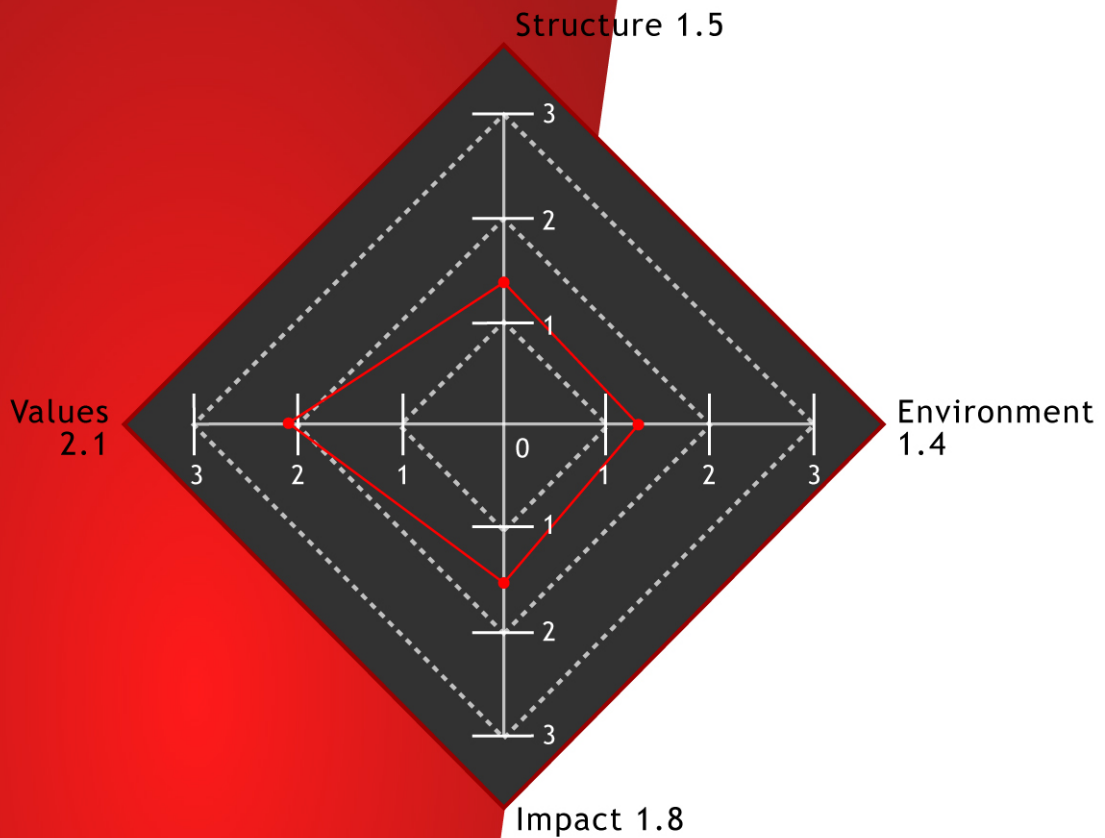


MACEDONIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



AN ASSESSMENT OF MACEDONIAN CIVIL SOCIETY:

15 YEARS OF TRANSITION

- A COUNTRY MOVING TOWARDS
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



CIVICUS Civil Society Index - An international
action-research project coordinated by CIVICUS:
World Alliance for Citizen Participation

15 YEARS OF TRANSITION – A COUNTRY MOVING TOWARDS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

CIVICUS Civil Society Index Report for the Republic of Macedonia

Macedonian Center for International Cooperation

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An international action-research project coordinated by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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FOREWORD

The *Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC)* has been one of the leading civil society organisations (CSOs) in Macedonia and the Balkans since its establishment in 1993.

Civil society development, as well as participatory democracy, has been the foundation of the MCIC mission. In order to fulfil these goals, MCIC is focused on CSOs strengthening and the most direct level of power – local self-government.

In the first years, most of the activities were directed towards organisational development. The first institutional development activates for civil society as a whole was undertaken in 1995, with the activities for adoption of a Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations (adopted in 1998). The institutional development became particularly important after 2001, when the biggest clash in the country, challenging the entire civic sector took place. This was the year of the large scale confrontation with the government and significant criticism of the results and autonomy of the complete civic sector. 2001 as the beginning of the Forum of Civil Society in Macedonia – NGO Fair, which was the catalyst for the activities based on common interests of the civic sector in Macedonia.

MCIC and other CSOs needed informed debate on the results and influence of the civic sector. The initial contact between CIVICUS and MCIC was a result of a search for a solution for this and we were glad to see that the concept of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) fit perfectly with the need to assess the impact of the civic sector in Macedonia.

Therefore, MCIC and the civic sector conducted the CSI with great dedication and there is now an excellent opportunity for informed debate.

The CSI also added value beyond the research, since it generated dialogue among the key actors of the civic sector. This dialogue provided the first approximation of the understanding (definition) of civil society. This understanding is now much broader and more inclusive than before and implies a move from the previously used term ‘NGO’ towards ‘CSOs’ and ‘civil society actors’.

The CSI also contributed to the establishment of new networks and new activities. The CSI helped MCIC strengthen its relations with CIVICUS (and its involvement in other activities) and with organisations, namely CSI partners in other countries.

The research can be considered a joint work of the civic sector in Macedonia. It is an investment in a common strategy for civic sector development in Macedonia, in which the government will be a partner in the strengthening of civil society.

Sašo Klekovski
MCIC Executive Director

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MCIC cooperated with many organisations and individuals in the preparation of civil society Index. The methodology of the project was developed by CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

Since the very beginning, MCIC has successfully cooperated with the National Advisory Group (NAG). We thank all of the NAG members who contributed their time, knowledge and energy in the creation of CSI: Abdurauf Prusi, Violeta Eftimova, Vladimir Milčin, Dojčin Cvetanovski, Dragi Zmijanac, Gjuner Ismail, Zvonko Šavrevski, Zoran Kostov, Zoran Stojkovski, Igor Taseski, Savka Todorovska, Samet Skenderi, Slagjana Taseva, Shpend Ymeri, Gordana Duvnjak, Liljana Popovska, Nataša Gaber-Damjanovska, Nafi Saraçini, Ratko Lazarevski and Sonja Stefanovska-Trajanoska.

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Of course, the project could not be realised without the support and help of all MCIC employees and we thank them. Special thanks to Aleksandar Kržalovski, Adis Rahić, Danilo Mitov and Krenar Kuka.

The participants in the on-job training of MCIC also helped us in part of the research.

The Community Sample was implemented by our long term partner Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research (ISPJR) and generated data on the opinion and activities of citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

Also we would like to express our gratitude to Zoran Jačev, Slagjana Dimiškova, Slavko Lazovski.

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National Index Team

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADKOM	Association of Communal Service Providers in the Republic of Macedonia
COLPI	Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSI	Civil Society Index
CSIC	Civil Society Information Center
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DEM	The Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia
ESA	Enterprise Support Agency
EU	European Union
FMRP	Fund for Arterial and Regional Roads
FOSIM	Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCHR	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia
IPPLG	Inter-party Parliamentary Lobby Group
ISC	Institute for Sustainable Communities
JSN	Strengthening Strategic Civic Organisations (MCIC Program)
LSGU	Local Self-Government Units
MCIC	Macedonian Center for International Cooperation
MEDF	Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation
MINOP	Working Group for Cooperation between the Ministry of Interior, Ombudsman and Civic Sector
MRTV	Macedonian Radio Television
MT	Macedonian Telecommunications
MZL	Macedonian Women Lobby
NAG	National Advisory Group
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
NIT	National Index Team
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE)
OPM	Organisation of Consumers of Macedonia
RMCM	Roma International Center in Macedonia
SDC	Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency
SFRY	Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
TKS	Tutunski kombinat Skopje [Tobacco Company Skopje]
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWOM	Union of Women's Organisations in Macedonia
VAT	Value Added Tax

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After 15 years of transition – a country moving towards citizen participation

The Civil Society Index (CSI) is an action research project assessing the state of civil society in countries around the world. The project is being simultaneously implemented in approximately 50 countries and is coordinated by the international civil society network CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. The goals of the project, as formulated by CIVICUS, are to enhance the sustainability of civil society and to promote and strengthen its contribution to positive social change. In Macedonia, the CSI was coordinated by the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC).

The CSI employs 74 indicators, which are grouped in 25 subdimensions. These are then consolidated into four basic dimensions of civil society: structure, environment, values and impact. In Macedonia, these civil society indicators were studied using in-depth primary and secondary research, including: a representative population survey, regional stakeholder surveys and consultations as well as a media review.

A relevant actor throughout history

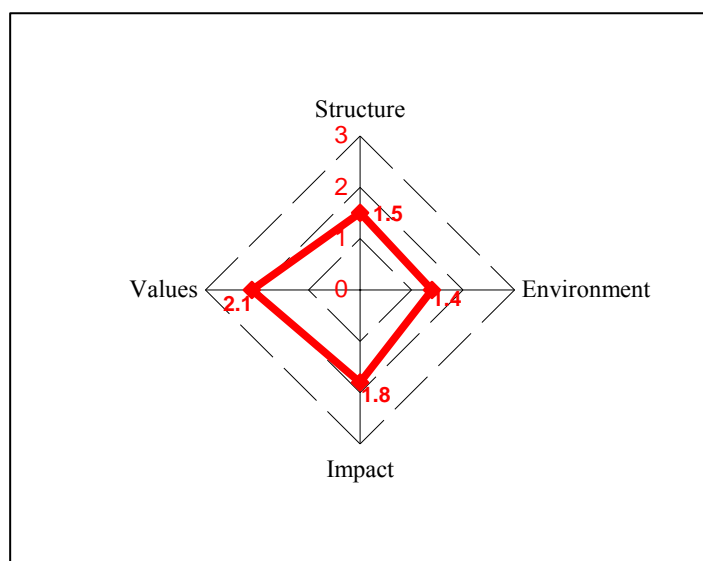
Civil society in Macedonia has played a role in the history of the country, particularly in the period of the national renaissance at the end of 19th century. A number of charity associations were functioning prior to World War II. The socialist modernisation of the country provided the basis for the emergence of many cultural, sport, welfare and professional organisations, though they were kept under the control of the Communist Party during the socialist period (1945-1990). Independence, which took place in 1990, and the ensuing transition were important triggers for civil society's rebirth. Today, there are 5,769 citizen organisations in the country (2.85 per 1000 inhabitants).

Uniqueness of Civil Society in Macedonia

Macedonian civil society is quite unique, in at least two ways, in comparison to civil societies in neighbouring countries. First, its political orientation is substantially more progressive, since the re-emergence of civil society in the early 1990s was sponsored by progressive political forces, which distinguishes it from the regional trend, in which civil society was generally re-born as a more conservative anti-communist group of actors. The second difference is the legal definition of civil society as a "values-driven" sector. Unlike many civil societies in the region, Macedonia is largely content with a strongly normative approach of its legislation on civil society. This has influenced the way the NAG have gone about defining the concept of civil society for this report and then including and excluding certain organisations to put the concept into practice. Because the law withholds registration from organisations espousing racial discrimination, intolerance and violence, it also – crucially - defined the way civil society responded to social conflict, when it reached Macedonia.

Civil Society Diamond for Macedonia – Moderately Developed

FIGURE 1: Civil Society Diamond for Macedonia



The diagram, visualising the state of Macedonian civil society in the form of a diamond, shows that civil society in Macedonia is moderately well-developed. The practice and promotion of positive values are the strength of civil society and thus form the base for its achievements and impact. The environment is disabling to a certain extent, with a partially ineffective state and a deep lack of public trust and public spiritedness. This, in turn, negatively affects the structure of civil society, which can be described as moderate in size and imbalanced in

composition.

The structure of civil society is moderate and not balanced

Civil society's structure is characterized by its limited breadth and very limited depth of citizen participation in civil society. However, there is a relatively well-developed inter-relations and level of networking among a diverse range of civil society participants. The limited extent of citizen participation is clearly a consequence of the lack of social capital and other socio-cultural norms that would be conducive to civil society's structure within Macedonian.

3C's – Communication, coordination, cooperation

Civil society in Macedonia has a very strong focus on communication, coordination and cooperation. It is well organized with a strong support infrastructure and a significant level of networking among associations and within umbrella structures. Examples of cross-sector alliances/coalitions of CSOs, such as the Civic Platform of Macedonia are also emerging. Yet, there is more to be done in the area of cooperation and with regard to the self-regulation of the civil society sector in Macedonia.

Limited citizen participation and urban-rural gap

While there is an increase in non-partisan political action of Macedonians, only a minority of citizens participate in civil society activities. This is likely a consequence of the low levels of public trust in institutions, generally and in civil society specifically. In its social composition, civil society is skewed and the poor, rural communities and ethnic communities, especially ethnic Albanian, are underrepresented. Accordingly, there is a high concentration of CSOs in the capital city and urban areas, with CSOs being almost absent in the rural areas.

Insufficient resources and lack of diversification

CSOs have insufficient financial resources to achieve their goals. A particular problem is the lack of diversification of financial sources and the strong dependence on international or foreign sources. Since the next three years will be marked by a withdrawal of many foreign donors, civil society is likely to face a financial crisis in the years to come.

Civil society has a pool of well-qualified and committed people to draw on. The first two ministers for the environment were from the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia. However, aside from this example there was no major transfer of human resources to government or the private sector from civil society. This is partially due to the fact that civil society remains a more attractive employer than other sectors.

A somewhat disabling environment

Despite the progress in the field of basic rights and freedoms, the political context for civil society in Macedonia is quite unfavourable. The most limiting factors are the lack of rule of law, corruption, inefficiency of the state and the highly centralized nature of the state. Macedonia also experiences a deep lack of public trust among citizens and rather low levels of tolerance and public spiritedness, which are likely to be closely inter-related to the low effectiveness of public institutions.

Ad-hoc or mutually indifferent relations with other actors

Civil society's role in public affairs is not fully recognised by the state, and while there are more examples of state-civil society dialogue, this does not translate into improved cooperation and support by the state. This situation is likely a consequence of the rather ineffective state. With regards to civil society-private sector relations, both sectors are mutually indifferent to each other and there is no dialogue or cooperation.

Values – the main assets of civil society

The main assets to civil society in Macedonia are its strong positive values. The strongest values are non-violence and gender equity, while the weakest is the practice and promotion of transparency.

Transparency and self-regulation, a weak spot

Transparency is lacking in civil society in Macedonia. A small number of organisations provide public access to their financial accounts and even fewer provide audited accounts. Only a few civil society activities exist to promote transparency and fight corruption, with the exception of the work of Transparency International Macedonia. This weakness also appears in civil society's limited impact on the national budgeting process and in holding the state accountable. The internal lack of transparency closely relates to a lack of self-regulatory mechanisms. Although some efforts of self-regulation exist, there is no nationally accepted code of conduct.

Civil society's public role - Women's and disability issues as flagships

Whereas civil society's policy and watchdog roles are not very well developed, its social role is quite significant. Empowering and informing citizens and especially empowering women and marginalised persons, are key areas of achievement. In these areas, civil society has also had some impact on public policies.

Environmental organisations were a flagship in the period from 1996 to 2001, when, due to these organisations' advocacy work, environmental sustainability was successfully mainstreamed by the government. However, after this success the environmental movement became less active and visible and is currently searching for its new role.

Importance of local social and foreign financial capital

How are the results of civil society's values, structure and impact related? The case of gender issues shows that a strong gender value is based on strong constituencies and networks, which, in turn result in the successful empowerment of women and in influencing public policies.

Thus, it seems that civil society's achievements are based on local social and foreign financial capital. Local social capital comprises positive values, significant constituencies, strong human capital and good communication, coordination and cooperation among civil society actors.

At the same time, as the issues of gender, disability and human rights show, receiving adequate attention from foreign donors and as a result receiving substantive foreign financial support is a crucial for civil society's impact.

After 15 years of transition – a country moving towards citizen participation

Civil society in Macedonia is currently nearing the end of its period of stabilisation. Built around strong values, civil society, even if based on limited citizen's support, is rooted within some social groups (women, disability, youth) and performing and playing important roles. Civil society should build on this success and seek to expand citizen's participation in its initiatives. Here, civil society will have to respond to two crucial social concerns – combating poverty (unemployment) and corruption.

Other issues to be addressed are: strengthening trust in public institutions and in civil society actors; rooting civil society in rural areas; strengthening corporate social responsibility; promoting public private partnerships and structured dialogue with the state and private sector; building social capital; developing strategies for resources mobilisation in the light of donors leaving the country.

Becoming a leading force for poverty eradication

Poverty eradication should move from the margins and become a focus for civil society, as well as society at large. Civil society should pay attention and research the cause-and-effect relations of poverty and reveal the social-economic injustices that are the results of poverty. This should be accompanied by moving from a social-humanitarian (charity as a status quo) approach to advocacy for tackling the root causes of the poverty. Special emphasis should be placed on the rural and sub-urban poverty.

Improving openness and transparency as civil society's contribution to fighting corruption

Civil society should further strengthen its openness and transparency. This would be civil society's contribution to fighting corruption and building a base for its policy and watchdog activities, such as influencing the national budgeting process and holding the state and private corporations accountable.

The CSI provided Macedonian civil society with an excellent opportunity for informed debate. The project has introduced and popularized the concept of civil society in Macedonia and has contributed towards the establishment of new networks and joint activities. The CSI also laid the foundations for a common strategy for the development of civil society in Macedonia, in which all stakeholders, civil society actors, government, donors and the public will hopefully play their part.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of the CIVICUS – Civil Society Index for the Republic of Macedonia, implemented in the period of February 2004 to July 2005, as part of the international project Civil Society Index. CSI is coordinated by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and it was implemented in more than 50 countries in the period of 2003-2005.

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) is an action-research project assessing the state of civil society in countries around the world, aiming to provide basic knowledge and contribute to initiatives for strengthening of civil society. CSI is initiated and implemented by and for CSOs. By seeking to combine valid assessment, broad-based reflection and joint action, the CSI attempts to make a contribution to the perennial debate on how research can inform policy and practice.

CSI is an interactive assessment of the needs and a project for planning activities that result from the assessment of the state of affairs of civil society in the countries in the world. The ultimate aims of the CSI are: to enhance the strength and sustainability of civil society; and to strengthen civil society's contribution to positive social change. CSI generates and shares useful and relevant knowledge on the state of civil society and increases the capacity and commitment of civil society stakeholders to strengthen civil society.

The research is conducted via an assessment of the structure of civil society, environment in which it is active, values that it promotes and practices, as well as the impact that it has.

The CSI is implemented in every country by a National Coordinating Organisation (NCO), in cooperation with a National Advisory Group (NAG) and the CSI project team in CIVICUS. NCO for the Republic of Macedonia is the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, which is responsible for managing and coordination of the CSI implementation in Macedonia. The National Index Team made of experts and researchers, collected and summarised the data and information on civil society from various primary and secondary sources. These data were used by NAG to score 74 indicators, which give the complete assessment of civil society's state of affairs.

The research findings were discussed and confirmed at a national conference, which included various members of civil society from all sectors. The participants of this conference identified the strengths and weaknesses of civil society and gave their recommendations on how to strengthen civil society in Macedonia. The international project team of CIVICUS provided training, technical aid and quality control of NCO during the CSI implementation.

STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLICATION

The first section, entitled “*Civil Society Index: Background and Methodology*”, provides general information on the CSI, as well as on its conceptual framework and research methodology.

The second section, entitled “*Civil Society in the Republic of Macedonia*”, provides an introduction to civil society in Macedonia, as well as some of its specifics. This section also explains the concept of civil society in Macedonia and the definition that was used in the implementation of CSI. It describes the mapping exercise of social forces and civil society conducted within CSI and its results.

The third section, entitled “*Civil Society Analysis*”, is divided in four parts: structure, environment, values and impact, which correspond to the main dimensions of CSI. It presents the CSI results for all individual dimensions and subdimensions by providing information on each indicator. This section also presents the results of the individual reports on corporate social responsibility and the presentation of CSOs in the media, which are provided in the annexes.

The fourth section, “*Strengths and Weaknesses of Macedonian Civil Society*”, provides the ideas and comments on strengths and weaknesses of the Macedonian civil society of the participants of the national conference that took place on 7 July 2005 in Skopje. It was attended by 91 representatives of the CSOs, business sector, government, media and academic institutions from Macedonia and abroad. Also it gives the recommendations of the participants of the national conference and other events that were organised within CSI. The recommendations give specific proposals for activities that would strengthen civil society and its role in the Republic of Macedonia.

The fifth section, “*Conclusions*”, maps the Civil Society Diamond for Macedonia and offers an interpretation of the report’s implications for the overall state of Macedonian civil society.

I. CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX AND ITS APPROACH

I.1. Project Background

The idea of a Civil Society Index (CSI) originated in 1997, when the international non-governmental organisation CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation published the New Civic Atlas containing profiles of civil society in 60 countries around the world (CIVICUS 1997). To improve the comparability and quality of the information contained in the New Civic Atlas, CIVICUS decided to embark on the development of a comprehensive assessment tool for civil society, civil society Index (Heinrich/ Naidoo 2001; Holloway 2001). In 1999, Helmut Anheier, the director of the Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics at the time, played a significant role in the creation of the CSI (Anheier 2004). The CSI concept was tested in 14 countries during a pilot phase lasting from 2000 to 2002. Upon completion of the pilot phase, the project approach was thoroughly evaluated and refined. In its current implementation phase (2003-2005), CIVICUS and its country partners are implementing the project in more than fifty countries (see table I.1.1).

Table I.1.1. Countries participating in the CSI implementation phase 2003-2005¹

1. Argentina	19. Germany	38. Palestine
2. Armenia	20. Ghana	39. Poland
3. Azerbaijan	21. Greece	40. Romania
4. Bolivia	22. Guatemala	41. Russia
5. Bulgaria	23. Honduras	42. Scotland
6. Burkina Faso	24. Hong Kong (VR China)	43. Serbia
7. Chile*	25. Indonesia	44. Sierra Leone
8. China	26. Italy	45. Slovenia
9. Costa Rica	27. Jamaica	46. South Korea
10. Croatia	28. Lebanon	47. Taiwan
11. Cyprus ²	29. Macedonia	48. Togo
12. Czech Republic	30. Mauritius	49. Turkey
13. East Timor	31. Mongolia	50. Uganda
14. Ecuador	32. Montenegro	51. Ukraine
15. Egypt	33. Nepal	52. Uruguay
16. Fiji	34. Netherlands	53. Vietnam
17. Gambia	35. Nigeria	54. Wales
18. Georgia	36. Northern Ireland	
	37. Orissa (India)	

In Macedonia, the project was implemented from February 2004 to July 2005 by the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation.

In December 2003, MCIC applied to implement CSI for Macedonia and was approved by CIVICUS. In February 2004, the persons in charge at MCIC, Emina Nuredinoska and Daniela Stojanova participated at the workshop for introduction to the CSI implementation methodology, organised by CIVICUS in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was the start of the activities for implementation of CSI in Macedonia.

¹ This list encompasses independent countries as well as other territories in which the CSI has been conducted as of July 2006.

² The CSI assessment was carried out in parallel in the northern and southern parts of Cyprus due to the de facto division of the island. However, the CSI findings were published in a single report as a symbolic gesture for a unified Cyprus.

I.2. Project Methodology and Approach

The CSI uses a comprehensive project implementation approach and broad range of research methods. At the core of the CSI lies a broad and encompassing definition of civil society, which informs the overall project implementation process. To assess the state of civil society in a given country, the CSI examines four key dimensions of civil society, namely its structure, external environment, values and impact on society at large. Each of these four dimensions is composed of a set of subdimensions, which again are made up of a set of individual indicators. These indicators form the basis for the CSI data collection, which includes secondary sources, a population survey “Community Sample”, Regional Stakeholder Consultations, a Media Review and a series of case studies. The indicators also inform the assessment exercise undertaken by a National Advisory Group (NAG) in order to get Macedonian civil society diamond. The research and assessment findings are discussed at a gathering of key stakeholders (national conference), whose task was to identify specific strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations on key priority actions to strengthen civil society. The CSI project approach, conceptual framework and research and assessment methodology are described in detail in the remainder of this section.

I.2.1. Conceptual Framework

How to define civil society?

At the heart of the CSI’s conceptual framework is obviously the concept of civil society. CIVICUS defines civil society as the space between the family, state and the market, where people come together to pursue their interests (CIVICUS 2003). In this respect and different from most other civil society concepts, the CSI has two interesting features. Firstly, it aims to go beyond the usual focus on formal and institutionalised CSOs and to take account of informal coalitions and groups.

Second, while civil society is sometimes perceived as a sphere in which positive activities and values reign, CIVICUS seeks to also include negative manifestations of civil society in the assessment. The concept therefore covers not only charitable associations or environmental organisations but also groups such as skinheads and aggressive sports fans. The CSI assesses not only the extent to which CSOs support democracy and tolerance, but also the extent to which they themselves are intolerant or even violent.

Since the CSI is not an academic project, terms such as “civil society”, or “social capital“, which are sociological and political science concepts, are used here without a comprehensive theoretical interpretation. However, for the purposes of this project, there is a thorough discussion of the key term “civil society” in section II.

