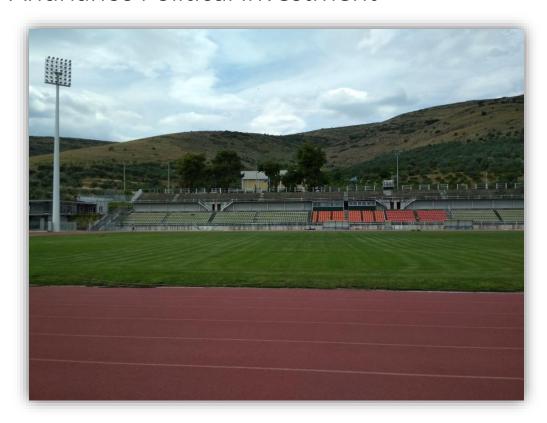
Andrianos Political Investment



The former Deputy Minister for Sports, Ioannis Andrianos, during his tenure in office, introduced 26 sports infrastructure projects in Argolida's region. This means that 7.5 million euro of taxpayers' money headed to his constituency, with an eye on the 2015 upcoming elections.

Just a few days before the announcement of the January 2015 elections, Andrianos proposed a change to the Public Investment Program, adding 7 new projects for his region. After a week, he took the decision to revise the Program again and credited extra 300.000 euros to two of this recently added projects. The last chapter to this chronicle closed two days before the election day. In an open press conference, Andrianos and the mayor of Argos Dimitris Kamposos signed four of those projects' contracts. During this event, the mayor of Argos praised Mr. Andrianos for his decisions and called people of Argos to vote for him.

Data overview

- Number of projects: 26 introduced for Argolida, while the second region in projects, Messinia had only 7.
- Funds: Argolida had the second biggest amount with 7.5 million euro, after Chalkidiki that ranked first receiving 9 million for their two projects.
- Projects distribution 2013-14: 17 out of 26 Argolida's projects introduced in 2014, the year before the elections.

Ministry of Sports: Pre-election projects without funds

The next day of the elections found Andrianos in the parliament, but his party, New Democracy, in the opposition. The newly elected government of SYRIZA decided to cancel the 18 of the 26 projects from Argolida. The reason behind this decision explains the press officer of the current Deputy Minister for Sports saying that there were "so many projects in the pre-election period of 2015 that couldn't be fund". The decision put an end to 16 out of 17 projects introduced the year before the elections.

In our attempt to contact Ioannis Andrianos to have his view on this issue, the former Deputy Minister for Sports said we would speak about this the following days, but since then he refused to accept calls.

Ioannis Andrianos

- Place of birth: Nea Epidavros, Argolida
- Profession: Journalist
- MP of Argolida New Democracy: 2009 to date
- Deputy Minister for Sports: June 2013-January 2015

Another aspect on the cancelation decision is giving the Vice Regional Governor of Argolida Anastasios Chividopoulos saying that the new government had a completely different plan of funds management, "their priority was to cover the past debts of the General Secretary of Sports". On the other hand, "Andrianos had the assurances from his government" and that's why he went on with the projects explained Mr. Chividopoulos.

A. Chividopoulos: A plan for sports touristic development



"We have a very positive opinion", said the Vice Head of Argolida Mr. Chividopoulos about Andrianos' decisions. Then he added that Andrianos intentions misconceived due to the fact that is a local of Argolida, explaining "he didn't invest blindly, he invested in a region with high potential in sports tourism". According to the head of the region, Argolida has a multiple activity in various team sports with the local handball team of Diomidis Argous standing out, winning a European title back in 2012. Also, Argolida holds annual sports events that attract people to the region, said Mr. Chividopoulos mentioning, the marathon and triathlon events as well as Danaon cup, an international youth handball tournament.

