



RELATIONS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) FROM THE WIDER
BLACK SEA REGION AND THEIR DONORS

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RELATIONS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) FROM THE WIDER BLACK SEA REGION AND THEIR DONORS

This report presents the main findings of research conducted from mid-February to mid-April 2018 by the Centre for International Cooperation and Development Studies (IDC) of the University of Bucharest (Romania) with the aim to identify **to what extent the relations between civil society organizations (CSOs) in the non-EU countries of the wider Black Sea region (i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine) and the actors that provide financial support to them (donors) are shifting or can shift from dependence to partnership.**

The IDC team investigated this puzzle through fieldwork (structured and lightly structured interviews, focus groups, participatory observation) in four of these countries (Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine), an online stakeholder survey addressed to CSOs, donors and independent experts active in the region, as well as through desktop research of already existing data/databases and recent analyses on the topic. Throughout the fieldwork and the survey, the team collected input from more than seventy representatives of the stakeholders, mostly with managerial duties in CSOs active nationally or based in capitals or major cities in one or more of the eight countries of interest (see the brief methodological outline at the end of this report). Most respondents have at least 6 years of work experience in the civil society sector, usually in areas related to local sustainable development (i.e. social/ economic/environmental development of local/national communities), human rights, education, good governance/democracy, anti-corruption, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction. A small number also have experience in the field of international cooperation for development. The majority of respondents work in organizations that do not have core funding.

The relation between civil society organizations (CSOs) and donors in the non-EU countries of the wider Black Sea region is still one of dependence, especially in financial terms, and, in general, there are still very few incentives for changing this situation.

Foreign governmental and intergovernmental donors remain the main source of funding for the most active and consolidated CSOs in all countries in the area, which in turn are the most desirable partners for these donors.

While also aiming to access foreign (inter)governmental funds, small(er) CSOs outside the capital or major cities remain highly dependent on unpredictable national or local governmental funding, which is often perceived as politically conditioned.

In some of these countries, most notably the Russian Federation, partnerships (including for funding purposes) with foreign CSOs are highly discouraged or forbidden, mostly through legal instruments which can thwart the accomplishment of the organizations' mission and which, particularly for CSOs in the fields of human rights, good governance, anti-corruption and freedom of speech/media, can contribute to a working climate threatening the integrity and/or survival of local CSOs and their staff.

In the region, private companies are in general still rare among the donors of funds for CSOs, a notable exception being Turkey, where core and/or annual funding from large companies or from very well-off families with successful businesses in Turkey and/or abroad helps several major organizations to continue their work even when local or national governmental funds are no longer available.

Religious organizations have become a more visible donor during the last decade for various CSOs in all eight countries, often with agendas promoting different goals than those of CSOs, but in general their status is still ambiguously treated politically and/or legally.

Foreign political foundations are often perceived more as partners rather than donors but have legal and political difficulties in acting in some countries.

The support provided through foreign donors present in the region (such as EU member states in the Black Sea region or CSOs initiatives from these countries) and their programs is in general not very visible or well known.

National and local donors

In the region, the criteria for accessing local or national governmental funds are considered the most unfair and difficult to fulfil, while competition for such funding is often perceived *a priori* as rigged.

There is widespread mistrust in public institutions across the entire wider Black Sea region (Mishler & Rose 1997, Altman, Deimel & Garcia Schmidt 2010, Van der Meer & Hakhverdian 2017). As our research reveals, CSOs are no different – they do not trust either the national or the local public authorities in their countries.

Two major reasons particularly fuel this negative perception:

1. Public authorities have **regulating powers which have been every so often exercised in the sense of restricting the activity and the private funding of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** altogether or in certain sectors of activity (especially rule of law, human rights, and freedom of speech), through legal, fiscal, and bureaucratic burdens, sometimes arbitrarily applied.
2. The **calls for funding are considered as often unpredictable, lacking transparent selection criteria, and managed by staff sometimes with strong connection to the political interests of the incumbent political party/parties, who often face allegations of corruption.**

Since countries in the region differ widely with respect to the legal and institutional framework within which CSOs can act, the regulating powers also manifest very differently and on a rather large range – from highly restrictive regimes in both structural and political terms (such as in the cases of the Russian Federation and Belarus) to regimes where NGOs can be easily created but political and economic pressure can be still applied discretionarily through regulation. However, even in the most liberal legal and institutional frameworks in the region CSOs do not enjoy the full spectrum of facilities, liberties, or opportunities available to CSOs from the European Union (EU) or North American countries.

Foreign donors

Western European and North American governmental donors with a history of supporting human rights and democratization abroad are perceived as the most relevant and accessible providers of funds for CSOs in the region but some of these donors' bureaucratic procedures and the more specialized skills (including linguistic) required to apply for and implement projects with such funds limit their reach to a small number of often already well-developed organizations from the capital or major cities.

The governments of less than a dozen of countries, especially Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, are referred most often as the most supportive of CSOs in terms of funding.

These also enjoy the best donor reputation within the region and their funding criteria are considered in general fair and not very difficult to fulfil.

However, most CSOs acknowledge that these donors' different grant application formats, and the subsequent financial and narrative reporting procedures may be difficult to understand by newcomers and thus limit the access to such funds to organizations with significant previous experience in grant writing and management, and well-trained staff.

Some CSOs perceive this imbalance also as difficult to break because donors would tend to become reliant on organizations with which they already worked and thus diminish even more the chances of other organizations to engage with them.

CSOs who have the expertise and the institutional capacity to access foreign governmental funds are usually located in the capital or major cities and thus **smaller organizations in more vulnerable areas are often left out.**

This situation is particularly visible in Turkey where after the 2016 failed coup most funding from foreign donors concentrated in the western, more developed part of the country, while CSOs from the more vulnerable eastern regions started to struggle to find funding for their work.

The United States are also a visible presence, particularly through USAID, but their grant calls are criticized in some of the recipient countries for alleged lack of transparent criteria, which discourage even CSOs with more experience from applying.

Compared to reporting for similar grants offered by the governments of other countries, the US reporting system is also considered more bureaucratic.

Despite such criticism, some CSOs appreciate that for certain calls the US governmental donors **work closely with the winner of the grant competition to make sure that the project is coherent and that it has a positive impact in the local community** (ex. in the Republic of Moldova).

Although Central and Eastern European governmental donors from the European Union are present in the region, their visibility is in general limited.

When Central and Eastern European donors are remarked in the region it is often in **association with larger foreign policy interests**, and therefore they are often considered partners rather for the governments in the wider Black Sea area than for the CSOs.

In the context of a widespread lack of trust in the governments of their own countries, this perception may sometimes **deter CSOs from applying or even acknowledging the existence of direct support for CSOs from Central and Eastern European donors**.

This is particularly the case of Romania in the Republic of Moldova, Lithuania and Poland in Belarus, and partly of Poland and Slovakia in Ukraine.

In terms of visibility, a newcomer from the area is also the International Visegrad Fund, which is better known in the close vicinity (i.e. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova), and is less notorious in the Caucasian countries. However, its popularity is significantly lower than that of other multilateral instruments present in the region, such as funding from the European Union or institutions within the United Nations system.

Despite still enjoying a good reputation as supporter of civil society values in the region, **European Union is perceived as a donor whose funds are rather limited for direct access to most CSOs in the region.**

This happens due to several concurring reasons.

