

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIMENSION IN GREEK ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY:
Institutional experience and mediating contribution of the Greek
Ombudsman**

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ABSTRACT

The Greek Ombudsman is one of the most important mechanisms for monitoring and revealing public policy implementation problems. The “Quality of Life” department receives a plethora of complaints, which reflect the institutional and administrative problems in the implementation of a sustainable development policy. In this paper we introduce part of the Greek Ombudsman’s experience concerning the effectiveness of the public administration in dealing with issues of negative environmental impact, resulting from technical infrastructure works and production activities. In particular we present specific categories of cases concerning sewage management, which represent some of the most serious examples of institutional, administrative and legislative inefficiency. The systematic investigation of submitted complaints proved the lack of a binding and reliable monitoring and control system, which constitutes the first stage for rational environmental management. The solution of related problems becomes especially difficult, since the information necessary for a rational assessment of the existing situation in order to propose appropriate solution, is either inadequate or non-existent. As a direct result, administrative responsibility is fragmented among a large number of public authorities, each of which does not assume its responsibilities; an endless cycle which is to blame for the serious delay of relative processes.