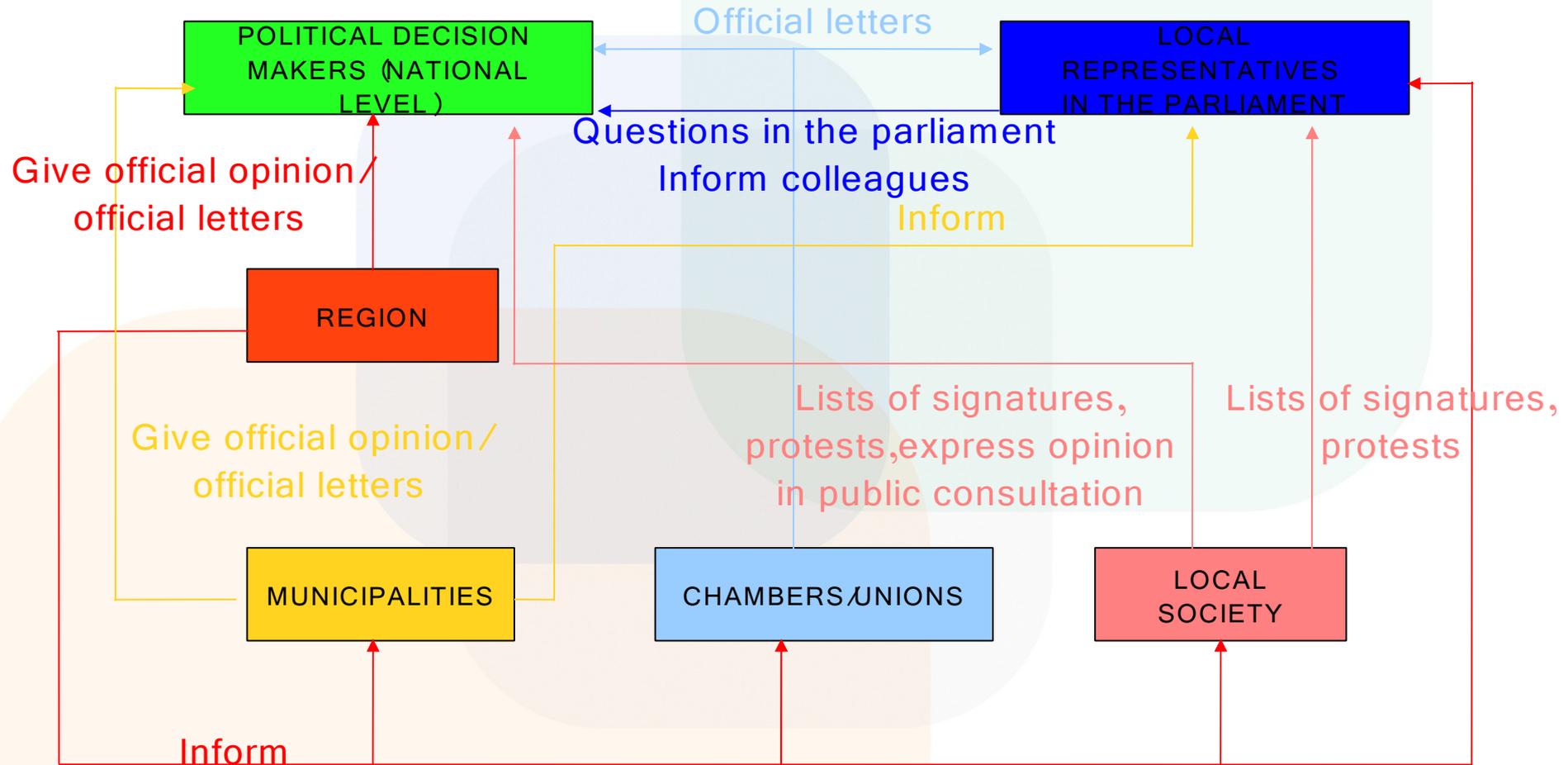
-In most cases Regions want to influence political decision makers on national level.

-General rule: use the instruments you have available in order to influence the people in the “decision path” and try to find allies willing to use their influence and instruments for your common goal.





