



## Political Interferences in the Exercise of Public Policy and the Functioning of Subnational Bodies and Especially in the Management of Water Resources

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Since the establishment of the Rule of Law in Greece, the Public Administration has played an important role in its structure and operation, utilizing all the tools and techniques at its disposal in order, based on the rules of law, to respond with absolute responsibility and commitment to achieving orderly of its operation. Despite the regulatory reforms that were achieved along the way, based on the principles of legality and the satisfaction of the public interest, the political interventions that were carried out "fluidized" the quality of public administration services, with the direct consequence that public policy took the form of a "Trojan horse" that would save the rule of law from anachronistic trivial techniques, by implementing its own law-making system.

The operation of sub-national bodies is largely based on the exercise of public policy. As can be seen from the positions of the bodies of the TA, the exercise of public policy in the management of water resources was the main operating lever in the application of the rules of law, following a mandate from the EU. The compliance of the member states with the European framework directive, 60/2000EC for water led most K-M to submit the management plans within a specified period of time (2009). Our country was one of the few member states that delayed the submission of plans due to successive political changes within it with a direct impact on the imposition of sanctions by the European Commission. The political reshuffles with the change of the political scene, in the above period of time, led on the one hand to the reconstitution of the structure of the relevant Ministry and to the redistribution of its responsibilities and on the other hand to the difficulty of integrating and decoding the articles of the directive - framework resulting in the issuance of legislative provisions and circulars such as Law 3199/2003 and Presidential Decree 51/2007 as well as a series of Decrees and Decisions such as Decree 140384/19.8.2011 (Government Gazette B'2011), which managed to implement the management plans according to the European mandate.

The problem of the delay in the immediate implementation of the Community directive stems from issues of complexity and difficulty, usually of a legal and technical nature, which do not find a response from the sub-national bodies in their implementation due to the lack of coordination and the inability to decode the implementation and integration of the management plans. Moreover, the absence of monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the checks by the EU automatically led our country to complex and time-consuming procedures for imposing sanctions and high fines.

Avoiding these fines could be achieved if the political-social forces presented a stronger model of acceptance and implementation of the mandates by negotiating the costs that most of the time cannot be borne. There is also the theory of the superficial engagement of environmental issues by Member States, such as our country, which do not engage in minimalist and in-depth practices but are spent in cursory and superficial studies which suffer from documentation and application.

Therefore, within a franchise-producing system of a European state-of-law such as our country, the application of the rules of law by the public administration for the exercise of public policy is at odds with political interventions, which on the one hand try to manipulate its work administration and on the other hand to disorient any attempt to rationally apply the law both in matters of environmental management and in practical matters of the distribution of human resources by the sub-national bodies.

The **clientelism** resulting from the interest groups influence and influence the exercise of public policy, creating a strong and interdependent link with two-way exchanges of achieving their personal ambitions that are far from the practices of implementing European Union directives and often lead to a situation of fiscal austerity brutally hitting the public sector (personnel, internal operation). In addition, in the measure of the grouping of responsibilities in policy fields, the strengthening of control mechanisms should be achieved as well as the strengthening of the efficiency of public bodies because forces and ingenuity that currently remain trapped will be released.

At the European level, sub-national bodies choose different forms of intervention in the institutional-political system either through group activities or through autonomous initiatives of individual Regions.

**"Clientelism"**, another perennial phenomenon, unfortunately still exists in the context of the exercise of public policy by sub-national bodies. This practice is due to the fact that citizens expect a better treatment in order to achieve a placement in some body of the Municipality, or to have a more

favorable treatment in the provision of services of the Municipality or the Region. The problem is found when the Local Bodies are somehow forced, due to the buying of votes, to submit to the demands of the citizens, completely ignoring the constitutional provisions on the equality of Greek citizens that impose meritocracy and impartiality. So this "evil spirit" will continue to be perpetuated always in the context of personal interest, or will prevent the violation of the rules of impartiality and equal treatment of citizens. Acting within the framework of meritocracy and legitimacy, each Local body, Municipality or Region, should focus its actions on achieving the provision of services and meeting the needs of all citizens, regardless of discrimination and votes. Human dignity is not bought with votes. Therefore, the suppression of the obsession with "clientelism" can happen if rules are established in the way sub-national bodies operate, now informing the citizens that the clientelistic state must disappear, giving the first example of the elimination of "clientelism" so that it becomes clear and from the supranational bodies that all Greeks are equal before the law and that they have equal rights and equal obligations. In addition, the reference to the development of technology through ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in the operation of the Public Administration, is very likely to bring about the definitive treatment of this perception.

