Governance of Civil Society Organisations

Introduction

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About the EU TACSO 3 project
2019 – 2025 in the Western Balkans and Türkiye

- Monitoring and supporting the **enabling environment** for civil society

- Working with governments to enable improved **cooperation** with civil society

- **Capacity development** of civil society organisations, including people to people

- Facilitating connections between the **European Union** and civil society in the region
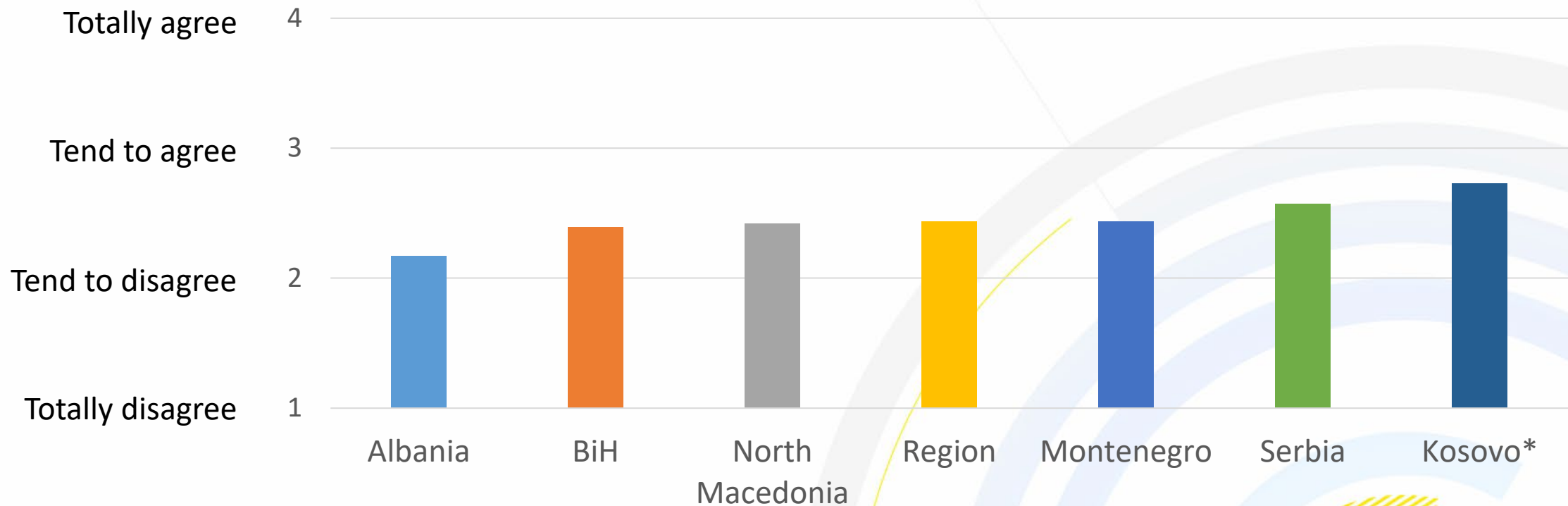
Why is CSO Governance so important?

At individual organisation level:
- Strategic relevance
- Performance
- Standards
- External accountability to stakeholders
- Compliance with legislation and other obligations
- Sustainability