# A combination of instruments which together make an effective strategy (example)



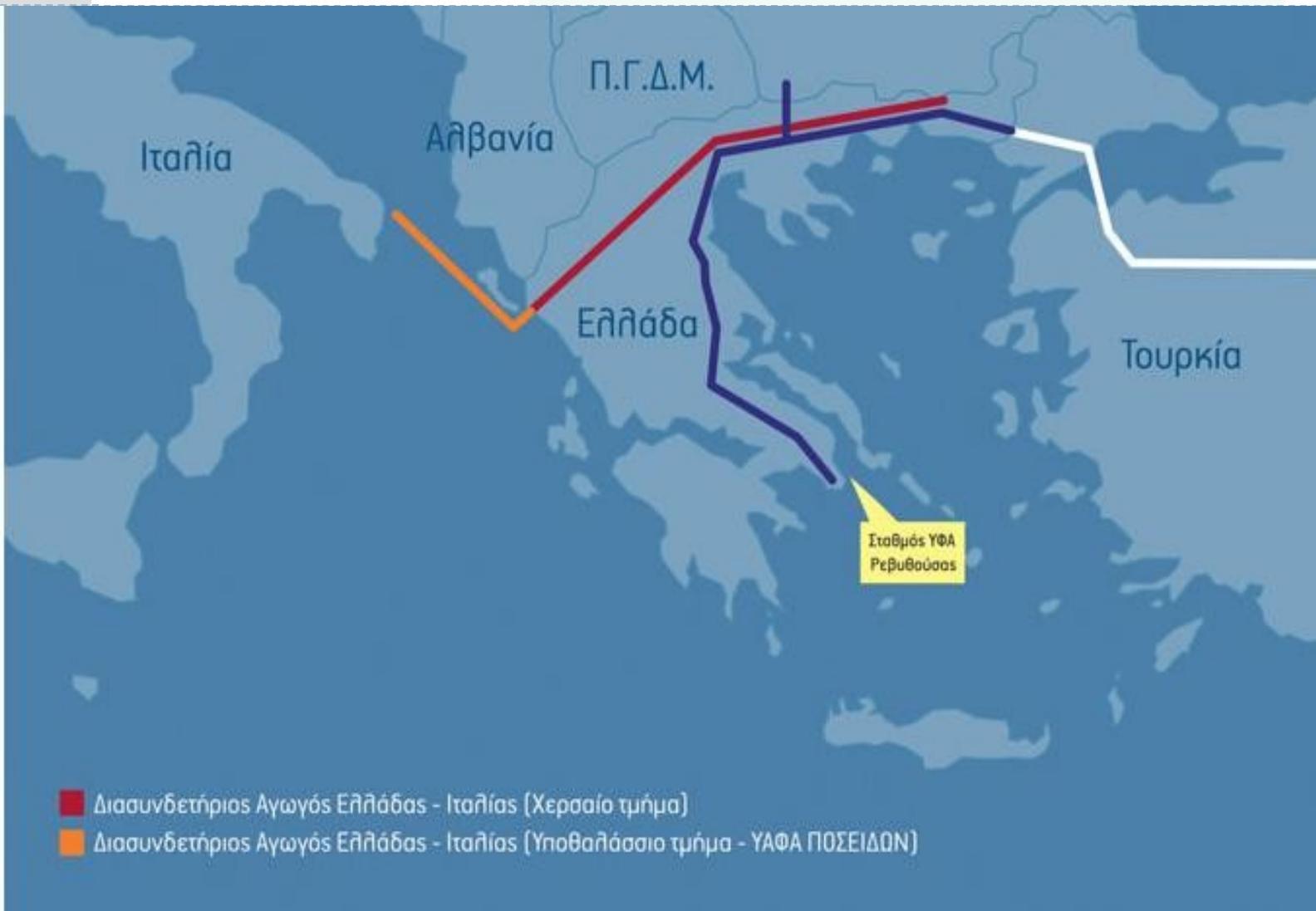
# Designing a natural gas pipeline (1)