In our country, the exercise of public policy in the operation of sub-national bodies can be realized for the benefit of society as a whole if and as long as the political interventions will not disturb the balance of the internal functioning of the bodies with the continuous structural changes, but only a clearer political scene in the context of the implementation of the fiscal policy.

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines how the political interference the examine of the public administration especially in the functioning of sub-national bodies to management of water resources. Giving priority to environmental issues and particularly to the management of Water Resources, one realizes that political interventions are of particular importance in the exercise of Public Administration by sub-national bodies. Through the lack of rational implementation of European practices, the allocation of human resources, customer relations which influence and differentiate the results of public policy that are far from the implementation practices. The wider implications of implementing fiscal austerity policies, severely affecting the public sector in terms of staff, operations and services.

Therefore, they will have to maintain and implement the current government policies, but also they have to create that framework to support and strengthen the measures to protect, perhaps the most valuable, environmental resource. In the context of the implementation The policies of EU, about the Environment is a priority area of the Member States. The study contributes to the understanding of the political system in Greece and investigate the function of local authorities as levers of water resources management with interventionist actions of government officials in the context of public policy.

**KEYWORDS:** supranational, subnational bodies, public administration, political intervention, customerity, public policy, corruption, transparency, water resources management

## Related Article

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The basic structure of the study is structured as follows: First, a reference is made to public administration and its organization through targeted parameters that will allow a qualitatively superior form of operation, which a modern and staff state must have. The existence of a system of interventions and decisions that, using it, end up being distributed to specific positions of power and responsibility, may cause the emergence of a dynamic interdependence and subordination with a direct impact on society itself. By issuing its decisions, the Administration takes actions aimed at satisfying the interests of both the central authority and individual political groups. On the other hand, the government acts determine the general policy of the country, The reference to the principles of satisfaction, the public interest of good administration as well as legitimacy are examined in the context of the good operation of the administration.

Second examines the provision of public administration services in EU countries. The reforms that have been carried out in European countries have contributed decisively to citizens' access to services, however, according to the data of the European Union, there have also been countries such as Greece where citizens' perception of public administration is bad or relatively bad. E-government seems to have worked effectively in the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries, the Iberian countries, Germany, the Netherlands, Malta and Austria. In our country, the National Transparency Authority was implemented as well as the Open Data Law 4305/2014, making the picture of the state of the public sector more manageable. However, in terms of corruption, our country faces particular problems such as public procurement and health care.

Third, the EU's environmental policy is one of the two pillars of the EU's strategy for the next thirty years. The investment programs designed for the realization of an essentially "climate-neutral" region on a global level. In this context of Europe's program, the Community directives on water are also moving. Both 2000/60/EC on water policy and the other directives that followed (2006/118/EC), (2007/60/EC), contributed significantly to the formation of the management plans (SDLAP) of the Water Departments (Y .D) of the member states. In Greece there was a delay in the submission of

the plans, however this integration of the environmental policy forced our country before the European Judicial Authorities. The search for solutions to the environmental problem is found in a more integrated approach to environmental issues. Moreover, community support continues to play an important role in the development of national policy through institutional support and financial assistance.

Last but not least, we examine the participation of TA bodies in politics. It is a fact that in recent years the sub-national bodies show an active participation in the political events in contrast to the supra-national bodies of the EU where they lose the monopoly of the control of the Region in its territory. In the existence of multi-level governance in networks of intertwining interests they play an active role through political, legislative protection from national and supranational bodies. In this chapter, customer relations are analyzed in depth, which are inevitable for the development promotion of the Regions. After all, "customership" is a complex cultural phenomenon with multiple cross-cultural interests. It is a complex of relations between various citizen bodies - political governments with the aim of satisfying interests. In water resources management client relations were limited to a minimum at the local level in the Western Region, Macedonia. However, costing and invoicing is carried out by the Decentralized Administration in accordance with recent case law and the Special Water Secretariat is informed.

In the end, the universal application of the rules of law reinforces the possibility of exercising public policy. The occupation of the ordinary members of the administration creates more of a vine for the satisfaction of individual interests than for the implementation of social programs. The degree of its involvement is left to the disposal of the respective political body. The capacity of the reforms is evident through the effort of European citizens to participate through conditions in the formation of new regulatory rules of law. In Greece, the achievement of political goals is considered to be at risk without the comprehensive treatment of social exclusion, physical and verbal violence, as well as the redefinition of expectations from economic and social factors. In terms of its methodology, this research was mostly based on the derivative community law, but also from relevant literature. The information material required for the needs of the research for the analysis of the management of water resources came from European law rules and from the current Greek legislation. However, the investigation of the exercise of public policy and its interventions were gathered through the rich bibliographic and online material that was retrieved after intensive investigation and study. In addition, material was sought through secondary sources registered in the survey.

