



EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

DG ENEST Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region Regional Assessment Report 2024

27 June 2025



2024 Assessment Report Launch

Timing	Topic
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome and introductions
10:45 – 11:15	Presentation of key findings - Regional Assessment Report 2024
11:15 – 12.00	Discussion on the way forward
12:00 – 12:30	Q&A
12.30	Close

DG ENEST Guidelines: Three specific objectives

a



A conducive environment for civil society to carry out its activities.

b



Strengthened cooperation and partnership between CSOs and public institutions.

c



Reinforced capacity and resilience of CSOs to carry out their activities effectively.

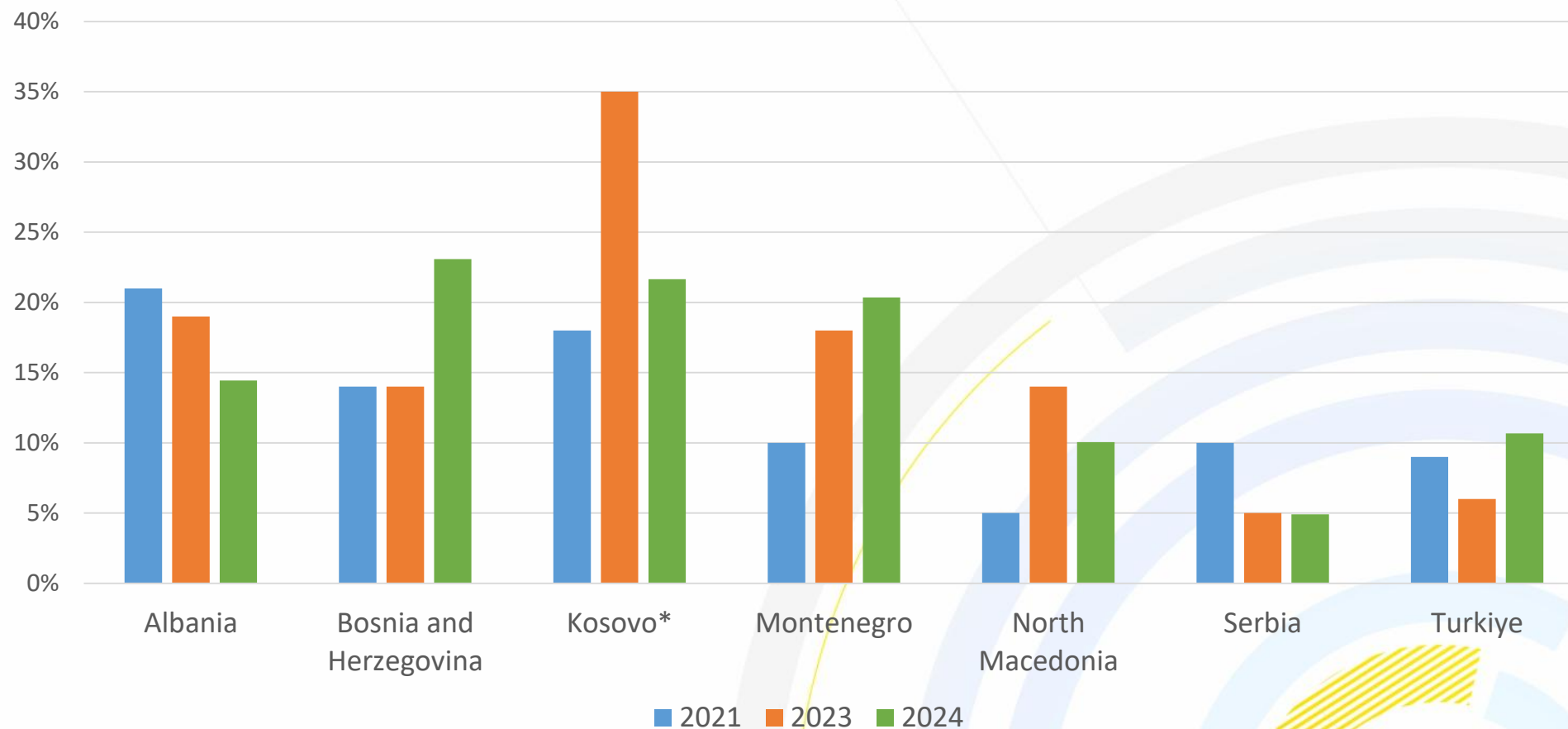
Methodology

- Legal analysis
- Document review
- CSO survey
 - 1,192 valid responses (908 for 2023, 681 for 2021)
 - Margin of error within 9% at country level