Testing the argument of the investment in sports tourism of Argolida, we take a closer look at the type of projects introduced in the region. The data reveal that the majority were about football fields and small 5x5 football pitches. The rest were about two indoor halls and track stadiums and one swimming pool project. The picture is clear 20 out of 26 are exclusively football projects. That seems more of a goal for the football rather than the touristic development of the region.

Moreover, the places that these projects installed, were mostly villages in rural areas. The renovation of football fields and the creation of 5x5 pitches in small villages do not seem to be a suitable investment in order to attract more people in the region. Additionally, the chronicle of the decision-making does not resemble a well-structured plan, dedicated to the development of sports tourism in the region. Throughout the first year of New Democracy in power, the Deputy Minister for Sports was Ioannis Ioannidis. During Ioannidis time in office, there was not even one project introduced in Argolida's region. After the government's reshuffle, Andrianos succeeded Ioannidis and then gradually started the introduction of the projects in the region that peaked the year before the elections. If you keep in mind the inclusion of the 7 projects right before the elections, you can see a pattern revealing a not so well-organized plan.

N. Nikolopoulos: Special treatment for Argolida

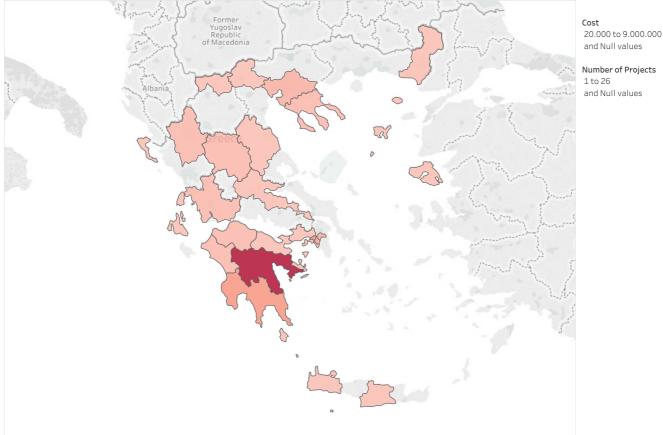


Back in December of 2014, the MP Nikos Nikolopoulos filed a question in the parliament for the Prime Minister at that time Antonis Samaras. The reason behind this question was the two recently added projects in Argolida by the Deputy Minister for Sports, Ioannis Andrianos. Nikolopoulos mentioned a "special treatment" of the ND government to Argolida, due to the fact that the percentages in the region dropped significantly by 9% between the 2012 legislative election and 2014 European Parliament election, while at the same time SYRIZA saw a slight increase of 2.5%. The MP questioned the importance of those projects compared to other needs of the region in education, healthcare and road infrastructure, ending up that the government preparing themselves for the pre-election period. Finally, these allegations never received an answer from New Democracy. Unfortunately, when we asked for the MP's view, his office refused to make a comment stating that they do not have anything else to add on this issue.

Important is not only Andrianos decisions that we have already mentioned but also how he communicated. The political use of these projects is clearly seen in the promotion that Andrianos did during the pre-election period, through his social media and his public speeches. During a speech of him in the city of Nafplio, four days before the election, where he mentions every single project he introduced in the municipality of Nafplio. Finally, there is an article he uploaded in his social media, reporting on his inspection in one of the projects, two days before the election. The article in its conclusion emphasizing in the number of sports projects Andrianos approved for Argolida, claiming about "a long series of about 40 smaller and bigger projects".

It is about time to realize that the use of political power and public money management comes with great responsibility. Andrianos' actions in this specific time, during a pre-election period in the middle of economic crisis, raise many questions about at least the ethical foundation of his decisions.

Sheet 1



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Projects. Details are shown for Regional units. The view is filtered on sum of Cost and sum of Number of Projects. The sum of Cost filter ranges from 20.000 to 9.000.000 and keeps Null values. The sum of Number of Projects filter ranges from 1 to 26 and keeps Null values.