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## THE OPERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH INTERVENTIONS

The Public Administration operates within the framework of the application of the rules of law and always with the aim of serving the citizen and by extension the state. However, there are cases in which arbitrariness and excessive and unrestrained zeal for abuse of power dynamizes the working climate and often leads to situations of workplace intimidation - authoritarianism.

Many times with the complete tolerance of the Head of General Management and the Senior Administrative Officer who, systematically promoting an "Idiosyncratic and Friendly" administrative hierarchy, based on the logic of his personal choices, bears full responsibility for the selection and placement of the Hon. Head of Administration in this position. A choice made according to his favorite tactic of trampling, every meritocracy criterion and defiantly marginalizing and removing the "Dislikes".

Because Public Administration is not a 'property' or a 'gift' to anyone's wishes, the role of a Chief Executive Officer is to provide and rally services and staff to carry out their objectives and mission and not to create by "personal choices" situations which, on the one hand, disorganize the human resources and on the other hand undermine and dynamize the work of the services, the uninterrupted service of the citizens and the national effort for economic and social development.

From the above, the conclusion of analgesia and unrestrained heteromonism that breaks every concept of the rational and good operation of the Public Administration is drawn. Failure to follow the Administrative Procedure in the exercise of responsibilities by bypassing the hierarchy and selectively handling cases or even removing cases from Departments in which employees happen to have a different opinion on matters of application of the legislative framework, leads to the conclusion that issues of legitimacy are raised actions and possible malice. In addition, the incorrect use of the prescribed discretion, given the arbitrary decision in one direction always, automatically leads the Service in that direction. The ironic and condescending attitude towards the handling of official affairs with slanderous and disparaging attitudes and the simultaneous exercise of verbal and psychological pressure on the employees, is consistent with the beginning of a complete disintegrating mode of dysfunction, with intimidating and authoritarian techniques that de-coordinate normalcy and contribute to the erosion of the state apparatus.

The lack of education but also of empathy for the situation experienced by the governed, the pursuit of "likability" in order to ensure the achievements and any extra rewards that this higher position may have without fair evaluations and objective criteria in the judgment process, rather than "planter" actions, it shows the circumvention of every concept of communication, cooperation and respect in the working environment.

Authoritarianism is also a very negative point in the exercise of the function of Public Administration. The imposition of the "I", the proprietary perception of service matters as well as the complete discrediting of the personal status of the governed, completely disregarding their essential contribution to the service, automatically leads to the demolition of the value system, trampling on the basic principles of human resource management, such as respect, justice, dignity and cooperation. In any case, in order for the public administration system to function properly, a calm and balanced working environment must be ensured, in principle, in which legitimacy, respect, efficiency, the legal service of the purposes of the Public Administration will be promoted and finally the quality of life itself.

## ADMINISTRATION BUREAUCRACY

According to the methodology of Weber, a well-known theorist of the School of Modern Organizational Theory - in the context of Modern Sociological Theories - bureaucracy was considered a necessary and logical development of social organizations. He typically states that this is the most rational form of organization since it ensures speed, coordination and control. The bureaucratic type of organization leads to the instrumentalization of the human factor, to depersonalization and alienation that make it irrational based on the criteria of essential rationality. Therefore, this way of organization makes it difficult and perpetuates the trivial organization tactics of the administration, with the direct recipient being the citizen who is eager for his case to come to fruition. His own indignation leads him to tactics of desperation, making use of the known "means" usually political in order to speed up the processing time of the matter. So the "instrumentalization" invoked by Weber is seen through the way the administration operates since it acts irrationally without taking into account the particularity and nature of the problems at hand. At the same time, bureaucracy is related to the performance of work and the exercise of power. Two concepts that, as we will see in the next paragraph, complement each other as long as there is a sequence between them. So the work is done by the lower management staff while the exercise of power by the senior management staff. These are two conflicting forces that, if balanced, can lead to an effective form of an organizational management style.