How to conceptualise the state of civil society?

To assess the state of civil society, the CSI examines civil society along four main dimensions:

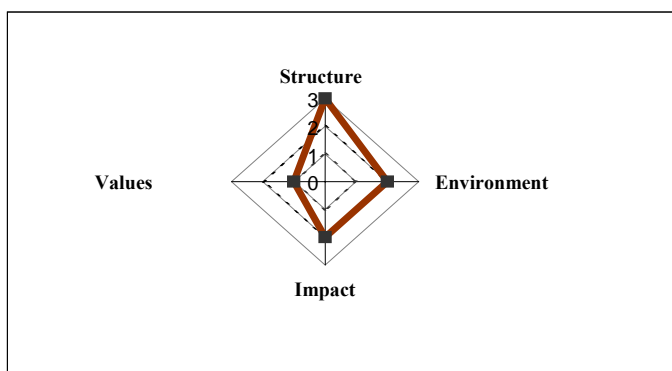
- The *structure* of civil society (e.g. number of members, extent of giving and volunteering, number and features of umbrella organisations and civil society infrastructure, human and financial resources);
- The external *environment* in which civil society exists and functions (e.g. legislative, political, cultural and economic context, relationship between civil society and the state as well as the private sector);
- The *values* practiced and promoted within civil society arena (e.g. democracy, tolerance or protection of the environment) and

- The *impact* of activities pursued by civil society actors (e.g. public policy impact, empowerment of people, meeting societal needs).

Each of these main dimensions is divided into a set of subdimensions which contain a total of 74 indicators.³ These indicators are at the heart of the CSI and form the basis of the data presented in this report. The indicator – subdimension – dimension framework underpinned the entire process of data collection, the writing of the research report, the NAG’s assessment of Macedonian civil society and the presentations at the National Conference. It is also used to structure the main part of this publication.

Figure I.1.1. Civil Society Diamond

To visually present the scores of the four main dimensions, the CSI makes use of civil society *Diamond* tool (see figure I.1.1 for an example).⁴ Civil society diamond figure, with its four extremities, visually summarises the strengths and weaknesses of civil society. The diagram is the result of the individual indicator scores aggregated into subdimension and then dimension scores. As it captures the essence of the state of civil society across its key dimensions, civil society Diamond can provide a useful starting point for interpretations and discussions about how civil society looks like in a given country. It also can be used to chart the development of civil society over time as well as compare the state of civil societies across countries (Anheier 2004).



I.2.2 Project Methodology

This section described the methods used to collect and aggregate the various data used by the CSI project.

I.2.2.1 Data Collection

The CSI recognized that, in order to generate a valid and comprehensive assessment of civil society, a variety of perspectives need to be included – insider, external stakeholder and outsider views, ranging from the local, regional to the national level. The CSI therefore includes the following set of research methods: (1) Review of existing information, (2) Regional Stakeholder Consultations, (3) Community Sample, (4) Media Review and (5) Fact-finding studies.

It is believed that this mix of different methods is essential to generate accurate and useful data and information, but also to accommodate the variations of civil society, for example in rural vs. urban areas etc. Also, the CSI seeks to utilize all available sources of information to avoid ‘re-inventing research wheels’ and wasting scarce resources. Lastly, the research methodology is explicitly designed to promote learning and, ultimately, action on the part of participants. Besides feeding into the final national-level seminar, data collection processes also aim to contribute to participant learning. This is done, for example, through group-based approaches that challenge participants to see themselves as part of a “bigger picture”, think beyond their own organisational or sectoral context, reflect strategically about relations within

³ See Annex 9.

⁴ Civil society Diamond was developed for CIVICUS by Helmut Anheier (Anheier 2004).

and between civil society and other parts of society, identify key strengths and weaknesses of their civil society and assess collective needs.

In Macedonia it was possible to use the complete set of proposed data collection methods for the CSI study, which were used to create a comprehensive database on civil society issues. Below is a list of the specific methods used during research.

1. *Secondary sources*: The project team started with an overview of the information given in the existing studies and research projects on civil society and other related issues and summarised them in a clear report on civil society situation in the Republic of Macedonia.

2. *Questionnaire for the Regional Stakeholder Consultations*: Representatives of the civic organisations, business sector and other social actors were included in the regional stakeholder consultations in six selected regions. There was a total of 93 questionnaire filled in from the 110 that were sent. This report has this research as regional stakeholder consultations.

3. *Regional Stakeholder Consultations*: The same people of the same six regions that were invited to respond to the questionnaire were invited to participate at the one-day consultations, that is, discussions on the results of the questionnaire and other topics from the area of civil society. A total of 90 participated in the consultations and 118 responded to the questionnaire.

4. *Society Mapping Exercise*: The members of the National Advisory Group created the map of the social forces in Macedonia at their first meeting via an analysis of the social forces by using the key actors of the society (resented with circles of various size and colour)⁵. It shows the influence and relations between different actors of the society.

5. *Representative Population Survey*: A sample of 700 adult citizens of the Republic of Macedonia was involved in the public opinion research on civil society in 17 different communities. The questions related to their membership in CSOs, level of donations and volunteering, their opinion on the role of CSOs, etc. This research is entitled Community Sample in this report.

6. *Media Review*: Six printed media were followed in the period of six month on how and to what extent they cover civil society actors, as well as topics and values related to civil society.

7. *Case studies*: In order to provide a clearer picture on some of the indicators or subdimensions, part of the National Research Team used specific examples from organisations or activities of civil society.

8. *Interviews*: Several interviews were also made within the research, where data from other sources were missing.

I.2.2.2. Data Aggregation

The various data sources are collated and synthesized by the CSI project team in a draft country report, which is structured along the CSI indicators, subdimension and dimensions. This report presents the basis for the indicator scoring exercise carried out by the NAG. In this exercise, each score is rated on a scale of 0 to 3, with 0 being the lowest assessment possible

⁵ See Figure II.3.1.

and 3 the most positive. The scoring of each indicator is based on a short description of the indicator and a mostly qualitatively defined scale of scores from 0 to 3⁶. This NAG scoring exercise is modelled along a “citizen jury” approach (Jefferson Centre 2002), in which citizens come together to deliberate and make decision on a public issue, based on presented facts. The NAG’s role is to give a score (similar to passing a judgement) on each indicator based on the evidence (or data) presented by the National Index Team in form of the draft country report.

In Macedonia, the process of assessing the indicators was the following: the draft report was sent to NAG members six weeks before the second meeting. Within three weeks the members provided written comments and scored the indicators. Then, the second meeting of the NAG was called. Every indicator was reviewed at the one-day long meeting and the indicators that had controversial scores were discussed and reassessed. The scores of the NAG members were added up and the average score was calculated for each indicator individually. After all indicators of a sub-dimension were scored, again, the average was calculated to establish the dimension score. The most difficult to assess were the indicators where there was a qualitative description of the value of the score, as well as the indicators of the values and impact. The final scores of the four dimensions (structure, environment, values and impact) were the basis for the preparation of civil society Diamond for the Republic of Macedonia.

The participants of the National Workshop had the possibility to give their opinion on the scores during the discussions after the presentation of the dimensions or in the working groups. Unfortunately, the duration (one day) did not allow for an assessment of the indicators by the participants.

I.2.3. Linking Research with Action

The Civil Society Index is not a strictly academic research project. As its declared objective is to involve the actors of civil society in the research process, to contribute to discussions about civil society and to eventually assist in strengthening civil society, it falls into the category of action-research initiatives.

In the case of the Republic of Macedonia, the involvement of various actors in the CSI process took place at several levels.

First, from the very beginning, diverse representatives of all sectors of the society were invited and included in the National Advisory Group.⁷ This group is made of 15 experienced members of national and local CSOs from various sectors of activity, as well as 5 representatives of the state, business sector, media, academic institutions and international organisations. At its first meeting, the NAG had the chance to revise the definition of civil society, which was then used for the purpose of this project and gave its contribution to the planned methodology. During the project, the NAG played an advisory role and contributed to a high-quality assessment of the situation of civil society in Macedonia.

Another interactive element of the CSI was the six one-day regional stakeholder consultations with 59 representatives of the local CSOs, media, enterprises and local self-government. These regional stakeholder consultations took place in Prilep, Kumanovo, Veles, Štip, Gostivar and Skopje in order to collect information on civil society at the local and regional level and discuss the definition of weaknesses and strengths of civil society. The participants

⁶ See Annex 9

⁷ See Annex 2 on more detailed information on the NAG composition.

were encouraged to provide their opinion on the situation of civil society and its participants and after the weaknesses and strengths were identified, propose activities for overcoming the weaknesses.

Although CIVICUS proposes that an expert be involved in the preparation of the report, MCIC, as the NCO, decided to include its members in the preparation of each dimension and to work with external experts. It also included a junior advisor, who was responsible for coordination and conducting research, as well as an international advisor, who contributed to the context and presentation of the information from the report.

The last and maybe the most important element was the one-day National Workshop that took place at the end of the project with two objectives. First, to include the participants in a critical discussion that would give a reflection on the CSI results to achieve better understanding of the current situation with civil society in Macedonia. This was also a precondition for achieving the second objective, that the participants use the findings as the basis to identify the main strengths and weaknesses of civil society.

At the National Workshop, the CSI methodology was presented, along with civil society analysis and the diamond. The participants had the opportunity to discuss in plenary sessions after each presentation, as well as in four smaller groups. In the working groups, the participants identified the weaknesses and strengths with respect to structure, environment, values and impact of civil society and gave their recommendations for future activities.

In general, during the project, all efforts were made for CSI to be as inclusive and as consultative as possible.

I.2.4 Project Products

Several products resulted from the CSI implementation in the Republic of Macedonia:

- Comprehensive report on the situation of civil society in the country;
- List of conclusions and recommendations developed and accepted by a broad spectre of persons in all sectors of society;
- Research report on the citizen opinion on civil society;
- Research report on the presence of civil society in the media
- Report on civil society in the media;
- Report on social responsibility of the ten most profitable companies in Macedonia and
- Consultations, conference, meetings with more than 160 social actors where the situation of civil society in the country was discussed.

II. CIVIL SOCIETY IN MACEDONIA

1. FEATURES (DEVELOPMENT) OF THE MACEDONIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

Table II.1.1. Profile of the Republic of Macedonia

Country area: 25,333 sq km
Population: 2,022,547
Population density: 79/km ²
Population below the age of 14: 21.8%
Urban population: 59.8 % (1994)
State system: Parliamentary democracy
Level of democracy according to Freedom House: Free
Participation of women in the national parliament: 19.13%
Language: Macedonian
Ethnic affiliation: Macedonians 64.2%, Albanians 25.2%, Turks 3.9%, Roma 2.7%, Serbs 1.8%, Bosniaks 0.9%, Vlachs 0.5 %
Religion: Orthodox 64.78%, Muslim 33.33%, Catholic 0.35%, Protestant 0.03%, Atheists 0.17%, Others 1.34%
Unemployment rate: 36.7%
Human development level (index and place): 0.793 (60)
GDP/citizen: 2,243\$ (6,850 PPP in \$)

In Macedonia, civil society has played a significant role in the history of the country. The country's independence in 1990 and the ensuing transition were not the beginning of civil society, but rather an important trigger for its further development and the significant increase of its role.

The history of Macedonia has had an important impact on the development of Macedonian

civil society. Macedonia has been an independent state since 1991. Macedonia has a long history of political, social and cultural subordination to “foreign” interests and states. This heritage created a situation where the public rejects power, especially foreign, but also one of economic, social and cultural underdevelopment. Consequently, before World War II, it was a regressive semi-colonial rural state (more than 70% rural population), with a high illiteracy rate (67.5%, 1931)⁸. After World War II, the establishment of the state of Macedonia, within the federal and socialist Yugoslavia, resulted in important economic, social and cultural development. The dominant role of the Yugoslavian state decreased the space for civil society. In turn, the transition from a federal unit to independence, from a planned economy to a market one and from a single party system to a pluralistic democracy was challenging.

Civil society in Macedonia had a significance impact in the period of the national renaissance at the end of 19th century and the beginning of 20th century. The literary and cultural circles were important forms of civil society. The Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (VMRO) was the key organisation of the independence movement at the turn of the century. Also, a number of charity associations were functioning before World War II.

The modernisation after World War II provided the impetus for the emergence of many cultural and sport organisations and later professional organisations. Still, the control of the Communist Party via the Socialist Association of the Working People was quite strong throughout the entire period of socialism (1945-1990), as the latter directly or indirectly covered all civic organisations. In this period, the role of the churches and religious organisations was suppressed, which resulted in an almost complete absence of faith based organisations.⁹

⁸ According to Mitrovic; and Tomsic & op. cit., Table 9, p. 238.

⁹ More information on the Macedonian civil society history can be found at “Civic Practices”, issued on the occasions of 100 years of Macedonian statehood (MCIC, 2003; UNDP, 1999).

Table II.1.2. Number of civic organisations in Macedonia (UNDP, 1999; MCIC, 2003)

Year	Total	Sports (%)	Culture (%)	Professional (%)	DPZ ¹⁰ (%)	Other (%)
1954	1004	27.6	10.3	3.7	55.6	2.2
1962	1138	28.1	11.4	7.3	41.0	12.3
1971	1535	30.9	8.4	6.6	45.3	8.8
1980	3077	39.9	9.1	9.2	23.7	17.8
1990	4203	41.3	11.1	11.8	14.6	21.1
1998	6526	43.6	13.1	10.4	5.9	26.8
2001	3433					
2003	5769	35.4	10.4	6.7	1.6	45.9

Macedonia is the only former-Yugoslav Republic to gain independence without a war.

A new wave of civic organisations began with the transition: the environmental organisations occurred in the end of the 80s, the social-humanitarian organisations at the beginning of the 90's (as a response to the economic crisis and refugees crises from former Yugoslavia) and the human rights organisations in the mid-90's.

In the period of 1990-1998, there were 3,295 newly registered civic organisations (UNDP, 1999). This resulted in one half of the organisations being from the socialist period and one half being new. The "old" organisations retained their relatively massive membership and their own property. The "new" organisations were relatively smaller and more active in advocacy. In certain sub-sectors (types) there were tensions between the old and the new organisations.

The existence of the civic organisations has often been related to the transition, which can explain the significant increase of the number of organisations after 1990.

There was a significant restructuring with the adoption of the new Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations of 1998. All organisations had to reregister from the Ministry of Interior at the courts in charge within six months. The non-active organisations did not reregister and it led to a decrease of the number of organisations in 1999. The number of organisations in 2004 still did not reach the 1998 number. Despite the total number, there was also a significant decrease of the "old" organisations, such as the sports, cultural and professional and DPZ from about 73% in 1998 to about 54% in 2004.

At the beginning of the 1990s, foreign donors entered Macedonia (Soros Foundation being the first one in 1992). The foreign donors brought their own themes (and resources for them) and in a certain way it influenced the issues that are targeted by civil society.

As elsewhere in the Balkans, war has been a defining feature of Macedonian civil society. The civil sector in Macedonia is strongly based on a commitment to peace. This is influenced by long history of wars in Macedonia (such as the Balkan Wars 1912/13 and the First and Second World War) and the fact that war was the largest threat for Macedonia in the 1990's

¹⁰ Volunteer Fire Brigade.

with raging conflicts in neighbouring Croatia (1992-1995), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995) and Kosovo (1999). This commitment is all the more important as even the civil sector was ethnically based (i.e. many of the CSOs follow ethnic divisions). However, relations between CSOs on inter-ethnic basis did exist. This formed the basis for first cases of ethnically-mixed organisations to emerge and existing ones to be moving into similar direction.

Civil society in Macedonia faced one of the biggest humanitarian crises in 1999 – the Kosovo crisis. Civil society had an adequate social-humanitarian and peace response to the crisis. The crisis attracted a considerable number of large international humanitarian agencies and significant resources, which influenced the social-humanitarian character of the agenda of civil society for several years.

A significant debate on civil society was caused by the 2001 armed conflict and a follow-up debate took place in 2002. In the country's hour of need, in 2001, civil society displayed a maturity that the government could not find within itself, since it insisted on a peaceful and non-violent resolution of the conflict. In the following year the government, cornered on its own approach in the conflict and for corrupt behaviour, reacted with a fierce attack on civil society which it referred to as the "fifth column" of foreign interests, the same interests that Macedonia wants to integrate in through NATO and the EU.

European integration is an important challenge for Macedonia. The values which define the sector have now become main stream with Macedonia's candidacy for membership in the EU. In December 2005, Macedonia became a candidate for EU membership. European integration will be a powerful moving force for the further development of civil society. The civic organisations will actually be the carriers of the new values, such as participatory democracy, inclusion, equality, transparency and accountability. This will undoubtedly lead to a clash with the still remaining issues of authoritative governance, exclusion, corruption. Civil society will also play an important role in mediating the union of traditional, multi-cultural (and multi-ethnic) Balkan society with the post-modern Europe.

European integration, will at same time change of the priorities of the foreign donors to other countries, and areas, is a challenge for the Macedonian civil society and its further rooting in at home (process of building indigenous civil society).

2. CONCEPT OF MACEDONIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

There is no common understanding of the concept (definition) of civil society in the Macedonian public or among experts. There are several reasons for this.

At the beginning of the transition, the reformed communists (who were in power in Macedonia until 1998), introduced the term civil society as a counterbalance to the ethno-national. Ethno-national elites, basically anti-communists, saw civil society as a threat – a new proletarian internationalism and betrayal of the national interests (UNDP, 1999). This understanding was surpassed in the beginning of year 2000, when the right forces also joined civil society.

The next confusion also occurred at the beginning of the transition. Several thousand organisations from the previous period entered the transition as citizen associations and social organisations. To legitimize themselves before foreign donors, many organisations began to

define themselves as “non-governmental organisations” (NGOs), or less frequently, as “non-profit organisations”. The public recognized a small number of organisations related with foreign donors under the term “non-governmental organisation”. The first criticism of the limited concept of “NGO” came from Ilo Trajkovski (UNDP, 1999), who introduced the term “CSOs” and “civil associations and organisations” as broader and more comprehensive definitions.

The legal definition of civil society is as the “value-driven” sector. The Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations of 1998 introduced its own definition: association, based on values and interests, which are positive, non-partisan, not-for-profit and not for business activities. The legal definition has at least three issues with a significant influence in the understanding of the concept of civil society in the Macedonian public and among experts.

The first issue, which resulted from the positive values, is that the organisations that call for racial, religious and national hatred and intolerance and violence are forbidden. The Constitutional Court is in charge of this issue. Although there were accusations of certain organisations, no organisation has been banned so far. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no organisation on the “dark” side of civil society registered in Macedonia.

The second issue is that the civic sector is different than political parties (non-partisan).

The third issue is that this law does not define trade unions, chambers of commerce, churches or religious communities, the Red Cross or political parties, for which there are separate laws.

Changed understanding of civil society was reflected on the directories of organisations issued by MCIC:¹¹

- the first 4 editions (1994-1997) include the NGOs according to the above stated understanding (organisations helping others, related to foreign donors);
- the 5th edition of 1998 is still an Directory of NGOs, but it also includes the professional (sector) organisations;
- the 6th edition of 2001 abandons the concept of NGOs and uses the concept of civic organisations. This concept also includes the sport and leisure organisations and approximates the concept of the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations.

This broader concept of civic organisations does not include all actors of civil society listed above. Civic organisations do not recognize the trade unions as civil society and vice versa. Trade unions do not see civic organisations as actors involved in economic and social dialogue. The Law on Labour Relations of 2005 determines the trade unions and associations of employers as participants in the economic and social council. In the last two years the first bridges of cooperation have begun. The most visible example of cooperation is the women section of the Association of Trade Unions of Macedonia with the civic organisations on issues of common interest, such as rights of women workers and slave labour.

The way that civil society has emerged in Macedonia and how this has influenced the way citizens now conceive their civic “space” is quite unique. Also Macedonia’s approach to the development of civil society is also unique in the broader SEE-CEE region in at least two ways.

¹¹ MCIC publish Directory of civic organisations since 1994. Seven (updated) editions were published in the period 1994 – 2003.

The first is political orientation. The re-emergence of civil society in the early 1990s was sponsored by political forces of the left, as a means of keeping ethno-nationalist elites in check. This is distinct from the regional trend, in which civil society was generally re-born (after the communist interlude) from the neo-liberal “New Right”. The implications of this exception are not fully drawn out in the report but they are apparent in the parallel and comparatively harmonious evolution of “new” and “old” forms of civil society – at least until 2000. Elsewhere in the region little attention was paid to the reform of the “old” forms– the so-called mass organisations.

The second is the legal definition of civil society as a “values-driven” sector. Unlike many civil societies in the region, Macedonia is largely content with the strongly normative approach of its legislation. This has influenced the way the NAG have gone about defining the concept of civil society for the report and then categorising the organisations that put the concept into practice. Because the law withholds registration from organisations espousing racial discrimination, intolerance and violence, it also – crucially - defined the way civil society responded to conflict, when it reached Macedonia.

The Concept of Civil Society Used in This Report

The non-existence of the usual understanding of civil society in the Macedonian public and among experts resulted in a longer discussion of the NAG. The NAG met twice in order to achieve an agreement about the concept of civil society that will be used in this report.

The concept agreed upon is *“all formal and informal citizen associations, organisations and networks that fill in the social space outside of the family, business sector, political parties and government sector, which associate to advance common goals and interests”*.

This concept deviates from the one proposed by CIVICUS in several parts:

- the term “arena” has been replaced with social space. In its Latin meaning, ‘arena’ is a place of fight (of gladiators);
- the term “market” has been replaced with business sector;
- the term “state” has been replaced with government sector. For most of the people, the term state is a broader term than understanding of state bodies, that is, government sector;
- political parties have been excluded from civil society. There is a common understanding among both the NAG and the public, that civil society does not include political parties. Also the legislation is defining the “non-partisan” character of citizen’s organisations, i.e. they are not allowed to participate or influence any public elections. That is the key argument, how political parties and civil society are fulfilling (political) values and interests – via participation (political parties) or non-participation (civic organisations) in general (or public) elections.

The concept defined in this way is broader than the traditional concept of Macedonian civil society and narrower than the concept proposed by CIVICUS. The research team found it difficult to stick with the broader concept than the traditional one. The research mostly focuses on civic organisations, primarily the “positive ones”. The informal groups, “negative” organisations, trade unions, chambers of commerce and churches and religious organisations were focused on only in some parts of the report.

CIVICUS has prepared a proposal of 20 categories of organisations to operationalise the definition of civil society. The task of the NAG was to adapt this proposal to the Macedonian context. The NAG defined 24 categories of CSOs making significant deviations in a small number of categories.

The first change is the replacement of “representative and service organisations” with other categories. According to the NAG, representation and services is a methodology of work. In the Macedonian context, the division to categories according to target groups and sub-sectors is more acceptable. The category of representative organisations is mostly replaced by “democracy, human rights and rule of law”. The service organisations are replaced with “health and health care”, “education and science” and “social care (humanitarian)”, as well as a number of categories based on target groups.

The second change is the replacement of “organisations active in education, training and research” by “civil society development” and the previously mentioned “education and science”. However, neither covers non-profit schools (they do not exist at the moment) and public educational institutions (government sector).

The third change is splitting the category “associations of socially and economically marginalised groups” with “elderly” and “persons with special needs”. Elderly also covers the associations of pensioners who basically also have solidarity funeral funds.

Other small changes are outlined in Annex 8. Below is the list of 24 categories of organisations in Macedonia.

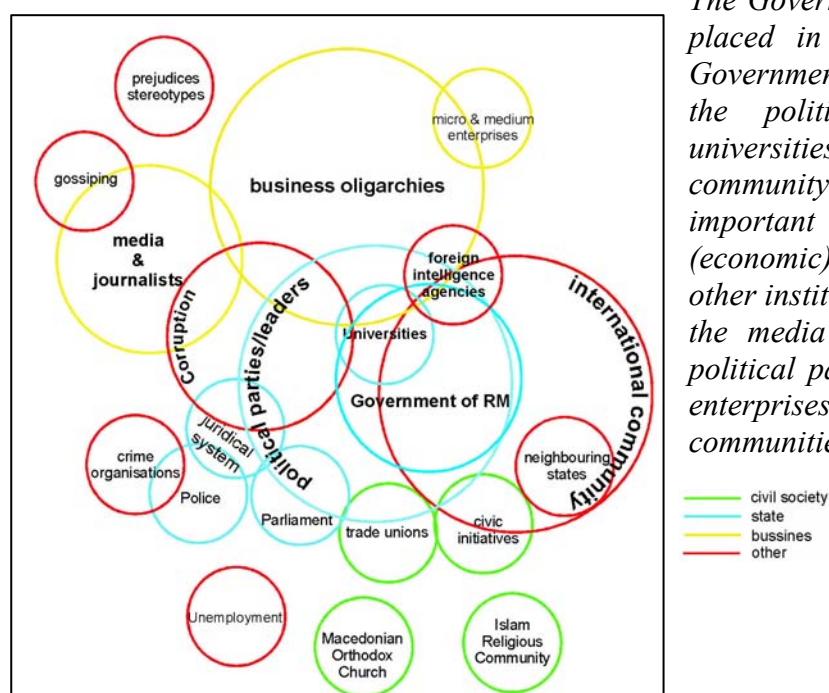
3. MAPPING MACEDONIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

Table II.2.1. Categories of civic organisations in Macedonia (NAG, 2004)

1. Democracy, human rights and rule of law	13. Education and science
2. Children, youth and students	14. Elderly
3. Ethnic communities	15. Religious communities
4. Women and gender issues	16. Financial services
5. Environment and nature	17. Civil society development
6. Health and health care	18. Patriotic
7. Information	19. Rural development
8. Culture and arts	20. Trade unions
9. People with disabilities	21. Social care (humanitarian)
10. Donor organisations	22. Sports, hobby and leisure
11. International organisations	23. Professional associations
12. Non-violence and tolerance	24. Others

There have been two maps of the influential actors in the country made for the purposes of researching the social forces and civil society. The mapping was collectively made by the NAG. This mapping intends to visualize the main forces in the society and in civil society and research the relations among these forces. The size of the circle denotes the level of influence while the colour denotes the sector it belongs to.

