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# NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

22 JANUARY, 2020





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# PURPOSE OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1

**TO SET THE BASE FOR  
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

2

**TO ASSESS THE STATE OF  
CSOs AGAINST THE EU CS  
GUIDELINES**

3

**TO SET THE BASELINE  
FOR TACSO 3 IMPACT  
MEASURING**



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# TWO-PHASE DATA GATHERING





# METHODOLOGY

INSTRUMENT	SAMPLE
<b>DESK ANALYSIS</b>	Over <b>250 documents</b> comprising laws and by-laws, international agreements, contracts and declarations, analysis of international and domestic CSOs reports, etc.
<b>INTERVIEWS</b>	Over <b>250 sessions</b> with representatives of CSOs, Gov. institutions and media.
<b>FOCUS GROUPS</b>	Over 30 sessions with a total of more than <b>175 participants</b> from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Media</li><li>• Thematic networks</li><li>• CSOs in general</li><li>• Women's organizations</li><li>• Grassroots</li></ul>

The report has been produced by the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), which was selected through a public call and engaged within the EU TACSO 3 Project framework to conduct the data-gathering and analysis.



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# DRAFT REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND CAPACITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY (NEEDS ASSESSMENT) REGIONAL OVERVIEW





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# BASIC CSO DATA

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF CSOs	NUMBER OF ACTIVE CSOs	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	TOTAL INCOME (IN EUR)	NUMBER OF NETWORKS (estimated)
ALBANIA	11.426	2.323	8.917	35.693.020	N/A
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	27.263	19.955	8.188	N/A	50
KOSOVO	10.654	< 1.000	8.453	46% of CSOs in Kosovo operate with no funding, while 23% of them operate with < 10,000 EUR / year	20
MONTENEGRO	5.669	N/A	854	26.897.606	256
NORTH MACEDONIA	10.171	4.810	1.645	101.887.128	69
SERBIA	32.948	25.878	8.517	335.652.409	N/A
TURKEY	134.816	N/A	64.515 (associations in 2018), 17.093 (foundations in 2016)	8.494,7 millions	1247 federations and 103 confederations



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# CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT





# 1. RISE OF POPULISM    2. SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE    3. DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENTS



## POSITIVE ASSESSMENT:

Albania, Kosovo\*  
North Macedonia



## NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT:

Turkey, Serbia  
somewhat  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

**CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT  
HAS BEEN SLOWLY DETERIORATING**





# BASIC FREEDOMS OF ASSOCIATION, ASSEMBLY AND EXPRESSION

- **LEGAL ENVIRONMENT**  
mostly **in line with international standards**



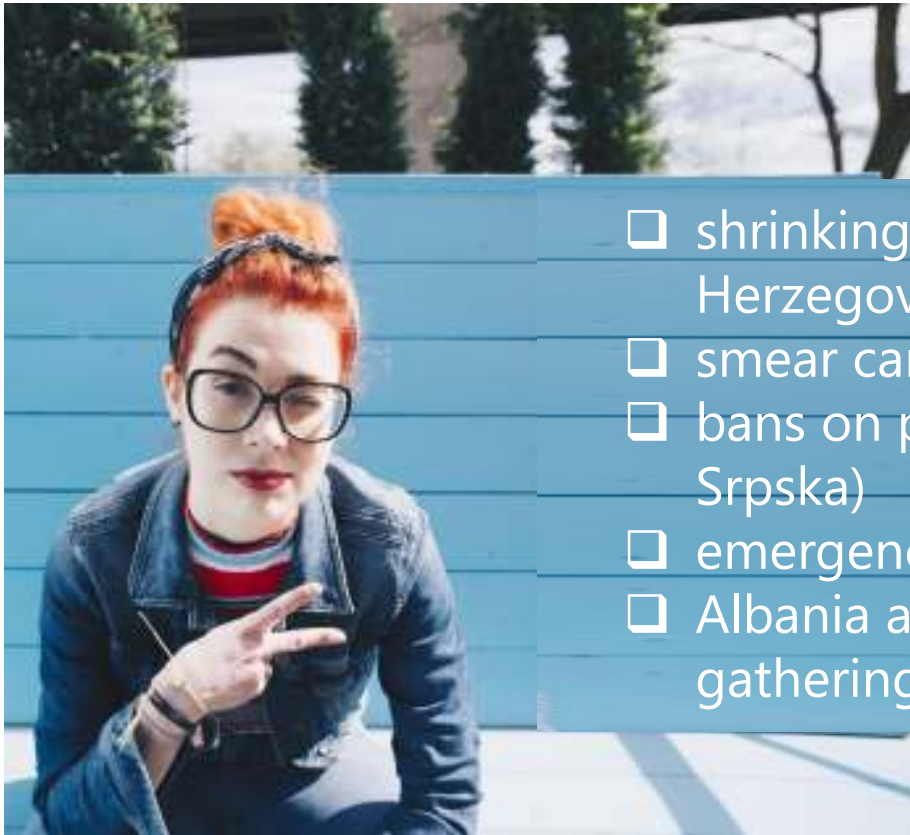
**IMPROVEMENTS** in Bosnia and Herzegovina (electronic registry), Kosovo (Law on associations), Montenegro (New Law on NGOs) North Macedonia (regulation of assemblies)