Methodological Essay – Christos Makrygiannis

1. Introduction

The story is placed in Argolis, a small prefecture of about 97.000 people in the south of Greece. There within a two year period between 2013 and 2014 was planned to take place 26 sports infrastructure projects through the Public Investment Program. This number represents the 30% of the total number of projects included in the Public Investment Program ranked them first among all the regions. At the same time, Attica region, the seat of the capital Athens and the biggest region in Greece with around 3.8 million people received 17 projects placed second, whereas most of the regions had one or two projects and some even none. Moreover, a budget of about 7.5 million euro, the 13% of the total budget funneled to this small prefecture.

What makes the situation even more interesting was the person responsible for proposing the sports projects for inclusion to the Public Investment Program, the Deputy Minister of Sport at that time Ioannis Andrianos. Andrianos beside his role as a Deputy Minister of Sport was also an MP that is elected in Argolis regional unit. A very interesting and worth investigating coincidence.

2. The scope of your investigation, including the limits on it and potential weaknesses

This investigation focused on the sports infrastructure taken place through the Public Investment Program and not to any other kind of project included in the same program. Moreover, the statistics are about the whole country separated into regions and regional units, the two administrative levels in Greece. My aim is to work with Argolis regional unit, which stands out from the rest of the regional units.

Also, the available statistics cover the period from 2013 to 2017, but the investigated period is the two year period of 2013-14 when all Argolis' projects introduced to the Public Investment Program. This period is also important because of the fact that covers the same period when Ioannis Andrianos served as Deputy Minister of Sport (24/06/2013-26/01/2015). On the other hand, it is useful to have an overview from the years before and after the investigated period that will help you see clearly the trend in numbers throughout the years. The weakness of the available datasets is that do not cover the years before 2013 that would help me see the number of projects taken place in Argolis before Andrianos' era. Unfortunately, I could not find any additional data from those years.

Regarding the authorities included in my scope, I chose to contact the Ministry of Culture and Sports responsible for proposing the sports infrastructure for inclusion in the Public Investment Plan. The Ministry of Economy and Development was also part of my investigation, due to the fact that it has the role of approving the projects as well as the budget for each project.

Finally, I did not choose to contact local authorities as it was planned due to the fact that I could not find anything that is under their responsibility and they have to explain themselves. Same applies to the contractors of the projects, whose omissions and delays

during the projects were fully explained by the press officer of the Ministry of Culture and Sports Apostolos Chortatos.

3. Your hypothesis / hypotheses

My initial hypothesis was that "Ioannis Andrianos during the period of 2013-14 that he served as a Deputy Minister of Sports included and approved 16 sports infrastructure projects in the Public Investment Program for his electoral region Argolida at the expense of the public interest, in order to be benefited politically and ensure his reelection in the 2015 elections."

That hypothesis changed a bit during the investigation. The only change was the number of projects that increased from 16 to 26. This change is due to differences I found out between the data of the statistical analysis and the actual projects data appeared in the appendix of this analysis.

Finally, the maximum level of the hypothesis could not be proved. I assumed that public money might be spent by overestimating the project's prices and went to local authorities and contractors bribes. Although there was no evidence about money spending, all projects were within budget limits and some projects' budgets were even reduced during the construction.

4. Your target audience and target outlets

Even though I focused on Argolis, a small prefecture in Peloponnese region, the issue is more of national than local interest. The investigated case is clearly about public money and the political use of it. So every Greek citizen would be interested in how the taxpayers' money is used. Even more this tough economic period when citizens have seen their taxes going up more than ever before. So I am aiming to a national audience and eventually to a national outlet.

The outlet that I prefer is newspapers. My preference is shaped by the national newspapers' power to attract more attention than the other media in Greece. So the target outlet will be as a priority national newspapers and secondly national news websites. I do not prefer TV or radio stations because of the nature of my material that is mainly text, pictures and charts and not of an audio or video format.