1. Most local organizations do not have the **institutional and financial capacity** to manage the usual large grants offered by the European Commission;
2. **Co-financing and the difficult bureaucratic paperwork** requiring highly specialized skills for both writing and implementing project are significantly discouraging factors;
3. The instruments through which CSOs can access EU funding in the region are often considered **insufficient in terms of available financial resources and sometimes inappropriate for addressing the local needs.**

From the UN system, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women seem to be best known. The attitude towards UNDP is the most mixed and the most often invoked reasons for the occasional negative perceptions are the alleged inflexibility of the reporting system, as well as the focus on capacity-building and rather large grants without properly considering the local context.

Like in the case of Central and Eastern European donors, **the lack of trust in their own countries' governments and the fact that many UN-related institutions also work directly with these governments, sometimes discourages certain CSOs from applying for such funding, missing thus relevant experience and networking opportunities.**

Although acknowledged, non-EU countries from the region which also act as donors in the wider Black Sea area, such as **Turkey or Russia, are rarely perceived as donors but rather as *influencers*** whose (foreign policy) interests may be detrimental to the CSOs environment.

Private donors

The *most visible* private donors in the region are foreign CSOs and national private companies, with religious organizations also becoming increasingly present but the extent to which private funding is available in the region, especially in comparison to public (national or international) funding, is still difficult to assess independently, mostly due to the scarcity and low reliability of data.

Respondents in our research have very different perceptions on the matter of the amount of private funding present in the region, while the publicly available data from other research on similar or related topics is currently too scarce to generate a definitive answer to this puzzle. At the same time, the dynamics of private funding seems to vary significantly in a short period of time for most of the countries under scrutiny.

However, irrespective of country, all respondents emphasized the potential advantages and the necessity to develop better links to these donors, while many also noticed the current difficulties:

Most CSOs in the region wish to have more access to private funding but the opportunities are often structurally limited.

- In some countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Russian Federation freedom of association is still severely limited in comparison with international standards, which makes funding civil society activities legally cumbersome for private donors, especially if foreign;
- The legal and financial framework for funding CSOs through private channels, including private companies, is in most of the region often unclear and/or insufficiently developed, as well as highly unpredictable and sometimes politically biased;
- CSOs often do not know themselves which private funds are available in their country or how to access them.

In general, the *most desired* form of private funding is that of donations or redistribution of a small percentage of profit from national private companies.

This preference has significant advantages compared to all other potential private donors: it can provide relatively continuous and stable funding (especially if there is a legal mechanism for redirecting an annual percentage of the profit towards CSOs), with fewer ideological pressures and more diversification options, with the possibility of increasing the amount of available funds once the organization develops and becomes better known.

When national private companies have financial incentives to donate / redirect a part of their profit to CSOs and the legal environment is permissive in this respect, it can also **significantly help CSOs achieve a certain financial stability and continue their work without interruptions, even when public funds become unpredictable or suddenly restricted / inaccessible.**

The case of Turkey after the 2016 coup illustrates this situation best, as in this country private companies (especially holdings) seem to be a significant donor and their support was essential for the functioning of several major CSOs during the last two years.

However, the support was available only to a limited number of organizations which had established enough contacts and visibility to become recipients of funds from such donors.

At the same time, under deteriorating political and legal circumstances, the Turkish economy has already started to face significant challenges and some of the private donors previously engaged in funding civil society initiatives may no longer wish to or are no longer able to support CSOs.

International private companies are less visible as donors and when they fund CSO activities these tend to be limited usually to the very strict specialization of the company (ex. IT, oil and mineral resources), while the funding is sometimes perceived as a means to either recruit workforce through alternative channels or control the potentially negative messages towards the company or the company's activity in the country/region.

In general, the *most politically sensitive* form of private support is that coming from foreign CSOs.

Although one might expect that the work of political foundations established by political parties active in other states to be the most politically sensitive, it is rather the organizations affiliated to / chapters of major European and North American CSOs working in fields related to human rights, anti-corruption and freedom of expression (including media) that face most pressure.

For instance, German political foundations, such as the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Friedrich Erbert Stiftung, enjoy a very good reputation in the region among both CSOs and other donors, are significantly present without having a highly visible public profile and in general face markedly less political pressure from the national governments compared to organizations acting as chapters of Amnesty International or Transparency International.

The Open Society foundation and its network of affiliated organizations seem to have become an increasingly favorite political target across the region, within both the governmental and the opposition camps, and their founder, George Soros, is often portrayed as both scaping goat and referential for many attacks against civil society in several of the countries under scrutiny. At the same time, the Open Society network continues to be one of the most respected in the field, acknowledged by other donors for its capacity to attract professionals and by other CSOs for the access to desirable partners and resources.

For CSOs working in areas related primarily to improving governance and the respect of individual rights, the foreign CSOs funding is desirable not only for the financial value but also for the potentially increased international support, which could contribute to a better national reputation and expertise. However, it can also place these CSOs in a more vulnerable position in relation to the national governments, for ideological and/or political reasons.

However, not all foreign CSOs have maintained their good reputation in the region. A particularly interesting case is that of Soros Foundation-Moldova, which has been portrayed by several Moldovan CSOs as having “too prohibitive calls” and allegedly “unfair selection criteria”, which would limit the access of newcomers.

Accessing funding

Although CSOs aim to diversify their funding sources, in practice they also **tend to specialize in submitting proposals only for certain donors**, mostly due to

- CSOs' limited human resources with skills in proposal writing and project reporting;
- CSOs' low trust in the fairness of the competition;
- Available funding in certain fields of activity limited only to certain donors.

To increase their chances to access funds, **some CSOs often employ external consultancy** – individuals or companies specialized in grant proposals and willing to help, usually in exchange for a fee included in the grant.

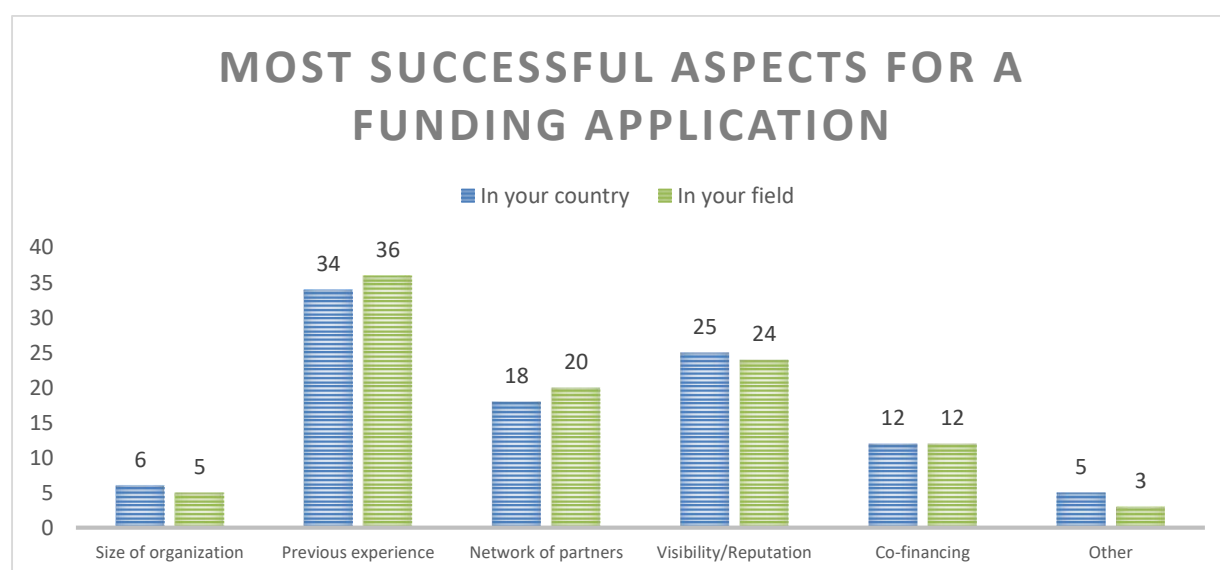
In some countries, the success of **the consultancy business for project writing created a market that led to an even higher scarcity of human resources that can be available directly for CSOs**, as these cannot afford paying salaries at the level consultancy companies pay for similar skills. This makes CSOs more vulnerable in terms of capacity and, at the same time, more reliant on consultancy, which thus becomes a flourishing business opportunity.