Figure II.3.1. Map of Social Forces (NAG, 2004)



The Government of Macedonia has been placed in the centre of society. The Government significantly overlaps with the political parties and leaders, universities and the international community. In the political parties, it is important the overlap of the oligarchy (economic), judiciary, parliament and other institutions. There is a link between the media and the oligarchy and the political parties. The small and medium enterprises and the church and religious communities are distant from the centre.

The map of the social forces shows a narrowed political space and civil space where the influences of the political parties that is the oligarchy, universities (first of all, powerful individuals) are fulfilled via the Government (or power). There is also a corrupt relationship between the oligarchy, political parties and media and/or journalists. More institutions, such as the parliament, judiciary, civil society and small and medium enterprises are closer to the margins. This narrow space is corrected by the international community, which has the most significant influence on the Government after the political parties.

Figure II.3.2. Map of Civil Society (NAG, 2004)



The map of civil society consists of forces, without researching the relations among them. In the centre, there are the large organisations that support of civil society and individuals related to them: FOSIM and MCIC. The significant sub-sectors are women and gender equality, people with disabilities and youth. The map also includes the most well known organisations.

The map of civil society speaks a lot in terms of both inclusion and exclusion.

The map shows that the concentration of power in civil society lies with few organisations, such as FOSIM and MCIC, as it does in society as a whole. The mapping then includes categories of organisations that belong to the narrow understanding of

civil society, such as women and gender equality, persons with special needs and children and youth.

At the margins of the map (and only referred to sporadically in the report) are sport organisations, even though they make up a large share of the total number of civic organisations (approx. 35% in 2003). The categories of organisations such as culture, education and professional organisations, which are also numerous, were also not included and there was only sporadic mention of information, financial services, democracy and rule of law.

The international organisations are not included in the map. Unlike the social forces map, where the international community is influential, the civil society map is different. This may be because the cooperation between the local and international organisations is often close and the visibility of the local organisations is bigger. For example, the local organisations for persons with special needs are the visible ones, rather than the international organisations that support them.

The map has very few (trade unions) and does not include the other civil society actors, such as churches and religious communities and chambers of commerce, outside the citizen organisations. This is visual reflection of the dominant understanding of the concept of civil society (see section II.2 and Concept of Civil Society used in this report).

The exercise was of great significance for the NAG, because it visualised the understanding of society and civil society in Macedonia. The NAG members had a quite shared and common understanding of the social forces. The mapping of civil society was more time consuming because of some disagreements among the NAG members.

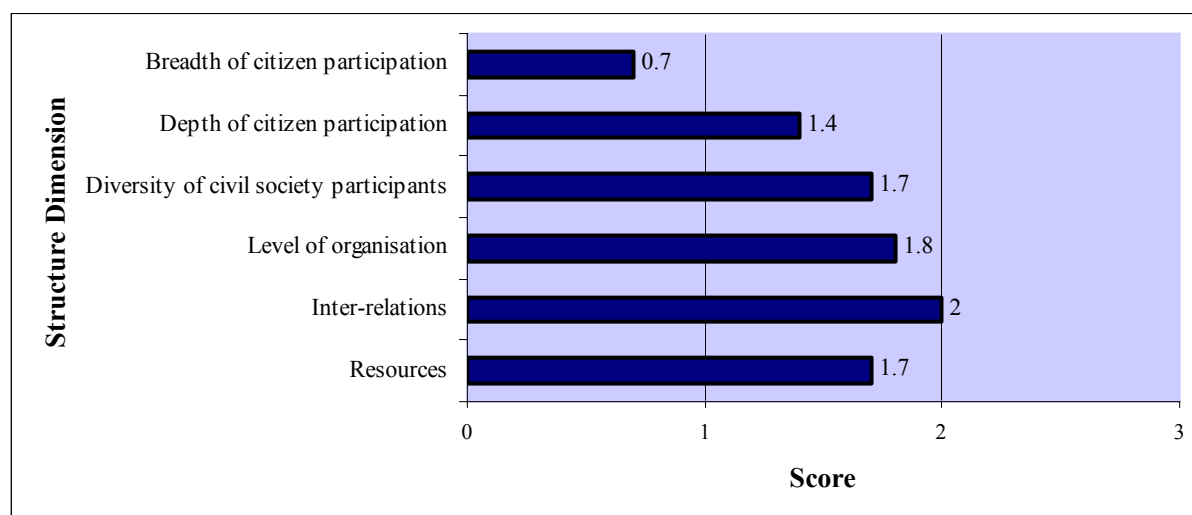
III. ANALYSIS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

This section presents the main information gathered during the Civil Society Index implementation. The analysis is structured along the individual dimensions, subdimensions and indicators. This section is divided along the four dimensions of civil society: **Structure, Environment, Values and Impact**. At the beginning of each subsection, a figure provides the scores for the subdimensions on a scale from 0 to 3. Findings for each subdimension are then examined in detail. A separate box also provides the scores for the individual indicators for each subdimension.

III.1. STRUCTURE

This section describes and analyses the overall size, strength and vibrancy of civil society in human, organisational and economic terms. The score for the Structure Dimension is 1.5, indicating a somewhat strong civil society. The figure below presents the scores for the six subdimensions within the Structure dimensions.

Figure III.1.1. Assessment of the Subdimensions of the Structure



1.1. Breadth of Citizen Participation

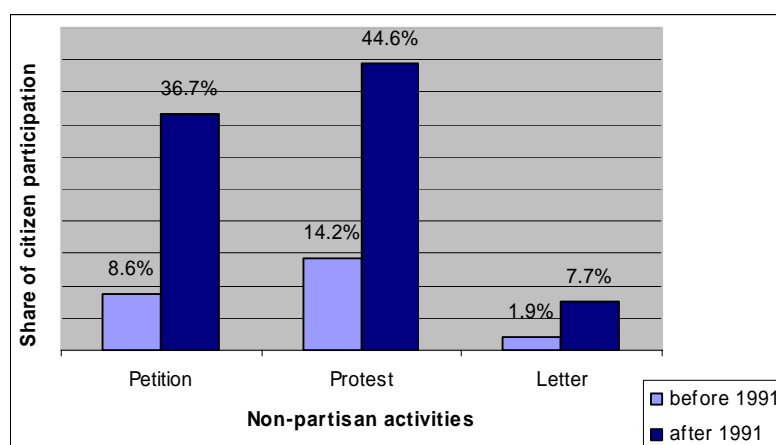
This sub-dimension looks at the extent of various forms of citizen participation in Macedonia in terms of the breadth of membership, donations of time and money, political participation and the extent of local civic activity. Table III.1.1 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.1.1. Indicators that assess the breadth of citizen participation

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>1.1.1</u>	Non-partisan political action	<u>2</u>
<u>1.1.2</u>	Charitable giving	<u>2</u>
<u>1.1.3</u>	CSO membership	<u>1</u>
<u>1.1.4</u>	Volunteering	<u>1</u>
<u>1.1.5</u>	Collective community action	<u>1</u>

1.1.1 Non-Partisan Political Action. The participation of citizens in the public sphere has increased significantly since the pre-1991 period (under the previous system). The community sample shows that, since the independence of the Republic of Macedonia in 1991, 7.6% of the people surveyed have written letters to newspapers (1.9% before 1991), 52% signed petitions (compared to 8.6% before 1991) and 44.6% have participated once or several times in protests/demonstrations (compared to 14.2% before 1991). According to the qualitative assessment of the NAG members, the number of protests has significantly increased in the last 15 years. Most of them concern social demands, such as bankruptcies, questionable privatisations, salary and pension increases and buy-out of agricultural produce. In 2004, there was a Referendum concerning the territorial division of Macedonia, initiated by citizen support. More on the referendum can be found in frame III.1.1.

Figure III.1.2. Citizen participation in non-partisan activities before and after 1991



Frame III.1.1. Referendum on the Law on Territorial Organisation of Macedonia

The Law on Territorial Organisation of Macedonia caused a significant polarization of the country in 2004. The Law envisaged decreasing the number of municipalities from 124 to about 80. The main remarks were the non-participatory process and ignoring of some 40 municipal referendums, usage of ethnic criteria in the establishment of the municipalities and introduction of the bilingualism in the capital Skopje.

The CSOs' World Macedonian Congress asked for a referendum on this law. With the support of the opposition parties, the support of 180,454 citizens was provided exceeding the 150,000 needed. The referendum was announced by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. During the campaign the government and the international community labelled the referendum as being ethnic and against the Ohrid Framework Agreement, while the opposition claimed that it was a democratic right on a key issue of the nation.¹² Despite the fact that the organiser was a CSO, 35 more CSOs openly and publicly supported it. These organisations did not include any big or well-known CSOs. A significant part of them (10 out of 35) can be considered national CSOs, but, others are of different origins, such as professional organisations (5 out of 35 – for example, Association of Historians of Macedonia, Association of Architects of the City of Skopje), organisations of participants or victims of the 2001 conflict (4 out of 35) and diaspora organisations (3 out of 35) and other organisations (8 out of 35), including environmental organisations. The information that the supporters also included 4 organisations of the so-called small minorities, such as Association of Macedonians with Islamic Religion and Association of Balkan Egyptians – Ohrid is interesting. As many as 23 organisations were from Skopje and 5 from the Pelagonija region. Only 2 were from the municipalities directly affected (Struga, Debar) and only 2 from the eastern part of the country.

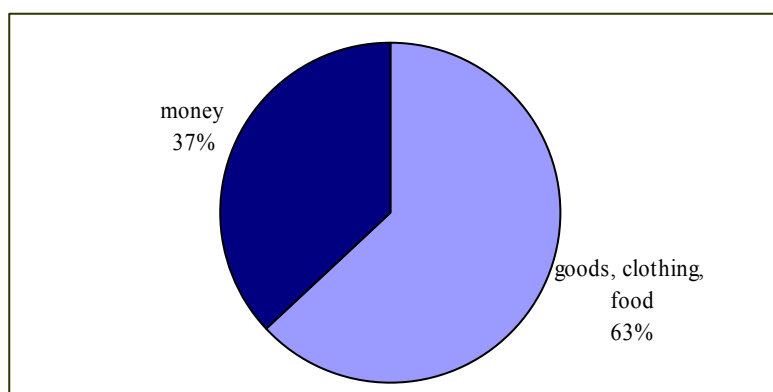
¹² More information on p. 64

WMC organised rallies in several cities to gain support for the referendum. Some thirty CSOs signed a Common Statement on the occasion of the decentralisation process where the referendum is not seen as a solution to the territorial organisation.

The referendum took place on 7 November 2004. The citizen turnout was 26%, 94% of which voted against the new law. The decisions are considered adopted at a national level is the majority of the total number of citizens who voted gave their positive vote, providing more than half of the total number of citizens on the Voters' List turned out. Because of the small turnout, this referendum was unsuccessful.

1.1.2 Charitable Giving. In Macedonia, the majority of the people have a self-perception that they regularly donate in-kind, money, clothes and food. In the community sample, 68.1% of the people surveyed gave an affirmative answer to the question if they had donated money, clothes or food in the course of the last year.

Figure III.1.3. Charitable giving of citizens (MCIC, 2004)



In the Citizen Solidarity Research (MCIC, 1999), three out of four people surveyed (77%) had given something personal.

The NAG considers this self-perception of “regular giving” to be too high and feel it is related to “one time” giving to individuals (e.g. begging on the street or at the door). Funding of CSOs shows that giving by citizens is very low (2% of surveyed CSOs in the frames of regional stakeholder consultations claimed that majority of their budget is originating from individual donations).

There is no infrastructure in the country to support charitable giving of funds via tax or similar alleviations and, in general, there is no encouragement on the side of the state to grant funds on any occasion. There is a general trend of giving in kind and much less in money; and mostly these are ad hoc actions. The most recent example is the action to help the Tsunami victims in South-East Asia, when 200,000 euro was collected from Macedonians.

An exception to this trend is the religious communities, which claim that they function thanks to the voluntary contributions of believers. Because of the relative closeness of the work of the communities, it is impossible to check the amounts and nature of the contributions that they collect and how much of these contributions are intended for humanitarian aims and how much for the functioning and rehabilitation of the religious communities.

For example, with the Muslims there is the institution Zakat which is one of the five pillars of Islam. Zakat is the obligation of each Muslim who has the necessary amount of funds (nisab).

The amount that is given is determined based on the amount that the believer has at his/her disposal. Thus, each Muslim who fulfils these conditions is obliged to grant 2.5% of his income for helping the poor.

The collection of charitable giving is not legally regulated in Macedonia.

Frame III.1.2. Children's Hospital Frame

The action "Friends of Children's Clinic" has been taking place for two years, under the auspices of Mrs. Liljana Popovska, an MP to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, organised by the Clinic for Children's Diseases, Clinical Center of Skopje and UNICEF. The basic goal of the campaign is to improve the conditions for stay, diagnostics and treatment of children.

There were a total of 138 donations in kind or money, with a total value of 700,000 Euro, mainly from local companies, embassies and international institutions, but also from individual donations of Macedonian citizens. Almost two-thirds of the facility has been rehabilitated and the building also has a new façade. The complete campaign has been planned and organised by a small team of volunteers of the children's clinic, but the other personnel has also been included, as well as many actors, artists, media presenters, many citizen associations and students from several schools. All are assisting on a completely volunteer basis.

One of the key issues for the success of the campaign was the media support, in which MRTV, A1 Vrteleška show, Vreme and other media were included, as well as the support of the popular singer Toše Proeski.

The citizens could give their contribution to a separate bank account opened for this purpose or via SMS messages, which was very effective and resulted in mobile phone donations of 13,000 citizens of Macedonia in a total value of 962,400 MKD (up to 11 April 2005).

The campaign organisers stress transparency as one of the most important issues that have contributed to their success. They say that in the beginning they encountered a lot of scepticism and mistrust. But, the practice of acknowledging and thanking for every donation, regardless of the amount, via press conferences or press releases, as well as the visible results, have contributed to improved confidence in time and the donations increased.

The most important message, as the director of the clinic stressed, in the atmosphere of de-motivation, apathy and mistrust that something can be changed, was that Macedonia can do it, because what the Clinic for Children's Diseases have achieved in the last two years is a collective effort of the Macedonian citizens.

1.1.3 CSO Membership. One in four Macedonian citizens is a member of at least one CSO or association, excluding the associations of pensioners that have approximately 200,000 persons. This is shown by the community sample, where 77.1% of the people surveyed stated that they were not members of an organisation, including religious organisations.

The community sample shows that 22.9% of population are members of CSOs, but it did not cover the pensioners' associations. Members of associations of pensioners are approximately 10% of Macedonian population. If taken together the total share of members of CSOs is 33.9%. Therefore, NAG considered that somewhat of a minority, but not a small minority of citizens are members of CSOs.

Similar information is found in the European and World Values Survey (WORC, 1999-2000).

Table III.1.2. CSO membership (WORC, 1999-2000)

Sector	Membership
Poverty, employment, equality and housing	5.5%
Human rights	3.3%
Environment, nature and ecology	4.9%
Peace movements	5.5 %
Total	19.2%

1.1.4 Volunteering. The gap between citizen's self-perception on how much they help their community on a volunteer basis, directly or via organisations and the confirmed (registered) volunteer work is large, 74% of the people surveyed claim that they help as volunteers in their community outside CSOs. But, only 32.1% give a specific answer to the question how much they had helped in the course of the last month (additional 7.6% did not give a specific answer).

The NAG considers this self-perception of volunteering to be too high, keeping in mind that those surveyed could not provide examples of their volunteering or how much they volunteer. Also, it is possible that they considered help to family or neighbours as volunteering.

Table III.1.3. Number of volunteers in CSOs (WORC, 1999-2000)

Sector	Volunteers
Poverty, employment, equality and housing	3.3%
Human rights	2%
Environment, nature and ecology	3.1%
Peace movements	2.8%
Total	11.2%

There is a total of 31,394 volunteers in 858 organisations that submitted complete data for the Directory of the Civic Organisations (MCIC, 2003), which is 37 volunteers per association, a figure that can be used as an additional indicator for citizens' involvement in associations. The structure and distribution of the volunteers per organisation are given in the table below.

Table III.1.4. Number of volunteers in CSOs (MCIC, 2003)

Number of Volunteers		
1 to 10	305	35.55%
11 to 20	189	22.03%
21 to 50	156	18.18%
0	115	13.40%
51 to 100	44	5.13%
101 to 300	36	4.20%
301 to 500	9	1.05%
More than 500	4	0.47%
Total	858	100%

According to the same source, every fourth CSO has an employee and 657 organisations of the 858 registered in the Directory of the Civic Organisations, 76.57%, are completely voluntary organisations. Out of those who have employees, the most dominant are

organisations with 1 to 5 employees (157, or 18.30%). Only 5 organisations in the complete sector have more than 20 employees.

Still, it can be said that the civic sector in the Republic of Macedonia is a sector of volunteers. The largest number of citizens involved in CSOs is volunteers. This is especially true in certain sub-sectors (types) such as women's organisations, children, youth and student organisations or pensioner organisations. There is an impression that the largest number of volunteers is in the two opposite groups – elderly or pensioners and the young, but very few people in Macedonia volunteer on regular basis.

In a significant number of organisations and for many citizens, employment is the biggest motivation to get involved in certain activities of the organisations. This is not surprising if one takes into consideration the unemployment rate in the country, which is 38.1%. The problem with this attitude to volunteering stimulates the more and more widely “accepted approach” among CSOs, that “there are no activities without money”. This was also confirmed with the mid-term assessment of the MCIC program “Applied Education of Young Roma” at 2003 (frame III.3.7.), where one of the findings was specifically related to this issue. Only 1 out of the 15 organisations continued with the program activities in the period when there were no funds for the activities.

1.1.5 Collective Community Action. According to the persons surveyed in the community sample, in approximately half of the communities in the Republic of Macedonia covered by the research, there are collective community actions.

Of the interviewees, 44.3% maintain that they know about meetings of housing councils, meetings of local communities and the like, 28.5% of the interviewees have taken part in those activities. Further on, 47.1% of the interviewees have heard of some charity campaign in their community, such as street cleanings and putting their yards in order and 32.7% have taken part in those activities.

The information submitted by the religious communities can lead to the conclusion that there are certain actions that are organised by the religious communities to help the disabled and the elderly and disabled persons and to a smaller extent, that is, not very frequently, donations of old clothes and food products for the poor.

1.2. Depth of Citizen Participation

This sub-dimension examines the intensity of various forms of citizen participation in Macedonia. It complements previous sub-dimension on breadth of participation. Thus, whereas previous sub-dimension examines how many people are members of CSOs, this sub-dimension examines the intensity of such participation (i.e. how many organisations a person is a member of). Table III.1.5 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.1.5. Indicators that assess the depth of citizen participation

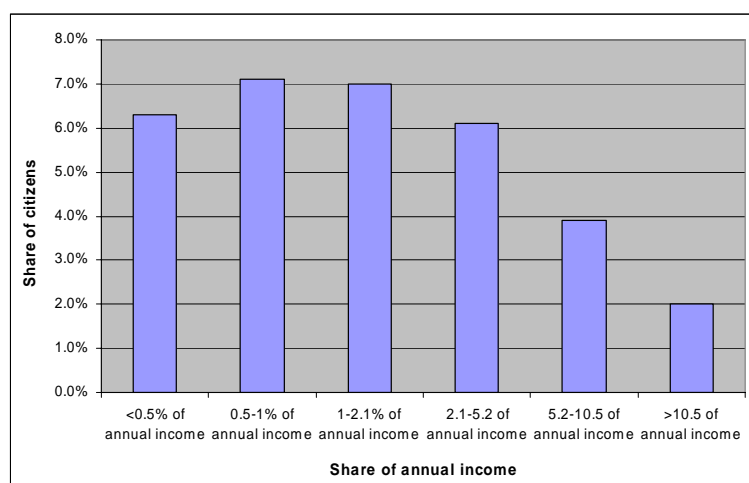
Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>1.2.1</u>	Charitable giving	<u>0</u>
<u>1.2.2</u>	Volunteering	<u>1</u>
<u>1.2.3</u>	CSO membership	<u>1</u>

1.2.1 Charitable Giving. The 1999 UNDP Human Development Report lists the underdeveloped economy, smaller middle class, lack of tax stimulations to donors and lack of religiously inspired charitable giving as a real obstacle to the development of charitable giving in Macedonia. In recent research on charitable giving in the country (Citizen Solidarity, MCIC, 2000), the largest increase is the religiously inspired charitable giving. Most of the obstacles mentioned in 1999 still exist, with the exception of the increase of the freedom of religious organisation. The increase in freedom of religious organisation and religiously inspired charitable giving are mutually related.

A recent study (ISC, 2003) found that only 2% of individuals' donations appear as source of finances for CSOs. Despite this small number, the organisations do not try too hard to involve the people in the society to give money or in kind donations.

The self-perception of those who have donated in kind or money in the last year is 32.1%, according to the community sample. Unfortunately, there are not enough data to check to whom these funds and in kind donations were given and for what purpose. Only the religious communities and their organisations claim that most of their revenues are based on individual donations.

Figure III.1.4. Annual charitable giving of citizens according to community sample



Macedonians do not have a clear awareness of the need to donate money to others. Under the previous social system there was the concept of solidarity (at times maintained under the state pressure), which was abandoned with the transition of the society and replaced with a new extreme individualism.

Frame III.1.3. Macedonia for Tsunami Campaign

Macedonia joined the support to the victims of the South Asian tsunami. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonian Red Cross and Telecommunication enterprises of Macedonia joined together in providing aid. The telecommunication companies organized a campaign called “Macedonia for Tsunami Victims” in the period of 11 to 16 January 2005. This campaign is the first one of this scope in the post-socialist period.

The campaign included the mobilisation of individual donations, as well as donations from the business sector. The total funds collected amounted to 200,000 Euro. About 43% of the collected funds come from individual donations (table below).

Way of collection	Collected amount	Ratio
Telephone donations	3,740,000 MKD/61 EUR	72.3%
TV auction	1,062,000 MKD/17,364 EUR	20.5%
Sale	306,886 MKD/5,018 EUR	5.9%
Cash boxes in supermarkets	59,525 MKD/973 EUR	0.1%
Total	5,168,411 MKD/84,506 EUR	100%

The remaining funds (57%) are provided from the business sector, where the mobile telephony companies, Mobimak (600,000 MKD) and Cosmophone (500,000) were the biggest donors. In general, the campaign can be considered successful.

It is very difficult to determine the amount of individual donations for individual persons. These donations have been quite frequent lately, but unfortunately they are not recorded. A typical example of this type of donation is assistance to sick people, children and/or socially disadvantaged persons, primarily families with many children, for whom many media or Telecom open individual accounts or telephone lines for help.

Table III.1.6. Donations via SMS or calls to 3 out of the 10 donation numbers of Mobimak in year 2005 (Mobimak, 2005)

Action	Amount
Tsunami	4,051,300 MKD/66,241 EUR
Clinic of Children’s Diseases (media coverage A1 and Vreme) up to 11 April 2005	962,400 MKD/15,719 EUR
“Peperutka” (media coverage Vrteleška show) on 17 April 2005	160,000 MKD/2,616 EUR

1.2.2 Volunteering. According to community sample, 67.9% of the people surveyed did not state that they had dedicated time to volunteer activities last month, 16.1% were involved as volunteers 1 to 5 hours per month 7% worked 6-10 hours per month and 9% of the people surveyed worked more than 11 hours per month.

The religious communities are again an exception to the trend. Almost all religious communities in the Directory of the Religious Communities in Macedonia (MCIC, 2004) stated that they had activities that they regularly helped on volunteer basis. What is important to take into consideration here is the motivation (dedication) of the people with the religious communities, which is different than those volunteering with civic organisations. Unfortunately, there were no data on the number of hours, but according to the Directory of

the Religious Communities, the number of volunteers/activists in 23 religious organisations (religious temples) is 2,754.

Although there is no specific quantification of their participation, there is a general opinion in the sector, confirmed by the NAG, that there are very few volunteers in CSOs, but the ones that are involved are active at least 5 hours per week, on average. If the informal ways of volunteer work are added to this, such as managing building councils and neighbourhood communities, the volunteer contribution is higher than recorded.

