



POLAND

Źródło: The Zebra Chronicles: Finding your Voice



Advocacy in Poland - basic information

ISR
INSTYTUT STRATEGII I ROZWOJU

Institute of Strategy and Development - about us



Institute of Strategy and Development (ISiR) specializes in Public Relations, Advocacy, Digital Content, audit and image consultancy.

Team experienced in the area of economy, public affairs and media is our main asset.

We also gathered extensive experience leading different projects for various clients.

Agnieszka Jadczyzyn - partner at ISiR.

For several years in the market. An expert in the field of Public Affairs, specializing in advocacy for industry organizations and sectors related primarily to healthcare, local government policy, agri-food industry. She has gained her experience while working in the public service (advisor to the Minister of Economy), in parliament (special committee of inquiry; support in a presidential campaign), in local government administration. She completed post-graduate and PhD studies at the School of Economics in Warsaw.

Ilona Klejnowska - Kamińska - partner at ISiR.

For several years in the market. An expert in Public Relations, specializing in internal communications, crisis management and media relations. She has experience in working with the media (worked as a deputy head of a political party's press office) and events' organization. In recent years, she has also been involved in brand building and promotion of ideas of economic sectors, and in personal branding. MA in political science and journalism.

Lobbying in Poland – law and regulations

- The first bill in Poland: Law on Lobbying - July 2005
- This bill introduced lobbying into the Polish legislation, a term unknown so far in Polish law. According to the law on lobbying:

Any legally permitted action taken to influence public authorities in the lawmaking process is considered as lobbying.

- Other acts concerning lobbying: Act for Members of the Sejm and the Senate, Rules and Regulations of the Sejm, Rules and Regulations of the Senate, Rules and Regulations of the Council of Ministers.

Main public institutions in Poland:

Two houses of the parliament: Sejm i Senat



Government – the Council of Ministers



Kancelaria Prezesa Rady Ministrów

Ministries



Note: law firms and organizations for entrepreneurs do not have to be registered as lobbying entities, even though they undertake such Activities.

Lobbying in numbers

Register of people performing professional lobbying activities in Sejm



28



25

2013 rok



22

2014 rok

304



A number of registered entities, according to the register of a ministry for public administration



22 = 7,2%

Declared to undertake lobbying activities in Sejm

Main areas of interest for lobbying firms



health care



economic enterprise



energetics

Why do we prefer to call it:

**PUBLIC
AFFAIRS**

ADVOCACY



What do politicians think about lobbying?



Julia Pitera (ruling party) former minister for anti-corruption activities

To stop informal and implicit influence on the law making process, which in Poland is wrongly called lobbying, is one of the most important and outstanding issue concerning law making in our country. I am afraid that until next big corruption scandal we won't be able to break the resistance against a new lobbying law.



Janusz Piechociński (ruling party) deputy PM, minister of economy

In democracies dialog and search for the best possible solution is natural. The different thing is when during this dialog you violate elementary rules of ethics and law.

Nowadays lobbying is mainly carried out unofficially. We want it to be public. We want everybody to have an influence on new regulations in the law making process. In my opinion, the most important things in the law making process happen during commission and sub-commission meetings and those are not registered. We want to change that.



Elżbieta Witek (opposition party), MP



Marek Borowski (opposition party) former deputy PM, minister of economy

Legislative initiatives which are strongly criticised by certain groups or trades are mainly becoming an object of fraudulent lobbying activities. And government do not react to that criticism. And when comments of different businessmen are disregarded, they search for help among MPs.

What do journalists think about lobbying?



Damian A. Zaczek - editor-in-chief of DECYDENT & DECISION MAKER monthly

Before the Law on Lobbying was introduced, lobbyists were mainly called swindlers, bribers and seen as a group corrupting politicians.



Konrad Piasecki – tv and radio journalist

Maybe it is so that in many cases those who call themselves lobbyists are in reality intermediators in corruption. And in other cases those who are honest reach a point where they start to be convinced by others to dishonest actions



Jacek Żakowski - "Polityka" journalist

We have a problem with lobbying because we have problem with trust.



Jadwiga Sztabińska – "Dziennik Gazeta Prawna" journalist

Each topic, from different sources is verified very carefully. If we have questions about some kind of lobbying activity we ask ourselves what's there behind the scenes.



Witold Gadomski - "Gazeta Wyborcza" journalist

The law making process in Poland. Two main things are important: in many cases the MPs are not aware what regulations they are supporting and activity of lobbyists which influence the final regulations.