When CSOs do not trust the fairness of the funding competitions, especially in the case of national or local public funding calls, **the success of certain consultancy companies in accessing funds for CSOs under such circumstances also led to consolidating the mistrust in other stakeholders and in the fairness of competitions, as well as to promoting the belief that at least some of these companies would be part of clientelist networks.**

Overall, such perceptions, which occasionally were sustained with evidence of corrupt activities, have created a climate of generalized distrust and patterns of behavior that undermine the already weak cohesion of the CSO environment. At the same time, they brought more to the public eye (and sometimes under political pressure) the organizations which, through their mission, oppose corrupt practices or infringements of rights or freedom of speech, contributing thus to **consolidating the anti-corruption discourse as a major theme for CSO-government relations in all these countries.**

The previous experience (portfolio), as well as the visibility/reputation and the network or partners one builds through such experience remain the most important elements that differentiate successful funding applications from the rest.

The survey results illustrate best this perception, which was shared also in the focus groups and interviews throughout the region:



The perception of CSOs converges with that of all other stakeholders, though scholars tend to judge co-financing a slightly more significant issue.

Though co-financing is considered highly relevant for about one fifth of the CSOs respondents, a large majority perceives the previous experience and the reputation one achieves as significantly more important in accessing funds.

The higher relevance assigned by scholars to co-financing may be due to the fact that much of the current research on the topic often focuses on well-known organizations, with larger projects which often require co-financing.

However, our research revealed that for an important number of grants, particularly the smaller ones which are more easily available to the average CSOs, co-financing is not mandatory, a fact which may explain why this issue is overall ranked lower by CSOs.

Co-financing aside, **the financial dimension remains *highly sensitive* for both CSOs and donors when building a project** mostly because the budget of a proposal needs to balance very different expectations.

In general, donors wish to fund as many activities with as little money as possible. Illustrating where this approach can lead if applied in an extreme version, CSOs participants at the focus group in Ukraine report that in some cases donors argued that CSOs would not even need money because CSOs would be [by definition] “volunteer organizations”.

Yet, with core funding options being severely limited throughout the region, CSOs need that a part of their projects’ budget be assigned to administrative costs so that they can function. But sometimes, these costs are perceived as unjustifiably high by donors and other stakeholders, and thus contribute to the perception that, instead of addressing societal challenges, some CSOs would be created or function primarily rather to pay its staff.

Only one respondent in our survey considered that the project’s purpose/idea and design, as well as the strength of the team are the most significant factors in getting funds.

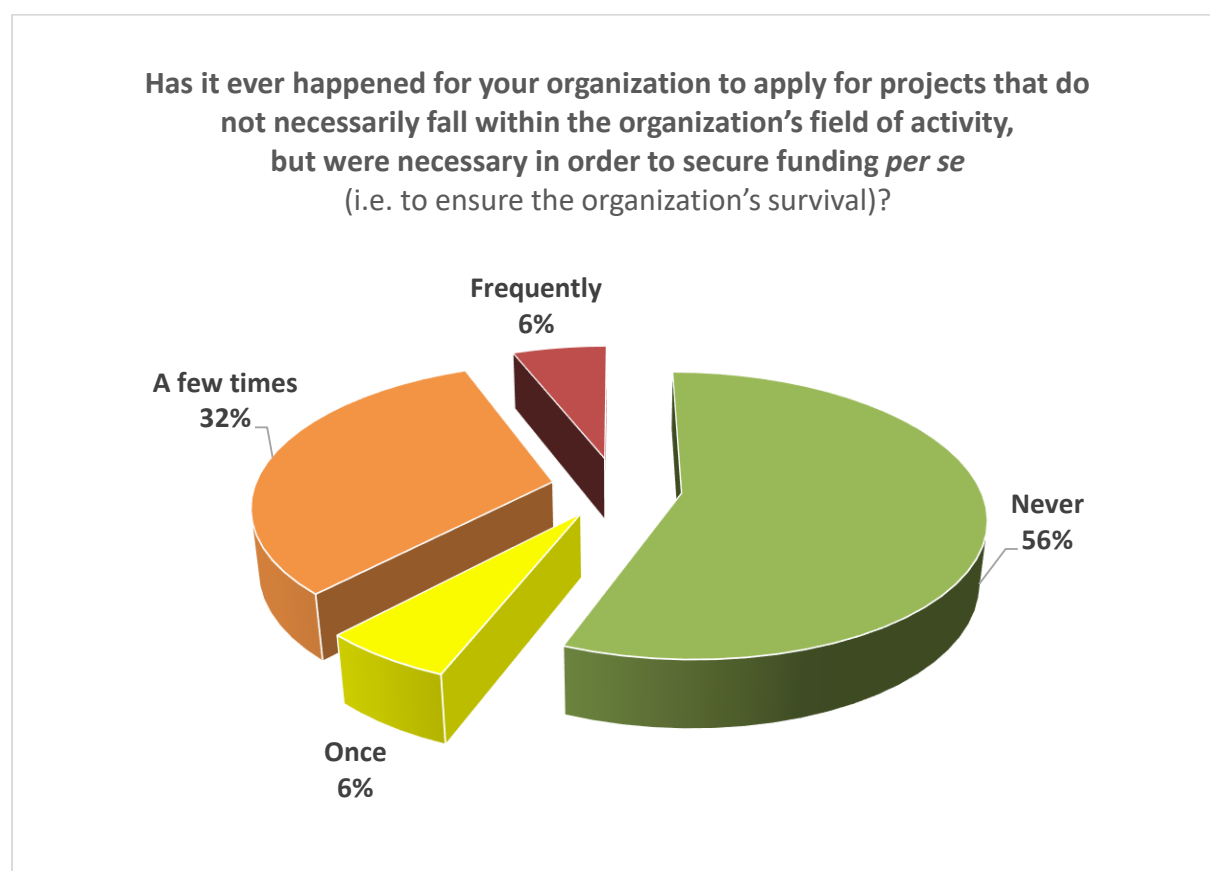
Others also emphasized that, while the reputation and the network of partners are the most relevant, they would depend rather on personal than on institutional relations.

Taken together, such perceptions suggest that there is still a generalized lack of trust in the fairness and transparency of funding competitions’ criteria. As both the survey and the focus groups revealed, this applies particularly in competitions for national public funds, which are considered on average as significantly more unfair, compared to those supported by international donors, such as the government of other countries or international organizations.

At the same time, structural factors such as the limited access to core funding create the need to develop alternative routes to ensure CSOs can still access funding for their daily functioning, which strengthens the importance of networks and visibility when assessing the chances to obtain funding.

This financial vulnerability within the particular context of lack of trust in the fairness and predictability of funding competitions, also forces CSOs to apply for projects that are not necessarily related to their field of activity so that the survival of the organization is assured.