Still, one can conclude that there are not many active volunteers in the sector, but the small number of active volunteers works for many hours. There is an impression that most of the (active) volunteers are in the two opposite groups – elderly or pensioners and the young.

1.2.3 CSO Membership. Out of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations, who are members of CSOs, 12.6% participate in two organisations and 13.5% in three organisations. The rest stated that they only participate in one organisation. Membership in more than one organisation can mostly be seen with smaller communities. According to the community sample 13.71% of the people surveyed stated that they are members in CSOs, 28% of them are members in the trade union and 15% in women organisations and same percentage (15) in sport and leisure organisations.

Frame III.1.4. Union of the Pensioners' Associations of Macedonia and Trade Union of Macedonia – organisations with history and large membership

Union of the Pensioners' Associations of Macedonia (UPAM) is an organisation with a long history of acting. UPAM originates from the Ex-trade unions of Macedonia with the establishment of the Republic Pensioners' Committee in 1950. UPAM had been functioning in the frame of the Union of the Pensioners of Yugoslavia up to the Macedonian independence, when the membership in the federal union was terminated and UPAM became an independent organisation of the pensioners in Macedonia.

Up to 1994 UPAM was a member of the Trade Union of Macedonia, when the collective membership of UPAM was eliminated with changes of the Trade Unions Statute. UPAM has been organising the pensioners in Macedonia and representing their rights in the last 50 years. UPAM mainly functions with revenues gathered through membership fee. The UPAM branch organisations are managing solidarity funeral funds which provide non-refundable support for their members in the cases of their death or death of their family members. UPAM manages pensioners clubs and organises holidays, different social events, cultural and sport manifestations for the pensioners. Today, UPAM has 48 branch organisations with around 250.000 members.

Trade Union of Macedonia (TUM) is an organisation which unites the trade unions to represent social, economic and cultural interests of the labourers in Macedonia. Today TU unites 18 trade union organisations. The Congress is the highest TU body. It is held once in a 5 years' period and has a task to adopt Working programme and TU Statute and to elect the TU president. The TU Council is functional between the two Congresses and has responsibility for the programme implementation. TU provides revenues by membership fee (44%), rent of premises (42%), donations and sponsorships (9%) and other (5%).

1.3. Diversity of Civil Society Participants

This subdimension examines the diversity and representativity of civil society. It analyses whether all social groups participate equitably in civil society or whether there are any groups which are dominant or excluded. Table III.1.7 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.1.7. Indicators that assess the diversity of civil society participants

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>1.3.1</u>	CSO membership	<u>2</u>
<u>1.3.2</u>	CSO leadership	<u>2</u>
<u>1.3.3</u>	Distribution of CSOs	<u>1</u>

According to the central court register of the Republic of Macedonia there are 5,289 registered CSOs in the country (2003). A total of 1,512 organisations have been surveyed for the Directory of the Civic Organisations, 858 of which submitted detailed data.

The publication “Projects of Civic Organisations in Macedonia” (MCIC, 2004) has data on 658 projects (with budgets higher than 150,000 MKD), implemented by 340 CSOs. If is taken into consideration that 658 projects were implemented by 340 organisations of the recorded 858 in the Directory (CSOs in the narrow sense of the word), one can speak of a large number or inactive organisations.

This is also confirmed by the data in the financial reports submitted by the Payment Transactions Office of that time, which indicate that only 25% of the total number of recorded organisations were active in 1998 (UNDP, 1999). Therefore there was a significant drop in the number of organisations with the 1999 re-registration obligation (see section II.1.).

This report used the number of 5,289 registered organisations, 1,512 registered in the Directory of the Civic Organisations and 858 CSOs in the narrow meaning of the word in its analysis of the structure of the organisations and presentation of certain statistics.

The average Macedonian CSO is registered in Skopje or one of the other larger cities, managed by men (with the exception of the women’s organisations), deals with sports and leisure, or culture and arts (35.4%, that is, 10.4% respectively of the total number of organisations have these areas as their primary activity). The average organisation has an ethnically homogenous composition, that is, in the areas with dominantly Macedonian population (by ethnic affiliation) and it is made up exclusively of Macedonians or in the areas with dominant Albanian population by Albanians.

1.3.1 CSO Membership. Sports, hobby and leisure as a primary activity were listed by 35.4% of the registered organisations in Macedonia. Additionally, 10.4% listed culture and arts as their primary activity. If one adds 4.7% non-categorized associations, one can come to a conclusion that half of the registered organisations in the Republic of Macedonia deal with issues significant for the community, but of secondary meaning compared to the key issues in the country defined as priorities in the society: poverty alleviation, unemployment, corruption elimination, improvement of inter-ethnic relations, etc. (UNDP, 2005).

The representation of the rural population in CSOs is exceptionally small. According to the court register only 6.3% of the organisations were registered in the villages (370 out of 5851) and according to the Directory of the Civic Organisations, this number is 10.8% (163 out of

the 1512 surveyed organisations), as opposed to the 40% of the total population living in the villages. Of the total number of registered organisations, 5.4% indicated rural development as their primary activity.

Although the participation and representation of the civic sector largely follows the participation of the different groups in the rest of society (business sector and government bodies, judicial system), there is still a larger representation in the CSOs. This can be seen by the examples below (1.3.1-1.3.3).

The presence of women (with the exception of the specialized women and gender organisations) is at the level of one woman to three men (ISC, 2003). This information is nevertheless distorted, because of the registration of a big number of sport clubs as CSOs, which are dominantly male. Of course, one should not disregard the fact that there are active women organisations in the country, with almost exclusively female membership. The indicator of this is the number of projects directed to women (13% of the total number of registered projects in 2001 and 10% in 2003, according to the publication *Projects of Civic Organisations*, MCIC, 2004).

The publication *Projects of Civic Organisations* (MCIC, 2004) has an interesting piece of information, only 2% of the projects registered in 2001 were directed to villagers, as opposed to 14% in 2003.

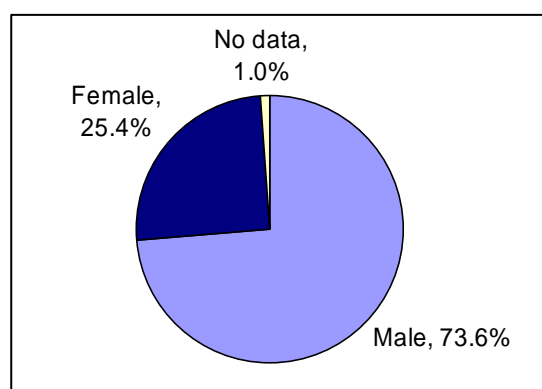
According to the analysis of the sector, made by ISC in 2003, based on the Directory of the Civic Organisations, most of the organisations are ethnically homogeneous (47% of ethnic Macedonians, 7% of ethnic Albanians). Of the organisations 29% identify themselves as mixed. An additional indicator of the ethnic affiliation of the members of the organisations are the contact persons given by the organisations (84% are Macedonian, 7% Albanian, 4% Roma and 5% others). The structure of the population according to the latest census of the population is: 64.17% Macedonians, 25.17% Albanians, 3.85% Turks, 2.66% Roma (State Statistical Office, 2002).

Almost all social groups are presented as members of civil society, with smaller representation of the poor, rural communities and ethnic communities, especially ethnic Albanian.

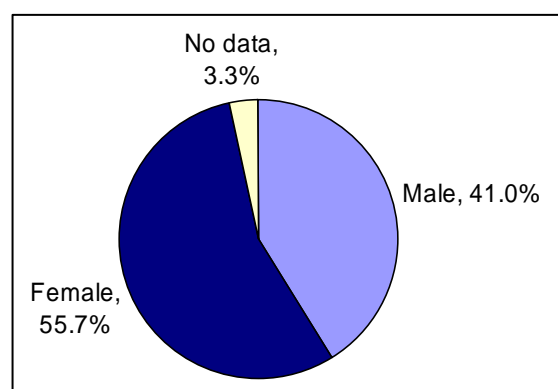
1.3.2 CSO Leadership. Three out of four members of the leaderships of the surveyed organisations, according to the Directory of the Civic Organisations (women organisations excluded), are men.

Figure III.1.5. Participation of women in CSO leaderships (MCIC, 2003)

a) Directory of the Civic Organisations



b) Analysis of Strategic Organisations



According to the participants at the regional stakeholder consultations, as far as the participation of women as leaders of CSOs is concerned, 57% think that they are equally present, 36% that they are present to a small extent and 8% think that they are not present and even absent.

These relations are different if more developed organisations are analysed. For example, the MCIC information on strategic organisations' analysis, which covered 61 organisations with annual budgets larger than 1 million MKD (MCIC, 2003), the division of the leadership structures is different. Women are presidents or executive directors in 25 organisations (41% of 61 organisations).

The participation of women in the assemblies and managing bodies of these organisations is also high – more than 40% women in the assemblies of 38 out of the 61 analysed organisations. The situation is similar in the managing boards where 34 organisations have this percentage out of 61 organisations (one should not ignore the impact of the women organisations in this list). Globally, this means that the women are much more present in the sector than in other sectors of society (for example, there are 23 women in the Parliament or 3 ministers in the government and there are no female managers in the 10 biggest companies in Macedonia). No matter how positive this image is and even if it refers to the leading CSOs in the country, one should still not have illusions about the rest of the sector, where only one out of four leadership functions is held by a woman (see the beginning of this part).

Table III.1.8. Participation of women in assemblies and executive boards (presidency, managing board) (MCIC, 2003)

Participation in bodies	Assembly	Participation in total number of bodies	EB, MB, Presidency	Participation in total number of bodies
0%	1	1.6%	3	4.9%
0-1%	2	3.3%	1	1.6%
2-20%	12	19.7%	11	18.0%
21-40%	8	13.1%	12	19.7%
41-60%	18	29.5%	14	23.0%
61-80%	7	11.5%	6	9.8%
81-99%	7	11.5%	2	3.3%
100%	4	6.6%	8	13.1%
No answer	2	3.3%	4	6.6%
Total organisations	61	100%	61	100%

The situation with the participation of the members of the ethnic communities in the leaderships of CSOs is similar.

Table III.1.9. Participation of ethnic communities in CSO leaderships¹³ (MCIC, 2003)

Ethnic affiliation	Number	Percentage
Macedonians	690	80.4%
Albanians	46	5.4%
Serbs	10	1.2%
Turks	11	1.3%
Roma	53	6.2%
Vlachs	10	1.2%
Bosnians	0	0%
No information	38	4.4%
Total	858	100%

Table III.1.10. Participation of ethnic communities in the managing bodies (MCIC, 2003)

Participation in bodies	In Assembly		In EB, MB, Presidency	
	No. of organisations	% of total no. of organisations	No. of organisations	% of total no. of organisations
0%	8	13.1%	15	24.6%
0-1%	2	3.3%	1	1.6%
2-20%	20	32.8%	16	26.2%
21-40%	14	23.0%	10	16.4%
41-60%	4	6.6%	3	4.9%
61-80%	0	0%	2	3.3%
81-99%	3	4.9%	1	1.6%
100%	1	1.6%	1	1.6%
No answer	9	14.8%	12	19.7%
Total organisations	61	100%	61	100%

The lack of participation of ethnic communities in CSOs is more alarming. Thirty organisations out of the 61 surveyed have less than 20% representatives of the ethnic communities in their assemblies and 32 of the 61 have less than 20% representatives in their managing boards. This means that the participation of ethnic communities, in almost half of the “bigger CSOs”, in the Republic of Macedonia is insignificant.

1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs. In Macedonia, CSOs are mostly concentrated in the capital and other larger urban areas.

Almost half of the participants of regional stakeholders’ consultations describe CSOs geographic distribution throughout the country as mostly concentrated in big cities (45.2%) and a similar percentage (37.6%) that CSOs are mostly located in urban areas. Just one fifth of participants think that CSOs are present everywhere throughout the country, even in remote areas.

According to the central court register of the Republic of Macedonia, there were 5,289 CSOs registered by 2003. Of the total number, 2,320 (43.8%) have been registered in Skopje. The largest numbers of registered organisations on the list are: Bitola (379 registered

¹³ The last two tables do not cover the trade unions and religious communities. However, even if they did, one could expect that the percentage of women and ethnic communities would be smaller.

organisations); Prilep (330); and Kumanovo (258). The table below gives a full picture of the geographic distribution of the organisations according to the court register.

Organisations registered in the official court register are not always active. Therefore, another figure that can indicate the active organisations in the sector is the number of organisations surveyed for the Directory of the Civic Organisations. According to the Directory (the only one in the country with a long tradition and thoroughly prepared), the number of active organisations is 1,512. The geographic distribution of the organisations is slightly different from the one in the register. According to the Directory, 353 organisations are active in Skopje (or 23.3% of the 1,512 active ones). The regions with the next largest number of organisations registered in the Directory are: Prilep, with 165 organisations (10.9%), then Štip with 121 organisations (8%), Bitola with 85 organisations (5.6%) and Veles with 75 organisations (5%).

Table III.1.11. Geographic distribution of CSOs (MCIC, 2003; State Statistical Office)¹⁴

Region	GDP (PPM in US\$)	Total citizens (1994)	Total CSOs	CSO/ 1000 cit.	Urban pop.	Total CSO/ city	CSO/ 1000 cit.	Rural pop.	Total CSO/ vill.	CSO/ 1000 cit.
Skopje	11,964	545,228	2,454	4.5	444,299	2,381	5.4	100,929	73	0.7
Kumanovo	3,541	163,841	309	1.9	89,500	327	3.7	74,341	5	0.1
Bregalnica (Štip)	5,104	201,525	557	2.8	121,896	535	4.4	79,629	22	0.3
Strumica	6,050	168,481	390	2.3	68,466	325	4.7	100,015	65	0.6
Vardar (Veles)	5,591	131,035	329	2.5	92,087	311	3.4	38,948	18	0.5
Pelagonija (Bitola)	6,905	201,338	822	4.1	159,803	759	4.7	82,793	63	0.8
Lake (Ohrid)	4,192	212,874	590	2.8	96,195	539	5.6	116,679	51	0.4
Polog (Tetovo)	3,076	280,352	400	1.4	91,352	326	3.6	189,000	74	0.4
Macedonia	6,850	1,945,932	5,851	3.0	1,163,598	5,481	4.7	782,334	370	0.5

As far as determining the seats of the religious communities, 18 of the 23 organisations (MCIC, 2004) are seated in Skopje, while 2 are in Strumica, 1 in Ohrid, 1 in Tetovo and 1 in Kumanovo. Still, there is regional coverage (by eparchies, Mufti districts, parishes).

There is a high concentration of CSOs in the capital city and urban areas. A large number of organisations (43%) are concentrated in the capital Skopje and CSOs are nearly absent from the rural areas. The urban-rural ratio is 10:1, that is, the urban areas have 5 organisations per 1,000 citizens and the rural ones 0.5 organisations per 1,000 citizens.

1.4. Level of Organisation

This sub-dimension looks at the existence of umbrella bodies, the application of instruments for self-regulation, the infrastructure supporting CSOs and the international linkages. Table III.1.12 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

¹⁴ For more info (on town level) please see the Annex 5

Table III.1.12. Indicators that assess the level of organisation

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.4.1	Existence of CSO umbrella bodies	2
1.4.2	Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies	2
1.4.3	Self-regulation	1
1.4.4	Support infrastructure	2
1.4.5	International linkages	2

1.4.1 Existence of CSO Umbrella Bodies. According to the Directory of the Civic Organisations there are around 200 umbrella bodies in Macedonia. It is impossible to determine the number and scope of the members of these umbrella bodies because the research carried out and the sources used do not contain complete data.

In Macedonia, there are legally specified umbrella bodies, for example sports unions. In other sectors, the umbrella bodies are usually organised according to the target group (women, Roma organisations, etc.), their members' occupation (doctors, journalists, experts in certain fields) or the sector of activity (for example the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia – DEM).

Frame III.1.5. Civic Platform of Macedonia

Civic Platform of Macedonia was established on 16 March 2004 in Skopje by 29 organisations of various sectors and interests. It is an open place for thinking, democratic debate of ideas, proposal formulation, free exchange of experience and mutual connection for meaningful action of CSOs that are dedicated to building civil society in Macedonia. The legitimacy of CPM is based on its ability to strengthen civil society (civic sector), establish it well and provide for its organisation and persistency.

CPM has its standing and temporary bodies. The standing bodies are: Council, Committee and Secretariat, as well as other working groups, thematic committees, etc. CPM is financed via membership fees and self-financing of the activities.

The activities will be directed to: improvement of communication, coordination and cooperation of the civic sector; development of a local system of support (legal frame, ethical standards, accountability and transparency, effectiveness of CSOs, achieving results and image building); establishing partner relations with the government sector, business sector and the international organisations and agencies in the Republic of Macedonia, in order to establish participatory democracy and socially responsible business sector; and active participation in the international context.

At the moment, CPM covers 36 organisations. The overview of the members is given in Annex 6.

The sectors of trade union organisations, sports associations, organisations of pensioners, environmental organisations and women's organisations are considered consolidated sectors mostly due to the umbrella bodies they are members of.

What is characteristic for Macedonia is the establishment of so called ad hoc networks of organisations established in specific situations and usually directed towards solving or abating certain problems. After solving the particular problem, or after finishing the particular task, the organisations of these networks cease to coordinate their activities. The most distinct examples are: the National Coordination Relief Group – established in 1999 during the Kosovo crisis, then in 2001 during the crisis in Macedonia; the Power Is in the People coalition – related to the parliamentary elections in 2002; and the Coalition of Youth Organisations - NOW! – established with the aim to define the youth strategy 2004/05.

Another useful source for determining the existence of umbrella bodies or networks is the answers to the questions of 61 applications for financial support in the context of the programme of MCIC for strengthening the strategic CSOs in 2003:

Table III.1.13. Membership of CSOs to formal or informal networks, according to the analysis of the strategic organisations

Network membership	No		Yes		1-3	4-6	>6	NA
Formal networks	10	16.4%	48	78.7%	40	7	1	3
Informal networks	16	26.2%	40	65.6%	35	4	1	5

A majority of the organisations are members of a union, federation, platform or other umbrella body, based on type of CSOs or target group.

1.4.2 Effectiveness of CSO Umbrella Bodies. The networks are much more effective when it comes to responding to urgent needs or fulfilling short-term goals (for example in crisis situations or in establishing strategies). It is also an indicator of CSOs' way of thinking, which is mainly directed towards fulfilling short-term, tangible goals. Therefore, maintaining the networks for medium and long-term periods is very difficult. Certain networks exist for more than 10 years (UWOM, OZM and DEM), but there are no specific reports for their assessment and their effectiveness. The primary source for the assessment of the effectiveness of umbrella structures are the regional conferences where, out of 118 subjects, 31 (26.27%) consider the umbrella bodies generally effective, 57 (48.3%) consider them effective to a certain extent and 17 (14.4%) consider them rather ineffective.

In certain sectors of action there are no umbrella bodies, or they have disintegrated. An example of this is the youth organisation where, after 1991 and the transition of the Socialist Youth Union into Youth Council, the coordinative structure never recovered and did not achieve a status of credibility with the target group. A similar case can be seen in the students' where, in spite of the existence of strong students' organisations at different universities in specific periods after 1991, did not manage to create a national coordinative structure.

In the women's sector there are several coordinating bodies (e.g. UWOM, OZM, SAZM, the Macedonian Women Lobby, the Union of Vlach Women and the Union of Turkish Women), which have achieved a great impact regarding the equality of women, especially with respect to the issue of participation of women in politics. However, the existence of many parallel umbrella bodies, divided by national affiliation, does not always result in effectiveness in their work. This was partly overcome by the establishment of the Macedonian Women Lobby, where each of group is represented.

Other, different networks of resource centres were created by donor organisations (Centres for support of NGOs of FOSIM with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the EAR, the European Centre for Minority Issues, the Babylon–Centres of the World Bank and the Agency of Youth and Sports), which support organisations in smaller towns. However, these resource centres share the fate of most organisations in the sector – they try to be self-sufficient, without the support from foreign donors, but with a degree of uncertainty regarding their viability.

It is clear that only in those cases, where there are many CSOs networks there is a stronger focus on improving their effectiveness.

1.4.3 Self-Regulation. Today, there are few rules for conduct and self-regulation in the civil society sector in Macedonia. There is no common code of conduct. In May 2001, 53 CSOs drew up a draft–national code of conduct for CSOs and established a working group to finish the process. Despite the fact that by drawing up this code of conduct, CSOs showed that they are interested in improving their operational practices and raising ethics standards, this code never received the support of the greater number of organisations and was not generally practiced within the sector.

Table III.1.14. Efforts of civil society to create means for self-regulation of CSOs, according to the regional stakeholder consultations

Have there been efforts made within civil society to establish codes of conduct or other means of self-regulation of CSOs?	%
There are efforts – but influence is still limited	48%
There are some self-regulation mechanisms, but influence is limited	29%
There are self-regulation mechanisms and they function quite well. Some influence is applied	13%
No such efforts are made	11%

One of the key characteristics of the civil society sector is the “lack of accountability”, that is, in general, CSOs are not accountable enough. Unlike authorities who must fulfil certain expectations, otherwise they risk not being re-elected and the business sector which is largely held accountable by stock-holders, CSOs do not always have ways of measuring their success and therefore do not have a clear motivation to give results. This clearly influences their reputation and is one reason why the citizens and authorities “doubt” the civil society sector.

Among the main barriers for accountability by CSOs are the inadequate capabilities for internal management and lack of motivation, which is directly connected to the lack of awareness or a clear understanding of the benefits from self-regulation. The self-regulation should be voluntary and require intervention and dedication by the civil society sector. It also includes internal initiatives and awareness of the need for self-regulation out of proactive reasons.

The general impression is that very little has been done concerning the generally accepted code of conduct within the civil society sector in the Republic of Macedonia and the degree of understanding differs within organisations. Very little effort is made to improve this situation.

1.4.4 Support Infrastructure. The number of NGO support centres has risen in recent years. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), together with the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM), has provided finances for four support centres (in Štip, Veles, Prilep and Kičevo). At the beginning of 2004, these four centres were joined by eight more centres in less developed towns in Macedonia, supported by EAR and FOSIM (Delčevo, Gevgelija, Debar, Struga, Kratovo, Strumica, Negotino and Resen). These centres work on the provision of technical aid, training, advises and small grants for the organisations of civil society.

Frame III.1.6. NGO Support Centres

In 2000, the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia started with the realisation of activities for support of initiatives for local development through establishing four NGO support centres in Štip, Veles, Prilep and Kičevo. Four years later, FOSIM opened eight more centres, in Debar, Struga, Delčevo, Kratovo, Gevgelija, Resen, Strumica and Negotino.

The NGO support centres contribute to the development of networks, coordination, communication and the development of partnerships between NGOs themselves, as well as between NGOs and the local authorities, the media, schools and other users. Besides CSOs, the NGO support centres will also help in strengthening the cooperation with municipalities, as well as for a greater transparency towards the citizens.

The NGO support centres offer logistical support for the local organisations in the form of facilities for holding meetings, communication equipment, photocopying, library, information; strengthening the capacities by organising workshops, seminars, advisory meetings, consultations, access to information about training programmes and trainers; networking/facilitating, that is to say coordinative meetings, contacts with the local authorities, media, business sector, representation, lobbying, NGO forums, visits; administration of grants – financial support of small projects, development projects and representation projects (up to 5,000 EURO) for NGOs; as well as support of initiatives from the community – activities of common interest for the local NGOs.

The NGO support centres are financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the European Agency for Reconstruction.

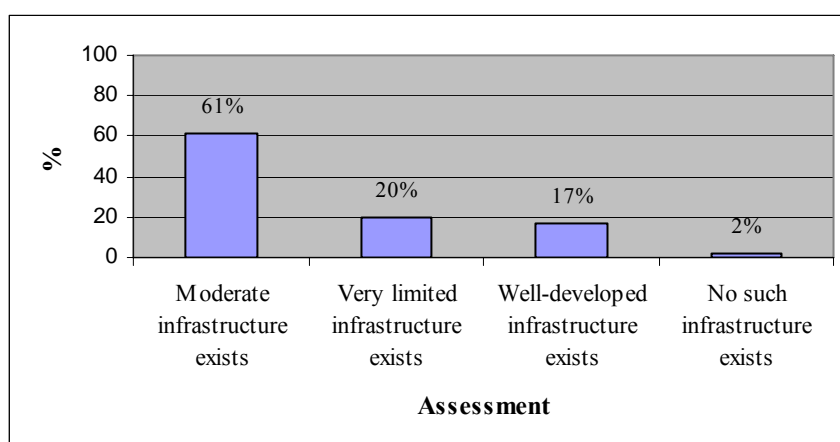
Furthermore, the European Centre for Minority Issues has established six regional NGO centres. The primary goal for these centres, located in Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Štip, Kumanovo and Bitola, is to strengthen the cooperation of CSOs and to improve the inter-ethnic tolerance, respecting the differences, as well as the dialogue through mutual projects and initiatives. The information is accessible through CSOs websites, newsletters and address books.

