

DRUZHBA-ADRIA CASE STUDY

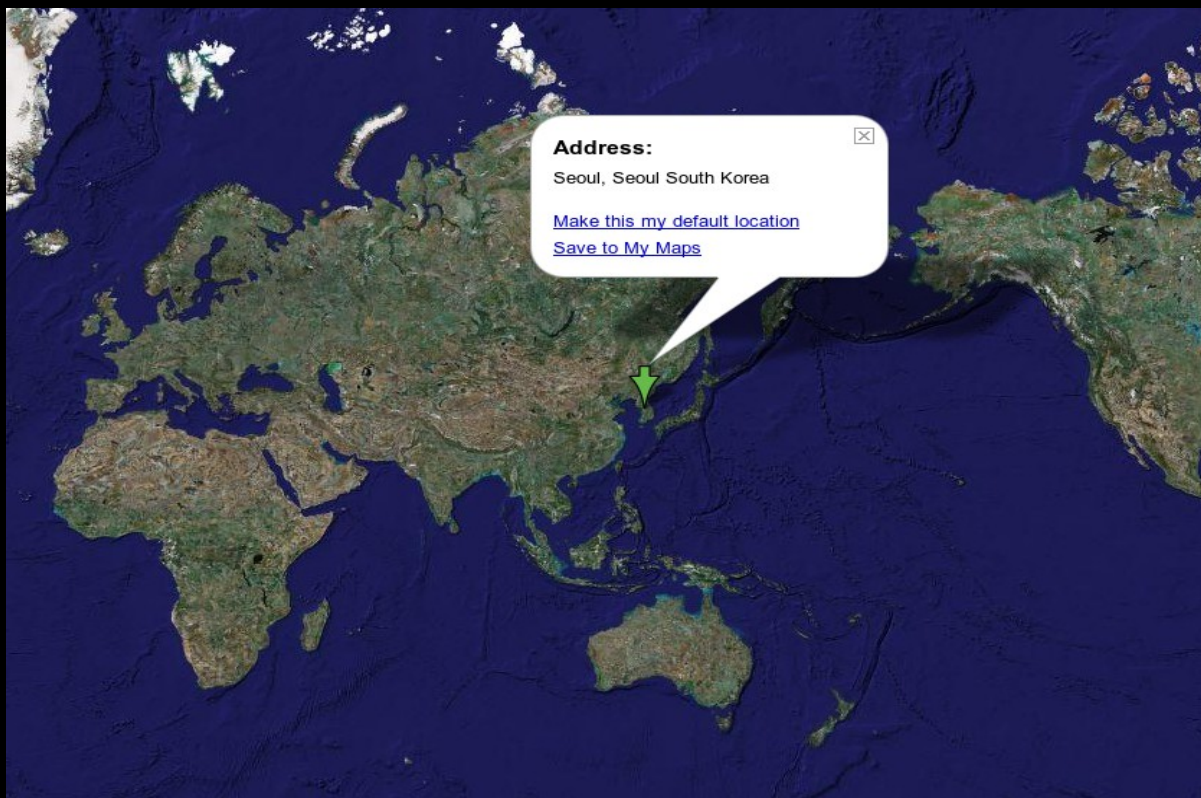


PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUCCESS STORY PUBLIC PRESSURE AND ALLIANCES AGAINST POOR LEGISLATION AND EIA AS LEGITIMIZING DEVICE

IAIA 07 Conference, Seoul - Korea,
Concurrent Sessions:
Public Participation
Contentious issues

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16 December 2002 - Croatia signs an agreement, without any Parliamentary discussion or strategic assessment, with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Slovakia and Hungary to integrate the existing Druzhba and Adria oil pipelines in order to transport Russian oil to world markets through the Croatian port on the Adriatic coast.

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Environmental NGOs started the campaign against that environmentally very risky project 4 days before the agreement was signed. The protest grew quickly; environmental NGOs got organized, succeeded to involve the whole Croatian public which started to manifest strong opposition to the project



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The main arguments against the planned project are high environmental risk and low profit for Croatia. The pipeline would endanger the country's strongest sector, tourism. The consequences of an oil spill would be devastating, not only for the tourism industry, but for the ecosystem of the Adriatic Sea as well.

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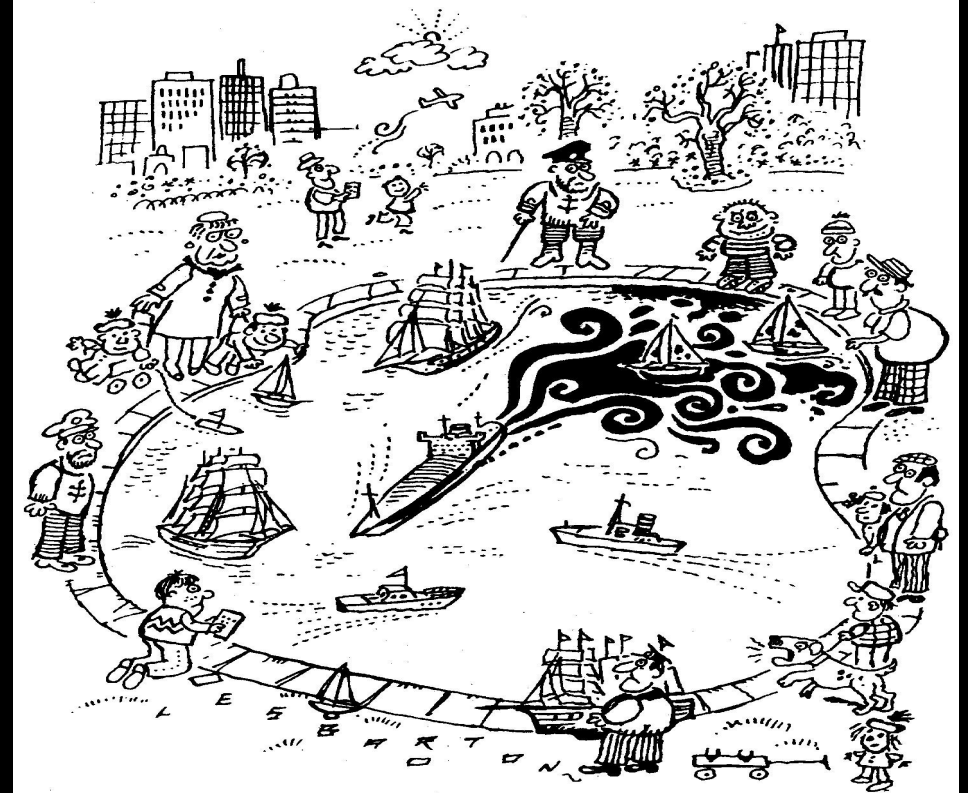


Carnival procession entitled “Druzhba Mafia” – procession detail: huge oil stain”

The campaign against the project developed in parallel with the official EIA procedure. Even though both lasted over 3 years, the public never officially participated in the EIA procedure. The Croatian legislation does not foresee public participation until a very late stage of the procedure. That stage of public participation was never reached in the case of Druzhba-Adria.

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Strong and long lasting public pressure and alliances against the project resulted finally in 2006 in the rejection of the project EIA Study. Poor legislation, political pressures, economic interests, and EIA as legitimizing device practice lost the battle against organized public opposition.



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The Druzhba-Adria case has demonstrated, in a very dramatic way, the faultiness of the Croatian Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation.

Croatia is at the present harmonizing its EIA legislation with the European EIA Directive.....

Thank you for the attention!