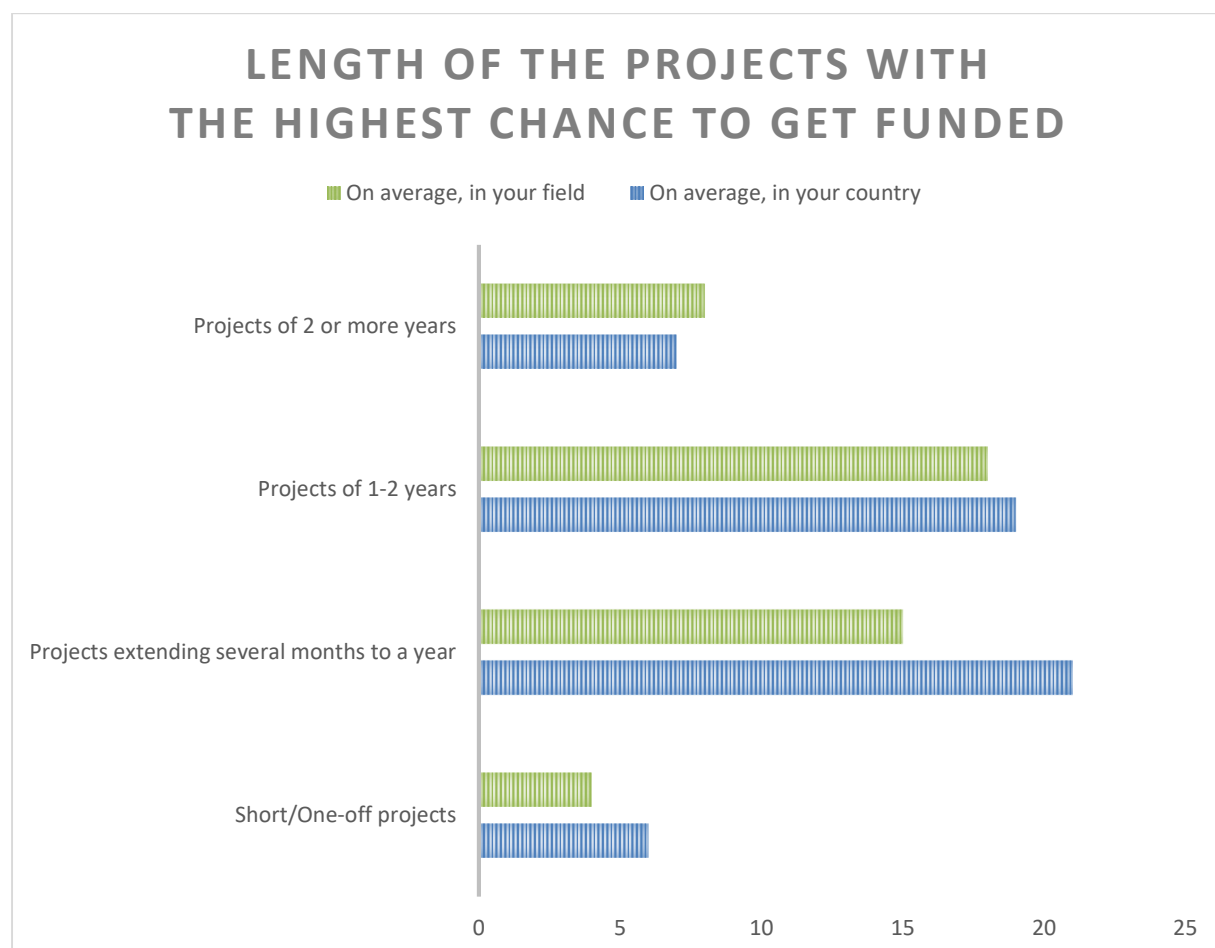
About one in two organizations, in more than fifty who provided information on this matter, report that they have never been put in this situation but a third of CSOs in the region have gone through such decisions at least a few times.



In this respect, there are no significant differences among countries in the region but, when national public funds were perceived as more unfair or when political pressure was acknowledged, CSOs also reported that they were more likely to apply for funding competitions not directly related to their field of activity.

Donors also seem to perceive that the percentage of CSOs in this situation is higher than what CSOs report, irrespective of the country, most likely because on average proposals do not fit well the donors' goals as expressed through funding criteria, a fact which may not be specific to the region but to the process of project writing.

In the region, CSO projects that are most likely to be funded take more than 6 months but less than 2 years.



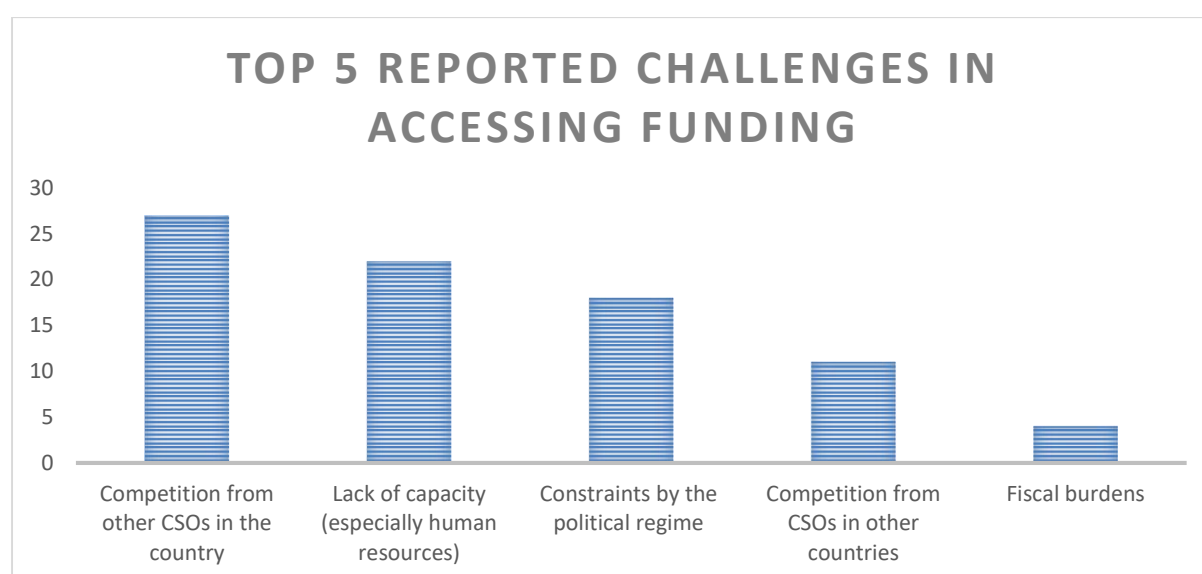
In this respect, the perception of CSOs and of other stakeholders on the overall situation also tends to converge but their preferences and constraints are markedly different.

Largely for reasons related to impact assessment, the donors would prefer to fund projects lengthier than 1 year but for various logistical, legal, and capacity-related reasons this is not always feasible.

At the same time, due to the lack of capacity in absorbing bigger amounts of funds (which sometimes also correlates with lack of proper co-financing), many CSOs have access only to smaller grants which take usually between 6 months and 1 year to implement.

The lack of capacity and political pressures continue to be major topics of concern for both CSOs and donors but CSOs also face an increasingly competitive environment in the region.

As seen below in a graph summarizing the survey results, which are similar with what we found through focus groups and the interviews, the lack of capacity is reported among the top 5 challenges in accessing funding, second only to competition from CSOs in the same country and slightly before the constraints imposed by the political regime.



On this matter, the variation by country is significant. For instance, when the CSOs scene is vibrant, such as in Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine, CSOs tend to report more frequently issues related to the competitive environment. In countries with more authoritarian regimes, such as Azerbaijan and Russia, the political and fiscal pressures are more often reported.

At the same time, the pressures of the competitive environment may mean different things in different countries. For example, in Turkey and for a lesser extent in Moldova, competition with other national CSOs is currently more often perceived as competition from CSOs created by or serving political interests of the government. Furthermore, while for Moldova this was considered an older phenomenon, for Turkey it is reported as an issue that has developed mostly after the 2016 coup.