It should be mentioned that there is a small number of intermediary organisations in Macedonia which, in recent years, have been the source for support of the development of CSOs. FOSIM, MCIC and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) can be mentioned. In the last ten years, these organisations have provided a large percentage of the grants for smaller organisations and have supported or carried out trainings for a large number of CSO staff. Two thousand, four hundred twenty-six members of CSOs have participated in the training programmes organised by MCIC in the last ten years. These organisations not only supported or carried out training courses, but were also among the main supporters at the organisational level, as well as of the development of the sector at the national level.

There are local training courses carried out in Macedonian and Albanian languages. However, the training courses, which are currently carried out cannot satisfy the ever increasing needs of the sector (underdeveloped trainings, for example representation and lobbying and financial viability). The number of trainers for CSOs is satisfactory, but a lot more work has to be done in order to improve the quality of the training courses. There are materials for the training courses in Macedonian language, but they are not published regularly. The local webpages offer very little information concerning training courses. The carrying out of training courses free of charge, which significantly impedes the building of know-how centres able to survive in conditions when they shall have to charge for their services (trainings), should also be mentioned.

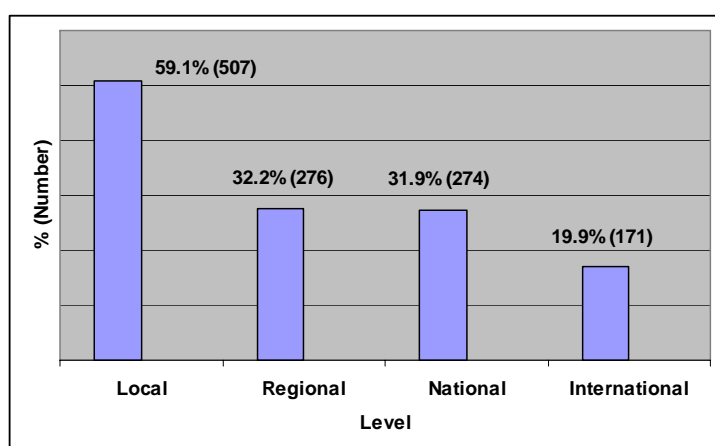
The rating for the infrastructure dimension of USAID's 2003 NGO Sustainability Index shows us that Macedonia's NGO sector is in mid-transition from the infrastructure point of view. A score between 3 and 5 for the Infrastructure dimension means that intermediary support organisations and resource centres are active in major population centres and provide services, such as distributing grants, publishing newsletters, maintaining a membership database, running a library of NGO literature and providing basic training and consulting services. Other umbrella organisations and networks are beginning to be formed to facilitate networking and coordinate the activities of groups of NGOs. Local trainers have the capacity to provide basic organisational training. Donors' fora are formed to coordinate the financial support of international donors and to develop local corporate philanthropic activities. The value of inter-sectoral partnerships has not yet been realised.

Figure III.1.6. Assessment of the existing infrastructure for support and capacity building of civil society according to the regional stakeholder consultations



Regional stakeholders assessed the existing infrastructure for civil society to be moderate.

1.4.5 International Linkages. If we analyse the data submitted by 858 organisations, organisations that submitted detailed data to the Directory of the Civic Organisations one fifth (171 organisation) out of them have international cooperation. Since a large number of organisations are active at the local and regional level and international cooperation is not a priority for them, this number is satisfactory. Many organisations have established contacts with international networks and have established partnerships with foreign organisations through the programmes of larger organisations for support of civil society sector as FOSIM, MCIC and others. The organisations interviewed at regional stakeholder consultations are refrained as far as the participation of Macedonian organisations in international events and their membership in international organisations is concerned (92% feel that only a few or a very small number of organisations are members of international organisations or networks, 85% feel that a small number or only a few organisations send their members to international events). But this only confirms the conclusion that most of the organisations which have international cooperation are national organisations or umbrella bodies, which is only natural if we take into consideration the fact that smaller local and regional organisations are members of these organisations.

Figure III.1.7. Level of activity of CSOs (MCIC, 2003)

One of the problems of maintaining the membership in international organisations is the payment of membership fees. This largely limits the organisations that become members of international organisations, since they have difficulties in acquiring the means for the payment of the international membership fee. Typically, they do not have individual contributions and a very small number of donors are ready to support these expenses.

When it comes to international contacts, the presence of many foreign organisations supporting civil society in Macedonia should not be neglected. It is through these organisations that they are able to have continuous contacts with foreigners, such as people employed in these organisations or their volunteers from abroad (Peace Corps, or UN Volunteers program). The latter are quite active at the local level and a large number of foreign volunteers have spent three to six months in smaller towns in Macedonia. It allows organisations and their member's additional contacts with a different approach in the work and different experiences of civil society.

1.5. Inter-Relations

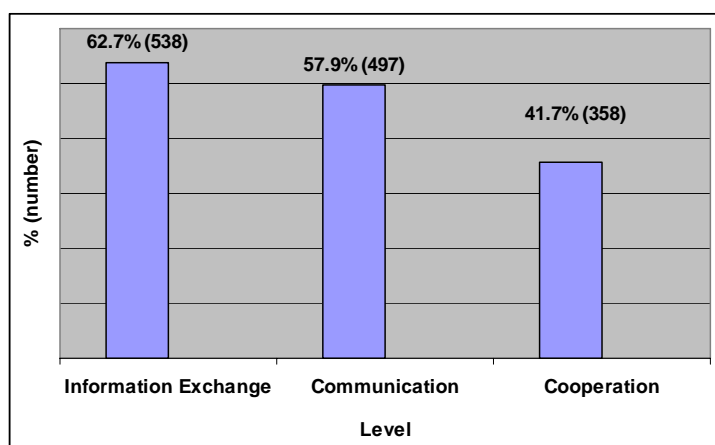
This subdimension analyses the relations amongst civil society actors in Macedonia. Table III.1.15 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.1.15. Indicators that assess inter-relations within civil society

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.5.1	Communication	2
1.5.2	Cooperation	2

1.5.1 Communication. CSOs, according to their self-perception, communicate amongst themselves and exchange information. This can be drawn as a conclusion from the two researches made by the Directory of the Civic Organisations in the year 2003 and the regional stakeholder consultations carried out in 2004. The level of exchange of information, the level of communication and cooperation of CSOs can be seen from the figure below.

Figure III.1.8. Level of exchange of information and cooperation among CSOs (MCIC, 2003)



Participants in the regional stakeholder consultations have different views of the level of communication in civil society. Twenty-nine percent consider the communication with each other to be significant, 48% that it is moderate, while another part considers it to be limited or insignificant (30%).

There are two web sites that inform on civil society in general and where CSOs exchange information: www.civicworld.org.mk and www.mango.org.mk. Also, there is a magazine Civic World that also serves as a tool for information exchange and communication among CSOs as well as with other stakeholders. Approximately there are 200 web sites of CSOs, as well as few electronic or printed bulletins. The NGO Fair is major event for exchange of information and communication (frame III.1.5.).

1.5.2 Cooperation. The cooperation of CSOs, especially concerning issues of long-term strategic interest, is relatively limited. In the Directory of the Civic Organisations, 358 (41.7%) out of 858 CSOs (CSOs in a limited sense of the word), claim that they cooperate with other organisations in the sector. The percentage of cooperation with other participants is much lower: 8% with the Government, 9.8% with the units of local self-government, 4.9% with the institutes and 2.7% with the business sector.

The data from Projects of Civic Organisations (MCIC, 2004) is also similar. In 241 (36.96%) of the 652 projects (340 organisations), carried out in 2003, there is cooperation of CSOs with each other; in 87 (13.34%) there is cooperation with the units of local self-government and in 85 projects (13.04%) there is cooperation with Government institutions. A total of 355 projects (54.45%) are carried out in cooperation with two or more organisations or institutions.

Nevertheless, certain positive trends in the sector should be added to these relatively low indicators, for example organising NGO fairs, which turned into a forum that helps increase communication, coordination and exchange within the sector. The fact that participation in the Fair is increasing from year should also be recognized. Participation in the last four years was: 2001 – 154 organisations, 2002 – 199 organisations, 2003 – 205 organisations and 2004 – 244 organisations.

Frame III.1.7. NGO Fair through years

NGO Fair – Forum of Civil Society in Macedonia took place for the first time in 2001 with an aim to promote the civil sector and improve its relations to the public. Later, the aims of the NGO Fair were defined as:

- To create room for exchange of experience and encourage mutual understanding and respect of civil society organisations;
- To stimulate a more significant dialogues between social actors, increase the level of their communication, coordination and cooperation;
- To increase the awareness of the public and other actors on the activities of civil society organisations, as well as
- To contribute to the exchange of information with organisations from the region.

Participants at the NGO Fair are CSOs from Macedonia, but also organisations from the region, other European countries and Central Asia. Apart from the CSOs, the religious communities, government institutions, international organisations, companies, etc also take part at the fair.

NGO Fair has three components: forum events, exhibition space and socio-cultural events.

Indicator/year	2001	2002	2003	2004
Participants	154 organisations	199 organisations	205 organisations	244 organisations
Visitors	4.000	6.000	9.459	9.798
Forum events	19	30	59	80

Another positive trend is the establishment of the Civic Platform of Macedonia, which aims at representing the long-term interests of the sector, with 29 CSOs as members. The cooperation of organisations is mostly based on the cooperation in the light of treating certain issues or lobbying for a particular law or regulation and this is where positive examples can be found, such as the campaign for Breast Cancer legislation, organisations participating in “Whole is when there is everything” and “Power is in the people” for the parliamentary elections in the year 2002.

However, CSOs in Macedonia face a great challenge ahead, which is realising long-term and deep intra-sector cooperation. With this type of cooperation they will have to develop partnerships, that are not be promoted and financed by donors, but emerge out of the needs of specific target groups and out of the essential connection and need for mutual cooperation with national institutions, institutes and educational centres, the business sector, media and the political parties. This type of cooperation currently lacks in the country.

1.6. Resources

This sub-dimension examines the extent to which CSOs obtain adequate resources for performing their respective tasks in Macedonia. Both financial and personnel resources are subsumed under this sub-dimension. Table III.1.16 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.1.16. Indicators that assess resources

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.6.1	Financial resources	<u>1</u>
1.6.2	Human resources	<u>2</u>
1.6.3	Technological and infrastructural resources	<u>2</u>

1.6.1 Financial Resources. There is no specific or precise number for the financial resources in Macedonia that are at the disposal of CSOs. The 1999 UNDP Report contains the sources of financing of CSOs according to organisations' financial reports submitted to the Payments Office at the time.

Table III.1.17. Sources of income of CSOs (UNDP, 1999)

Year	Total revenue	Membership fee, donations, gifts	Services, commission, sale	Other own revenues
1997	2,307,219,000	923,193,000	554,923,000	468,970,000
1998	2,616,674,000	1,100,142,000	622,821,000	493,797,000
Index	113.4	119.2	112.2	105.2

The budget for 597 projects amounts to 798,896,353 MKD or 12,990,185 EURO (MCIC, 2004). This amount is based data collected for projects carried out during 2002 and 2003 with a budget larger than 150,000 MKD. This, of course, is not the final number of projects carried out in this period. A of projects carried out in that timeframe had smaller budgets and others could not be interviewed for various reasons. Nevertheless, this number offers some indication for civil society sector, such as for its activities and the possibility of influencing the society. On the other hand, the total budget of 29 organisations, which are members of the Civic Platform of Macedonia, in the year 2003 is 708,553,733 MKD or 11,521,200 EURO.

According to the NGO Sustainability Index (USAID, 2001), the financial capability for the survival of CSOs in Macedonia has deteriorated as a result of the deterioration of the economic situation. Local sources of financing play a minor role and they are difficult to acquire. As a result of the poor economic situation and the insufficient motivation for philanthropic donations, CSOs are in a difficult position where they have to find ways for generating income from local sources. Many CSOs receive material contributions from local businesses, local self-governments and even individuals, but it is difficult to assess the degree of this kind of support, because CSOs often do not declare this kind of aid. CSOs try to focus their strategies on collecting funds or donor grants, which are relatively easy to receive, as compared to methods of a smaller scope which require more time and investments.

Out of 118 organisations covered with regional stakeholder consultations during the preparation of this report, 107 (91% of all interviewed organisations) claim that they receive less than 20% of their budget from individual donations. Additionally, a third of regional stakeholder consultation participants judge their financial resources as rather adequate, one quarter as adequate and same percentage as inadequate.

The socio-economic situation in this country limits the effective functioning of civil society. The answer of the representatives of the business sector participating at project: "The NGO and Business Sector - Together for the Community Wellbeing" (PDAS "Megjaši") to the questions about factors that impede the effective cooperation between businessmen and CSOs can also be considered in this context, as 28% of the answers list the insufficient funds and the poor political situation as the second factor.

1.6.2 Human Resources. Civil society of Macedonia is a sector for voluntary work. Six hundred fifty-seven (76.57%) out of 858 organisations (a narrow circle of CSOs) registered in the Directory of the Civic Organisations do not have any employees. Only 18 organisations of the remaining ones have over 10 employees (2.1%). The assessments of the total number of employees are somewhere in the neighbourhood of 550 to 1,500 (a mean value of around 1,000 employees) in the whole sector.

Twenty-nine organisations, that are a member of the Civic Platform of Macedonia, employ a total of 179 people, of which 56% are MCIC and FOSIM employees. There is no specific data about the project related staff (contracts with limited period and temporarily employed staff). However, data from the analysis of the strategic organisations (MCIC, 2003) can serve as a proxy. There, the number of part-time employees fluctuates from 400 to 800 people annually (an approximate value).

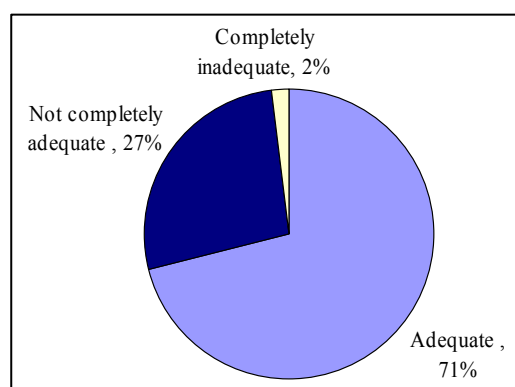
As far as the competency, quality and professional training of the employees is concerned, the Macedonian “unprofitable employment exchange” characterises with extremes. On the one hand, the employees in the more developed and professional organisations are of a higher level of quality than the employees in the state administration, or the private sector. On the other hand, the volunteers and small number of employees in the smaller organisations do not possess satisfactory skills. The people engaged in the sector (whether on a voluntary or professional basis) feel that they have the respective skills and qualities for the work they are doing (69% of the parties interviewed during regional stakeholder consultations) and that the insufficient funds and poor working conditions in the country impede the development of CSOs.

A very small number of participants pay for the training they receive. In the last ten years, when many donors invested in the training of NGO staff, general opinion was formed that training should be received free of charge.

There is a total lack of appropriate formal university education, graduate or postgraduate studies for the non-profit sector.

According to the participants of regional stakeholder consultations CSOs have most of the human resources they require to achieve their defined goals. Approximately 70% of participants claim that set of staff skills in their organisations to achieve the organisation’s defined goals is adequate.

Figure III.1.9. Assessment of skills of the people who work in CSOs to achieve its set goals according to regional stakeholder consultations

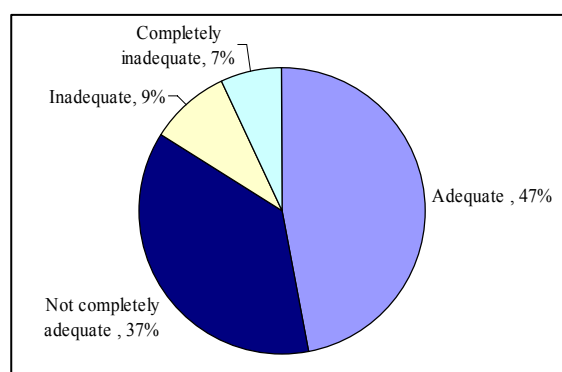


1.6.3 Technological and Infrastructural Resources. On average, Macedonian CSOs have simple, but appropriate equipment and basic working conditions. The active organisations' offices are in good condition and their overhead expenses generally provide for items in the project budgets and they are very rarely taken out of the membership fees and contributions.

What is disturbing is that 401 out of 859 organisations (46.68%) from the Directory of the Civic Organisations do not have an e-mail address. This indicates a low level of use of modern (and cheaper) funds for communication. The fact that a lot of organisations do not have access to the Internet, leads to limited access to information.

According to the participants of regional stakeholder consultations CSOs have most of the technological and infrastructural resources they require to achieve their defined goals. Only a small minority claim that their infrastructure and equipment are inadequate (9%) or completely inadequate (7%).

Figure III.10. Assessment of the infrastructure and equipment of the organisation according to the regional stakeholder consultations



Conclusion

The structure of civil society is moderate and not balanced

Civil society's structure is characterized by its limited breadth and very limited depth of citizen participation in civil society, on the one hand; and, on the other hand, the relatively well-developed –inter-relations and level of networking among a diverse range of civil society participants. The limited extent of citizen participation is clearly a consequence of the lack of social capital and other socio-cultural norms in Macedonian civil society.

3C's – Communication, coordination, cooperation

Civil society in Macedonia has a very strong focus on communication, coordination and cooperation. It is quite organised with a strong support infrastructure and a significant level of networking among associations and within umbrella structures. There are also some emerging examples of cross-sector alliances/coalitions of CSOs, such as the Civic Platform of Macedonia. Still there is more to be done in the area of cooperation and with regard to the self-regulation of civil society sector in Macedonia.

Limited citizen participation and urban-rural gap

While there is an increase in non-partisan political action of Macedonians, still only a minority of citizens participates in civil society activities. This is likely to be a consequence of the low public trust in institutions, both in general as well as in civil society in particular. In its social composition, civil society is skewed and the poor, rural communities and ethnic communities (esp. ethnic Albanian) are underrepresented. Accordingly, there is a high concentration of CSOs in the capital city and urban areas and CSOs are nearly absent in the rural areas.

Insufficient resources and lack of diversification

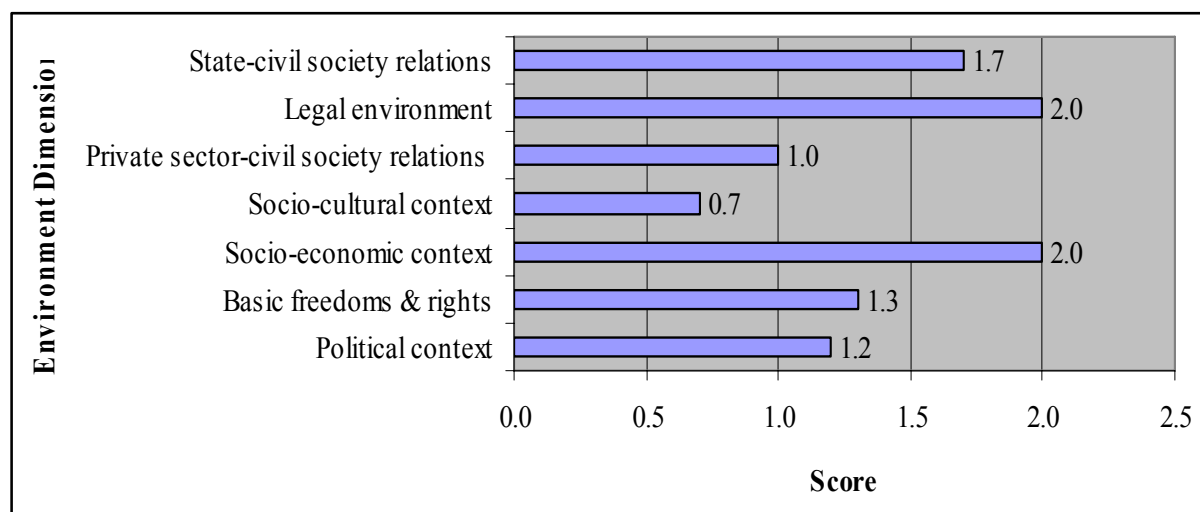
CSOs have insufficient (financial) resources to achieve their goals. A particular problem is the lack of diversification of financial sources and the strong dependence on international or foreign sources. Since the next three years will be marked by a withdrawal of many foreign donors, civil society is likely to face a financial crisis in the years to come.

Civil society has a pool of well qualified and committed people to draw on. The first two ministers for environment were from the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia. However, aside from this example there was no major transfer of human resources from civil society to government or the private sector. This is partially due to the fact that civil society is still a more attractive employer than other sectors.

III.2. ENVIRONMENT

This section examines the external environment for civil society in Macedonia. It includes political, legal, socio-economic and socio-cultural factors, as well as the relationship between civil society and the business sector on the one hand and the state on the other. The score for the Environment Dimension is 1.4, indicating a somewhat disabling environment for civil society. The figure below presents the scores for the six subdimensions within the Environment dimensions.

Figure III.2.1. Assessment of the environment sub-dimensions



III.2.1. Political Context

This sub-dimension examines the political situation in the Republic of Macedonia and the effects this has on civil society. Table III.2.1 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.1. Indicators assessing political context

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>2.1.1</u>	Political rights	<u>2</u>
<u>2.1.2</u>	Political competition	<u>2</u>
<u>2.1.3</u>	Rule of law	<u>1</u>
<u>2.1.4</u>	Corruption	<u>1</u>
<u>2.1.5</u>	State effectiveness	<u>1</u>
<u>2.1.6</u>	Decentralisation	<u>0</u>

2.1.1 Political Rights. The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia can freely participate in the political processes, elect their political representatives through free and fair elections and freely organise themselves in political parties. This has been determined and regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and several laws.

Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia guarantees the freedom of association in order to fulfil and protect their political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and beliefs, while Article 22 adds that all citizens who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote, which is exercised at free elections by secret ballot.

According to the 1994 Law on Political Parties, a party can be established by 500 citizens who are not minors and who are citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. An exception to this rule is when a political party program, statute or activity is directed towards violent destruction of the constitutional order of the country or encouraging or calling for military aggression, or inflaming national, racial and religious hate or intolerance (Article 23 of the Constitution). In this case, the party can not be registered, and if it is registered it can be removed from the court register.

Of course, the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia have had the opportunity to organise political parties since 1990, when the first multi-party parliamentary elections were held, as a result of the changes in the then Yugoslav federation. In the past 14 years, four parliamentary elections, three local ones and three presidential ones have taken place. In most cases the atmosphere at the time of the elections was assessed as fair and democratic by ODIHR, with isolated incidents that did not influence the final outcome (presidential elections in 1999 and 2004 and the local ones of 2000 when there was a victim in Kondovo, as well as the local ones of 2005).

2.1.2 Political Competition. The right to join and establish a political party has been significantly used in the Republic of Macedonia. This is also confirmed by the more than 100 registered political parties, among which there are a large number of political parties from the ethnic communities: Albanian (4), Roma (4), Vlach (2), Turkish (2), Serbian (2) and Bosnian (2).

Four political parties can be considered the most significant and strong at the Macedonian political arena, two of which are in the Macedonian block (SDSM and VMRO-DPMNE), while the other two are in the Albanian block (DUI and DPA). Since 1992, there has been a practice of coalition building between the parties of the Macedonian and Albanian block.

A large number of smaller political parties using their mutual coalition and the coalition with the bigger parties, can compete and participate in the government. Fifty-four political parties participated in the last parliamentary elections. It is significant that there is a representation of the parties of the ethnic communities both on the side of government and the opposition block. For example, during the 2002 parliamentary elections, part of the “Together for Macedonia” coalition, led by SDSM and LDP, which won the elections also included: the Democratic League of the Bosnians in Macedonia, United Party of Roma from Macedonia, Democratic Party of Turks in Macedonia and the Democratic Alliance of Vlachs in Macedonia. The same parties as part of a coalition “Together for Macedonia” took part at local elections in 2005. Although the official members of the VMRO-DPMNE coalition at these elections were the Liberal Party and the Party of Movement of Turks,. The affiliation of the other parties of the ethnic communities towards this coalition was visible during the local elections in 2005: Bosnians Democratic Party, Democratic Party for Orthodox Unity of Serbs and Macedonians, Party of Vlachs, Party for Democratic Forces of Roma, Party for Integration of Roma in Macedonia and Democratic Alliance of Serbs.

One notices that the political parties are not profiled enough when it comes to left or right orientation. Although traditionally there is a declaration of affiliation towards one side, the reality shows that once they come to power, intending to stay in power, they undertake activities that can not be considered solely right or left oriented. However, the same applies in

other countries and thus it can be concluded that this is not only typical for the Republic of Macedonia.

2.1.3 Rule of Law. Rule of law is a fundamental value of the constitutional order of the Republic of Macedonia. The constitutional regulations, laws and a large number of ratified international acts show that there is a solid and fair legal regulation. The problem is the inconsistent implementation and compliance with the law.