How does it look like in practice



Lobbying in practice - a short example



Poland is divided into local government units. They do not make local law, like states in the USA or lands in Germany.



In Poland the richest local governments transfer part of their income to the poorest ones, as a tax. This should equal opportunities of all local governments in Poland.



In some cases after paying this tax some of the richest local governments become the poorest. This was a reason why they decided to change the law.

Here the story begins

1

The Ministry of Finance started a process of consultations about changes in the law concerning tax paid by the richest local Governments.

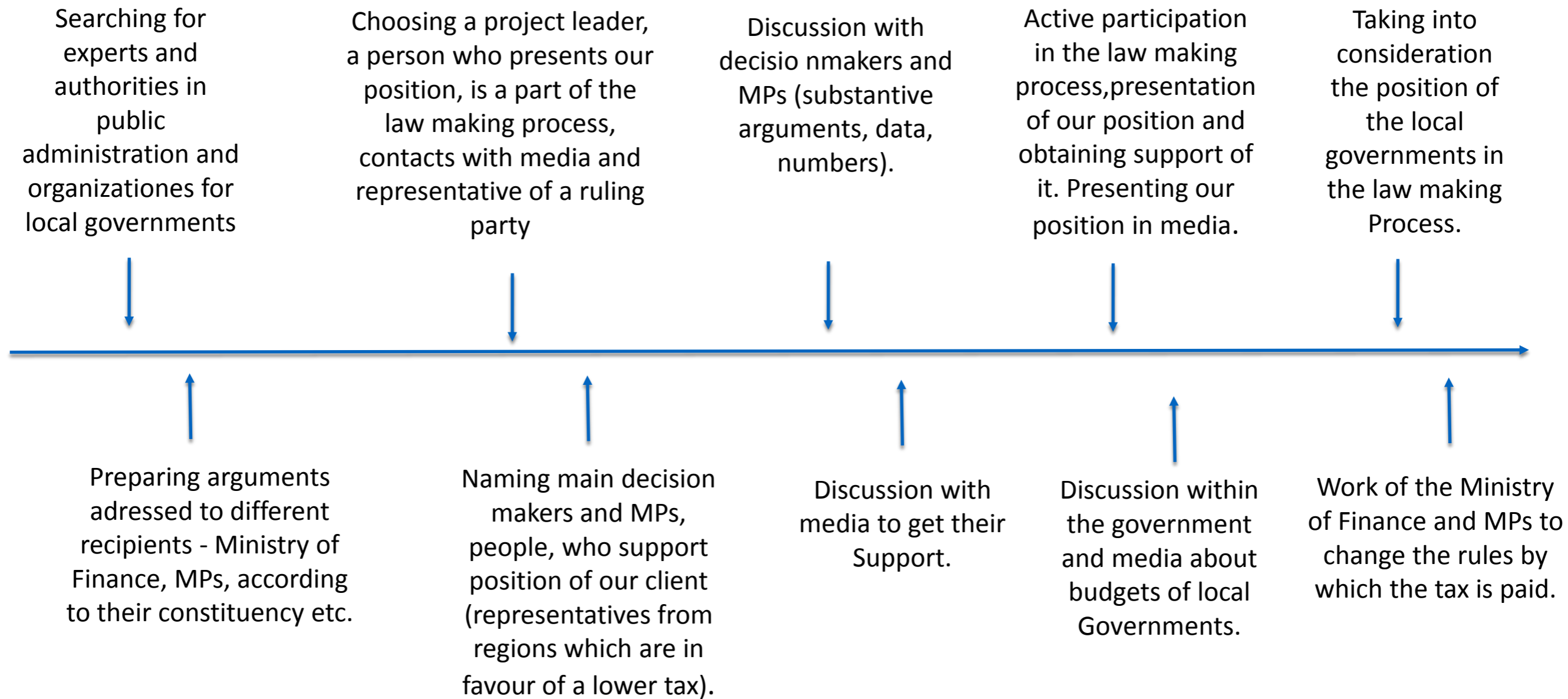
2

Changes which were proposed, were not beneficial for the local governments. They wanted to change rules by which this tax is calculated.

3

A group of local governments decided they needed support from PR and MR Advisors.

Lobbying in practice - a short example



Project: 1 year

1 EDUCATION

2 COALITION BUILDING

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attention

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