The other major challenges identified throughout the region in accessing funding also seem to be highly dependent of the context, but their variation is

related less to specific countries and more to the size and experience of the organization, and/or to the type of available funding. For instance, the competition from CSOs in other countries is quoted most often by larger organizations, which would have the capacity to apply for international/regional funds, while fiscal burdens tend to be considered more significant for CSOs which attempt to compete for national public funds, irrespective of their size.

The only challenge that does seem to not vary significantly with the context is the lack of capacity. However, the larger, more experienced organizations have different concerns, while CSOs in general also tend to have different views on the matter when compared to what donors make of this topic.

Most significantly, in many countries **donors do not match well the size and the purpose of capacity-building grants with the local needs, contributing thus to WIDENING THE GAP between the well-developed organizations and the smaller ones.**

- Larger organizations often have no choice but pursue capacity-building funding as it may be the only type available for their financial needs and size, getting them thus stuck in processes they no longer need (or at least not in such forms) and diverting their resources from other, more appropriate approaches to their institutional development;
- Smaller organizations are in most need of such grants, but very frequently they cannot access them because they do not have the institutional (including financial) capacity to absorb them.

The more experienced CSOs also consider that the insistence of (especially foreign) donors on capacity-building as a major (and sometimes the only) tool for addressing the local necessities, sometimes reflects lazy, non-creative approaches to such needs, which would satisfy the donors' wider/regional agenda but would also create a more polarized and eventually more vulnerable civil society environment in each country.

Therefore, **despite being for most an obvious solution for tackling the widespread lack of capacity throughout the region, funding capacity-building *per se* is not perceived as a universal remedy to local problems.**

Most CSOs perceive that many of the local priorities are often underfunded or not supported at all, while others are more fashionable among the donors but not necessarily genuine priorities for the region. At the same time, some donors perceive that CSOs do not often understand the overall local needs because they would lack the wider perspective.

Many CSOs consider that issues related to women/gender (especially gender-based violence and women rights), health (with a focus on the social treatment of disability), sustainable development and to a lesser extent (and more recently) immigration and humanitarian relief have higher chances to be funded by foreign donors from the European Union/European Economic Area and North America.

Such donors are perceived also as having a larger human rights agenda in areas related to political and civil liberties but while funds in these fields would not be very difficult to access, content-wise they would often not match the real local needs and would put more political pressure on CSOs working in this field.

When it comes to advancing more difficult human rights and international peace goals, donors are perceived as focusing too much on the final stages of complex social and political processes, when change is more challenging and less likely.

- For instance, in the Republic of Moldova, CSOs report that accessing funds on elections is relatively easy, but the impact of such funding is negligible even when projects are implemented well and with honest intentions because elections are only the last resort for change and funds may often be politically instrumentalized.
- Similarly, in Ukraine, there are funds available for addressing the post-conflict (and often on-going) armed conflict in the eastern and southern parts of the country but these grants barely address the structural problems that have fuelled the conflict and thus can hardly change the situation.
- In countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, or Turkey, the political instrumentalization of electoral or civil liberties support makes it also very difficult to pursue more structural approaches.

At the same time, not all donors present in the region have agendas focused primarily on human rights and the development of a strong civil society.

For instance, when acting as a donor in the region or within its own country, the Russian government supports strengthening an agenda framed as patriotic and based on nationalist and increasingly conservative values, which is more in line with its (foreign) policy needs than the local social, economic and even less civil rights needs which would normally form the base of civil society work.

This behavior also triggered changes in other donors' agenda which now also increasingly fund projects addressing Russian propaganda in Central and Eastern Europe.

At the same time, the Russian government's agenda and the lack of efficient reaction from the other governmental and societal actors, also encouraged other donors, both private and public, as well as other stakeholders to be more visible or active in the region for pursuing their own conservative and/or nationalist agenda.

Such funding and the ensuing behavior have changed the social, economic, and political dynamic in the region and introduced new challenges for both CSOs and donors which are yet difficult to assess.

Nonetheless the financial support for researching these changes and challenges to civil society dynamics are still very limited and in most countries in the region virtually non-existent, a fact which may contribute to an even **higher mismatch between local needs and the available funding offers, while weakening the human rights and international peace achievements of the post-Cold War period in the region.**

Apart from the obvious need for funding issues of immediate political concern, many CSOs representatives think that several other areas should be major priorities in the region as part of a long(er) term strategy: **education (including civic education in digital contexts), vulnerable categories (especially children, women, young people, elderly persons, persons with disabilities), the quality of public policies (with a focus on infrastructure, agriculture, energy and digital challenges), and mass-media capacity-building.**

Under such complex circumstances, it is then understandable that most CSOs and donors acknowledge that it is more likely to get support when applying for funds in partnership with other stakeholders.

One in two respondents to our survey think that the chances of success are higher when applying for projects which included a CSO partner from the European Union / European Economic Area, while a quarter of them also report that a partnership with another CSO from the same country increases significantly the chances to have a successful proposal.

Being alone is favored by less than 10% of the respondents and it is reported as being an option only for small and very short projects, usually focused specifically on the capacity-building of organizations.

The partnership with companies or higher education institutions was perceived as desirable but the available opportunities for such collaborations are so limited/rarely visible for CSOs that they are virtually non-existent. When they appear, they are almost exclusively at the initiative of either the company or the higher education institution due to opportunities appealing primarily to them and not to CSOs.

Complementary support

Apart from funding through competitive granting, other types of donor support have been credited by CSOs in the region as having been particularly useful for them, contributing to strengthening the relation and mutual understanding of CSOs and donors, while building networks with other stakeholders:

- **Training and coaching**
- **Direct sponsorship**
- **Donations of equipment and other materials**
- **Providing occasional venue, equipment and other logistical facilities**
- **Travel, accommodation and fee expenses for participating to events relevant for the CSOs (including study visits and conferences)**
- **Covering publishing, translation or promotional costs**

Recommendations

Although donors and independent experts seem to consider that what the countries under scrutiny would primarily need is capacity-building grants and occasional logistical support, CSOs in the region would like to have access to a more diversified range of support:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Fair competitive granting that matches the needs of CSOs of different sizes, experiences, institutional capacities, and fields of activity
- Core funding
- Direct sponsorship and donations, including through unconditional annual redistribution of a part of national companies' profit to CSOs' benefit
- Co-funding

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- Venue (including a permanent working space), equipment, or other logistical facilities for specific and/or everyday activities
- Publishing and translations facilities and/or costs
- Transport, accommodation and fee facilities and/or costs for fieldwork, study visits, or for reaching rural or more vulnerable areas
- Legal advice/support

CAPACITY SUPPORT

- Training and coaching, especially to acquire skills in lobbying, advocacy, fundraising, and organizational sustainability, as well as substantive technical expertise and skills in the CSOs' field of activity
- Networking opportunities and platforms for finding partners
- Good practices handbooks (or similar tools) and study visits in other organizations which successfully implemented activities in their field
- Workshops on how the donor-specific (online) systems of project application and reporting work

ACTIVITY SUPPORT

- Partnership for policy drafting, lobby, and advocacy
- Public declarations and coordinated pressure on state/local authorities for supporting more transparent, fair, and predictable funding for CSOs

RECOMMENDED STRUCTURAL CHANGES & AWARENESS RAISING INITIATIVES aimed at reducing CSOs' vulnerability and/or building trust:

Diversify and fine-tune funding tools for better matching the offer with the needs of the local civil society landscape in EACH NATIONAL & LOCAL CONTEXT

- Engage CSOs more in drafting the principles for grant application and monitoring;
- Create more small grants programs for local CSOs and initiatives;
- Provide more flexible and numerous re-granting programs under EU technical assistance projects;
- Reserve a part of funding for CSOs working in rural areas and conflict zones.

