

Understanding the basic concepts

- **Advocacy**
political process by which individuals/groups try to influence public and/or government policy and/or decision making.
- **Lobby(ing)**
form of advocacy attempting to influence decisions made by officials in government.
- **Network**
links of individuals/organizations, etc.
- **Network organization**
(parts of) network(s) made operational as an organization.
- **Networking**
the operational process of a network organization.



Links between the basic concepts

Next slides – plea for:

- Building networks / network organizations an essential tool for lobby(ing), viz. to cope effectively and efficiently with the **complexities** of lobbying in the EU
- Lessons to learn from experiences of other lobby and advocacy organizations (in casu migrant organizations – EUNOMAD)



Complexities lobby(ing) EU – some figures

- **Size**
Around 15.000 Brussels-based lobbyists.
- **Stationed where?**
Some 2.600 special interest groups have a permanent office in Brussels.
- **Who are they?**
 - European trade federations 32%
 - Consultants 20%
 - Companies 13%
 - NGOs 11%
 - National associations 10%
 - Regional representatives 6%
 - International organizations 5%
 - Think tanks 1%
- **Since when?**
Since the late 1970s – up to that time: “diplomatic lobbying”



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Complexities lobby(ing) EU - channels

- **Institutional targets**
 - European Commission (monopoly initiative for decision-making in the Community)
 - European Council
 - European Parliament
- **Indirect lobbying the Council**
 - National delegations in Brussels
 - Members of Council working groups
 - Via national governments
- **European Parliament - Committees**
 - Rapporteurs – MEPs appointed by Committees to prepare parliament's response to Commission's proposals and Parliament's measures.
 - Chairpersons of the committees



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Complexities lobby(ing) related to Fundraising

Some types of funds:

1) **Private donors**

1. Small and big
2. Religious – non-religious
3. National – international., etc.

2) **National Co-financing funds**

GIZ (Germany), Sida (Sweden), Cida (Canada), DFID (United Kingdom), etc

2) **International donors**

often big: Cordaid, Caritas, Oxfam, OSF, etc.

4) **EU structural Funds**

Related to EU programmes, like Education (Comenius, Erasmus, etc.)

- (Combination of) 1 to 4 more complex, more complex criteria – difficult for small organizations
- (Combination of) 1 to 4 more related to politics. 2 and 4 are “subsidized countervailing power”. Under present financial crisis and more right wing politics less popular within EU/EC
- Hence, important to have a good quality lobby(ing) based on quality information and research
- Here again, on the higher levels of funding you cannot do it on your own
- Find allies, build network organizations



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Complexities of defining good quality of EU lobby(ing): Lobby(ing) for good causes not always same as good lobby(ing)

- Compare the lobby(ing) of the tobacco industry with the lobby for minority rights.
- It is about interests – these can be individual, groups, network, etc. hence often contradicting interests.
- Find balances between individual, groups, etc. interests.
- Try to avoid to lobby **only** for access to funds (will make finding a balance between different interests difficult)
- Good lobby(ing) should always be based on good and verifiable data (see ERIO's track record)
Hence, good researchers and their institutions are the lobbyist's best allies.
- Find common grounds with other lobby actors, and look for joint actions or even joint organizational structures.



The Roma perspective – some questions

- Why should Roma (organizations) always do lobby(ing) on their own?
- They share problems and challenges with other groups like migrants, refugees, etc. Compare: 2006 ERIO conference on multiple discrimination.
- Obstacles: categorization by donors, funders, state (they set the priorities and the eligibilities completely on their own, while the subsidy structures actually are owned by civil society)
- Dangers: in times of financial crisis, donors themselves are under pressure, hence some tend to make their clients, partners more instrumental.
- Solutions:
 - Work closely with Lobby/research institutions like ERIO
 - Find allies among migrant/diaspora organizations on themes
 - Synchronize your lobby(ing)
 - Appear together in important meetings like GFMD, World Social Forum, recently the meeting about family reunification (some Roma are also migrants)