**ATTEMPTS TO NARROW THE RIGHTS**: law on associations in Kosovo and Turkey, draft Civic code in Serbia



# BASIC FREEDOMS OF ASSOCIATION, ASSEMBLY AND EXPRESSION



- **GAP** between legal framework and practice is **increasing**:

- shrinking civic space - freedom of assembly and expression: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia
- smear campaigns and attacks – Serbia, Montenegro
- bans on protests and violent treatment of participants – BiH (Republika Srpska)
- emergence of GONGOs and PONGOs – Serbia, Montenegro
- Albania and Kosovo report on organization of many different gatherings without any problems



# GRASS-ROOT INITIATIVES



- **NARROWING SPACE RESULTED IN NEW GRASS-ROOT INITIATIVES (NORTH MACEDONIA, KOSOVO, SERBIA, TURKEY)**



- **DIFFICULTIES IN DEFINING GRASS-ROOT**



- **DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FUNDING**

**Grass-root** = mostly unregistered initiatives on the local level, mostly engaged in advocacy



## PUBLIC FUNDING



- **IMPROVEMENTS:** increase of public funding (North Macedonia); adoption of clear rules for public funding (Kosovo, Serbia); donations are slightly increasing

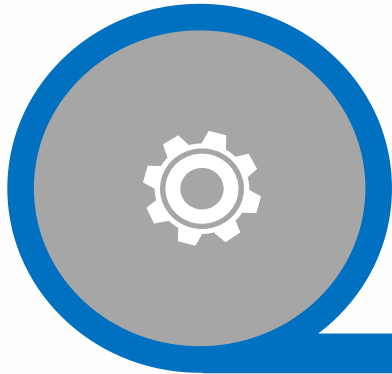


- Still **ONLY SHORT PROJECT-FUNDING**
- Lack of **TRANSPARENCY, STRATEGIC APPROACH, monitoring and EVALUATION**

- **TAX BENEFITS** available for corporate and individual donations; only for individuals in North Macedonia, only for corporates in Albania, Serbia and Turkey; increase of % in Kosovo for individuals
- **TAX TREATMENT** of CSOs mostly same as commercial entities.

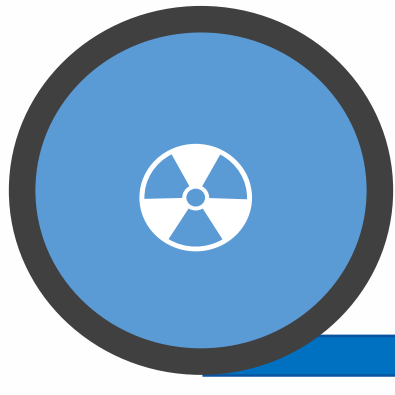


# CSO - PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS RELATIONSHIP



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**legal framework** is improving (e.g. Kosovo, Serbia), but **practice** not much changed (lack of early involvement, breach of deadlines, no feedback reports)