- Survey of public officials
 - 95 valid responses (93 for 2023, 76 for 2021)
- 9 focus groups (50 discussants), 5 interviews and 6 country validation sessions
- Application of methodology consistent with previous years
- 55 indicators reviewed and 36 indicators assessed

SO1: A conducive environment for civil society to carry out its activities is in place

- Increasingly hostile environment; further deterioration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia
- Flurry of legislative activity with also negative impact
- Court rulings in line with international standards
- Ability of CSOs to solicit and receive funding in decline
- Public funding remains a challenge; low confidence of CSOs in transparency and fairness of public funding awards (14%, 15% in 2023, 12% in 2021)

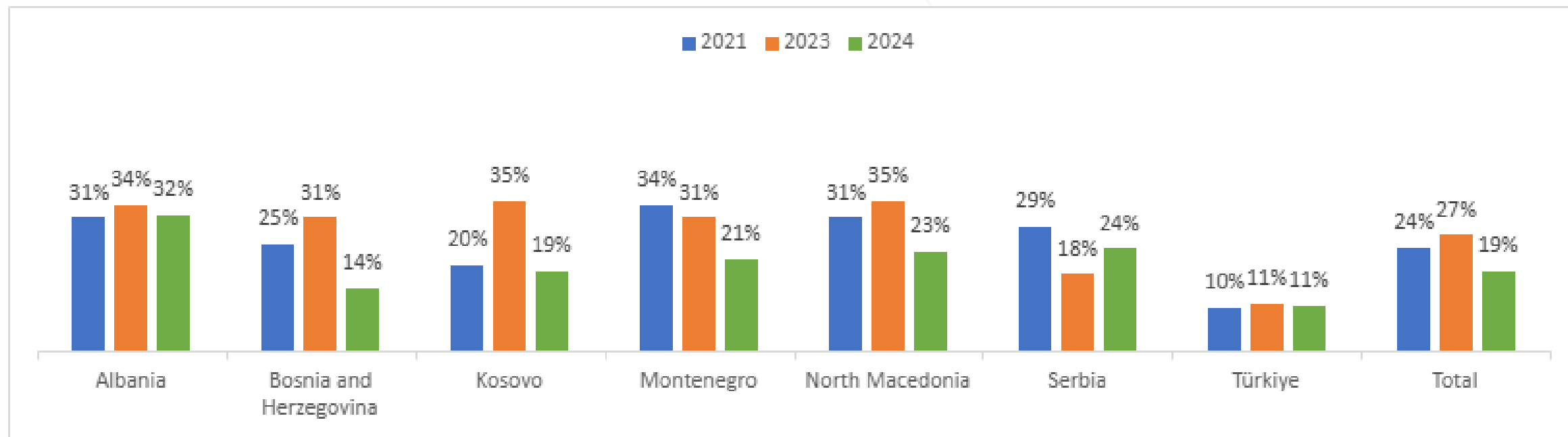
Proportion of CSOs indicating that the provision of national public funds for CSOs is sufficiently or very transparent and fair