5. Background, including an overview of previously published journalism and previously published research, and how you identified this material and how certain you can be that you have not missed anything important

Starting over this investigation I wanted to be completely sure if anything else has written about this story. Hopefully, no one seems to cover this issue before. In order to be sure about that I used Google search filtering my searching with keywords and time length.

The foundation of this investigation were the analyses for the Public Investment Program from the General Secretariat of Sports that I found through the OpenGov.gr website. Then I used background research to get every information possible about these 26 projects in

Argolis regional unit. Searching the web and open databases about these projects and its contractors was a big part of my investigation.

I also used search engines such as Google in order to learn about Andrianos' past that helped me understand the way of his acting (Forbes 2005, 36). Searching the Argolis local media gave me a lot of information about Andrianos pre-election campaign in the region that was closely connected with the projects. Moreover, I used social media to identify relevant material about the projects. Specifically, I searched Andrianos official Facebook page going through his posts by filtering it with relevant keywords in order to found posts and articles about the projects and the way he used it to promote himself before the elections of 2015.

6. The process by which you carried out your investigation, including, for example:

• Why and how you chose your subject

Firstly my interests guide me to search for a topic connected with sports that were a field I have worked in the past as a journalist. Secondly, I decided to focus in Greece where I have a better understanding of the sports landscape. So I chose to start by looking open databases for relevant datasets about sports. In Greece, there was only one authority that issued data on sports and it was the General Secretariat of Sports. Finally, I went through various databases until I found one analysis about the sport infrastructure projects in the Public Investment Program of 2013-15. When I read the analysis the figures about the number of projects in Argolis regional unit instantly attracted my attention. Knowing about its size of the population and comparing it to Attica's numbers, these little points of information that sometimes are not relevant in a single instance, proved massively important when I viewed from the right angle (Lorenz 2012). After a quick research about the head in the Ministry of Sports, I found that loannis Andrianos was in charge at that time. A politician whose electoral region was also Argolis. That was a very good reason for me to launch a new investigation.

How you conducted your background research

The starting point of a background research is whatever facts you have in hand (Hunter 2011, 33). So I chose open databases that can provide me with further information about the 26 projects of Argolis. The most complete database in Greece for official public documents is the Transparency portal which runs by the state. So I searched there for every single project using their complete names and codes finding documents about the contracts, the tendering process, the budget, the payments and every official decision made for these projects. That research helped me build my own database and see clearer the repeated patterns, acquiring a better understanding of the situation. Through this process, I followed references in that material in order to locate other the names of the people and the authorities responsible for the decisions about the projects (Hunter 2011, 33).

Another part of my background research was fleshing out my data about the Public Investment Program. The analysis had data only for the 2013-15. So I tried to find data about the previous and next periods. The Transparency portal was again my tool for finding the documents about the Public Investment Program for the years 2016-17. After that I had the whole picture about the number of projects in Argolis for the last five years, making the trend obvious and the need for deeper investigation even more obvious.

Forming your hypotheses

Forming my hypotheses I tried to use the facts I got, such as the number of the projects for Argolis during 2013-14, the fact that Ioannis Andrianos was both an MP from Argolis region and a Deputy Minister of Sports at that time. These were my facts that I tried to connect with each other with simple assumptions based on my experience from the Greek politics that helped me furnish my hypothesis (Hunter 2011, 19). The assumption about the expense of the public interest is clearly based on the figures about the rest of regions compared to Argolis. Furthermore, the assumption about the reason was based on my experience about how politicians in Greece prioritize their political benefit against the public interest. I also tried to be precise with the period of time, the kind of projects and the place has taken place, in order to make it easier to be verified (Hunter 2011, 19).