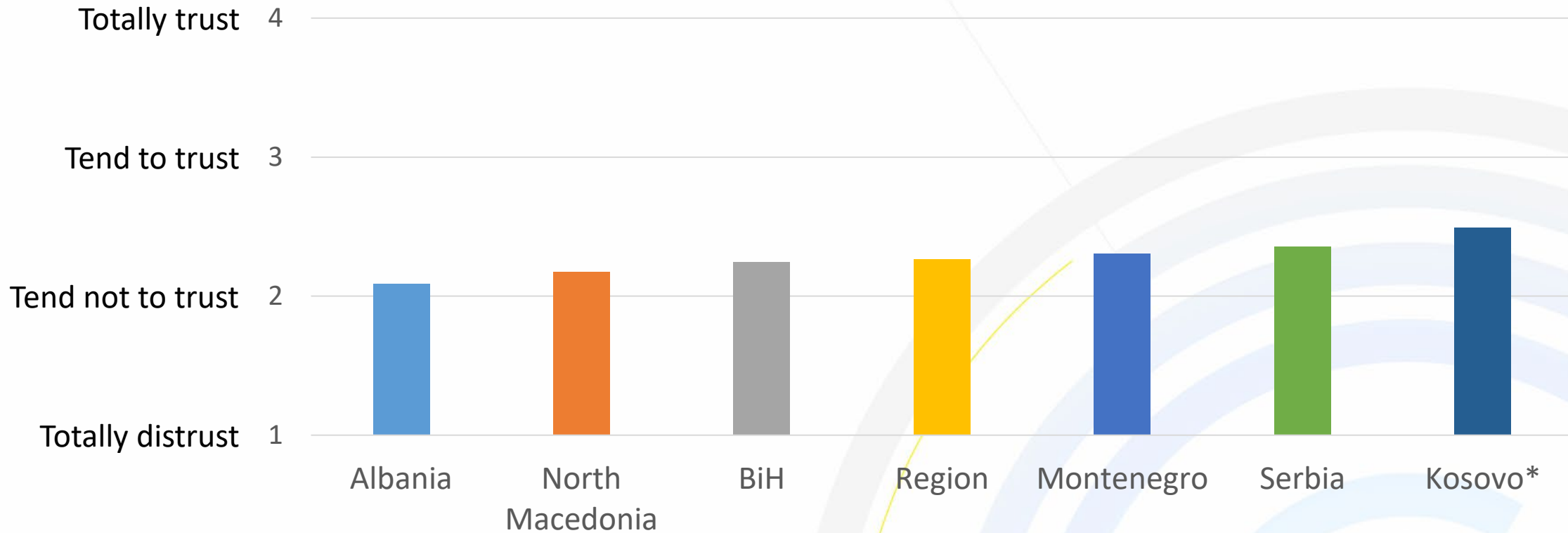**At civil society sector level:**
- Public confidence and support
- Performance/impact on society
- Sustainability and richness of the sector

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Do you agree that civil society organisations are providing effective services for the benefit of communities?

How much trust do you have in civil society organizations?

Trust in institutions across the region

Military and security forces
Police
Ombudsman
CSOs
Supreme Audit Institution
Media
Judicial institutions
Local Authorities
Government
Parliament
Political Parties