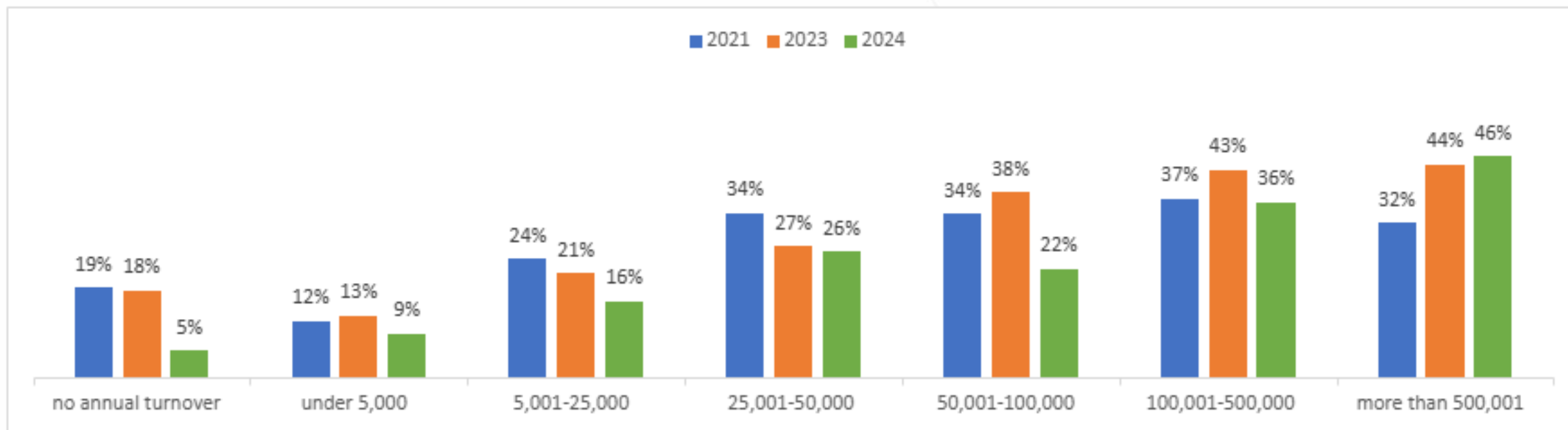
SO2: Strengthened cooperation and partnership between CSOs and public institutions

- Lack of progress in inclusion of CSOs in decision- and policy-making processes
- CSOs largely excluded from the EU accession process
- CSO perception of attitude of public officials negative (67%, 66% in 2023, 72% in 2021)
- Civil society cooperation strategies in 3 countries (5 in 2023, 2 in 2021), however CSO confidence in them low (10%), and budgeted action plans available only in 1 country
- Consultation processes to develop new strategies in 3 countries
- Mixed picture with civil society cooperation councils