Increase the other stakeholders' interest in cooperating with CSOs

- Raising awareness on the benefits and impact of CSOs' work in the countries of the region;
- Attract more private companies into supporting CSOs, including for core funding, by creating or making better known the already existing financial, reputational, and regulatory facilities and/or opportunities available for such companies;
- Create more opportunities for academic institutions or scholars to engage into projects with CSOs;
- Engage in partnerships with other stakeholders, especially those who already enjoy higher levels of societal trust.

Improve the funding approaches in the region

- Encourage donors to be genuinely innovative and adaptable to the local environments;
- Encourage international donors to remain engaged in the region, especially in more vulnerable areas (i.e. with ongoing or frozen conflict, and/or economically underdeveloped or socially and politically challenging);
- Improve the grant application and monitoring systems to prevent the misuse of funds but also to diminish the bureaucratic burdens for grant reporting, especially in environments on which the informal economy is strong;
- Create grant frameworks encouraging CSOs to partnership with other stakeholders in the region, thus mutually stimulating capacity-building.

References

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APPENDIX - BRIEF METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The documentation was conducted between 15 February and 17 April 2018, through fieldwork and desktop research by a team of three Romanian political scientists, specialized in the fields of international studies and comparative politics, with more than a decade of both expertise and experience in matters related to civil society in democratization environments, especially in Central and Eastern Europe.

The team benefited from the institutional support and the network resources offered by the University of Bucharest (Faculty of Political Science, Centre for International Cooperation and Development Studies) – where the project was located, as well as from Babeş-Bolyai University (Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, Center for International Studies), and FOND Romania.

Focus groups & interviews

In Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine the research team conducted focus groups and a couple of dozens of lightly structured interviews with stakeholders, aiming to identify specific details on the situation of CSOs in the region and fine-tune an online survey questionnaire.

Respondents were selected based on experience in the field, public reputation, and recommendations from other respondents. Most of those who were contacted are CSOs representatives but through these data collection techniques relevant input was collected also from scholars and donors' representatives.

Due to costs and other logistical reasons (i.e. limited time for conducting research, limited human resources, lengthy visa procedures), there were no field visits in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Russian Federation. However, scholars, donors and CSOs active in all these countries were also directly contacted.

Especially in the case of Belarus and Russia, **a large part of those contacted declined to participate even in the online anonymous survey and even when they were out of country, fearing being tracked and consequently targeted by state authorities.** Similar worries were expressed also by a small minority of CSO representatives and scholars from Turkey and Azerbaijan. **Fear or repercussions is not baseless:** most of those who declined the participation described the economic or political pressure they or their family, friends or co-workers have experienced when engaging in CSO activities, especially in the fields of human rights and freedom of expression, ranging from **being arbitrarily fired or detained to direct threats which forced them into renouncing their involvement, hiding or exile.**

Respondents from Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine have been in general the most eager to participate in this research, a fact which is reflected also in the online survey input.

Online stakeholders survey

An online survey questionnaire was addressed to representative of civil society organizations (CSOs), funding entities (Donors), and scholars or independent experts (including journalism/media professionals) working in one or more countries of the wider Black Sea region (i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, or Ukraine).

The research team and FOND distributed it publicly in March and April through their mail and social media channels, targeting specifically formal and informal groups of civil society stakeholders from the region.

The input was anonymous, and in three weeks it gathered information from 54 unique respondents, mostly CSOs representatives with at least 6 years of experience. Most questions were optional except for some in the introductory **COMMON SECTION**, which helped established the major category of respondent and the country. Despite not being mandatory, the vast majority of respondents answered all closed questions, while about a half answered also a large part of the very few open questions.

Depending on the type of respondent affiliation (question 3 in the introductory **COMMON SECTION**), the survey automatically provided only one of 3 available sections – **SECTION A (CSOs environment)**, for respondents working in CSOs, including not-for-profit media organizations and think-tanks; **SECTION B (Donors experience)**, for respondents working for donor organizations; or **SECTION C (Expertise of independent observers)**, for scholars, journalists and independent experts.

The content of the survey is presented below.

ONLINE SURVEY

Relations between Civil Society Organizations and Donors in the wider Black Sea Region

COMMON SECTION

Please choose in which of the following countries of the wider Black Sea region your activity is based. If your activity is based in more countries, please choose the one in which you have most experience and about which you can provide most information in this survey.

- ☐ Armenia
- ☐ Azerbaijan
- ☐ Belarus
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Republic of Moldova
- ☐ Russian Federation
- ☐ Turkey
- ☐ Ukraine

What is the main field of activity for which you can provide expertise in relation to CSOs or donors in this country? (choose all which apply)

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Human Rights
- ☐ Local Sustainable Development (i.e. social/economic/environmental development of local/national communities)
- ☐ International Sustainable Development (i.e. social/economic/environmental development of communities outside the country)
- ☐ Humanitarian Relief
- ☐ Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Reconstruction
- ☐ Foreign Policy / International Affairs Analysis
- ☐ Domestic politics think-tank
- ☐ Good Governance / Democracy
- ☐ Anti-Corruption
- ☐ Inter-Ethnic Communication / Minority rights
- ☐ Gender and Family Issues
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Organization militating explicitly for secular values
- ☐ Media
- ☐ Other:

Please choose for which type of organization you are currently working. If more, please choose the type with which you have most experience and from the perspective of which you can provide most information in this survey.

- ☐ Civil Society Organization (CSOs), including not-for-profit media organizations and think-tanks
- ☐ Donor/Funding Organizations (DOs), including intergovernmental, governmental and private funding entities
- ☐ Higher Education / Research Institution (HE/RIs), including temporary contract scholars
- ☐ Media Outlet (MOs), including free-lance journalists and for-profit media organizations

What is your position in this organization?

- ☐ Director (or equivalent)
- ☐ Program or Project Manager
- ☐ Expert / Team member for implementing programs/projects
- ☐ Fundraiser / Lobby & Advocacy Specialist
- ☐ Administrative Staff
- ☐ Independent consultant (including free-lancers)
- ☐ Scholar / Researcher
- ☐ Journalist (including free-lancers)
- ☐ Other

For how long have you been working in the field(s) for which you are providing information? (number of years)

Your Answer:

SECTION A (CSOs Environment)

1. In what kind of organization are you currently active? (please choose the category that fits best)

- ☐ Local/National independent non-governmental organization (NGO)
- ☐ Local/National federation of NGOs
- ☐ Local/National NGO created by a local/national governmental entity
- ☐ Local/National Chapter/Branch of a Transnational NGO
- ☐ Charity Foundation
- ☐ International Professional Association
- ☐ Not for profit media organization
- ☐ Other:

2. Is your organization located in the capital city?

- ☐ YES, in the capital of the country
- ☐ NO but it is in one of the country's major cities in an affluent/highly developed area (ex. Istanbul, St. Petersburg etc.)
- ☐ NO but it is in one of the country's major cities in a less affluent area
- ☐ NO, it is located in a smaller city or town

3. How would you rank your organization's annual budget compared to a national average?

	Irrespective of the Field	In your field
Larger		
Average		
Smaller		

4. How much staff did your organization employ during the last year?

	<5	5-10	10-25	>25	N/A
Permanent					
Temporary (for projects only)					
Volunteers					

5. Does your organization benefit from core funding? (i.e. financial resources that cover organizational costs such as salaries, rent and other administrative costs)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know/I cannot answer