Top-level bureaucrats have been replaced by politically appointed advisers. As a result, strategic decisions on government policies are entrusted to political staff with limited experience in the inner workings of each ministry. This situation creates a series of obstacles to the effective operation of any public organization. More crucially, however, the delegation of strategic decisions to political staff has serious implications for the accountability and participation of civil servants in the policy-making process.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE REFORMS TO THE PROJECT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN EU COUNTRIES

Although the reforms have contributed to improving the image of the public administration in terms of the exercise of public policy, there have been cases where the cooperation between the partners has not succeeded to the intended extent, in the context of the networks. Although the reforms have contributed to the facilitation of citizens in terms of access and quality of services, however, the trust of citizens towards the operation of the administration has decreased and the reasons are many and difficult to analyze. However, there is a tendency to underestimate the systemic evaluation of the results of the reforms. In addition, little analysis has been done in the member states regarding their experiences of their relations in the fields of politics and administration. The member states that joined the EU after 2004 carried out important administrative reforms in the context of their preparation for joining the EU

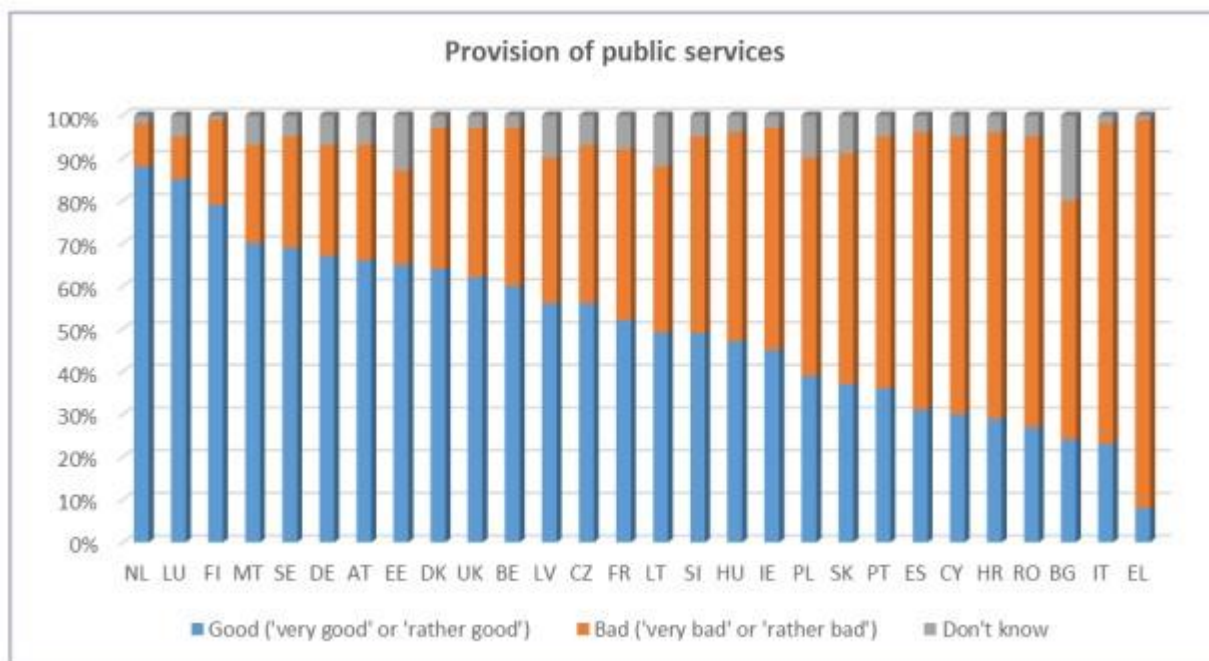


Figure 1 — Reform achievements

Source *Hammerschmid, et al.* <https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2018>

These reforms aimed to modernize policy-making, improve effective coordination, and create a meritocratic public administration capable of attracting and retaining highly trained personnel. However, several years after accession, the initial momentum has been lost in many of these countries. Many aspects of administrative change remained precarious and fragmented. In several cases, sustainability was compromised by the absence of political

consensus on substance and direction, failure to address underlying politicization, and weak, unstable core state institutions<sup>1</sup>. Consequently, the role of political forces was decisive in the sustainability of administrative changes in terms of their essence and direction, while at the same time their absence was compromised in dealing with unstable state institutions.

Sustainable governance indicators<sup>2</sup> examine the state's ability to implement sound policies, as well as the participatory and oversight skills of social actors. They reveal the existence of large differences within the EU in terms of executive capacity and accountability. A significant number of countries still have little practical application of the formal arrangements they have put in place for better policy making<sup>3</sup>. Our country shows a reduced tendency to apply the regulations that contribute to policy making, in contrast to countries such as Denmark, Finland and the United Kingdom in which policy making appears integrated with the reform process. However, the policies of our country can be improved if there is participation of the civil society and the academic community.

## QUALITY OF PROVISION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES IN EU COUNTRIES

The provision of public services to citizens is a multifactorial affair. It is related to the level of human resources, citizens' trust in public administration, political stability and social well-being.