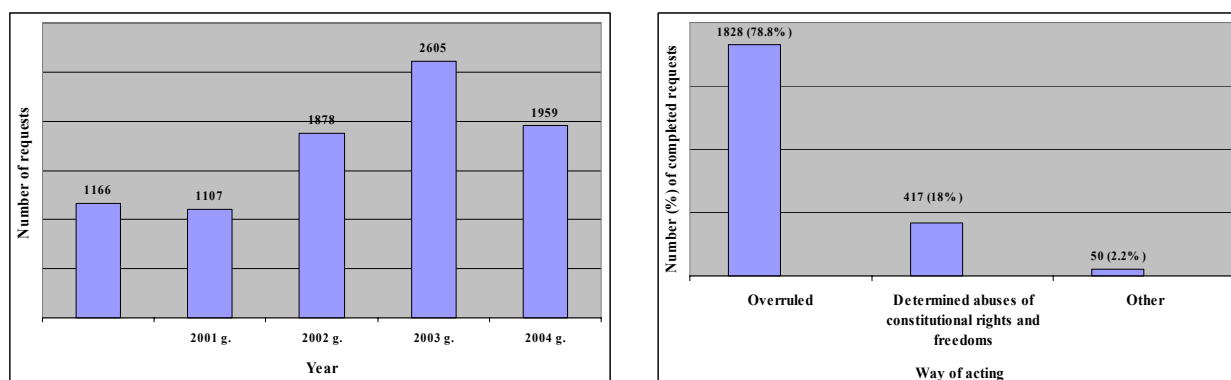
According to the EC Stabilisation and Association report for 2004, the Republic of Macedonia has been taking slow steps towards strengthening the rule of law, mostly because of the structural weaknesses in the implementation of the laws and courts, politicized and weak public administration, corruption and organised crime. According to the European Commission, the legislative, executive and judiciary powers should coordinate their activities in order to find solutions that will bring the rule of law in accordance with the European standards.

In this respect, the parts of the regulations that need to be further specified and detailed are worked on by the government, for the purpose of future harmonization of the legal system with the EU and to develop a more efficient rule of law (for example, the forthcoming judiciary reforms).

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights has concluded that there were a number of cases of violations of rights in 2004, by the carriers of power. According to the Committee, the government has not fulfilled its obligations, undertaken by signing certain agreements on several occasions, then there were breaches of Constitutional laws and not fulfilling obligations towards internally displaced persons from the 2001 conflict.

From the Ombudsman's report of 2004, taking into consideration the number of requests of the citizens that the Ombudsman acted upon, one can conclude that there is a violation of the rights of citizens on the side of the state. In the course of 2004, the Ombudsman acted upon 3,202 requests by citizens, 1,959 of which were submitted in the reporting period by 2,299 citizens. Besides this, 2,840 citizens have been received for a meeting at the office, as well as in the regional offices of the Ombudsman and there were more than 6,000 phone calls.

Figure III.2.2. Received requests per years and ways of acting upon completed requests (total of 2,320) in 2004



According to the World Bank Governance Dataset Macedonia comes in 41.5 place out of 100 countries in 2004. On a scale from -2.5 to +2.5 Macedonia's Rule of Law scored -0.44 meaning that it is somewhat below the global average.

2.1.4 Corruption. According to the Corruption Perception Index of 2004, published by Transparency International, Macedonia shares the 97th place with Serbia and Montenegro, on the list of 146 countries. On the scale of 0 (most corrupt states) to 10 (countries without corruption), Macedonia has a 2.7 index and it means decrease of corruption compared to the last year when we were on the 106th place of 133 countries.

Also, the results of this research show that the level of corruption in the Republic of Macedonia is extremely high and the corruption in the judiciary is the highest. On the scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the lowest corruption rate and 5 for the highest, the corruption in the judiciary in Macedonia has been assessed with 4.3 index points. Political parties, customs and health are the next in line with 4.2 index points, while the media had 3.3 index points. According to this research, the least corrupt are the civic organisations and the religious groups.

The findings of the CSRD "Forum" of 2001 also confirm the high degree of corruption in the state. The general opinion is that corruption is a wide spread occurrence (35.5%), without the possibility to lower it (19.3%). The main reasons for the corruption are the wish for easy personal enrichment of the people in power (20.8%), the lack of administrative control (10.75%) and the overlap of the official position and private interests (7.51%).

It is important to mention that the Republic of Macedonia has been making efforts to address corruption. In April 2002, the Parliament adopted the Law for Prevention of Corruption and six months later the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption was established. A positive example in the fight against corruption was the introduction of the open phone line 197 of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia in 2004, where 50,289 citizens called¹⁵. These activities will probably influence the perception corruption within the country, but it is also necessary to undertake decisive measures to address corruption. In this respect, the US Embassy in Skopje published a list of 11 court cases without reaching a decision at the beginning of 2005, entitled "High Profile Corruption/Criminal Cases". The publishing of this list was a call to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to show its serious intentions and courage for a fast action against corruption and crime, which are seriously criticized and requested for by EU as well.

2.1.5 State Effectiveness. The EC Stabilisation and Association Report for 2004 mentions that the unprofessional public administration is an obstacle in the implementation of significant reforms that the Republic of Macedonia is obliged to implement. The indicated shortcomings are the political patronage of the public administration and the changes that it suffers with by frequent changes in the ruling party. This creates serious obstacles for the transformation of the public administration in a competent, merit-based, sustainable and efficient service for the needs of the citizens.

According to the World Bank Governance dataset for 2004, Macedonia's score was better than 51.4% of the countries ranked. On a scale from -2.5 to +2.5 Macedonia's Government effectiveness scored -1.7a slightly above global average.

¹⁵ Annual Report for 2004 of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia.

In the fulfilment of its determined functions, the state most obviously underperforms in the part of the services that its citizens mostly face with, such as the judiciary, health, geodetic office, cadastre, etc.

The biggest backlog of cases is in the courts and the three most critical bottlenecks in the courts are: misdemeanours, executive civil cases and administrative disputes. The area of execution of verdicts is one of the most significant problems in the judiciary. At the end of 2003, there was a backlog of around 175,000 executive general cases and about 35,000 executive economic cases.

According to the data of the State Statistical Office, the average duration of the procedures regarding civil cases in the courts of first instance for 2004 was 9 months and 16 days, while regarding criminal cases in the courts of first instance it was 9 months and 7 days. The most typical causes of delays are: problems with subpoenas, abuse of process rights, on the side of the participants in the procedure, certain weaknesses in the process laws and organisation of the courts.

With respect to the work of the Supreme Court, the Helsinki Committee's remark was that it was concerned that there are cases with the Supreme Court where the state is the defendant and they have been in line for years.

Many procedures and a long duration are typical in cases of starting businesses, property registration and loans. The comparison with countries of the region shows that the Macedonian court system is somewhere in the middle with regard to the number of procedures and the necessary time.

Table III.2.2. Property registration

Country	No. Procedures	Duration	Price (% of value)
Macedonia	6	74	3.7
Albania	7	47	3.8
Bulgaria	9	19	2.4
Serbia and Montenegro	6	391	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	331	6.1
Croatia	5	956	2.5

The state services and functions are undermined due to the highly limited capacity of the state administration.

2.1.6 Decentralisation. The very fact that the local governments have been almost excluded from the activities related to education, health care, culture and social welfare caused significant damage. At the same time this situation contributed to the burdening of ministries with a large number of operational obligations (UNDP, 2004). Therefore, the decentralisation as a tool for the development of democracy and local participation is one of the key principles of the Framework Agreement.¹⁶ In order to achieve the goals in the area of the decentralisation there were changes and amendments to the legal regulations needed. First, there was a new Law on Local Self-Government that was adopted in 2002 and the Law for

¹⁶ More on the Framework Agreement in the Indicator 2.3.1 Socio-Economic Context or frame III.2.2.

Territorial Organisation and Law on Fiscal Decentralization of the Municipalities also took effect in 2004. The whole process of decentralisation was completed with the local elections beginning in March 2005 and the official start of the implementation of the constitutional and legal norms, which is the transfer of competencies from central to local level started in July 2005. This process should contribute to quality changes with respect to the current solution, with a number of functions that were previously centralized.

The organisation of the local self-government in the Republic of Macedonia is single-layered. An exception is the City of Skopje where there are 10 separate municipalities and the separate unit of the City of Skopje.

The local governments' own resources (according to the 1995 Law) came from: taxes, fees, compensations and other revenues and local self-contribution. The taxes that could generate revenue for the local self-governments were: property tax, tax on inheritance and gift and the sale tax on real estate and right. These taxes can not provide significant funds for the local self-government, because the biggest sources of revenue are the taxes related to the economic activities, such as VAT, sales tax, personal income tax, which were only accessible to the central government. According to the law, the municipalities are financed by funds of state bodies and agencies, as well as donations. So far, the state used 1% of the total annual budget for the local self-government units, while there have been 3.7% in the 2005 budget for this purpose.

The new solutions of the Law for Financing of Local Self-Government Units have significant changes in the way of financing. Besides the planned sources of revenue of the 1995 Law, the new regulations increase the possibilities for financing with: revenues from personal income tax, grants from the national budget that cover VAT revenues, earmarked grants, capital grants, block grants and grants for delegated competence, as well as loans. This law is expected to create a legal frame and real conditions for creating a consensual system in the part of financing of the local self-government units. Its goal is to persistently and completely put into operation the constitutional regulations with respect to the independence of the local self-government units, thus making it the true fundamental value of the constitutional order of the Republic of Macedonia.

2.2. Basic Freedoms and Rights

This sub-dimension looks at the extent to which basic freedoms are ensured by law and in practice in the Republic of Macedonia. Table III.2.3 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.3. Indicators assessing basic freedoms and rights

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>2.2.1</u>	Civil liberties	<u>2</u>
<u>2.2.2</u>	Information rights	<u>1</u>
<u>2.2.3</u>	Press freedoms	<u>1</u>

2.2.1 Civil Liberties. The fundamental values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Macedonia are based on the fundamental freedoms and rights of man and citizen recognized with the international law and determined by the Constitution.

The basic freedoms and rights of man and citizen are divided in the Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia in two groups, civil and political freedoms and

rights and economic, social and cultural rights. Item 3 of this chapter determines the systematic protection of these rights, while Article 77 names the institution of Ombudsman, whose goal is to protect the constitutional and legal rights of the citizens when they are violated by the government bodies and other bodies and organisations with public authorities.

Below is a more detailed explanation on the right of freedom of expression and the right of freedom of association.

Article 16 of the Constitution guarantees the freedom of belief, conscience, opinion and public expression of opinion and Paragraph 3 of the same Article guarantees the free access to information. This constitutional right is also defined by a number of laws as a norm underlying them.

The right to freedom of expression is limited in rare cases, such as the national security, prevention of crime and prevention of riots, protection of the dignity and rights of other persons and protection of the authority of judiciary. These cases are determined in a number of international acts, such as the European Convention of Human Rights, Article 10, Paragraph 2.

In accordance with the elementary approach that the practicing of the freedom of expression can not violate the freedom and rights of other persons, the Penal Code sanctions as crimes the following behaviour: slander, insult, releasing personal and family circumstances and belittling. According to 2002 Statistical Office data, 315 persons have been charged with crimes against the position and honour (114 for slander, 1999 for insult and 2 for other). One hundred twenty-four of them have been charged as guilty, the procedure has been cancelled in 137 of them, 37 were released for the charges and the accusations were rejected in 17 cases (Statistical Overview no. 2.4.3.11/449).

Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia states: “Citizens are guaranteed freedom of association to exercise and protect their political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and convictions. Citizens may freely establish associations of citizens and political parties, join them or resign from them.” The only limitation concerns the cases when the programs and activities of the associations of citizens and political parties are directed towards violent destruction of the constitutional order of the country and towards encouraging or calling for military aggression or stirring up national, racial and religious hate and intolerance. Military or semi-military associations that do not belong to the armed forces of the Republic of Macedonia are prohibited.

Besides the constitutional guarantees for freedom of association, it is also regulated in some laws, such as: Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations and Law on Political Parties.

The right to trade union organisations of the workers is also a constitutional category. The Article 37 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia defines the right of citizens to establish trade unions for fulfilment of their economic and social rights. The trade union organisation is also defined by a separate chapter in the Law on Labour Relations.

There have been no cases of ban on the activities of a CSO or a political party in practice. The practical implementation of the existing legal frame has encountered difficulties, which is the basic reason for the complaints of the citizens with respect to the rule of law.

According to the Civil Freedoms Index of Freedom House (2004), the Republic of Macedonia has been scored 3 on the 1-7 scale, where 1 is the highest mark. The score of 3 is based on following observation that since conflict in 2001 “vandalism against religious sites has decrease significantly”. The reports also state that “juridical system has been criticized for not having a representative ethnic balance among its judge and prosecutors and for having a large backlog of cases. Judicial independence has been questioned, as judges are nominated by parliament in less than transparent procedures.” Another observation of this report is that “several international watchdog groups have charged Macedonian police forces with serious cases of ill-treatment and torture of prisoners.”

2.2.2 Information Rights. The public access to information of public character is a right guaranteed with Article 16, Paragraph 3. Besides this, the public access to information and public authority documents is also regulated in several laws.¹⁷

The laws on general administrative work regulate the right to petition and similar rights. Furthermore, some laws even guarantee the participation of the public in the decision making (for example, Law on Health Insurance).

The President, Parliament and Government, as well as some ministries, have their web pages. But the problem is that they are not updated in time with the most recent data.

In practice, the access to information and documents on the side of the public authorities is improving. The access to the legal acts is much better than the access to the executive acts.

Via the open offices for public relations in the local self government, the citizens have the chance to be informed on the activities of the local self-government and the mayor. Offices of this kind exist in the biggest cities (municipalities in Skopje and the City of Skopje, Prilep, Kumanovo, Bitola, Kavadarci, Veles, Kočani, etc).

The main shortcoming of this area is the non-existence of a general law on access to information of public character. Therefore, it is crucial that a Law on Access to Information of Public Character is adopted as a basis for fulfilment of this right of the citizens. There are a small number of countries that do not have this law and Macedonia is the only one in the region. At the parliamentary session of 26 January 2005, a proposal to adopt the law was made, as a first phase of the adoption of the legal acts in a regular procedure. The working version of the law on access to information has some of the crucial elements that are found in these laws in principle. This means that there is a procedure for fulfilment of the right to free access to information, submission of oral requests for information, there is a regulation on the accountability of those who have the intention to block the access to information, it stipulated establishment of an independent monitoring body, etc. But, this version also has a number of regulations that should be further specified.

¹⁷ The Law on Publishing Laws and Other Acts in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia regulates the issue on laws and acts of the Parliament, Government and President, as well as other institutions, such as the ministries, Constitutional Court, National Bank and state funds (health and pension). The rule book of the Parliament, part XV: Public Assess to the work of the Parliament, that is, Articles 229-237, regulate the access of public and press. The access to acts and documents is guaranteed. The rule book in its Article 119 provides participation of the citizens in the working commissions, while Articles 156 to 159 give the opportunity for public discussions on the legislation on the draft-laws of broader interest. These possibilities are not obligatory and they are not used very often. Public discussions are obligatory only for the draft-constitution.

2.2.3 Press Freedoms. The freedom of the media is also guaranteed by the constitutional Article 16, Paragraph 3, which guarantees the freedom of speech, public appearance, public information and free establishment of public information institutions. Besides the Constitution, this freedom is also regulated with several laws, such as the Broadcasting Law, Law on Public Information and the Telecommunication Law. There are activities on the adoption of a new Broadcasting Law going on in Macedonia.

As a result of the overall democratisation of the Republic of Macedonia, the interest in establishing enterprises and media is quite high.

The pluralism of media started in the beginning of the 90-es when the first private broadcasting media were supported by FOSIM, such as: A1, Evropa 92 printing shop in Kočani, Dnevnik, Denes, Makedonija denes, Fakti, Forum, TV Art and TV Sitel. Also, with the entrance of the German concern WAZ in 2003, it has the majority share holding package in the three most popular dailies Dnevnik, Utrinski vesnik and Vest.

Frame III.2.1. Media program of FOSIM (1993-2005)

Foundation Institute Open Society – Macedonia (FOSIM) significantly contributed to the development of printed and electronic media in the Republic of Macedonia and organisations and individuals working with media. The support of Roma and other minorities' media was highlighted.

Goals of this program, established in the beginning and especially in the middle of 90's were visible even in that period:

- Establishment and development of media pluralism were supported by providing broadcasting and studio equipment for electronic media, computers, paper and coverage of printing costs for the printed media.
- Skills, knowledge and professionalism of media and management staff were improved by their participation at seminars and workshops abroad or in the country (organised in the frame of this programme).
- The programme contributed to the effort of media community to create legal framework for functioning of the media by grants for media institutions and individuals-international experts.

The largest grants in the middle of 90's were given to now national broadcasting television A1, now national broadcasting radio "Channel 77", the printing company "Evropa 92" and the daily newspaper "Dnevnik".

During the Kosovo crisis in (1999) and conflict in Macedonia (2001), the program goals were changed to maintain already reached pluralism of media and to secure unrestricted work of the media in new conditions. In this period in cooperation with Council for Radio-diffusion and in that time Directorate for Telecommunications, FOSIM and its partners took part in the action to help the electronic media. Transmitters in Polog region that were destroyed during the armed attack were replaced by new transmitters and 10 days after their destruction the media broadcasted program in that region again. Also, the basic operative costs of the local private electronic media have been covered.

The programme goals in the period after 2001 were created according to the needs of the media in the country: financing projects that are related to post-crises conciliation like production of multilingual and multiethnic TV serials; contribution to further progress and professional development of electronic media and support to their efforts for market oriented functioning; maintenance and incentive for development of NGO media scene; acting through projects for establishment new media policies that will contribute to the development and promotion of media in line with EU standards.

The FOSIM Media Programme in the period of twelve years (1993-2005) has supported 54 electronic media (television and radio broadcasting companies), 36 printed media and 12 media and other institution or CSOs by \$7,006,183,40 in total.

At the moment, there are 12 dailies, 20 weeklies, 10 fortnightlies and 20 monthlies, being issues in Macedonia. Besides this, there are 21 periodicals and 21 children magazines being printed (Government of the Republic of Macedonia, 2004). Having in mind the multiethnic nature of the Macedonian society, two of the 12 dailies, Fakti and Koha ditore, as well Lobi from the weeklies, are in Albanian and there are also newspapers in Turkish (Zaman), Roma (Roma Times), Serbian (Pogled).

The Macedonian Broadcasting is organised in a public broadcasting service and commercial sector. MRTV is the public broadcaster at a national level, while the total number of commercial broadcasters is 137, out of which 8 commercial broadcasters are national (5 televisions and 3 radios). At a local level, the program is broadcasted by 129 media – 54 televisions and 75 radios.

As far as the practice is concerned, the trend of court decisions in the area of freedom of expression in which media representatives are involved is: in the course of 2001, there were 38 private lawsuits on slander and insult out of the total of 63; in 2002, 46 against journalists out of the 105; in 2003, 41 out of the 78. (The data was presented by the Association of Judges at the “Freedom of Expression, Slander and Insult” conference).

In the current judicial practice, imprisonment sentence was issued in 2002. It is a 3 months imprisonment for slander against the journalist Zoran Markozanov versus the former speaker of the Parliament, Stojan Andov. However, after the second instance appeal, the Appellate Court in Skopje returned the procedure to the first instance.

In the table on freedom of media in the world (Freedom House, 2004), Macedonia is ranked with a mark of 53, which means “partially free”, in the numerical scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is the best result and 100 the worst. Particularly the FH Report says that “media outlets are under strong political influence from both the ruling party and the opposition”.

2.3. Socio-economic Context

This subdimension analyses the socio-economic situation in the Republic of Macedonia and its impact on civil society. CIVICUS has defined some negative socio-economic conditions. These are: high levels of illiteracy, serious ethnic or religious conflicts, social crises, poverty, economic crises and socio-economic inequality. Table III.2.4 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.4. Indicator assessing socio-economic context

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>2.3.1</u>	Socio-economic context	<u>2</u>

2.3.1 How much do socio-economic conditions in the country represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society? Macedonia was the least developed republic in the former Yugoslav federation and its economy was in a downfall for six years before the independence. The first years of the independence were typical for their macroeconomic instability and the increase of the fiscal deficit. To overcome the situation, a Stabilisation program was introduced in 1994 and it resulted in increase of the economic development,

stability of prices and decrease of the inflation for a figure and decrease of the fiscal deficit. Besides these Stabilisation measures and improvements in certain economic segments, the industrial production had only 46% of the 1989 production level in year 2000 and the GDP rate in the industrial sector dropped to 58% of the level it had before the independence.

The crisis in the region, Greek embargo, UN sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo crisis directly influenced this, by weakening the Macedonian economic and political stability and directly contributing to the inability to focus on its own political and economic reforms.

Frame III.2.2. Events in the region and country that directly affected the economic and political stability of the Republic of Macedonia

Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina: With the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (March 2002), Macedonia received around 75,000 refugees that stayed for less than one year and most of the time they were directed to western European countries and Turkey.

Sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: The economic sanctions and political blockade (from 1992 to 2000), introduced by UN to the northern neighbour FRY (sanctions started with an embargo on the weapons and led to a complete economic blockade) influenced the Macedonian economy, which indirectly caused a collapse in the trade relations with the former Yugoslav republics.

Greek embargo: At almost the same period (1993), the Republic of Greece introduced an embargo because of the name dispute with the Republic of Macedonia; it ended in September 1995.

Kosovo crisis: From March to June 1999, as a reaction to the human rights violations in Kosovo and in order to protect them, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was attacked by NATO alliance (as a humanitarian intervention). The solution was the UN Resolution 1244 signed in June the same year, which regulated the temporary situation in Kosovo until a final solution was to be found. In this period, Macedonia hosted 350,000 refugees from Kosovo, which was about 15% of the total population of the country. Most of them were hosted in private houses, but part of them was in camps and centres.

Table III.2.5. Indicator assessing the socio-economic context

Question	Answer
1. Broad poverty (for example, 40% of the people live on only \$2 per day)	No. Today there is a high degree of poverty in the Republic of Macedonia (UNDP, 2003). The main total index shows that 33.54% of the total population in Macedonia is under the poverty line, determined as 70% of the average annual incomes of households (179,809 denars or 2,925 Euro)
2. Civil war (armed conflict in the last 5 years)	No. The conflict was of a small intensity (International Peace Research Institute, 2004).
3. Severe ethnic and/or religious conflicts	Yes. In 2001, the Republic of Macedonia faced an inter-ethnic crisis and a six-month long armed conflict, which was ended by the Ohrid (Framework) Agreement ¹⁸ .
4. Big economic crisis (for example, foreign debt is bigger than GDP)	No. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Macedonia, according to the data of the Statistical Office is 4,546,000,000 dollars (or 2,243 dollars per capita, that is, 6,850 dollars according to PPM in US\$), while the foreign debt is 39.9% of the total GDP.
5. Big social crisis (more than 2 years)	Yes. Still, the Republic of Macedonia faces an extremely high unemployment rate (37%), or more than one third of its able-bodied population is unemployed. Most often, the Government used the social welfare measures to handle poverty, without an active employment policy. In 2002, 82,670 households with 288,994

¹⁸ For more information refer to Frame III.2.2.

	members were social welfare aid beneficiaries, which is 14.7% of the total population. (UNDP, 2003)
6. Big socio-economic inequality (Gini's ratio>0.4)	No. However, although Gini's ratio is under 0.4 (0.2993), the data indicate a moderately high Gini's ratio (0.2993) with a high poverty rate, which can indicate that the poverty is moderately inequality distributed among the population. (UNDP, 2004)
7. Big adult illiteracy (>40%)	No. In the Republic of Macedonia, the rate of adult illiteracy is only 4%. (State Statistical Office; Global Civil Society, 2003)
8. Lack of information technology infrastructure (that is, less than 5 users/10,000 citizens)	No. According to the research "General Data About the Situation Regarding the ICT in Macedonia" (Metamorphosis, 2004) there are 7,259 phone users/10,000 citizens (5,996 mobile phone users/10,000) and 1,639 internet users/10,000 citizens.

Frame III.2.3. 2001 Crisis and the Framework Agreement

In the beginning of 2001, Macedonian faced armed clashes and crisis in its inter-ethnic relations. The armed clashes started in January 2001 in the village of Tanuševeci at the Kosovo border. After several incidents, the armed clashes became more intense in April 2001. The armed clashes were between the security forces of Macedonia and armed groups of ethnic Albanians. The latter established control over several ethnic Albanian villages in the border area with Kosovo in the spring of 2001. There is no confirmed number of killed and the estimates are 150-200 people, very few of them from the civilian population. As a response to the crisis, a grand coalition government was established (covered all parliamentary parties) and started looking for a political solution, with international community mediation. The political solution is the Framework Agreement, made by the four leading political leaders in Macedonia (the leaders of VMRO-DPMNE, SDSM, DPA, PDP) and guaranteed by the President of the Republic of Macedonia and the international community, on 13 August 2001 in Ohrid (also known as Ohrid Agreement).

The Framework agreement has the aim to preserve democracy and develop civil society; Euro-Atlantic integration; and development of multi-cultural society, with an equitable inclusion of the ethnic community.

The basic principles are shortly:

- non-violence and inviolability of the integrity and unitary character of Macedonia;
- multi-culture and appropriate expression in the public life and constitution that expressed this (the Constitution was amended in November 2002);
- democratisation/participation via decentralisation.

