



Addressing Risk in Regulatory Policy Making

Towards a risk based policy against the wildfires

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Work hypothesis (1)

1. The risk regulatory concept is understood as part of public management reforms.
2. Risk is used not only in an instrumental way regarding specific operations which should be undertaken, but it is also used as a means of understanding and reflecting on an existing reality.
3. The operation of a risk regulatory concept and policy is not straightforward and is always embedded in a particular cultural and legal context.



Work hypothesis (2)

4. Risk overpasses governments: It is a Governance issue (and even more: a personal issue for each emancipated citizen).
5. Personal responsibility is required for the establishment of collective organizational accountability.
6. Formal rules that are to be enforced must be flexible enough in order for the rules that are shaped in the real world to be complementary to them.



THE CASE: WILDFIRES IN GREECE



Firefighters Struggle in Athens

By [ANTHEE CARASSAVA](#),
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ATHENS — Two years ago, ferocious fires tore through scores of villages and olive groves, killing at least 65 people and destroying 6 percent of Greece's tree cover.

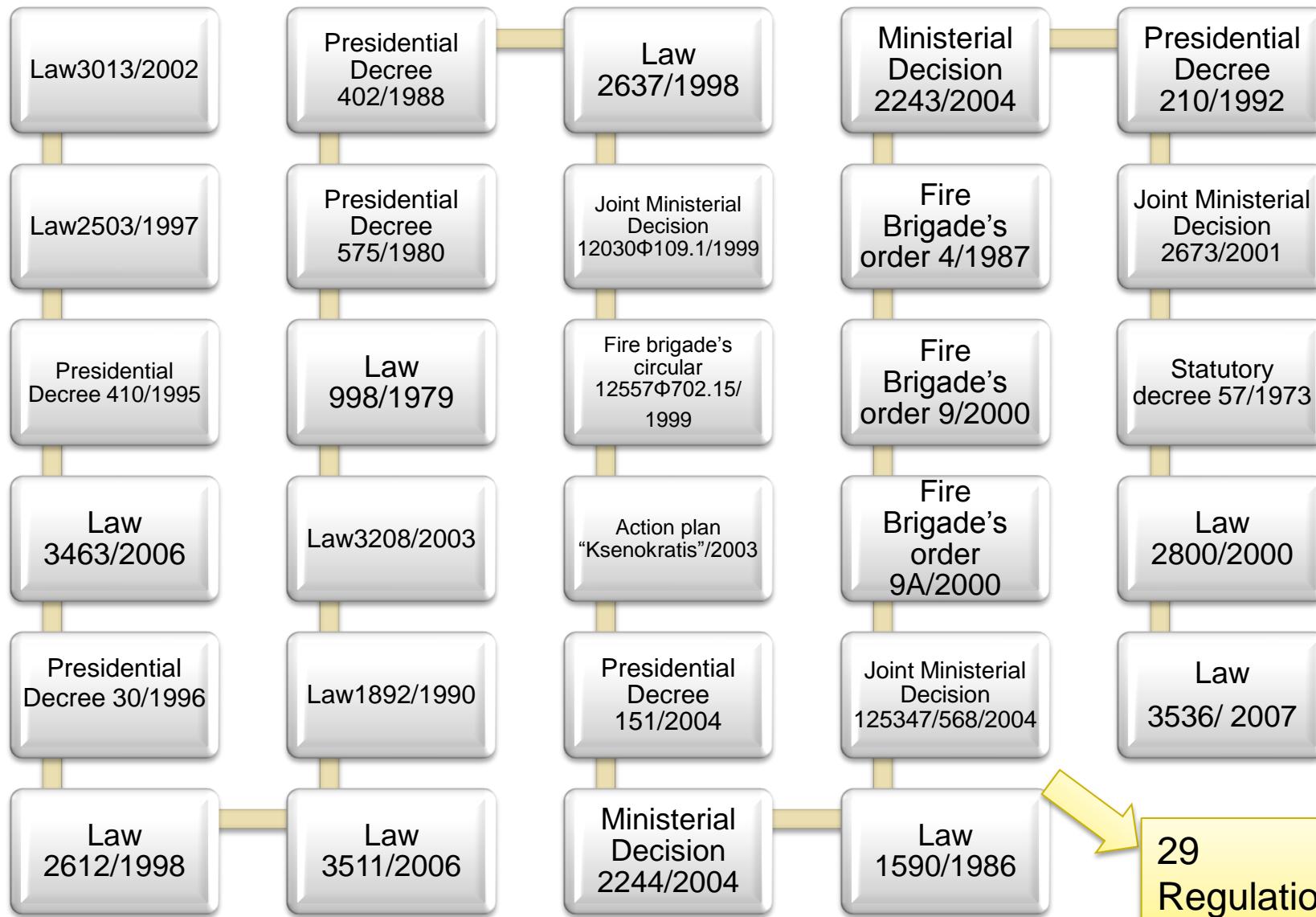
On Monday, the fourth day of a major operation that is struggling to contain brush fires burning the outskirts of Athens, Greeks were asking how their country could still appear so unprepared for a similar disaster.