Identification of potential outlets for publication / broadcast

The main criteria for choosing the potential outlets for publication was the interests of its outlet on publishing this story. For example, a story like this will never fit newspapers affiliated to the party of New Democracy, which is the party of loannis Andrianos. Moreover, the target audience is expanded to a national level, so there is a need of national newspapers or websites for publishing in order to make as much noise as possible for something to change (Hunter 2011, 84). Furthermore, I need a publication known for its investigative work. Unfortunately, in Greece, that means I have to limit myself to only two national newspapers, Documento and The Newspaper of Journalists. Both these newspapers are my first priorities because of their investigative character.

Approaching potential editors

The process of approaching an editor and sell a story was something new for me. I have not worked as a freelancer before, so I did not have the experience of selling a story to an unknown editor. The first media I tried to reach was the newspaper Documento, which is owned by Kostas Vaxevanis a widely respected investigative reporter. My first attempt to sell my story to Documento editor was not successful at all. The call lasted a few seconds until the editor interrupted me and told me that they do not cooperate with freelance journalists. If I want to be honest I do believe that this was their excuse and not the reality. The reality is that I have my chance for a few seconds to attract the editor's attention but I spoiled it. This happened because of my weak introduction that was given more detail and not the substantial facts of the story. So I reshaped my promotion trying to give the principal findings of the investigation in a few sentences (Hunter 2011, 86).

The next outlet was The Newspaper of Journalists known for its independent character, as a partnership media created by the former employees of a bankrupt big national newspaper. So I contacted the editor and presented my story in a few sentences after that the editor asked me to give more detail and seem to be interested in what she heard. I avoided to give crucial details that will help them make the story on their own, such as my sources for the statistics but I gave them enough detail to make them believe in my story. After all, I did not get a definite answer if they are interested in publishing my story. The editor told me that she has to discuss it in order to get a decision and they will get back to me next week to announce me if they are going to make my story or not. So my plan is to wait for a week and then proceed with my other options.

Choice of methods for your investigation

The strategy I followed was to wait and search until I went out for interviews and questions (Hunter 2011, 84). I wanted to use open sources due to the fact that this will place me in a position of relative power instead of trying to get data from authorities (Hunter 2011, 32). Searching for data and revealing your purposes later in the investigation also helps you maintain a low profile and avoid people at an early stage that might hamper the progress of your story. I also organize myself by creating my own database with the most interesting documents I found for each project case. That helped me a lot to keep the essential parts of each story out of hundreds of documents I came across. This database helped me every time I needed to come back and had a quick overview of its case (Hunter 2011, 55). I also kept excel documents with datasets containing information about the projects and the costs for each region and year that helped me filter, analyze and verify my data. Tebbutt (n.d., Types of data checks) describes data checking as crucial for you and your audience in order to have confidence in its insights.

Identifying sources and interviewees

Starting the investigation I have one main source, the statistics from the General Secretariat of Sports and one interviewee in mind, the investigated person, Ioannis Andrianos. But going deeper into the investigation I found more sources and possible interviewees. The open database of Transparency portal helped me identify most of the sources and interviewees (Hunter 2011, 33). Through the official documents of the projects I found the people and authorities responsible for the decisions and so the people that will give me the answers I needed. Also some of the documents were rich sources of information on its own, such as the documents about the Public Investment Program of the next years.

• Problems of securing and conducting interviews

The part of securing and conducting interviews was unexpectedly difficult. This process took me weeks of waiting for answers that most of the times never got. The people I tried to get in touch with were mainly people working in the public administration, ministries and high profile officials. Firstly I contacted the Ministry of Economy and Development and after many calls, I get in touch with the press officer of the Alternate Minister Alexis Charitsis. She denied to answer any of my questions if I would not reveal everything about my investigation, how I was supposed to use this information, where will I publish it and for what purpose. This answer was really important to me so I forced to explain my hypothesis and all the detail she wants. After all, she replied that there is no way she can help me.