The tasks to achieve the goals and principles are:

- end of hostilities: disarmament of the non-state armed groups and restoring of power; return of refugees, revitalisation and rehabilitation of affected areas;
- equitable representation of ethnic communities; expression of identity, better education and usage of languages; separate systems for making decisions on minority protection; rule book of the parliament; public administration laws; police; personal documents; usage of languages; special measures;
- decentralisation: laws on local self-government; local self-financing; new territorial organisation (municipal borders); measures for development of decentralized power;
- additional measures: census of the population and parliamentary elections.

The legislative part of the Framework Agreement has been fulfilled in about four years, in July 2005.

2.4. Socio-cultural Context

This subdimension examines to what extent socio-cultural norms and attitudes are favourable or detrimental to civil society. Table III.2.6 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.6. Indicators assessing socio-cultural context

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>2.4.1</u>	Trust	<u>0</u>
<u>2.4.2</u>	Tolerance	<u>1</u>
<u>2.4.3</u>	Public spiritedness	<u>1</u>

2.4.1 Trust. The lack of trust among people, the lack of trust in the institutions of the system and in the other social factors appears to be one of the more serious problems we are facing which are influencing the state of the society. It is confirmed by several indicators from the community sample.

Namely, as far as the trust among people is concerned, a large number of subjects interviewed (87.7%) feel that people should be dealt with carefully and 6% answered that people should be trusted. The results from the World Values Survey, where 8.2% of the subjects interviewed in the Republic of Macedonia answered that people can be trusted, are also similar.¹⁹

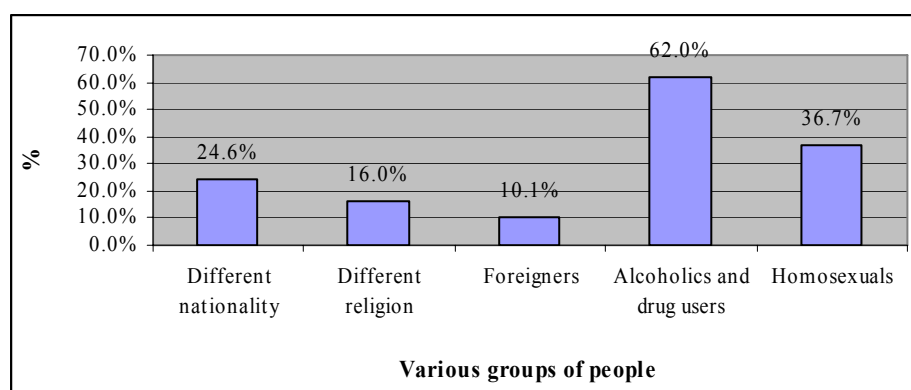
According to the analysis of cross-compared data from the community sample, there are certain differences depending on who is giving the answer. Thus, members of the Islamic religion trust the people more (10%) compared to the members of the Orthodox religion (3.2%). As far as ethnic affiliation is concerned, the trust expressed by the members of the Turkish ethnic community is significantly larger compared to the members of other communities and is 21.3%, while with the members of the Vlach and Albanian community it is 7.1% and with the members of the Macedonian community it is 3.4%. A significant difference regarding this issue can also be seen depending on the total amount of family income. Namely, the trust in people is significantly lower with people with very low monthly income (7.3%), compared to the people whose monthly income is above 30,000 MKD (30.4%).

The trust among the people is very low and social relations are characterised by widespread lack of trust.

2.4.2 Tolerance. The community sample shows that citizens of the Republic of Macedonia are tolerant²⁰ regarding most of the issues. Most of the subjects interviewed (62%) have pointed out drug addicts and alcoholics as groups of people they would not want as neighbours. A high percent of citizens have said that homosexuals are also not welcomed as their neighbours (36.7%) and the people of a different ethnic affiliation came in the third place (24.4%). As regards religious affiliation, only 16% of the subjects interviewed have mentioned that they would not want neighbours with a different religious affiliation, while 10% have declared against foreigners.

¹⁹ The last data for the Republic of Macedonia in the Overview of the World Values are from 1997.

²⁰ The subjects interviewed, having regard to the following groups of people: people from a different ethnic affiliation, people belonging to a different religion, foreigners, drug addicts and alcoholics and, finally, homosexuals, were answering the question "Name those you do not want to be your neighbor?"

Figure III.2.3. Intolerance to the neighbours according to community sample

It would be interesting to point out the data for interethnic (in)tolerance which, according to the answers, is in the third place with 24.6% and compare it to the results from the research within the project “Whole is when there is everything” (December, 2000), where 86.45% of the subjects interviewed felt that there is interethnic intolerance in Macedonia and that it is larger than in other countries (47.31%). Perhaps the indirectness of the question asked (“Name those you do not want to be your neighbours,” as opposed to “Is there interethnic intolerance in Macedonia?”) had an impact on the answer but, in any case, the difference is significant and is a positive signal as regards the change in interethnic relations.

However, according to the data from the community sample mentioned above and translated into absolute numbers, the fact that every fourth citizen does not want to have a neighbour who belongs to a different ethnic community and that every sixth citizen does not want to have a neighbour who has a different religious affiliation, should not be ignored.

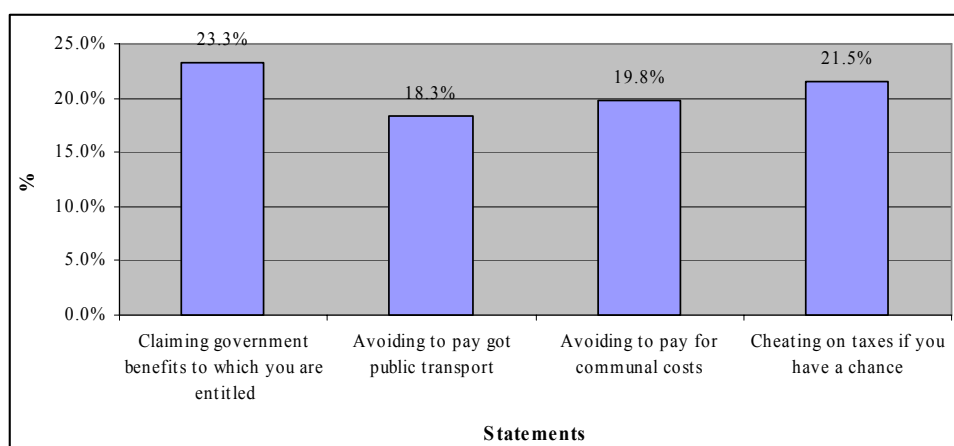
In this context, the socio-economic circumstances (poverty and unemployment) which, according to most of the researches taken in the last 10 years, are the biggest problem for the citizens should, of course, also be taken into consideration.

The average score according to the indicator for tolerance of the Overview of World Values for the Republic of Macedonia is 2.08 that shows that the society is characterized with a low level of tolerance²¹.

2.4.3 Public Spiritedness. The view on the justification of certain behaviour in certain situations compared to the actual behaviour of people in the same or similar situation is not always the same. As regards the questions from the community sample on whether the situations of avoiding the payment of public transportation, taxes and communal fees, as well as asking the Government for benefits one is not entitled to, are justified, most of the citizens’ answers were that these situations were not justified (70% to 78%).

²¹ Tolerance Index scale: 0 (very high tolerance) to 5 (very low levels of tolerance).

Figure III.2.4. Justification for not paying public transportations, communal fees and taxes and asking for benefits one is not entitled to, according to community sample



The reality regarding some of these situations is a little different. According to the data from the Association of Public Communal Enterprises (ADKOM), the collection of communal fees at the national level is between 40% and 50%.

However, the socio-economic situation in the country and the grey economy should not be ignored, that is to say the following factors should be taken into consideration: that 34% of the population lives below poverty threshold; the percent of grey economy, which is 35% of GDP (this data is taken from the 2001 scientific research project “Dimensions of Grey Economy in the Republic of Macedonia”); the low penalties for major offences, etc.

The average score according to the indicator for public for the Republic of Macedonia is 2.61, which shows that the society is characterized with a low level of public spiritedness.

2.5. Legal environment

This subdimension deals with the legal environment for civil society in the Republic of Macedonia and assesses to what extent it is enabling or disabling to civil society. More specifically, it looks at the issue of CSO registration, allowable advocacy activities and tax laws favourable to CSOs and philanthropy. Table III.2.7 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.7. Indicators assessing legal environment

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.5.1	CSO registration	<u>3</u>
2.5.2	Allowable advocacy activities	<u>3</u>
2.5.3	Tax laws favourable to CSOs	<u>1</u>
2.5.4	Tax benefits for philanthropy	<u>1</u>

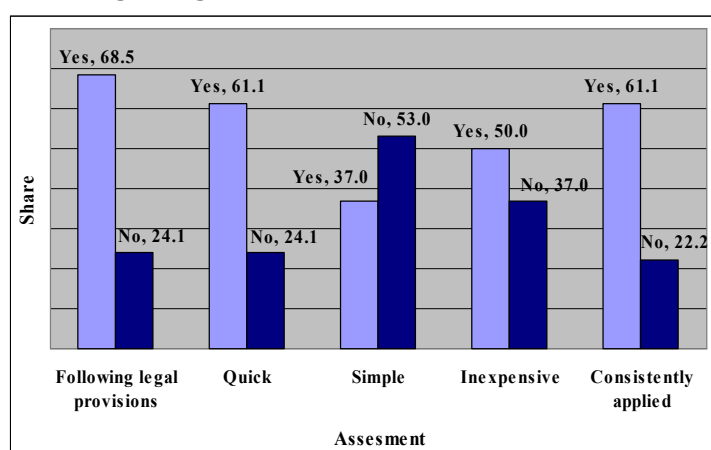
2.5.1 CSO Registration. The Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations was adopted in 1998 as a necessity for the new democratic political system, in which citizens may freely associate in citizen associations and create foundations for accomplishing economic, social, cultural, sport and other rights. Up until this period, the associations of citizens were envisaged only by the Law on Social Organisations and Citizen Associations. This Law envisages two forms of association: associations of citizens and foundations.

An association of citizens can be established by five adult citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, while a foundation, which is a holding company as an independent legal subject, can be established by one or more founders. Registration of the associations of citizens and foundations is carried out in the registration courts.

Generally, the Law is considered to be suitable as regards the fact that it allows CSOs to be registered and work freely. The registration process is rather easy, routine and provides no major difficulties.

This is also confirmed by the research carried out within the regional stakeholder consultations. According to the subjects interviewed, the most important thing is that there are legal procedures, that they are fast and cheap and that they are applied all the time. Only regarding the question of the simplicity of procedures, more than a half of the subjects interviewed feel that they are not simple.

Figure III.2.5. Process of registration of citizen associations and foundations in Macedonia according to regional stakeholder consultations



However, while most judges treat this process pro forma, some make it more difficult by requiring citizen associations to provide a lot of additional data. In order to facilitate the registration process, a number of training courses for the judges responsible for the registration of citizen associations were carried out. Also, in order to help the CSOs, there is a Legal Clinic taking place at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. The Legal Clinic provides legal help for the registration of citizen associations and foundations and for other legal formalities. This legal advice is more available to the organisations from the capital city than those from other municipalities.

Samples of CSO statutes and their founding resolutions can be downloaded from the Internet, which reduces the expenses for the registration of CSOs as regards legal services.

Because of some deficiencies and vagueness in the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations, draft amendments of the Law are in the process of preparation. The main changes contained in the amendments are related to: the liberalisation of the establishment of CSOs, that is to say that foreign citizens, as well as legal entities, can also be founders of CSOs besides domestic natural persons; allowing pursuit of economic activities by associations of citizens and foundations; and introduction of the status of a public benefit organisation.

2.5.2 Allowable Advocacy Activities. According to both the Constitution and the laws there are no prohibitions or restrictions of activities of CSOs, except in cases of direct political activity.

Thus, Article 3 of the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations states that associations of citizens and foundations cannot pursue political activities or use their assets and funds for the realisation of goals of political parties, while paragraph 2 continues to explain that “A political activity within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article is a direct participation in an election campaign or collecting funds for an election campaign and financing a political party”.

This is also supported by the information gathered from the research within regional stakeholder consultations, in which the answer to the question “Is the existing legal regulation limiting CSOs and their activities?” by most subjects interviewed was that they were not limited or that if there was any limitation it was reasonable (65%), 13% answered that they were unreasonably limited, while 22% of the subjects interviewed answered that they did not know or they had no answer.

Generally, from a legal and practical point of view, CSOs are free to organise public debates and criticise.

2.5.3 Tax Laws Favourable to CSOs. Taxation is the biggest legal obstacle for the development of CSOs. Compared to other countries from the region, Macedonia has the least tax benefits. Tax benefits for CSOs and tax promotion for individual and corporation (enterprises) donations are still not introduced in the legislation.

Table III.2.8. Tax regulations pertaining to CSOs

	Tax regulation
Value added tax (VAT)	The basic solution for CSOs is that they are “outside” the VAT system, since only those pursuing any kind of economic activity are in the “centre” of the VAT Law.
Membership fees	They are exempt from VAT, unless an exchange of fulfilment for individual members is identified. It is when the membership fee is intended for settling individual needs for every member and if its value corresponds to the use of the fulfilment given by the organisation.
Domestic donations	No VAT is calculated for the given donation, but the right to a deduction for the previous tax, paid during the donor’s preceding turnover, is not realised.
Foreign donations	We now have a model of a combined direct and indirect tax exemption. That is to say, if the foreign donation is received in products from abroad, a direct tax exemption is applied; but if the foreign donation is used for purchasing domestic products, an indirect exemption is applied, which has two sub alternatives: for the “small” amounts, that is to say for official (office) requirements, VAT is returned through the tax administration and if the fulfilment (the delivery) is intended for project realisation, then VAT is paid from the budget of the Republic of Macedonia if, of course, there is such an agreement between the foreign donor and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.
Import of donated goods	The import of donated goods is exempt from VAT, if it is received by “registered domestic non-profit organisations and unregistered domestic humanitarian non-profit and non-governmental organisations” (Article 27, paragraph 1 and Article 10 of the VAT Law).
Goods purchased in the country, but used for humanitarian purposes abroad	The non-profit organisations are returned the VAT paid for the goods, if those goods are used for humanitarian, charitable or educational purposes abroad (Article 47, paragraph 1, of the VAT Law). This tax promotion is given only when the organisation carries out humanitarian activities abroad.

Personal income tax	There is no exemption, that is to say reduction, from the personal income tax for: the funds donated by natural persons; the amounts paid to volunteers; the awarding of jubilee awards; the awards for certain results that were achieved – in sports, culture, etc.
Profit tax	The donations and sponsorships for scientific, humanitarian, cultural, educational, health, religious and sports purposes (except the expenses for professional sports) and the expenses based on them are treated as acknowledged expenditure in the amount of 3% of the total income, on the condition that they are paid to public institutions financed from the budget or to the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia.
Property tax	The Law on Property Taxes, governing the following kinds of property taxes: the property tax, the inheritance and gift tax and the estate turnover tax, stipulates that these taxes are not tax exempt and that they have no tax benefits.
Fees	Only the communal fees have the following exemption: they are not paid for “the commercial sign of non-profit organisations”. As far as the court and administrative fees are concerned, there are no exemptions or benefits for CSOs.
Economic/business activities	The foundations and associations are not allowed to directly pursue an economic activity. In order to engage in activities for generating incomes in support of their own non-profitable activities, they must establish separate limited liability companies. These separate subsidiaries are subject to the same tax laws as any other enterprise.
Investments	CSOs have the right to directly generate investment incomes and do not have to establish a separate enterprise to generate income from, for example interest rates, dividends and rents. However, the investment income has a taxation rate of 15%.

Tax system is obstacle for civil society development. The existing system supports very limited number of organisations and very limited sources of funding (EU, USAID, membership fees).

2.5.4 Tax Benefits for Philanthropy. In the Republic of Macedonia there are not enough encouraging mechanisms for promoting donations. Namely, the donations and grants expenses for scientific, humanitarian, cultural, educational and religious purposes, as well as for health care and amateur sports can be deducted from the tax base in the amount of 3% of the legal entity’s gross income, at the most, on the condition that the donations and scholarships are given to organisations financed from the state budget or to the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia. Scholarships are not considered as expenses deductible from the tax base, unless they are granted by funds and foundations established by law, or unless they are granted to top athletes.

Also, so far there is no legal frame in the Republic of Macedonia according to which individual donations for certain purposes would be exempt from taxation, or from a part of the tax on wages which the employees pay the state, when intended for CSOs (as for example in Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, where every employee can donate 1% of the income tax to a certain CSO).

The situation is the same when it comes to enterprises. Enterprises are tax exempted in the amount of maximum 3% of the turnover if they donate it for scientific, humanitarian, cultural, educational, health, religious and sports purposes, except the expenses for professional sports, on the condition that they are paid to public institutions financed from the budget, as for example “Ranka Milanović”, or to the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia.

2.6. State-Civil Society Relations

This subdimension deals with the make-up and quality of relations between the state and civil society and includes aspects such as the extent to which CSOs are under the control and supervision of the state, how relations between the state and civil society are designed and whether and to what extent CSOs receive financial support from the state. Table III.2.9 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.9. Indicators assessing the state-civil society relations

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>2.6.1</u>	Autonomy	<u>2</u>
<u>2.6.2</u>	Dialogue	<u>2</u>
<u>2.6.3</u>	Cooperation / support	<u>1</u>

2.6.1 Autonomy. In the period from 1945 to 1990, CSOs were controlled by the Communist Party, that is to say the state. The control mechanism was implemented through the direct connection of the Party with the social and political organisations, where the Socialist Alliance of the Working People included the War Veterans' Association, the Union of the Socialist Youth, the Trade Union Confederation, the Women Organisation (AFZ), sports organisations, folklore associations, etc.

With the transition of Macedonian society and the development of positive democratic values, the freedom of association and autonomous action is guaranteed by the Constitution (Article 20, paragraphs 1 and 2). Paragraph 3 of the same Article of the Constitution and paragraph 4 of the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations stipulate that the programmes and actions of associations of citizens and political parties cannot be directed towards violent overthrowing of the Constitutional order of the state and encouraging or calling for a military aggression or encouraging national, racial or religious hate and intolerance are the only standards envisaging a kind of limitation in CSOs activities, which indicates a rather wide framework (space) for action.

According to the ISC research in the year 2001, the opinion of CSOs confirms the fact that they are autonomous in their actions. Most of the subjects interviewed (79.7%) feel that the authorities do not obstruct activities of organisations and only 10% feel that this is the case.

On the other hand, one gets a slightly different impression from the research carried out within the regional stakeholder consultations. Answering the question "How much did the state influence the activities of civil society?", one fourth (26%) of the subjects interviewed answered that the state often influences their activities, 55% of them answered that it rarely does, 4% answered that it never does, while 14% did not answer the question. However, even though the opportunity was provided, not one of the subjects interviewed provided an example of the state interfering with their activities. The difference in the answers from both researches is due to the wording of the question. In the first case the subject of the question is "not obstructing", which is completely different from the level of influencing CSOs activities by the state.

The freedom of association and autonomous action is guaranteed by the Constitution and generally is respected by the Government. Government does not directly interfere or obstruct CSOs, but there are attempts to influence through communication, funding and media.

2.6.2 Dialogue. So far, there is no strategy or programme for cooperation between the Government and CSOs, although this activity is a part of the proposed measures for improving civil society in Macedonia, envisaged with the Action Plan of the Government for implementing the recommendations from the EU Stabilisation and Association Report for the year 2003.

Despite the measures notified by the Government, the cooperation practice so far shows that it is not institutionalized and that it was carried out depending on the personal convictions of the executive of the institution or was based on personal friendship.

A step forward in establishing a better communication and cooperation is the decision of the Government for establishing a department for cooperation between the Government and CSOs, adopted in November 2004. The department is in the process of being established.

However, positive cases of an established dialogue and cooperation have been noticed in the past three years. It is most often established during drafting laws or national strategies on certain issues, or in cases of emergency (humanitarian) activities. Although the opinion that CSOs are included in Government activities when they are asked to participate in them by international representatives is prevailing, it can be seen that it is an increasing tendency. In the period from 2002 to 2005, 59 initiatives have been submitted by CSOs, 24 of which are regarding the preparation of national strategies, namely: the National Poverty Strategy (2002); the National Youth Strategy (2004); the National Strategy for Roma Population (2004); the National Report for the Existing Development (2002); the amendments to the Law on Social Welfare (2003) which contains provisions for providing services by CSOs; the amendments to the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations, etc. (More data is to be found in Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.)

The Sector for European Integration, which is present at every significant event organised by CSOs, as well as a part of the civil servants employed in the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare also contributed to the improvement of communications.

The local level cooperation, that is to say the cooperation between the local self-government and the CSOs, is considered to be at a higher level than the cooperation at a national level. The participants in regional stakeholder consultations in Prilep, Veles, Kumanovo, Štip, Gostivar and Skopje have often expressed their contentment from the understanding and cooperation with the representatives of the local self-government.

The research carried out within the regional stakeholder consultations also gives an answer to this question. The subjects interviewed were almost unanimous about the fact that the dialogue (communication) between the state and civil society is moderate or limited, that is to say 51% stated that it is moderate and 41% that it is limited. Only 2% feel that it is a wide communication, while the rest feel that it does not exist (2%).

According to the Directory of Civic Organisations only 10.7% out of major 858 organisations exchange information with the Government, 15.9% with the units of the local self-government, 12.1% with other institutions and none with the political parties. The parameters for communication with the said participants are similar (see table below).

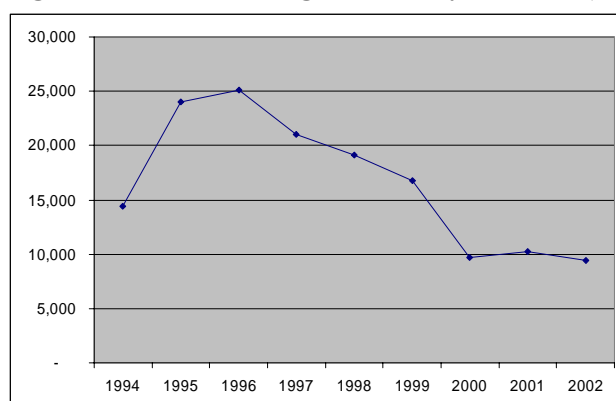
Table III.2.10. Exchange of information, communication and cooperation with other institutions in the country (MCIC, 2003)

	Government		LSGU		Institutions		Parties	
Exchange of information	92	10.7%	136	15.9%	104	12.1%	0	0.0%
Communication	121	14.1%	142	16.6%	80	9.3%	1	0.1%
Cooperation	69	8.0%	84	9.8%	42	4.9%	1	0.1%

2.6.3 Cooperation / Support. The general impression is that the state financing of CSOs is not very developed, nor does it show any strategic consistency with those relatively small funds that the state decides to use as a financial support for certain activities. This tendency, especially in the last few years due to the deteriorated economic situation in the country in combination with a number of crisis that have subsequently developed in its neighbourhood and, finally, on its territory in the year 2001, also reflects on the scope of the state financing which was already rather limited.

The single more significant opportunity which the Macedonian CSOs have for acquiring funds from domestic sources appears once in a calendar year, when the state announces a public notice for that purpose. The amount intended for this purpose usually represents a small segment of the total state budget for that calendar year. According to the Government decision for financing associations of citizens and foundations for the year 2004, 15,000,000 MKD (244,000 EUR) are allocated to 80 organisations, the Trade Union Confederation of the Republic of Macedonia being the greatest recipient with 4,500,000 MKD (73,000 EUR).

Figure III.2.6. Financing of CSOs by the state (MCIC, 2003)



As an additional domestic source for financing of CSOs is the fund which exists within the national lottery and other games of chance, in which case the amount received is forwarded to the Association of Organisations of People with Disabilities and then distributed to seven organisations—members of the Association, as well as to the Red Cross and sports organisations. This financing is carried out through the Ministry of Finance, but first of all it is given the support by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, with a special Government decision. For the year 2004, 75,000,000 MKD (1,220,000 EUR) were allocated for this purpose.

It is also a well known fact that some of the ministries allocate a part of the budget for the support of CSOs. Namely, within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning there is

a fund for the protection and promotion of the environment and nature which supports environmental organisations. Also, the Agency of Youth and Sports has allocated 81,000,000 MKD (1,317,000 EUR) for the year 2005, intended for the support of projects of non-profit organisations.

The new Law for Social Welfare also stipulates novelties in the way CSOs are being financed which opens up a possibility for a direct agreement – financing for services of CSOs at local level.

The main shortcoming of the allocation of state funds is the non-transparency of the process and the lack of clarity as to the criteria.

The CSOs also receive financial support from a part of the local self-government units. Bitola, Kavadarci, Prilep, Kumanovo and Veles are municipalities for which there is data about annually allocated funds. Both organisational and project activities of organisations are being supported⁵. The municipalities make an effort to support as many local organisations as possible and these funds are often provided from the original revenues of local self-governments.