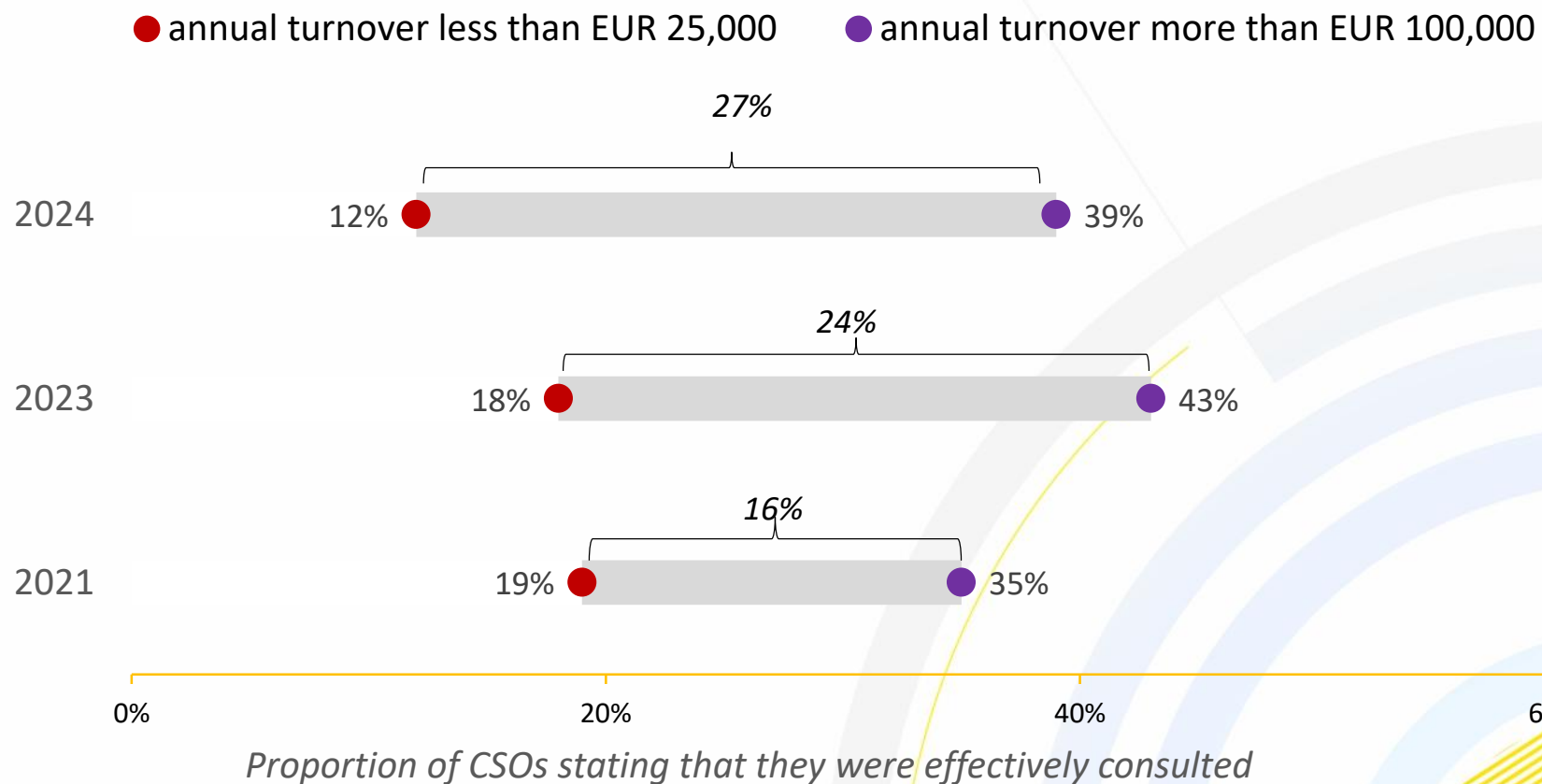
Proportion of CSOs indicating that they were effectively consulted



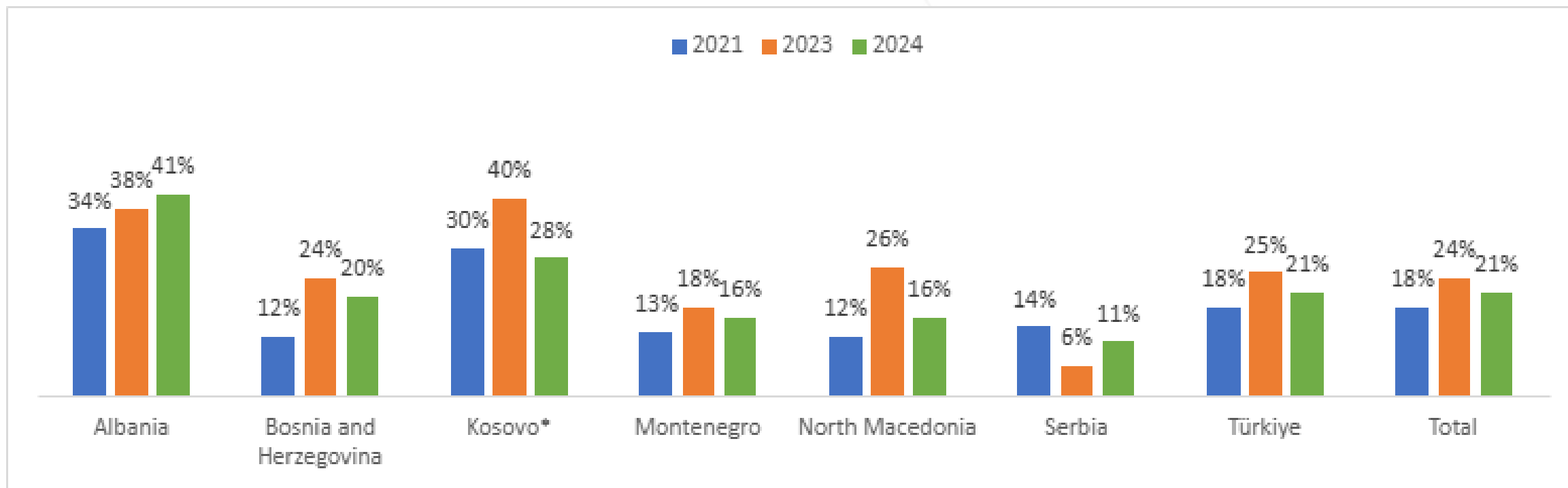
Proportion of CSOs indicating that they were effectively consulted, by annual turnover