6. In your experience, which of the following are the most important funding providers for CSOs in your country? (please choose max.3)
- ☐ The national government of the country
 - ☐ Local government/authorities within the country
 - ☐ National private companies
 - ☐ The Governments of other states (through their embassies or agencies for international development)
 - ☐ Intergovernmental organizations and funds (i.e. European Union, agencies within the UN system, EEA funds etc.)
 - ☐ International funds for regional cooperation
 - ☐ International private companies
 - ☐ Other national CSOs and foundations
 - ☐ International CSOs and foundations
 - ☐ Local political parties
 - ☐ International political parties (Political party federation / Political foundation from outside the country in which it funds CSOs)
 - ☐ Local religious organizations
 - ☐ Other:

7. In your experience, what is the length of the projects which have the highest chance to get funded?

	On average, in your country	On average, in your field
Short/One-off Projects (less than 6 months)		
Projects extending several months to a year		
Projects of one-two years		
Projects of 2 or more years		

8. Are there any constraints faced by CSOs when applying for funding? (e.g. legal, fiscal, of registration, political etc.)
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

9. If you answered "yes", could you please briefly explain?

Your answer:

10. In your experience, which are the most important things for a successful funding application? (please choose max.2).

	In your country	In your field
Size of the organization		
Previous experience (portfolio)		
Network of partners		
Visibility / Reputation		
Co-financing		
Other		

11. If other, please briefly explain.

Your answer:

12. In your experience, which are the most important challenges faced by a CSO when applying for funding? (please choose max.2)

- ☐ Competition from other CSOs in the country
- ☐ Competition from CSOs in other countries
- ☐ Lack of capacity (especially human resources) specific for smaller CSOs
- ☐ Burdens imposed by the fiscal system
- ☐ Constraints placed by the political regime
- ☐ Other:

13. In your experience, in which of the following situations is it easier to secure funding when a CSO applies for funding by itself or in partnership with other CSOs?

- ☐ Alone
- ☐ In partnership with other CSOs from the same country
- ☐ In partnership with local authorities/governmental entities from the same country
- ☐ In partnership with higher education / research institutes from the same country
- ☐ In partnership with other CSOs from neighboring countries not members of the European Union
- ☐ In partnership with other CSOs from neighboring countries which are members of the European Union
- ☐ In partnership with other CSOs from EU/EEA countries outside the Black Sea region
- ☐ In partnership with private companies
- ☐ Other:

14. Has it ever happened for your organization to apply for projects that do not necessarily fall within the organization's field of activity, but were necessary in order to secure funding per se (i.e. to ensure the organization's survival)?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Once
- ☐ A few times
- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Almost always

15. Has it ever happened for your organization to be invited by donors for project or fund programming consultations?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes BUT our suggestions and feedback were NEVER taken into consideration
- ☐ Yes BUT our suggestions and feedback were RARELY taken into consideration
- ☐ Yes AND our suggestions and feedback were SOMETIMES taken into consideration
- ☐ Yes AND our suggestions and feedback were FREQUENTLY taken into consideration

16. In your experience, is it easier to secure funding on projects pertaining to some fields of activity, rather than others?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, which ones? Please briefly explain

Your answer:

17. In your opinion, are there some fields of activity that are systematically underfunded or for which there is no funding currently available?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, which ones? Please briefly explain

Your answer:

18. On average, how DIFFICULT has it been for YOUR ORGANIZATION to fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA of:

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	N/A
National Private Funders						
National Governmental Funders						
International Private Funders						
Other states' embassies or agencies						
International Governmental Funders (international organizations or multilateral intergovernmental funds)						
Funding calls for regional cooperation projects (between CSOs from more countries in the region)						

1 = Very difficult

5 = Very easy

19. In your opinion, how DIFFICULT is, on average, for CSOs IN YOUR COUNTRY to fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA of:

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	N/A
National Private Funders						
National Governmental Funders						
International Private Funders						
Other states' embassies or agencies						
International Governmental Funders (international organizations or multilateral intergovernmental funds)						
Funding calls for regional cooperation projects (between CSOs from more countries in the region)						

1 = Very difficult

5 = Very easy

20. In your opinion, how FAIR are, on average, the eligibility criteria for funding CSOs in your country, depending on the type of funding entity:

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	N/A
National Private Funders						
National Governmental Funders						
International Private Funders						
Other states' embassies or agencies						
International Governmental Funders (international organizations or multilateral intergovernmental funds)						
Funding calls for regional cooperation projects (between CSOs from more countries in the region)						

1 = Very difficult

5 = Very easy

21. Did you ever have other type of support from donors other than funding?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what type?

Your answer:

22. What other type of support other than funding would you like to have from funding entities in your country?

Your answer:

23. Is there anything else you would like to add/comment on the relation between CSOs in your country and entities funding these CSOs' activities?

Your Answer:

SECTION B (Donors' Experience)

1. What type of organization is the one for which you provide information in this survey?

(please choose the category that fits best)

- ☐ Local/National federation of NGOs
- ☐ Transnational NGO
- ☐ Governmental entity of the state in which the funded CSOs are placed
- ☐ Embassy or Agency for International Development of a state (or equivalent official development aid/relief provider)
- ☐ EU institution, program or fund
- ☐ UN agency, program or fund
- ☐ Intergovernmental organization, program or fund (other than UN)
- ☐ Local / National company
- ☐ International company with or without branches in the state in which it funds CSOs
- ☐ Local/National political party
- ☐ Political party federation / Political foundation from outside the country in which it funds CSOs
- ☐ Local / National religious organization
- ☐ International / transnational religious organization
- ☐ Other

2. Does your organization provide support primarily for CSOs?

- ☐ YES, we fund mostly non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the capital or major cities
- ☐ YES, we fund mostly NGOs outside the capital or major cities
- ☐ YES but we fund mostly media organizations and journalists in the capital or major cities, irrespective of their legal status (not for profit / for profit organizations), to support independent quality output
- ☐ YES but we fund mostly media organizations and journalists outside the capital or major cities, irrespective of their legal status (not for profit / for profit organizations), to support independent quality output
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know/I cannot answer

3. In your experience, which of the following are the most important funding entities for CSOs in the country in which your organization provides funds? *(please choose max.3)*

- ☐ The Government of the country
- ☐ National private companies
- ☐ The Governments of other states (through their embassies or agencies for international development)
- ☐ Intergovernmental organizations and funds (i.e. European Union, agencies within the UN system, EEA funds etc.)
- ☐ International private companies
- ☐ Other national CSOs and foundations
- ☐ International CSOs and foundations
- ☐ Local political parties
- ☐ International political parties (Political party federation / Political foundation from outside the country in which it funds CSOs)
- ☐ Local religious organizations

- International / transnational religious organizations
- Media companies
- Other:

4. In your experience, what is the length of the projects which have the highest chance to get funded?

	On average, in your country	On average, in your field	On average, funded by your organization
Short/One-off Projects (less than 6 months)			
Projects extending several months to a year			
Projects of one-two years			
Projects of 2 or more years			

5. Are there any constraints faced by CSOs when applying for funding in the country in which your organization provides funding? (e.g. legal, fiscal, of registration, political etc.)

- Yes
- No

If you answered "yes", could you please briefly explain?