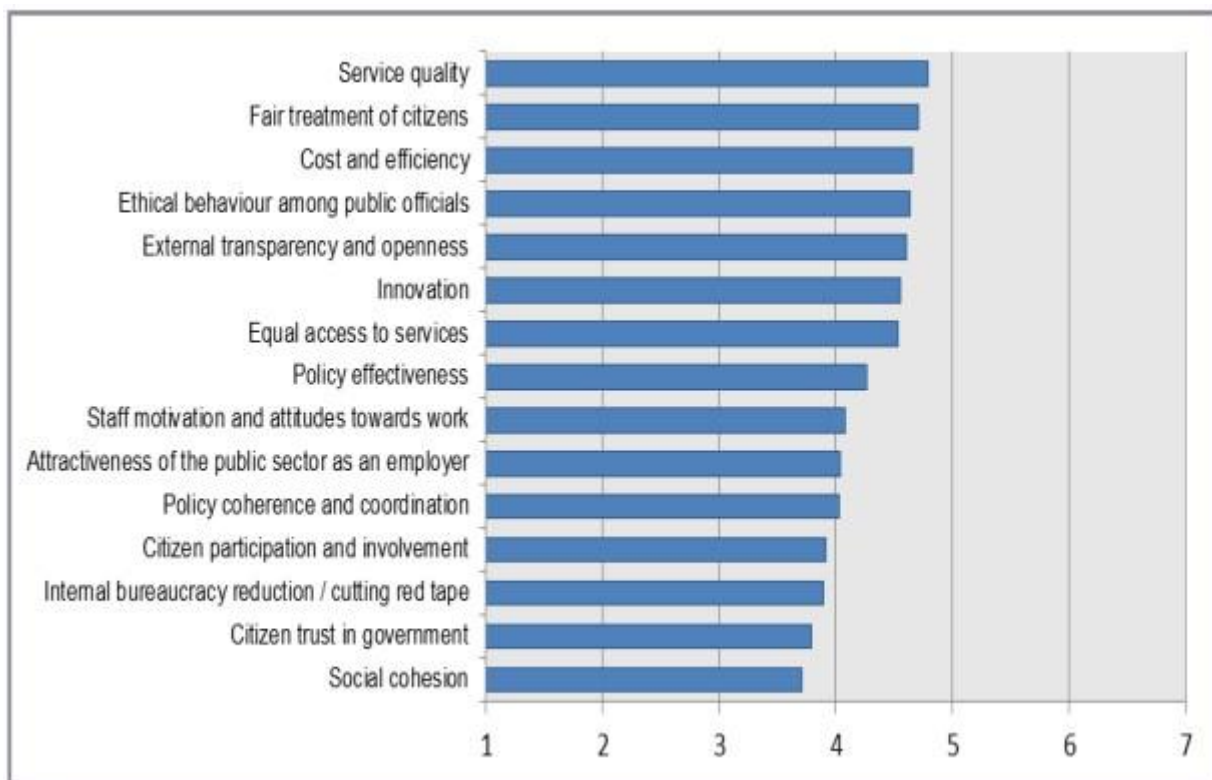


Figure 2 shows the marked differences in the perception of public services across the EU. <https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2018>

Human resources play an important role in the provision of services to public bodies. However, factors such as level and aging are important factors for the smooth functioning of the administrative system throughout the EU. In some countries such as Belgium, Spain and Italy, 45% of civil servants are expected to retire within the next 15 years<sup>4</sup>. In addition, the perception of citizens regarding the placement of administrative staff is a major issue, because it considers that in some public bodies "customer relations" in some national systems can hinder any effort to build a better public administration. In addition, they believe that the lack of meritocratic criteria and intense politicization feed corruption and undermine public administration. Therefore, what must be done by the member states is the implementation of effective strategies for the merit-based and impartial recruitment of personnel, ensuring the transfer of knowledge, while providing at the same time a corresponding e-professional development.

<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/file\\_import/european-semester\\_thematic-factsheet\\_quality-public-administration\\_el.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/file_import/european-semester_thematic-factsheet_quality-public-administration_el.pdf) (updated 16/2/2022)

<sup>2</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung's Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) combine analysis of Policy Performance, Democracy and Governance for 41 EU and OECD countries (Bertelsmann, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/file\\_import/european-semester\\_thematic-factsheet\\_quality-public-administration\\_el.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/file_import/european-semester_thematic-factsheet_quality-public-administration_el.pdf) (updated 16/2/2022)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/file\\_import/european-semester\\_thematic-factsheet\\_quality-public-administration\\_el.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/file_import/european-semester_thematic-factsheet_quality-public-administration_el.pdf) (updated 16/2/2022)

<sup>4</sup> Piya Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, et al., 2015. «The Study on the Future Role and Development of the Public Administration»,

From the above, it can be seen the EU member states' initiative to deal with corruption by suppressing the conflicts of interest groups. Political interventions for the distribution of funds and public contracts, especially at the local level, exacerbate these conflicts, leading interest groups to claim part of political sovereignty but also greater active participation in decision-making, for the benefit of private interest.