- The E.U. needs in natural gas have been increasing during the last years. That tension is not predicted to change during the next decades.
- Russia is a major natural gas supplier of the E.U. The crisis between Russia and Ukraine in 2009 affected the natural gas supply in many countries.
- The creation of a “Southern Corridor” for natural gas supply is important for the E.U. Through that corridor the gas producing countries in the Caspian Sea and central Asia would become complementary/alternative suppliers of the E.U.
- A pipeline from Turkey to Italy through Greece is one of the choices. At the moment there is in operation (since 2007) a pipeline from Turkey to Greece (area of Komotini). The design of a new pipeline from Komotini to the coast line of Thesprotia (on shore section) and from there to Italy (off shore section and Compression Unit) is on the go.

# Designing a natural gas pipeline (2): Existing situation



# Designing a natural gas pipeline (3): Future situation



- Διασυνδετήριος Αγωγός Ελλάδας - Ιταλίας (Χερσαίο τμήμα)
- Διασυνδετήριος Αγωγός Ελλάδας - Ιταλίας (Υποθαλάσσιο τμήμα - ΥΑΦΑ ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ)



# Designing a natural gas pipeline (4): Actors involved

- The on shore pipeline will be constructed by the Greek National Natural Gas System Operator. The off shore section of the project, including its supporting facilities (metering station, compression unit) will be constructed by “IGI Poseidon S.A.”. The Italian company Edison and the Greek DEPA hold a 50% stake each in “IGI Poseidon”.
- The designs of the pipeline should be approved by the Ministry of Environment.
- The Parliament should vote for new relevant legislation.
- The Municipalities give their opinion.
- People take part in public consultation

## Designing a natural gas pipeline (5): Objections

- The original designs for the pipeline were given for consultation and caused serious objections from the local society at Thesprotia. The basic reasons were the construction of the compression unit very close to a village and the danger for the destruction of a beach of natural beauty. The area around that beach is touristic and the inhabitants have already invested on activities concerning tourism.

- The society in Epirus was also having considerations because it wasn't clear if the pipeline would also be used for supplying Epirus with natural gas or if it would just transfer gas through Epirus.

- The Region of Epirus, and the Municipality of Igoumenitsa share many of the considerations of the local society.

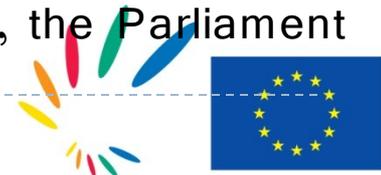
## Designing a natural gas pipeline (6): Trying to influence decision makers

-When the Municipality of Igoumenitsa was officially asked by the company their opinion about the pipeline, they proposed an other place for the construction of the compression unit and alternative places from which the pipeline could pass. That opinion was also expressed in meetings in the Ministry of Environment

-The President of the Region of Epirus was present at a meeting of the Parliament Committee for Production and Commerce about the pipeline and supported the ideas of constructing the compression unit to an other place, use the pipeline to supply the Region of Epirus with natural gas and protect the interests of local people and the environment.

-Residents of the villages where the pipeline was proposed to reach the sea and the compression unit to be built, organized protests and informed about their opinion the local Parliament representatives. Moreover, they expressed their considerations during a meeting they had in the Ministry or Environment

-Local representatives in the Parliament are aware of the issue and have participated in meetings about it at the Ministry of Environment, the Parliament etc.



## Designing a natural gas pipeline (7): Results

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-The Ministry of Environment has announced that the compression unit will finally be created at the alternative place which was proposed.

-It has been made clear that the pipeline will not be used just to transfer natural gas through Epirus, but also for the distribution of natural gas in Epirus.

-The exact places from which the pipeline will pass to reach the compression unit have been finalized.

-However, the pipeline from the compression unit to the coast line hasn't been mapped out yet.

## Lessons learnt

- We can have positive results if a “group of allies” tries for the same purpose.
- It is important that each one uses its own ways/instruments to influence the decision makers.
- The coordination of the actions of all the “allies” is very important, but sometimes difficult to be achieved.
- It is important to realize if all the “allies” are trying for exactly the same thing or for slightly different things. The difference in the goals might come to the surface later and cause serious problems.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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