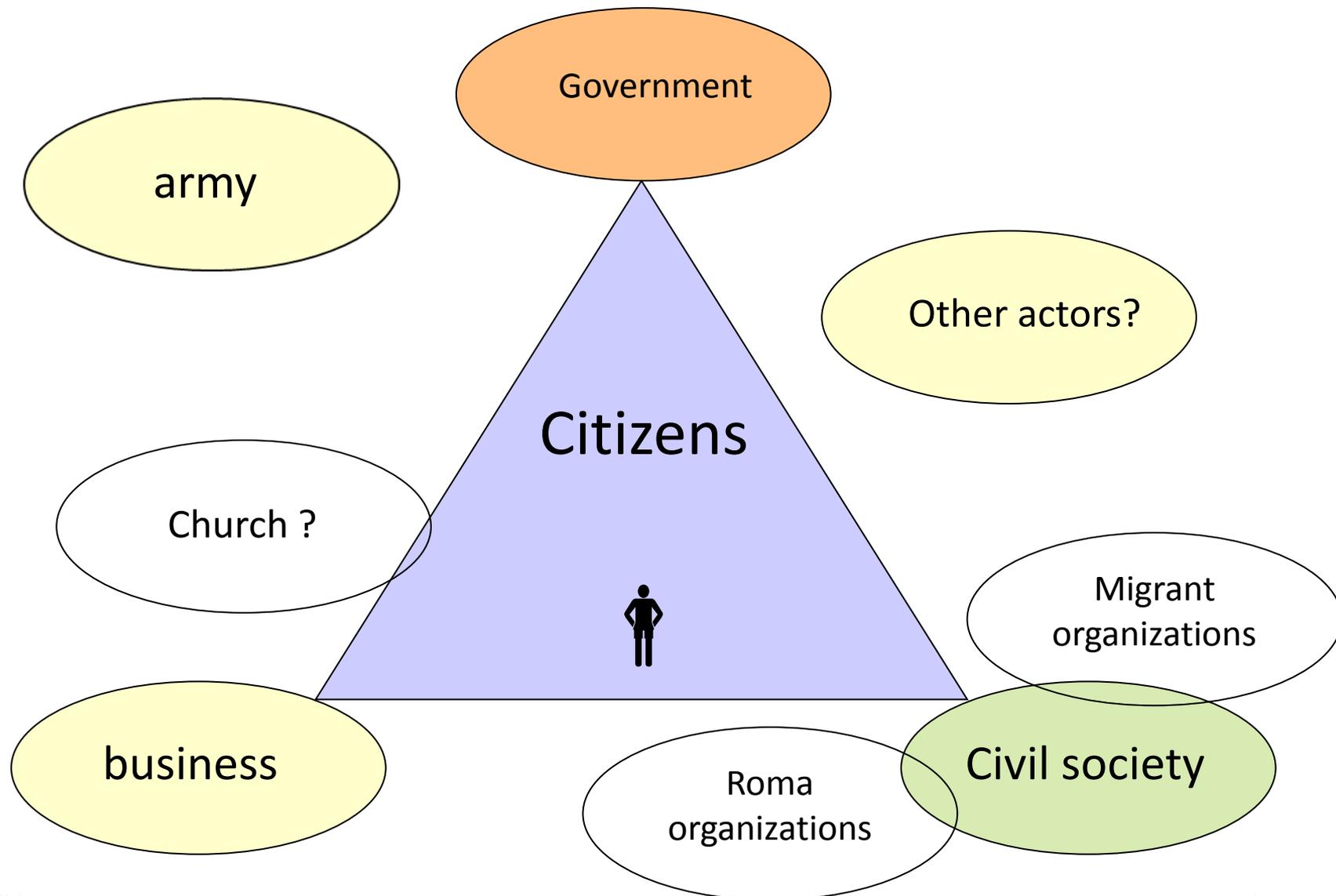
Why network organizations? Why collaborate with other network organizations (e.g. Migrants / diaspora)?

Alone you cannot lobby effectively and efficiently in Brussels, because of:

- Too complex processes
- Too many players/actors
- Too many targets
- Donor dominance - subsidy reduction because of economic crisis
- Etc.



Make a visual analysis of Civil Society in your own context to better understand the power relations (here example of the CS Constellation of The Netherlands)



LESSONS LEARNED FROM EUNOMAD

- An example of efficient and effective lobby(ing) through networking
- EUNOMAD – a network organization of national platforms in 8 European countries.

www.Eunomad.org



The EUNOMAD network

a public arena for multi-actors dialogue

Eunomad is a European network that present itself as a public arena for multi-actors dialogue on practices linking migration, citizenship, integration and development.



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Choices – positioning – claimed added value

- Where:
Public arena
- With whom:
Multi-actors
- For what:
dialogue on practices
- How:
Linking migration, citizenship, integration and development
- Range:
European network



The values shared within the network are based on the will to:

- Recognize migrant citizens' contributions to countries of origin and European countries
- Affirm the wealth of mobility for development “here and there”
- Rationalising the debate on immigration in Europe



Activities – areas - methods

- Capitalization
- Study (research – analyses)
- Advocacy



EUROPE WIDE NETWORK

Intrinsic characteristics of migration:

- Crossing borders
- transnational
- “civil society arena” is as wide as where the migration goes



Extra Challenge

Europe is still “An Europe of Nations”

- Different constellations of civil society
- Different migration histories
- Different social, political, cultural context
- Etc.



Added value of EUNOMAD as an European network

In the form of an hypothesis:

Because of its intrinsic border crossing and transnational nature, migration and the migrants may actively contribute to the building of a real unified Europe.....



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Basic assumptions in EUNOMAD' messages (capitalization – study/research – advocacy)

1. Cultural diversity in development and integration (projects) is considered to be important for Europe
2. Interculturality (intercultural learning) will improve European development and integration



Rationale of the EUNOMAD assumptions

- **Cultural diversity** guaranties the “refreshment” of societies, and gives them “quality boosts”, enriches them.....
Many historical examples (Ptolomaic Empires, Roman Empire, Moghul Empire, small island societies in the Moluccas....)
- Migration is also **movement of ideas**.
This is part of the positive contribution migrants can give to both host and home country: **Exchange of cultural ideas... (“bring and bring back ideas...”)**



Example: Circulair migration UETD (United European Turkish Democrats)

- **Bring** to the host country the values of social enterprising (*Ahilik* system from the Otoman empire, based on the Mevlana – Konya philosophy)
- **Bring back** to the home country ideas of human rights, democracy, gender, etc.
- **Notice:** not only lobby based on complaints and fight for rights, but also on positive role of migrants both in host and home countries (win-win situation) – also conceivable for Roma?