Within the action framework of these practices, the member states are moving, with targeted practices and mechanism programs to deal with corruption. Transparency and accountability are two very necessary elements that real political will must apply to national reforms.

It consists of raising awareness of corruption issues at the political level, prioritizing resources for the implementation of anti-corruption policies, setting clear and tangible goals, and creating a general climate of political accountability.

Prevention is a particularly powerful tool in the fight against corruption. Free access to information improves good governance and helps increase the accountability of governments. The timely release of relevant data in a clear and searchable format can greatly eliminate opportunities for corruption and enable citizen oversight of decisions with high economic impact. With deep structural changes such as a change of mentality in public local bodies but also in interest groups in society as well as by sharing good practices in managing good governance, with e-governance and support mechanisms Member States are able to protect the economy from organized crime, financial and tax fraud, money laundering and corruption.

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## THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The problem of the implementation of the environmental policy in our country can be found on the one hand in polynomiality – the syndrome of each political government to cover all possible collateral intra-party conflicts regarding the satisfaction of interests – and on the other hand in the lack of a general strategic plan in which the integrated approach to environmental protection issues.

Essentially, we are talking about an overall sustainable development plan with specific quantitative and qualitative goals. Moreover, the position of the Council of Ministers, to determine the framework of environmental legislation and to include in its jurisprudence the term of sustainable development and sustainability, gave a positive result to the initiative of sub-national bodies for a more integrated approach to the management of water resources.

A further step in the evolution of environmental policy achieved by sub-national actors was the use of fines, implementing the polluter pays principle, so that there are retributive benefits through the operation of state "green fund" mechanisms in the environment.

Despite the community's influence within the operation of our country in environmental matters, either through community directives or through decisions to fail to implement environmental protection measures, community support still exists and plays an active role in the development of national policy through legislation and financial rewards, but also through the philosophy that governs it.

According to the above, what one can perceive is that the sub-national bodies have formed their own model of behavior in terms of drawing up environmental policy that is far from the dictates of the European Community.

As much as the permanent inspections of the EU on the supranational bodies in matters of implementation and implementation of actions become impressive and imperative, the state mechanism shows many weaknesses in its operation. In this case, the presence of environmental organizations would be a catalyst since with its active action it would contribute to the mobilization and alertness of citizens on environmental issues.

The conclusion that emerges is that the development of our country is based on the growth of incomes which will automatically exert greater pressure on the environment but will also require better environmental quality. So these challenges automatically lead to the conclusion that the national environmental policy will be based on both strategic planning and the social sensitivity of both citizens and organizations.

If decisions are not taken that have environmental protection as a primary element, then the road to sustainable development seems very far.

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## PARTICIPATION OF SUBNATIONAL BODIES IN POLITICS

Sub-national bodies form one of the two branches of multi-level governance with the second branch being the authorities of national governments. In recent years, sub-national bodies (regional and local authorities) have been playing an active role in political events, strengthening the belief of whether it is their intense activity in the context of a national or even a European framework or if we are talking about weaknesses of supranational agencies to deal with regional situations. What is certain, however, is that the national bodies still have a monopoly on the control of the Region, regardless of whether they have reduced their powers. However, the opposite is happening with the supranational bodies of the EU, where they are gradually losing the monopoly to control their territory. The participation of the governments of the community institutions of certain interest groups as well as many sub-national actors in the union process gradually causes the merging or redistribution of powers in a different way in each policy field. Within this hybrid system, the supranational institutions have an autonomous status while at the same time taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the existing institutional regime in the context of a strategic maximization of their politics.

One realizes that in this multi-level governance, webs (intertwining networks) of interests are created through which sub-national actors seek their satisfaction through their economic, political, legislative protection from national and supra-national actors. As mentioned above, in contrast to the

regions of our country, the Regions of the Member States constitute an autonomous national body with political status, for this reason they are treated as strong societies (Belgium - Germany) in the multi-level governments.

The regions in Greek territory are even now facing specific "regional problems". The overconcentration of population due to economic activity in and around metropolitan centers creates significant interregional disparities.