Looking for some explanations

Dispersion of the regulatory framework



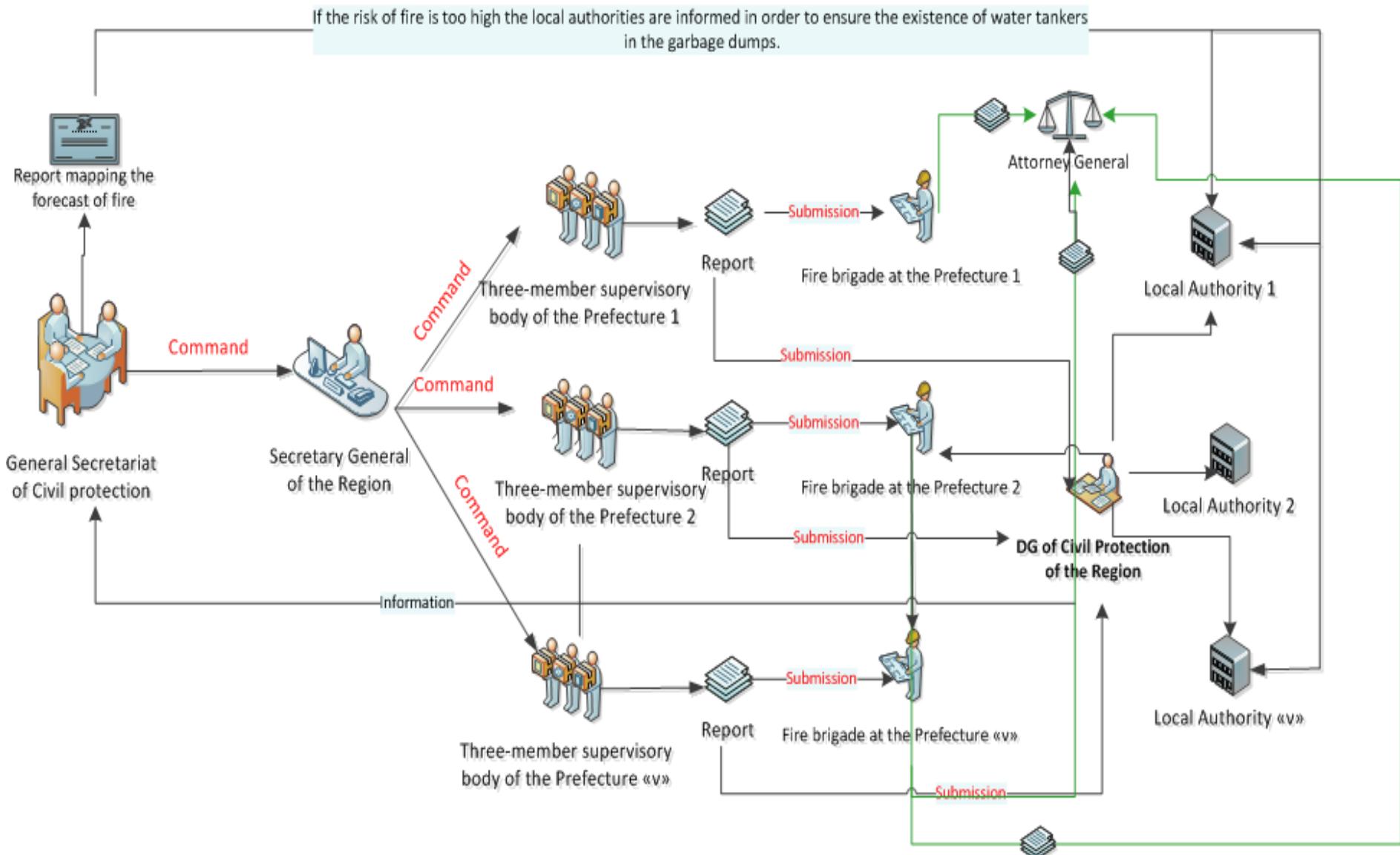
Overlapping competencies

Example: Clean up the forests' vert to minimize ignition risk

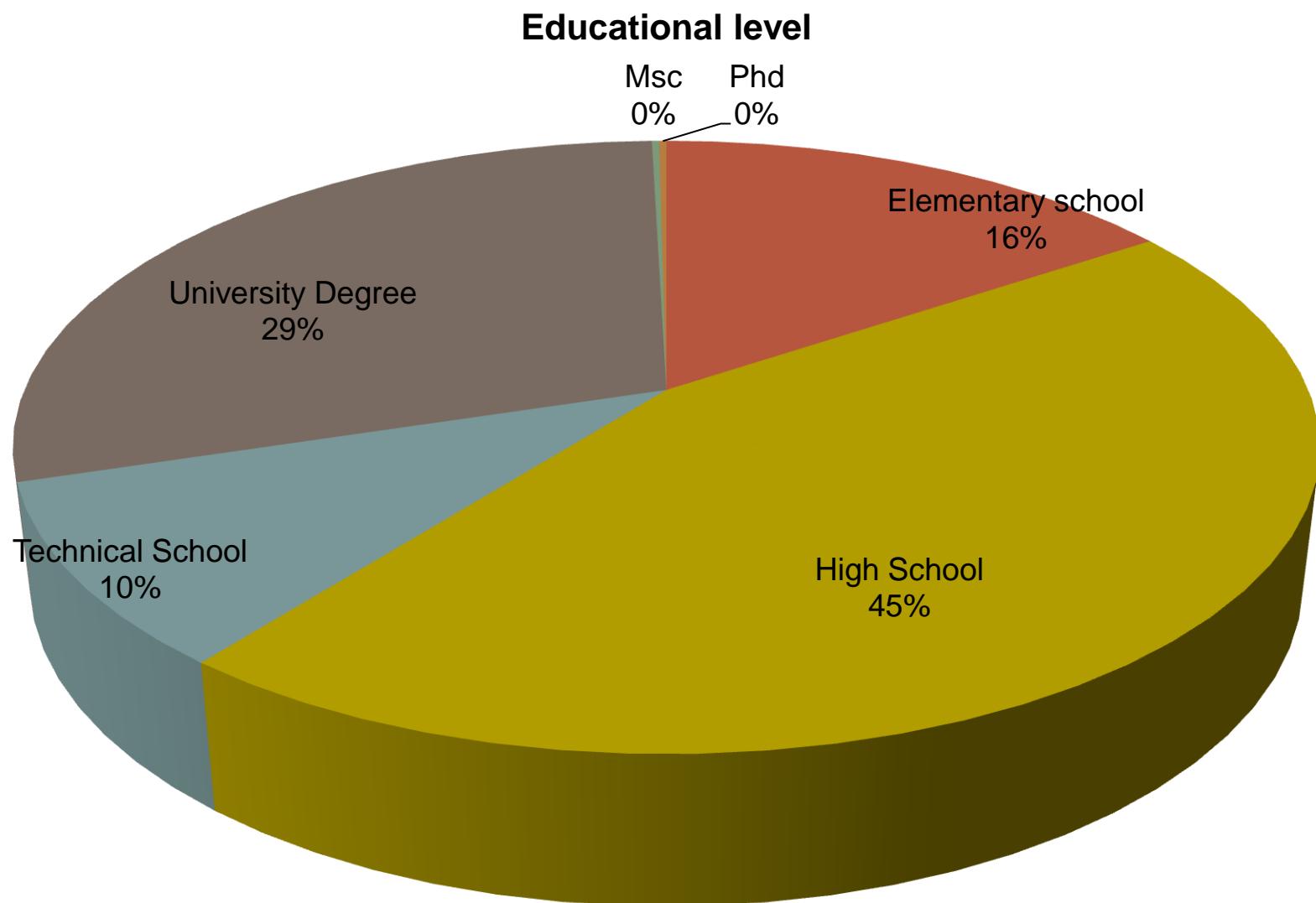
Competent structure

- 2 Local Self Government
- 3 Ministry of Defense
- 4 Public Power Corporation S.A.
- 5 Ministry of culture
- 6 Civil aviation authority
- 7 Greek Railways Organization
- 8 Ministry of environment, General Secretariat of public works
- 9 Regional authorities
- 10 Prefectural authorities
- 11 Secretaries General of the Regions
- 12 Regional forest authorities

Complicated procedures: i.e. How to avoid ignition in the garbage dumps



The HR for civil protection in Greece





The phase of suppression of the disasters

- Problems of coordination of resources
- Significant delays
- Lack of alternative plans
- Lack of information to people on how to be protected
- Low awareness



...But also, some good news

- The massive participation of volunteers in certain areas where the wildfires had been expanded, led to some interesting remarks:
 - Diverse results: In areas where the people was involved, the catastrophic results of the wildfires were much less.
 - Self organization flourished in parallel to the official procedures: Structures, rules and procedures emerged ad hoc.
 - More actors were involved: Skills otherwise unexploited were optimally used.



Towards a risk based civil protection policy

1. Instrumental changes are needed: A regulatory reform in civil protection could be helpful.
2. Strengthening the civil participation which is complementary to the rationally designed procedures and fills the gaps of a formal policy, is also needed. Nevertheless, it does not replace the instrumental changes.



The added value of a participatory civil protection policy

- Better definition of the problem.
- Clarity of the results to be attained and the means to be used.
- Optimal use of resources.
- Maximum legitimation of the public policy and the decisions taken.



Suggestions

- The embedment of openness in all phases of the policy process.
- Proper communication at all levels.
Awareness campaigns.
- Redrawing of the ethical standards and rigid implementation.
- Make use of all possible institutional instruments.