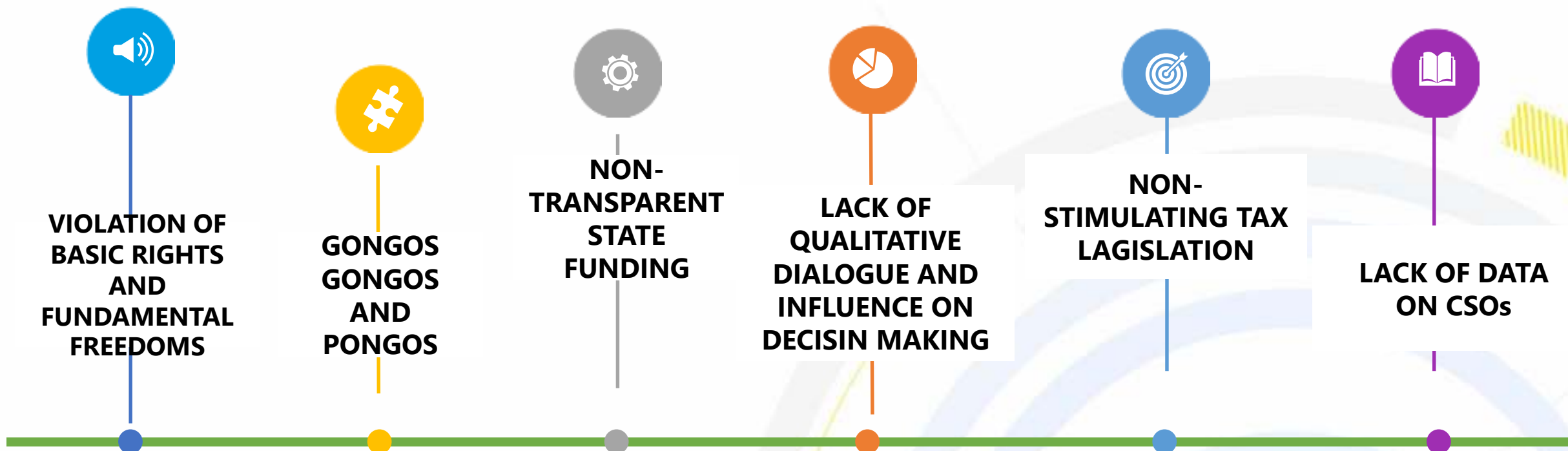
## CSO – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

new **strategies** for development of CSOs (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia); not adopted (Serbia);  
**Council for development of CSOs** active in Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia; pending in Bosnia and Herzegovina; not active in Albania.



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# KEY CHALLENGES





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# CSO CAPACITY





# CSO CAPACITY

01

## CAPABILITY, TRANSPARENCY ACCOUNTABILITY OF CSOs

- **Transparency and accountability:** low capacities
- **Internal governance:** mostly in line with the legislation, however not fully functional
- **Communications:** lack of human resources and sophisticated skills
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** project-level, not systemic

**HIGH AWARENESS,**  
but progress hindered  
by:

1. **UNSTABLE ENVIRONMENT;**  
and
2. **PROJECT FUNDING**

02

## EFFECTIVENESS OF CSOs

- **Strategic approach:** donor-driven, not thorough
- **Advocacy:** lack of skills for evidence-based
- **Networking:** project-initiated; vulnerable sustainability





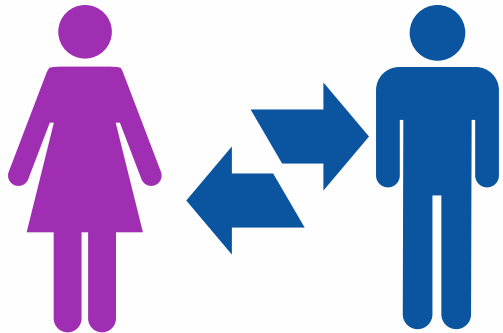
# CSO CAPACITY



03

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF CSOs

- Lack of long-term **funding strategies**
- Majority of funding from international donors and state funds; private sources make small portion; Turkey is an exception.



04

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- **Gender equality**: higher awareness than in other sectors; policies rarely in place.



# CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS AND METHODS



## DIFFERENCE IN NEEDS:

**bigger** (advocacy, communications, strategic approach to organizational development, etc.);  
**smaller organizations** (project writing, project cycle management, fundraising, etc.);



## METHODS - long-term approach

- one-off general trainings not enough;
- needed: tailor-made practical trainings, mentoring, coaching, peer learning.



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# KEY CHALLENGES





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# RECOMMENDATIONS TO EU



**STRONGER USE  
OF EU CS  
GUIDELINES**

**REVISE  
EUG**

**STRONGER  
POLITICAL  
SUPPORT**

**FOCUS ON  
QUALITATIVE  
INSIGHT**

**INTRODUCE  
INSTITUTIONAL  
SUPPORT**

**SUPPORT  
CSOs  
CAPACITY  
BUILDING**

**CONTINUE  
SUB-  
GRANTING  
APPROACH**



# RECOMMENDATIONS TO EU TACSO 3



1

**Complement similar initiatives:  
FILL GAPS and ADD VALUE**



2

**Share (national) BEST PRACTICES**



3

**Support VISIBILITY OF CSOs in regional media**



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



EU Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations  
in the Western Balkans and Turkey