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## THE CREATION OF CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS

Through the Community Support Frameworks (CSFs), a developmental promotion of Regional businesses and households was attempted, contributing to a guild-customer alliance in order to implement the political programs of the respective governing party. Moreover, the implementation of many programs was based on the Community support frameworks. Programs for health, for education, for culture, for infrastructures, for the environment worked based on this European support. Some of the infrastructure programs were delayed in their implementation due to obstruction of institutions (especially justice) and bad administrative policy.

The creation of customer relationships between political and economic factors or otherwise "customership"<sup>5</sup> is a complex and cultural phenomenon with multiple and cross-cultural theoretical interest. The first systematic approaches to the clientelism phenomenon appeared in the field of social anthropology and concerned mainly the study of its operation in small rural communities. The concept leaked into the interpretive field of political science and was classified as a distinct type of socio-political relationship / behavior that has a transformative effect on the forms of articulation and organization of individual and collective interests.

In other words, "Customerity"<sup>6</sup> is a structural complex of relations between entities - citizens - political parties - governments that aims to satisfy interests, while at the same time the achievement of entanglements between them contributes to the formation of transit mechanisms towards political sovereignty.

In the present case of the customer relations of the sub-national bodies for the management of water resources, this issue has been examined at the level of Local Government and what emerged through a semi-structured interview was that the sub-national bodies received several interventions much more at the level of customer relations and less at the political level. These interventions concerned the settlement of Water Supply or water supply bills. The resolution of such cases was done in the first case by re-checking the accounts after documentation, while in the second case by a vertical negative answer and application of the Water Supply Regulation. The planning and political action of the regional authority did not allow any political interventions to direct the policy in this key area, while the strict observance of the service's regulation was considered an end in itself for its smooth operation.

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## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY BY SUB-NATIONAL ACTORS

In the case of sub-national bodies and specifically Local Government (LG), the application of the rules of law often conflicts with the exercise of government policy, when it comes close to opposing political beliefs. The authority acquired by Mayors and Regional Governors derives from the electoral process, which implies the faithful implementation of the government's program for local self-government. However, this does not happen in all cases of Self-Governments. They usually apply the existing legislation as it is formed through the rules of law, but deviate from the legality of the issuance of the normative and individual acts. They aim to ensure the quality of services provided to citizens, which in some cases is not consistent with the legality of these actions.

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## THE INCITEMENT OF SUB-NATIONAL BODIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY.

The sub-national bodies and especially the Local Self-Government, receive influences regarding the exercise of Public Policy. First of all, the area of the TA with the Municipalities and Regions is the area par excellence that receives the most political interventions, due to the fact that politicians find easier access and attempt to solve the local problems of the citizens since the citizens themselves with the vote they choose them. On the other hand, the implementation of Public Policy by the Municipalities comes into conflict with written provisions that exclude groups of citizens from their participation in taking beneficial measures. Thus, some self-governors are forced to "illegitimate" by deviating from the existing legislation in their attempt to benefit their voters. The case of inciting the agencies is the "intervention" they receive from the government side to settle local affairs by

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<sup>5</sup> <http://eclass.uoa.gr> Papavlassopoulos (6/17/2021)

<sup>6</sup> As a practice that violates the rules of equality, equality, meritocracy and impartiality (also expressed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), it is considered purely unethical, an act of corruption, and is usually illegal.

In Greece the practice is unconstitutional according to paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 4 of the constitution which impose equality, meritocracy and impartiality: "Greeks are equal before the law." and "Greek men and women have equal rights and obligations."

Many Greeks believe - usually bitterly - that Greece is largely run by Rousfetti. As a practice which violates rules of healthy operation of any affected service - e.g. by hiring lower quality officials for the purpose of buying votes - it is a given that the economy and general productive capacity of a country is degraded by the practice.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CE%A1%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%83%CF%86%CE%AD%CF%84%CE%B9\\_\(%CE%95%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CE%A1%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%83%CF%86%CE%AD%CF%84%CE%B9_(%CE%95%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1)) (updated 25/8/2023)

meeting the needs of a small group of citizens, the so-called "likers". The above dependence of the administration on governmental and other types of interventions creates an anachronistic standard model both at the level of institutions and at the level of the operation of the administration.

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## METHODS

As a research tool in addition to the relevant bibliographies and scientific articles, a semi-structured interview will be implemented with officials of the Local Government and its Legal Entities, in order to foreground the intervention policies and to highlight the work of the Subnational bodies, to record the results of the applications of the interventions in this field of public policy but also to particularly emphasize the impact of this intervention on public life. In addition, the global wealth of the internet through scientific sites actively contributed to the structuring and further integration of information useful for the completion of the project.