My attempt at contacting the Ministry of Culture and Sports was more successful in a way. Initially, the press officer gave me all the answers I asked for with a delay of a week. When I came back to him and asked for additional information, I did not get any answer at least by that time. The task of interviewing ministers was quite impossible as it was developed. I tried many times to ask for a meeting with the Alternate Minister of Economy and the Deputy Minister of Sports but the press office replied that this was really difficult due to the busy schedule of the Ministers. So I have to count on the press offices that most of the times show no interest in answering my questions.

Getting in touch with the investigated person the MP Ioannis Andrianos was pretty easier than I thought. I first called to his office and he was not there but his secretary gave me his cell phone number. So I called him and ask for an interview but he said that he was busy and

asked me to send my questions through mail and he will get back to me. Unfortunately, after a week he never got back to me and when I called him he did not answer my calls.

• Problems of finding and using sources

When you rely on open databases and generally data that are uploaded online everything is simpler. Most of my sources were open sources either from the Transparency portal as official documents or uploaded online as the statistical analyses for the Public Investment Program from the General Secretariat of Sports. But when I tried to find further data for the Public Investment Program prior to 2013 this turned to be really tricky. I called the statistical department of General Secretariat of Sports that issued the analyses to ask for further data and after a few days, they replied that they do not have the data I asked for but the technical department instead provide them with these data. Finally, after numerous calls between departments, I realized that no one had these data or at least no one wanted to share those data with me.

• How you evaluated different aspects of your evidence

The foundation of this project was the statistics. In the beginning, I was really skeptical about the accuracy of these statistics. So I tried to verify the figures with other documents and by analyzing it using excel. This has as a result to reveal the real number of projects included in Argolis. Even though I could not get an official statement about the reason for excluding, I used the analysis' conclusion instead. This was also an official document and even indirectly admits the disproportional distribution of the projects.

• How you evaluated your hypotheses in the light of evidence

Certainly, it is not mandatory your first hypothesis to be true. This might also mean there is a better story than the one you originally imagined (Hunter 2011, 18). Although my initial hypothesis was quite accurate. Despite the change in the numbers that was finally a positive change, the other evidence that came up strengthen my initial hypothesis. All of these stories from Andrianos' the pre-election campaign confirmed the political motive in his decisions. The analysis that mentioned the irrational distribution of the projects was also an official admit about Andrianos' wrong decisions. So the evidence came out were all prove my hypothesis accurate.

7. How you produced the finished report, including, for example:

How you opted to structure the feature / report

I chose to structure the facts chronologically based on the events and came after. This way of structure helps the reader find the roots of the story and travel in time to see how these facts were developed (Hunter 2011, 66). I also used the technique of the inverted pyramid giving the most newsworthy facts in the lead and more and more detail in the next paragraphs (McKane 2014, 38). Trying to make my news story more appealing I used a nut graph that tells the essence of the story in a few sentences (Hunter 2011, 70). I separated my story into two smaller ones in order to be more understandable and relaxing for the reader. The first story is the main evidence of the wrong decision and the second is all about the reason for this decision. The last paragraph is summing up the situation, ending with a quote that makes clear the contrast between the words and the actions.

• A discussion of your use of quotes

As the investigation was developed there were no important quotes from interviews at all. So I quoted the most interesting and crucial parts I found on documents. Parts that shaped my investigation making a point and adding crucial information to the investigation (Ansell, G. and Groenink E. 2016, 105). I used the conclusion of the 2016 analysis about the Public Investment Program that explains the reasons the government decided to exclude all these projects from the regional unit of Argolida. The second quote is about the circular of 2013 Public Investment Program and I used it to emphasize about the great need for better distribution of the limited budget that was officially expressed and finally ignored from the former Minister.

Your considerations regarding an accompanying news item

The form of this piece was finally more of a news item than a feature/report. The lack of interviews and quotations along with my supervisor's opinion that the material due to these facts is not enough to be a 1500 word feature, shaped my decision to make a news article of around 800 words. So there was no need for an additional news item.