Gap in perception of effectiveness of consultation between small and large CSOs



Proportion of CSOs indicating the attitude of public officials toward civil society as supportive



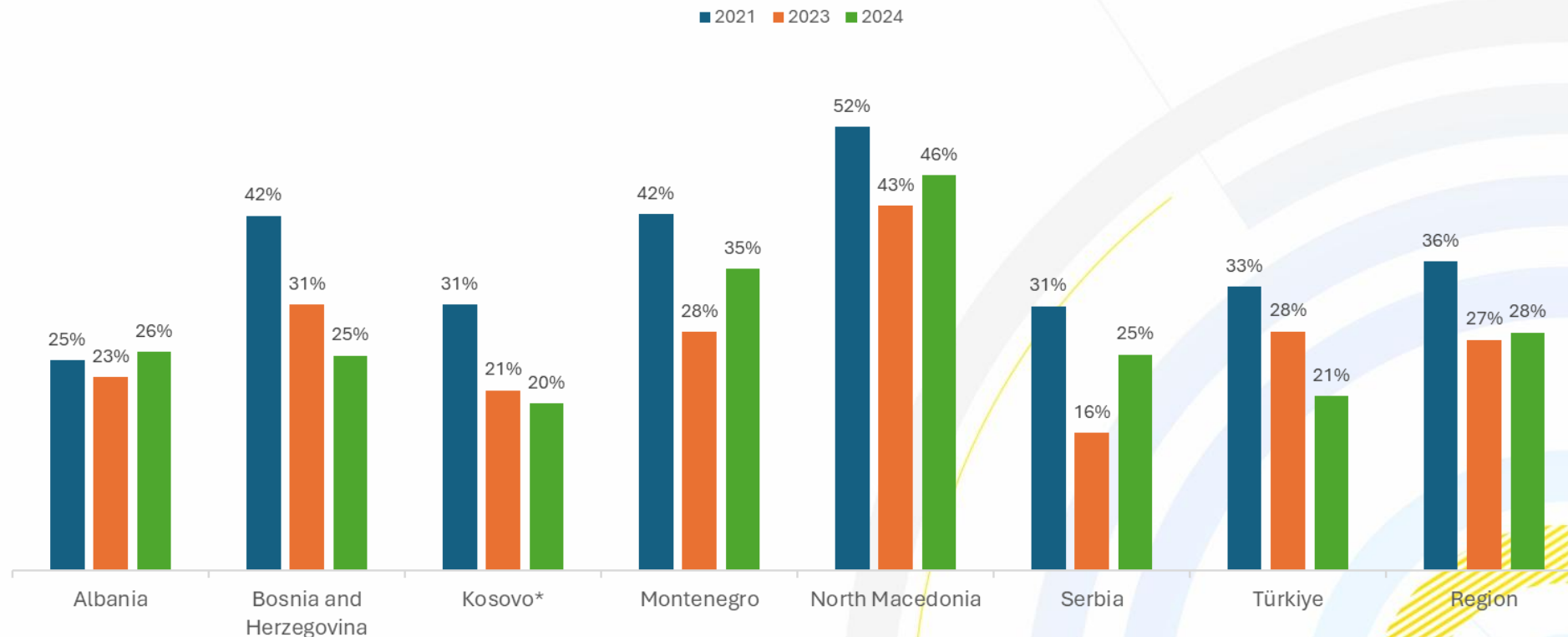
Civil society cooperation strategies in effect, 2021-2024