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## FINDINGS

The operation of sub-national bodies is largely based on the exercise of public policy. As can be seen from the answers of the TA electors, the exercise of public policy in the management of water resources was the main operating lever in the application of the rules of law, following a mandate from the EU. The compliance of the member states with the European framework directive, 60/2000EC for water led most K-M to submit the management plans within a specified period of time (2009). Our country was one of the few member states that delayed the submission of plans due to successive political changes within it with a direct impact on the imposition of sanctions by the European Commission. The political reshuffles with the change of the political scene, in the above period of time, led on the one hand to the reconstitution of the structure of the relevant Ministry and to the redistribution of its responsibilities and on the other hand to the difficulty of integrating and decoding the articles of the directive – framework resulting in the issuance of legislative provisions and circulars, which however, they failed to implement the management plans in accordance with the European mandate.

The problem of the delay in the immediate implementation of the Community directive stems from issues of complexity and difficulty, usually of a legal and technical nature, which do not find a response from the sub-national bodies in their implementation due to the lack of coordination and the inability to decode the implementation and integration of the management plans. Moreover, the absence of monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the checks by the EU automatically led our country to complex and time-consuming procedures for imposing sanctions and high fine

Avoiding these fines could be achieved if the political-social forces presented a stronger model of acceptance and implementation of the mandates by negotiating the costs that most of the time cannot be borne. There is also the theory of the superficial engagement of environmental issues by Member States, such as our country, which do not engage in minimalist and in-depth practices but are spent in cursory and superficial studies which suffer from documentation and application.

Therefore, within a franchise-producing system of a European state-of-law such as our country, the application of the rules of law by the public administration for the exercise of public policy is at odds with political interventions, which on the one hand try to manipulate its work administration and on the other hand to disorient any attempt to rationally apply the law both in matters of environmental management and in practical matters of the distribution of human resources by the sub-national bodies. The clientelism resulting from the interest groups influence and influence the exercise of public policy, creating a strong and interdependent link with two-way exchanges of achieving their personal ambitions that are far from the practices of implementing European Union directives and often lead to a situation of fiscal austerity brutally hitting the public sector (personnel, internal operation). In addition, in the measure of the grouping of responsibilities in policy fields, the strengthening of control mechanisms should be achieved as well as the strengthening of the efficiency of public bodies because forces and ingenuity that currently remain trapped will be released.

At the European level, sub-national bodies choose different forms of intervention in the institutional-political system either through group activities or through autonomous initiatives of individual Regions.

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## FUTURE CHANGES

Acting within the framework of meritocracy and legitimacy, each Local body, Municipality or Region, should focus its actions on achieving the provision of services and meeting the needs of all citizens, regardless of discrimination and votes. Human dignity is not bought with votes. Therefore, the suppression of the obsession with "clientelism" can happen if rules are established in the way sub-national bodies operate, now informing the citizens that the clientelistic state must disappear, giving the first example of the elimination of "clientelism" so that it becomes clear and from the supranational bodies that all Greeks are equal before the law and that they have equal rights and equal obligations. In addition, the reference to the development of technology through ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in the operation of the Public Administration, is very likely to bring about the definitive treatment of this perception.

In our country, the exercise of public policy in the operation of sub-national bodies can be realized for the benefit of society as a whole if and as long as the political interventions will not disturb the balance of the internal functioning of the bodies with the continuous structural changes, but only a clearer political scene in the context of the implementation of the fiscal policy.



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## CONCLUSIONS

Political interventions, in the exercise of public policy, may deviate from the application of laws, with the main objective of serving interests and political expediency. Besides, the law itself authorizes the administration to act, it sets limits (real or legal) that must be met and determines the purpose of the administrative action. In this case, when the law acts with binding energy, providing uniform regulations in similar situations of relationships or incidents, but is opposed to the public interest, then the administration is obliged to denounce arbitrariness and irregularities with a request for annulment against an illegal executive administrative act.

Otherwise, where the law formulates generalities without creating a legal consequence by giving the regulation a flexibility, then it is left to the discretion given by the law, the administration to choose whether to take a certain action or to omit it.

Based on the principle of legality, the exercise of public administration can put "out of order" interventions and situations that harm the functioning of the state apparatus.

What is certain, however, is that the responsibility for the design of specific policies cannot arise when there are no paper paths for strategic decisions. So when, after each reorganization, the consultants who carry temporary duties, withdraw all the files from the Ministries so that the progress of the projects is not revealed, the next Ministers do not have the data that will lead them to the implementation of the political plans. That is why the formulation of social policy remains incomplete.

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