Your answer:

6. Does your organization offer any of the following types of funding for CSOs? (please check all which apply)

- Core funding
- Funding for emergency institutional situations
- Regional cooperation funding

7. In your experience, which are the most important things for a successful funding application? (please choose max.2)

	In your country	In your field
Size of the organization		
Previous experience (portfolio)		
Network of partners		
Visibility / Reputation		
Co-financing		
Other		

If other, please briefly explain

Your Answer:

8. In your experience, which are the most important challenges faced by a CSO when applying for funding in the country in which your organization provides funding? (please choose max.2)

- ☐ Competition from other CSOs in the country
- ☐ Competition from CSOs in other countries
- ☐ Lack of capacity (especially human resources) specific for smaller CSOs
- ☐ Burdens imposed by the fiscal system
- ☐ Constraints placed by the political regime
- ☐ Other:

9. In your experience, is it easier to secure funding when a CSO applies for funding by itself or in partnership with other CSOs?

- ☐ Alone
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from the same country
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from neighbouring countries not members of the European Union
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from neighbouring countries which are members of the European Union
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from EU/EEA countries outside the region
- ☐ Other:

10. From your experience, on average for the funding opportunity you offer, how many CSOs apply for projects that do not necessarily fall within their field of activity but rather to secure funding per se (i.e. to ensure the CSOs survival)?

- ☐ Less than 5%
- ☐ Between 5% and 10%
- ☐ Between 10% and 20%
- ☐ Between 20% and 30%
- ☐ Between 30% and 50%
- ☐ Between 50% and 75%
- ☐ More than 75%

11. How does your organization usually establish its funding priorities for CSOs in this country?

- ☐ Needs assessment (evaluation conducted exclusively within your organization)
- ☐ Needs assessment (with the support of independent expertise external to your organization)
- ☐ Consultations with CSOs
- ☐ I do not know / I cannot answer
- ☐ Other:

12. Did your organization invite local/national CSOs from the country in which it offers funding for project or fund programming consultations?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes BUT most we invite do not participate
- ☐ Yes BUT most of those who participate do not offer relevant/useful feedback or suggestions
- ☐ Yes AND some of those who participate offered relevant/useful feedback or suggestions

- Yes AND most of those who participate offered relevant/useful feedback or suggestions

13. In your experience, in this country is it easier to provide funding on projects pertaining to some fields of activity, rather than others?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which ones? Please briefly explain

14. From your experience, for CSOs in the country in which your organization provides funding, how DIFFICULT is, on average, to fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA of:

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	N/A
National Private Funders						
National Governmental Funders						
International Private Funders						
Other states' embassies or agencies						
International Governmental Funders (international organizations or multilateral intergovernmental funds)						
Funding calls for regional cooperation projects (between CSOs from more countries in the region)						

1 = Very difficult

5 = Very easy

15. From your experience, for CSOs in the country in which your organization provides funding, how FAIR are, on average, the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA of:

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	N/A
National Private Funders						
National Governmental Funders						
International Private Funders						
Other states' embassies or agencies						
International Governmental Funders (international organizations or multilateral intergovernmental funds)						
Funding calls for regional cooperation projects (between CSOs from more countries in the region)						

1 = Very difficult

5 = Very easy

16. Has your organization offered to CSOs any kind of support other than funding?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what type?

Your answer:

17. Is there anything else you would like to add/comment on the relation between donors and CSOs in this country?

SECTION C (Expertise of independent observers, i.e. Scholars, journalists, independent experts)

1. Have you ever been employed by CSOs or by providers of funding for CSOs for this expertise? *(please check all that apply)*

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, by CSOs for independent consultancy (including review of funding applications)
- ☐ Yes, I was employed by a CSO as part of their team
- ☐ Yes, by providers of funds for CSOs (i.e. national or international donors) for independent consultancy (including review of funding applications)
- ☐ Yes, I was employed by a local/national donor as part of their team
- ☐ Yes, I was employed by an international donor as part of their team

2. In your experience, which of the following are the most important funding entities for CSOs the country about which you can provide information in this survey? *(please choose max.3)*

- ☐ The Government of the country
- ☐ National private companies
- ☐ The Governments of other states (through their embassies or agencies for international development)
- ☐ Intergovernmental organizations and funds (i.e. European Union, agencies within the UN system, EEA funds etc.)
- ☐ International private companies
- ☐ Other national CSOs and foundations
- ☐ International CSOs and foundations
- ☐ Local political parties
- ☐ International political parties (Political party federation / Political foundation from outside the country in which it funds CSOs)
- ☐ Local religious organizations
- ☐ International / transnational religious organizations
- ☐ Media organizations
- ☐ Other:

3. In your experience, what is the length of the projects which have the highest chance to get funded?

	On average, in your country	On average, in your field
Short/One-off Projects (less than 6 months)		
Projects extending several months to a year		
Projects of one-two years		
Projects of 2 or more years		

4. Are there any constraints faced by CSOs when applying for funding in this country? (e.g. legal, fiscal, of registration, political etc.)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ I do not know / I cannot answer

If you answered "yes", could you please briefly explain?

Your answer:

5. From your experience, which are the most important things for a successful funding application? (please choose max.2)

	In your country	In your field
Size of the organization		
Previous experience (portfolio)		
Network of partners		
Visibility / Reputation		
Co-financing		
Other		

If other, please briefly explain.

Your answer:

6. In your experience, which are the most important challenges faced by a CSO when applying for funding in this country (please choose max.2)

- ☐ Competition from other CSOs in the country
- ☐ Competition from CSOs in other countries
- ☐ Lack of capacity (especially human resources) specific for smaller CSOs
- ☐ Burdens imposed by the fiscal system
- ☐ Constraints placed by the political regime
- ☐ Other:

7. In your experience, is it easier to secure funding when a CSO applies for funding by itself or in partnership with other CSOs?

- ☐ Alone
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from the same country
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from neighbouring countries not members of the European Union
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from neighbouring countries which are members of the European Union
- ☐ In partnership with CSOs from EU/EEA countries outside the Black Sea region
- ☐ Other:

8. In your experience, on average, how many CSOs apply for projects that do not necessarily fall within their field of activity but rather to secure funding per se (i.e. to ensure the CSOs survival)?

- ☐ Less than 5%
- ☐ Between 5% and 10%
- ☐ Between 10% and 20%
- ☐ Between 20% and 30%
- ☐ Between 30% and 50%
- ☐ Between 50% and 75%
- ☐ More than 75%

9. In the country for which you are able to provide most information in this survey, do donors meet local/national CSOs for project or fund programming consultations?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes BUT most of these meetings are not meaningful for fine-tuning funding instruments to answer the local/national needs
- ☐ Yes AND some of these meetings are meaningful for fine-tuning funding instruments to answer the local/national needs IF INITIATED BY DONORS
- ☐ Yes AND some of these meetings are meaningful for fine-tuning funding instruments to answer the local/national needs IF THEY ARE INITIATED BY CSOs
- ☐ Yes AND some of these meetings are meaningful for fine-tuning funding instruments to answer the local/national needs IF THEY ARE INITIATED BY INDEPENDENT STAKEHOLDERS such as scholars, journalists or other experts

10. In your experience, is it easier to provide funding on projects pertaining to some fields of activity, rather than others?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, which ones? Please briefly explain

Your answer:

11. Do donors in this country offer to CSOs any kind of support other than funding?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what type?

Your answer:

12. Is there anything else you would like to add/comment on the relation between donors and CSOs in this country?

University of Bucharest

Centre for International Cooperation and Development Studies (IDC)

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Authors:

Luciana Alexandra GHICA (University of Bucharest, Romania)

Bogdan Mihai RADU (Babeș Bolyai University, Romania)

Andreea VORNICU (Babeș Bolyai University, Romania)

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Contact

University of Bucharest

Faculty of Political Science

Centre for International Cooperation and Development Studies (IDC)

8, Spiru Haret st.

010157 Bucharest

Romania

idc@fspub.unibuc.ro

<http://idc.fspub.unibuc.ro>