1	2	3	4
Totally distrust	Tend not to trust	Tend to trust	Totally trust
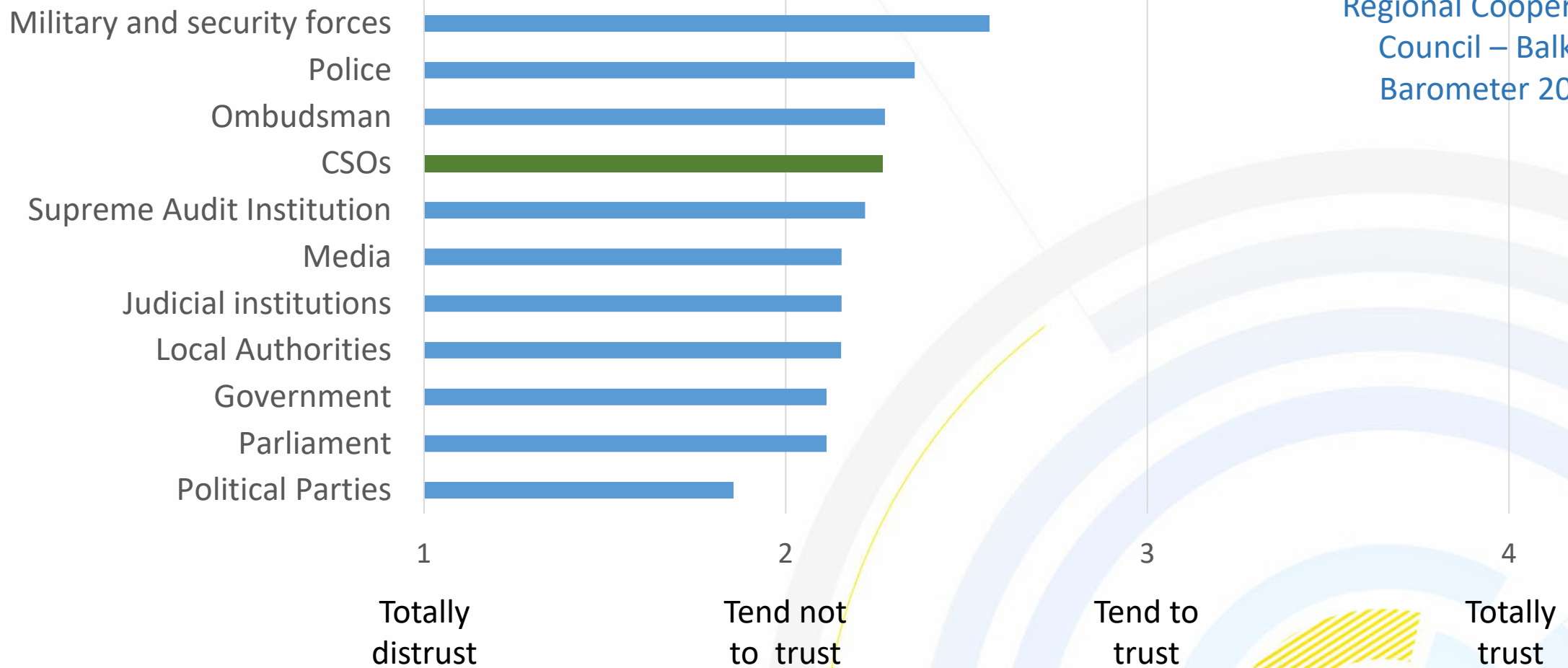
CSO capacity and accountability – findings from the Assessment against the Guidelines

		AL	BA	XK	ME	MK	RS	TR	
3.1.a	Proportion of CSOs that have an independent and effective governing body with clear terms of reference to oversee the organisation's strategic goals, impact, management, legal compliance, and accountability	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	Governance and transparency
3.1.b	Proportion of CSOs that regularly check potential conflicts of interest with regard to the political, economic and personal relationships of their governing body	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	
3.1.c	Proportion of CSOs that share relevant information on their organisation using means and channels that are accessible to all stakeholders	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	
3.1.d	Proportion of CSOs that have an organisational gender equality policy	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	
3.1.e	Proportion of CSOs that have an organisational strategy, including vision, mission, and goals	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	
3.2.a	Proportion of CSOs that have at least one on-line channel of communication	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
3.3.a	Proportion of CSOs that publish their annual reports and financial statements	2	3	2	4	3	3	3	
3.3.b	Proportion of CSOs that publish information on their sources of funding and amounts received in the previous year	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
3.4.a	Proportion of CSOs that have carried out an evaluation of their work in the last year	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	Stakeholder involvement and learning
3.5.a	Proportion of CSOs whose work is based on evidence generated through research	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
3.5.b	Proportion of CSOs whose work is informed through consultation with people who have a stake in their current or future work	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	
3.7.a	Proportion of CSOs whose sources of donor income are diversified	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	Sustainability and independence
3.7.b	Proportion of CSOs raising funds from sources other than donors e.g. membership fees, corporate/ individual giving and income generating activities	4	4	4	3	5	4	5	
3.8.b	Proportion of CSOs that have organisational human resources policies	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Investing in people
3.8.e	Proportion of CSOs whose staff and volunteers have attended a training course in the past year	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	

https://tacso.eu/eu-civil-society-guidelines/

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What are we talking about when we talk about CSO Governance?

External standards of good practice

Informal behaviours and expectations of board, assembly and director

Legal framework (country level)

CSO Governance

Donor requirements

Composition and performance of boards and assemblies

Organisational statutes, policies and procedures

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Today's key questions

How can governing bodies perform well?

How to attract capable and enthusiastic members of governing bodies?

What can be done in the region to make governing bodies more effective?