• Any ethical dilemmas identified during your investigation

There was one time that I was in an ethical dilemma and I had to take a seemingly important decision about my ethics. It was when I had to choose between the safety of my investigation and the strengthening of my evidence with an official confirmation. I have been in contact with the press officer of the Ministry of Economy and Development when I asked for the reason of the massive excluding decision of 2016. The press officer demanded from me more details about my investigation if I wanted an answer. I decide about taking the risk and revealing my story and my intentions in favor of a very important official confirmation. After all the result prove me wrong in a way, because of the fact that the press officer did not give me any answer at all.

8. The results of the investigation, including, for example:

• What results you chose to omit from the journalistic report, and why

According to my initial hypothesis, the maximum goal was to find possible money spending on the projects, connections between contractors and Andrianos and generally anything shady happened to the projects and connected to Andrianos. I went through all the projects one by one looking hundreds of official documents discovering many interesting stories. I tried to verify them by asking officials about delays, extensions and fines paid about wrongdoings but none of these incidents could be connected with Andrianos. So I chose to omit this part of the project, even though I spent a lot of time and effort on it, because it felt more like different follow up stories and less as part of the story due to the little connection with Andrianos.

• Reflections on the investigation with regard to course literature

At the end of this investigation, I can say for sure that the course literature helped me a lot in planning and preparing myself. The theory is a really good foundation where you can build your investigation. For me, it was really helpful forming my hypothesis and planning my investigation to count on the knowledge of the books I had. Part of the success of this

investigation was the very good plan I made according to the literature. Another important part that I found course literature really useful was the tips I got for pitching my story to the editors.

• Choice of photographic images used in the feature / report

My plans for the images change during the investigation mainly due to the decision of not including the projects part of the story. Firstly I thought to accompany my article with some photos from the 26 projects. The decision of not mentioning separately the projects in the article, due to the lack of evidence about the Andrianos connection, change also the number of photos included in the final piece. It seemed irrelevant to me to use photos from projects, I did not mention in the story. The final choice of the main photo made, due to the information this photo contains on it. It was a descriptive sign put into a stand in one of the projects that I visited. The sign's message informs that this project was funded and implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Sport in 2014. This message in my eyes was also a reminder for the people of Argos for the person who helped all of these projects to be done.

• Full and detailed list of all sources: oral, email, digital and printed

Oral:

Apostolos Chortatos, press officer of Georgios Vasileiadis, Deputy Minister of Sports Interview with Anastasios Chividopulos, Vice Regional Governor of Argolida

Digital:

Argolis local media:

https://panargolikos.blogspot.com/2015/01/blog-post_49.html

http://www.sfinakianews.gr/2015/01/blog-post 547.html?spref=fb

https://www.argolikeseidhseis.gr/2014/06/blog-post_1564.html

https://www.argolikeseidhseis.gr/2014/12/blog-post_628.html

http://www.parapolitikaargolida.gr/2015/01/blog-post 545.html

https://www.argolikeseidhseis.gr/2015/01/blog-post_178.html

YouTube video from local media with Andrianos talking about the project. There is his speech in the description of the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGWGwCW45qc

The question of the MP Nikos Nikolopoulos from his party site:

https://www.nikosnikolopoulos.gr/?section=10927&language=el_GR&itemid730=15067&de tail730=1

Articles about Andrianos past:

http://www.iefimerida.gr/news/180410/kompina-me-maimoy-omades-hokei-epi-hortoy-argos-eihe-12-i-eggrafi-kostize-800-eyro

http://www.newsbomb.gr/politikh/story/526384/o-vios-kai-to-vios-toy-gianni-andrianoy

Printed:

The statistical analyses from the General Secretary of Sports.



The documents about the Public Investment Program.



There is also a whole database about the 26 projects with the most important documents for each of it. I cannot upload it here due to the size (164 documents), so I uploaded to Google drive and I leave the link here.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zSOPWEAY2kPtVZQbRqUbqls42ypyDdzr

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