	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Serbia	Türkiye
2024	1	1	1	5	5	5	1
2023	5	1	5	5	5	5	1
2021	5	1	5	1	1	1	1

SO3: CSO capacity and resilience to carry out their activities effectively are reinforced

- Negative financial environment
- Continued good performance: strategic vision, channels of communication, evaluation, stakeholder consultation and research, professional development of staff and volunteers
- Continuing challenges: independence of the boards, checking conflict of interest, transparency, organisational policies
- Across the region, public confidence in CSOs higher than in government, parliament, political parties, media (but not judicial institutions, police and military)

Proportion of CSOs that publish financial statements and annual reports on organisational website, social media or in hard copy



Public trust in public institutions and services in 2024

% of citizens that 'tend to trust' or 'totally trust' the following institutions

	CSOs	Government	Parliament	Political parties	Media	Judicial institutions	Police	Military
Regional level	40	37	33	23	39	42	56	58
Albania	46	54	40	24	46	53	69	66
Bosnia and Herzegovina	38	24	23	18	37	38	53	48
Kosovo	45	43	42	22	30	46	75	76
Montenegro	37	38	41	35	39	47	43	43
North Macedonia	32	17	16	14	41	14	35	43
Serbia	41	46	37	21	40	51	60	69
Türkiye**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



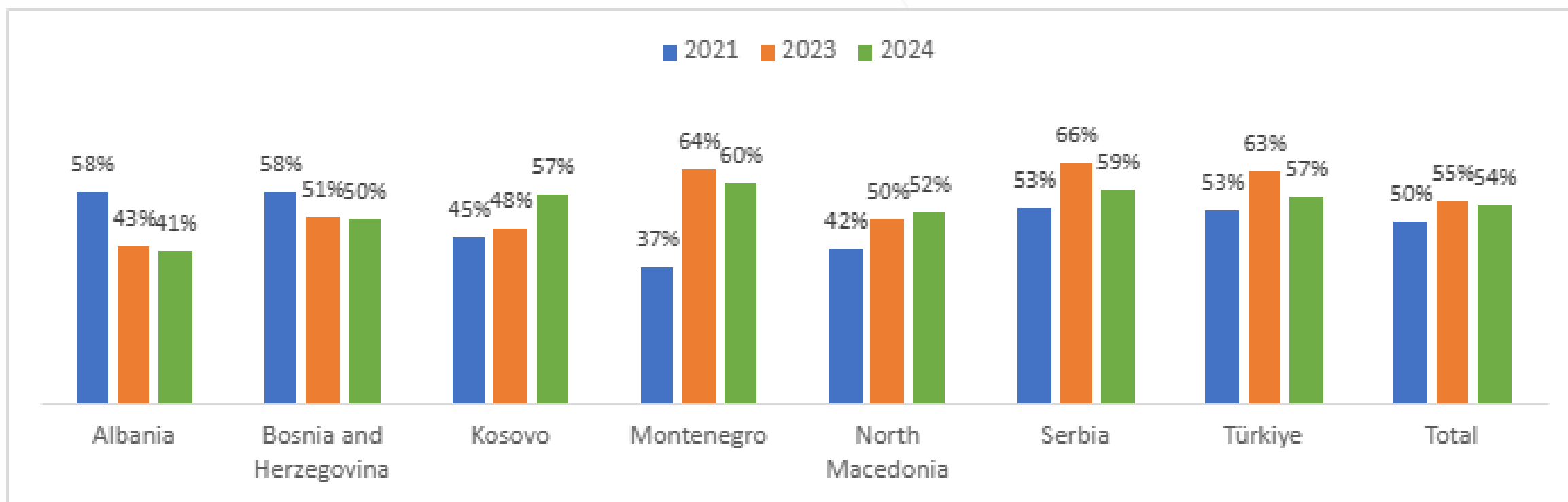
More trusted than CSOs



Less trusted than CSOs

Source: Regional Cooperation Council, Balkan Barometer Survey, <https://www.rcc.int/balkanbarometer/results/2/public>

Proportion of CSOs whose sources of donor income are diversified



Proportion of CSOs that receive funding from different donor types