III.2.7. Private Sector-Civil Society Relations

This subdimensions deals with the relationship between the private sector and civil society, such as the private sector's attitude towards civil society, corporate social responsibility and corporate citizenship. Table III.2.11 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.2.11. Indicators assessing the private sector-civil society relations

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>2.7.1</u>	Private sector attitude	<u>1</u>
<u>2.7.2</u>	Corporate social responsibility	<u>1</u>
<u>2.7.3</u>	Corporate philanthropy	<u>1</u>

2.7.1 Private Sector Attitude. Generally, in the Republic of Macedonia, there is a lack of consciousness on the side of the private sector about the importance of civil society sector. From the experience so far, except for a few examples, there is no support or developed inter-cooperation and at the same time there is no mutual trust. It is clear that the private sector is not interested in the civil service sector, which is CSOs fault also because they do not contribute enough for the promotion of civil society sector and for the strengthening of public awareness for civil society sector.

The research carried out within the framework of the PDAS “Megjaši” project: “The NGO and the Business Sector – Together for Community Welfare” in the year 2001 and the answers of the representatives of the private sector to the question of which factors impede the cooperation between the private enterprises and CSOs, provides the answer concerning their position towards CSOs. Namely, more than 40% of the subjects interviewed are not aware of the importance of civil society sector and have no information about their activities, while another 14% feel that not all CSOs are professional, serious and that not all of them have the quality necessary for carrying out the activity. Seven percent are simply not interested in civil society sector.

On the other hand, the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations feel that the private sector behaviour towards civil society is mostly indifferent (38%) and distrustful

(34%). A small number of them feel that their behaviour is supportive (6%) and 12% consider it effective.

Both researches confirm the perception of the lack of trust among the private sector and the civic sector.

According to the Directory of Civic Organisations only 2.3% out of major 858 organisations exchange information with the business sector and 1.2% with media. The parameters for communication with the said participants are similar (see table below).

Table III.2.12. Exchange of information, communication and cooperation with the business sector in the country (MCIC, 2003)

	Business sector		Media	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Exchange of information	20	2.3%	10	1.2%
Communication	27	3.1%	11	1.3%
Cooperation	23	2.7%	7	0.8%

2.7.2 Corporate Social Responsibility. The socialism based on self-management and the socially-owned property of the enterprises that existed at the beginning of the 1990s was supposed to represent the responsibility towards social needs. This system did not create the space for a debate regarding this issue. However, the transitional processes which led to a change in the ownership capital imposed the need for developing and implementing the concept of social responsibility, a concept suggesting responsibility towards tax obligations, employees, marginalised groups, the community and the environment. The first public debate on this subject was held in 2002 within the NGO Fair – Civil Society Forum of Macedonia. What was concluded was that the primary responsibility of the managers is the responsibility towards the profits, then the responsibility to fulfil the obligations towards the state and finally the responsibility towards everything else (culture, sports, health care, environmental protection, etc.). It was also concluded that, except for a few cases, the general level of social responsibility of entrepreneurs is still at a low level.

An additional analysis about the social responsibility of enterprises, covering the ten most profitable enterprises in the Republic of Macedonia for the year 2003, was also made (see table below). According to the findings, it can be concluded that, although there is a positive tendency, there is generally no long-term strategy for this purpose and, if there is, it has just been established so the results cannot be seen yet. A small number of them have separate departments dealing with activities of social responsibility (Tutunski Kombinat Skopje and Macedonian Telecommunications), while others have placed these activities within the marketing department and the public relations department. Most of the activities taken are directed towards the development of sports (sports clubs and events) and the culture (support of major cultural events), being the most visited events that allow promotion of enterprises. A part of them (such as Makpetrol) also show concern for their employees through providing training courses regularly, crediting their employees, employing members of the family (outside the management team), etc.

From the research about socially responsible enterprises, it can be seen that only the Tutunski Kombinat Skopje (TKS) provided data (in percentages) for the participation of funds allocated for socially responsible activities in the revenue of the enterprise. Namely, the funds for socially responsible activities for the year 2002 allocated within TKS were 2% of the

revenue, for 2003 they were 0.5% and for 2004 they were 1.2%. This data can be compared with the data for socially responsible activities of Makpetrol which for the year 2003 were 40,800,000 MKD (664,000 EUR) in relation to the revenue of 411,702,605 MKD (6,670,000 EUR), or 9%. However, it should be taken into consideration that despite the allocated funds for the support of sports, holidays, leisure, sponsorships and donations, a part of these funds is to be used for advertising.

At the question²² asked in the regional stakeholder consultations relating to the social responsibility of enterprises, most of the participants (42%) answered that its presence can hardly be seen, while 26% feel that its presence is limited and 25% that its presence is moderate. Only 3% feel that the social responsibility is significantly present.

General level of social responsibility of the private corporations is still at a low level, with very few companies practicing social responsibility and many ignoring the negative effects on the communities and environment.

2.7.3 Corporate Philanthropy. Despite the public (state) financing, the individual and corporate philanthropy also represent a possibility for financial viability of CSOs based on the domestic system of support. However, several researches show that there is a small percentage of participation of enterprises in the total support of CSOs (as is the case with the individual and state donations, in a situation of big dependence on foreign donations).

Namely, not a single CSO included in the research within the regional stakeholder consultations had received a hundred percent of its income for the year 2003 from enterprises. On the contrary, only 1% of organisations have managed to cover 60% to 80% of the budget with the funds received from enterprises and another 1% of them have covered 40% to 60% of their budget.

Table III.2.13. Regional stakeholder consultations: What sources did the organisation use to provide funds for its work in the last year?

	0 - 20		20-40		40-60		60-80		80-100	
Government	113	96%	2	2%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%
Local enterprises	109	92%	6	5%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Foreign donors	56	47%	5	4%	2	2%	5	4%	50	42%
Individual donations	107	91%	3	3%	4	3%	1	1%	2	2%
Membership fee	105	89%	5	4%	1	1%	1	1%	6	5%
Charge for services	113	96%	4	3%	1	1%	0	0%	6	5%
Other	112	95%	2	2%	1	1%	1	1%	2	2%

In the above mentioned research of PDAS “Megjaši”, a large number of CSOs interviewed have expressed their discontent by the cooperation with the business sector. In total, the answers that the cooperation is not good or that it is unsatisfactory cover 72% of the answers.

²² How do you assess the work of the major enterprises in Macedonia, having regards to the consequences from their activities for the society and the environment – how often is the social responsibility present with the enterprises?

It is interesting to point out that the help and the support given by the enterprises (and small businesses) correspond to the level of activity. The local organisations often receive the support from local businesses, while larger enterprises try to support organisations and events of national character and significance.

However, if the support is understood in a wider sense than donating money (it can also be in the form of sponsorships, a type of goods, a kind of performance, etc.), then it can be concluded that a philosophy of donating and helping by enterprises exists. The survey conducted by PDAS “Megjaši” shows that more than a half (54%) of the organisations interviewed have received a kind of help or support, while 25% did not, even though they asked for it. The rest (20%) did not try to ask for support at all.

Conclusion

The environment is disabling to a certain point, with a partly ineffective state and a deep lack of public trust.

Despite the progress in the field of basic rights and freedoms, political context is unfavourable. The most limiting factors are the (lack of) rule of law, corruption, (in)efficiency of the state and the highly centralized state. The state services and functions are undermined due to highly limited capacity of the state administration. Freedom of media is frequently violated and there is very limited access to (state) information.

Macedonia is facing deep lack of public trust in society and low tolerance and public spiritedness. One can argue that this is cause and effect relations between ineffective state (lack of rule of law, corruption, inefficiency of the state and the highly centralized state) and low public trust and public spiritedness.

The legal frame is enabling both in terms of registration and work. There are possibilities for improving the further liberalisation of the founding, determining of the economic activities and the public (charity) status of the CSOs. On the other hand, the tax system is unfavourable for the CSOs and charity giving (philanthropy) and it is an obstacle to the further development of the civil society.

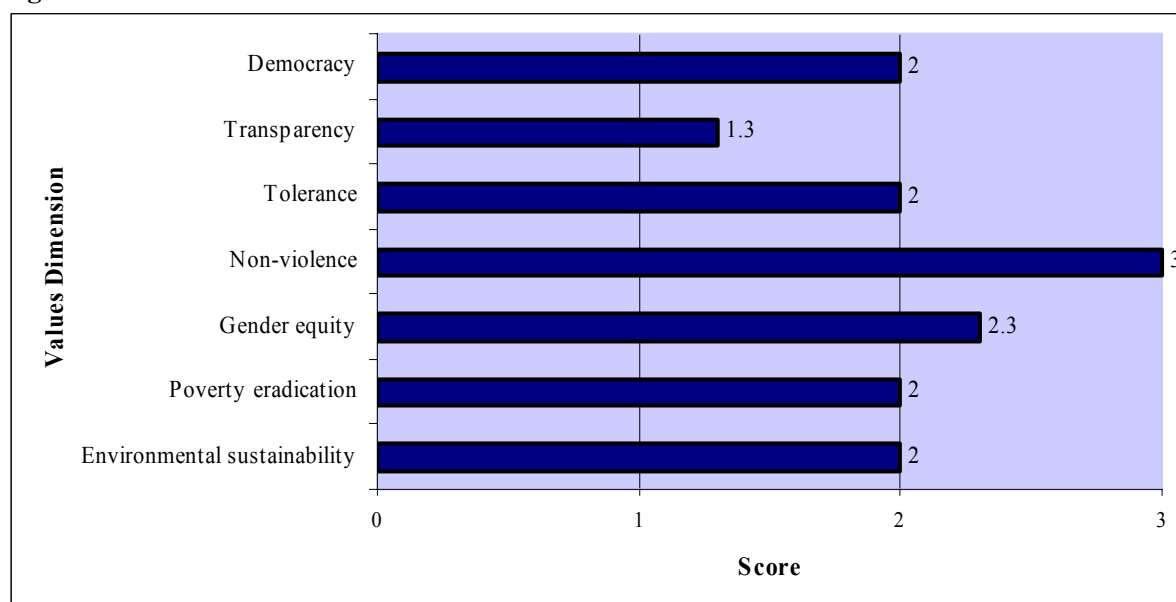
The relations between the state and the civil society are on the border between productive and non-productive. The cases of involvement of the state in the CSOs are less frequent and the dialogue is improving, although at ad-hoc basis. The improvement of the dialogue is not followed by an improved support and only a limited number of organisations (sports, disability) receive state resources.

General level of social responsibility of the private corporations is still at a low level, with very few companies practicing social responsibility. Support from the private sector to civil society is very low. The views and the relations, between the civil society and the private sector, are mutually indifferent and there is no dialogue (for example, economic-social council).

III.3. VALUES

The Values dimension examines the extent to which CSOs in the Republic of Macedonia internally practice certain values, such as transparency and tolerance and promote them externally. The score for the Values Dimension is 2.1., reflecting an overall positive, but moderate value basis of Macedonian civil society. Figure III.3.1 below presents the scores for the seven subdimensions within the Values dimension.

Figure III.3.1. Assessment of the Subdimensions of Values



3.1. Democracy

This subdimension examines the extent to which Macedonian civil society actors practice and promote democracy. Table III.3.1 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.3.1. Indicators assessing democracy

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.1.1	Democratic practices within CSOs	2
3.1.2	CS actions to promote democracy	2

3.1.1 Democratic Practices within CSOs. The representatives of CSOs themselves think that they practice internal democracy, that is, 76% of the persons surveyed at the regional stakeholder consultations claim this.

The development of the CSOs in Macedonia is at an early stage when the founders of the organisations still play a crucial role in making the decisions at all levels, both strategic and operational. The practice that the same people hold the managerial and executive functions is frequent. Most of the organisations are small and function on voluntary basis without paid staff. This is the profile of about 75% of the CSOs, which are registered in the MCIC Directory of Civic Organisations. In these circumstances, providing optimal internal democracy is even a greater challenge.

The concept of creating executive boards is not institutionalized and therefore there are no mechanisms for balanced division of power in making decisions and internal control of the work. Still, there are more developed CSOs that can serve as good examples of established

internal democratic bodies. It is worth mentioning that out of the thirty leading CSOs in various sectors in Macedonia, 13% changed their management structure in the last one and a half decade, via elections of new members of the Executive Boards and/or Assemblies. These processes indicate that there has been a stage of maturing of the internal democracy reached with certain organisations such as El Hilal, DEM, Mesečina and others (MCIC, 2004).

According to the USAID Sustainability Index for 2004, the organisations often are in a dilemma about the way in which the executive boards would improve the efficiency of the work of the CSOs. The highest body, defined according to the law, is the assembly which is the mechanism that provides that the broader membership influences the decision making. This form of involvement of the membership offers applying internal democracy; however, sometimes it is not enough. There are organisations that understand the annual assembly and organise it as a solemn act of formal verification of the mandate and decisions orchestrated and defined upfront by the same people who do everything in the organisations. It happens that the members do not have enough information to be able to give their contribution to the decision making.

CSOs are somewhere half way in practising internal democracy. There are frequent cases for both practising and not practising internal democracy, for example little or no participation of the members in the decisions making or democratically and undemocratically elected leaders.

3.1.2 CS Actions to Promote Democracy. The media review showed that the topics related to democracy, human rights and rule of law are the most present ones when it comes to reporting about civil society: 90 topics, or 23.4% of the total number of published articles. This shows that the CSOs pay significant attention to addressing the issues related to the promotion of democracy. This is also confirmed by the CSO representatives included in the regional stakeholder consultations, 84% out of whom could list public campaigns for democracy promotion. The most frequent examples were campaigns for gender rights, rights of marginalised persons, election monitoring, professional standards of expert associations, etc.

Still, CSOs are not able to mobilise broader support in the implementation of these initiatives. There is no complete trust of the public in the intentions and power of CSOs. The insufficient practicing of the democratic principles in the management of their own organisations, among other things, leads to the possibility for de-legitimisation and losing one's credibility for this kind of effort.

There is a general saturation with the unsuccessful attempts for impact on the decisions via the system of representative democracy. The community sample, as well as other indicators show a trend of less and less trust in power and political parties. There is a need for more active involvement of civil society in the adoption of important decisions such as the laws related to decentralisation. In an atmosphere of incomplete trust in the existing CSOs (for example, lack of trust in trade unions), there have been two alternative ways of practicing direct impact in the processes: non-institutional activities, such as protests (community sample), road blocks, etc, as well as civil movements that are insufficiently and do not clearly distinguished from political parties, impact and aspirations.

3.2. Transparency

This subdimension analyses the extent to which CSOs are transparent and the extent of their actions to promote transparency. Table III.3.2 summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.3.2. Indicators assessing transparency

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.2.1	Corruption within civil society	2
3.2.2	Financial transparency of CSOs	1
3.2.3	CS actions to promote transparency	1

3.2.1 Corruption within Civil Society. The issue of corruption of civil society is one of the most contradictory issues. The representatives of CSOs themselves think that there is corruption in civil society, that is, 50% think that it is very frequent occurrence. The research showed that only 14% of the CSO representatives think that corruption is a rare occurrence in the CSOs. The corruption is perceived as something that exists in the sector, but not in their own organisation, because 53% think that their organisations are transparent.

In the 2004 and 2005 articles on corruption of civil society (weeklies Capital, Focus), the source of claims are representatives of CSOs. In the media review there are no specific cases of corruption, as opposed to the everyday cases in the public sector. The same overview had two examples of irregularities in the election of bodies and two specific cases of financial abuse.

According to the global corruption barometer, conducted by Transparency International in 2004, the CSOs and religious groups are the least corrupted in the Republic of Macedonia.

The thesis that “corruption exists in the sector, but not in one’s own organisation” is mostly related to the system of donations. Corruption is the most frequent explanation about the success or failure in applying of project grants. None of the researches confirmed this. This discussion often ignores the lack of knowledge and skills as the reason for failure – 65% of the people surveyed in the regional stakeholder consultations say that they do not need training, while on the other hand they state that the main problem is the lack of finances.

One of the possible sources of non-transparency is still the system of donations. The available grants are almost completely with project approach – certain activities are financed for a certain period, the organisational needs are neglected, especially the indirect (fixed) expenses (office, communications, etc.). Most of the organisations do not have another source of financing outside the (project) donations and they do not have financial means for the indirect (fixed) expenses. They are mostly provided by reallocation of the grants and the donors are not informed on that.

The issue of corruption of civil society is one of the most contradictory issues. Internally this issue is paraphrased in “corruption exists in the sector, but not in one’s own organisation”. Other sources are not confirming that perception, with exclusion of few cases of frauds and misuse of project funds.

3.2.2 Financial Transparency of CSOs. The financial transparency of one’s own organisation, according to the perception of the CSO representatives, is at a satisfactory level. More than half of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations (66%) claim that the financial accounts and reports of their organisation are accessible to the public.

However, financial transparency and accountability still remains problematic. While most of the organisations use all accessible media to present their activities and work results to the public, when it comes to their presentation of the financial results, they become hesitant and closed. Traditionally, when data are collected for the Directory of Civic Organisations, the questions about planned and realised budget is the one least answered to (for example, in 2003 Address Book, 14% of the organisations did not answer the question on the realised budget for the previous year). There are organisations that are not willing to reveal financial information, not even to their own members. Only the president, deputy president, secretary or the accountant have access to this information.

It is interesting to stress that often the financial reports are not revealed only because there is no understanding of the importance of the financial transparency and strengthening of the accountability to the public. Thus, many organisations stress that there are financial reports prepared and distributed to the donors, executive board, assembly and sometimes to the membership and that they are “available to the public upon request”. This shows that there is an absence of a more active attitude towards improving the accessibility of the financial data to the public. The accountability is primarily directed to the sources of finance, that is, donors and much less to the membership, target groups and public. The reason for this is the absence or small number of mobilized local funds and not paying enough attention to the need to gain the trust of the citizens and local social capital, which will potentially in the future become important for the financial sustainability of the civic sector.

Still, a certain number of organisations have been conducting regular external financial audits for quite some time and/or published their financial reports, while a group of 8 organisations has been doing that together since 2004.

Frame III.3.1. Together for Transparency

Gaining trust and support at a local and long-term level has been becoming more and more important and it encourages part of the organisations to have a more serious approach towards presenting their financial results to the local public. In this way, lead by this belief, a group of 8 CSOs (MCIC, MEDF, FOSIM, ADI, Megjaši, Nansen Dialogue Centre, UWOM and CCI) made a step forward under the motto “Together for Transparency”, promoting the financial transparency in their own organisations and “decided voluntarily and for the first time together to publish their annual reports, financial reports and independent audit reports on these reports. This is done voluntarily, as there is no legal obligation to do this; however, they think that they have a moral obligation to the public. They are doing this together for the first time, because some of them have published their financial reports individually. The joint publishing is intended to send a clear message that this is one of the basic ways for strengthening responsibility.” (Joint Statement of the organisations, Dnevnik and Koha Ditore, 2004)

A frequent problem to financial transparency is not only the will of the leadership of the organisations, but also the lack of enough knowledge and skills in the area of financial work and management and the way of presenting financial information.

Frame III.3.2. Capacities for transparent work

The insufficient financial management capacity results in financial systems that most often do not support transparent work and reporting. “The organisations usually do not have financial reporting standards or rulebooks for accounting; the control systems are not functional enough and the complete responsibility and control of the financial work are focused on a small number of persons, usually mutually connected; annual revenues, expenditures and liquidity are not sufficiently planned; financial reporting is based to the minimum demands of the legal regulations which do not provide enough

information for the rationality of the spending.” (Report of the project “Audit Preparation” from 2003 and Civic Practices no. 1, 2003).

“A proof that the organisations can work differently are the reports to the donors that provide funds. When there are clear rules presented to how a financial report should look like the organisations follow them impeccably” (Civic Practices no. 1, 2003).

3.2.3 CS Actions to Promote Transparency. Civil society insignificantly promotes the transparency of the government. There are very few activities at local level and there are almost no activities directed towards transparency in the business sector.

68% of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations do not know or can not remember a single activity of the CSOs directed towards promoting the transparency of the government and only 9% can give several examples. Also, only 10% of them think that the role of the CSOs in the improving of the transparency of the government is significant. Only 7% of the participants can give examples of activities directed towards business sector transparency. With respect to the transparency of the government, the persons surveyed could remember the following activities: Macedonia without Corruption – Transparency Macedonia (7); Hit the Corruption (2); Draft Law on Territorial Organisation of the Local Self Government Units in the Republic of Macedonia (2); etc, while with respect to the transparency of the business they remembered Resist – Say NO! (6) and Together for Transparency.

In the course of 2002, the coalition Macedonian without Corruption was established, which mobilized 80 organisations that want to cooperate in the area of corruption. The network and communication channels were established, there were several training sessions organised, but it has not resulted in activities at a social level yet. The mission of the coalition is cooperation of the organisations that work in the area of corruption.

Transparency Macedonia, which is also a member of the international network of Transparency International, is an organisation with a mandate to work on the promotion of transparency and fighting the corruption, while a dozen of other organisations are also active in the area of rule of law. There are no, at least not visible, activities of citizen groups that monitor the work of the government in the service providing area. Some of the rare activities are organised by the Organisation of Consumers, which is focused both to the government and the business sector. Some of the CSOs, like those of the people with disabilities, monitor the services that concern their target group.

The implemented activities in this area are campaigns for promotion of the fight against corruption and transparency, lobbying for legal regulations, as well as research and survey, which mainly end by diagnosing the situation without any follow-up activities on the side of the CSOs or government institutions. The inertia and ineffectiveness of the government institutions on these issues, especially the slowness of the court procedures is de-motivating to the CSOs in their efforts to monitor and reveal corruption. For example, the data received by Transparency Macedonia show that there has been no verdict from any of the corruption cases started in 2003, by mid-2005.

3.3. Tolerance

This subdimension examines the extent to which Macedonian civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance. Table III.3.3 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.3.3. Indicators assessing tolerance

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.3.1	Tolerance within the CS arena	<u>2</u>
3.3.2	CS actions to promote tolerance	<u>2</u>

3.3.1 Tolerance within the CS Arena. Civil society in Macedonia creates a relatively open space for expressing views and ideas, as opposed to the less tolerant approach imposed by the political actors. The division of the society along various grounds, especially the inter-ethnic one, is reflected to the division of the civic sector, although it seems to a much smaller degree and less visible. If intolerance exists, it is not obvious and explicit to the extent to cause public debates and clashes. In the monitored media, there were very few reports on intolerant attitudes to some issues. Only 19% of the participants at the regional stakeholder consultations think that the intolerant forces have significant meaning in the arena of civil society in Macedonia. Also, no concrete examples were given. The concealed intolerance is most often manifested via the tendency to cooperate only with organisations with similar professional profile, as well as similar ethnic and cultural identity.

In absence of other methods for political mobilisation, the political parties have largely (ab)used the nationalist mechanisms (Global Civil Society, 2004). This resulted in tense inter-ethnic relations. Especially during and immediately after the armed conflict in the country, the intolerance grew in all social segments, which has to a certain degree reflected on the relations and communications among the CSOs. Although this crisis period was seemingly quickly overcome, symptoms of intolerance were again expressed during the adoption of some important laws related to decentralisation and especially the Law on Territorial Reorganisation.

The initiative to create a space for encouraging public debates on relevant issues in a tolerant atmosphere is the establishment of the Civic Platform of Macedonia (Frame III.1.5.)

The occurrence of social forces that are called the dark side of civil society was also typical for the region during the last decade. The weakened leftist ideology, the insecurity caused by the dramatic structural reforms, unemployment, migration, etc, resulted in groups based on national (nationalistic) basis, which as a rule offer the feeling of security in insecure times, as well as psychological comfort in the absence of the material one (Global Civil Society: 2004). Cases of using of CSOs by the political forces to achieve short term goals were also visible in Macedonia.

In the period of the armed conflict in Macedonia, the occurrence of CSOs such as associations of participants in the 2001 conflict, associations of disabled in the war, families of killed soldiers, war convicts, etc, was typical. These associations represent the interests and rights of the persons directly involved in the armed clashes and those who most directly suffered the consequences of the conflict. A small number of them undertook activities that can be considered as not contributing to tolerance. These activities still remained isolated. These organisations are still part of civil society, but they are already integrated in the main streams.

3.3.2 CS Actions to Promote Tolerance. At a social level, the CSOs are significant actors that actively promote tolerance. Seventy-four percent of the persons surveyed in the regional stakeholder consultations think that CSOs have a role of promoting tolerance at a social level. There are CSOs, like Centre for Multicultural Understanding and Cooperation, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Nansen Dialog Centre, that have mandate and mission to promote these values. They have put efforts and means to organise public campaigns, conferences, workshops and debates on promoting tolerance. Examples of these activities are: Whole Is when There Is Everything, Nobody Is Perfect etc. Also ad-hoc networks and coalitions are organised to promote values of tolerance, among which is “Enough is enough”-networking action that gathered more than 200 CSOs as a response of the crisis situation in Macedonia in 2001.

Frame III.3.3. Whole is When There Is Everything

In 1999, in the context of the war in the immediate vicinity that also created inner instability and intensified the conflicts on ethnic basis in Macedonia itself, MCIC designed campaign under the motto “Whole is when there is everything”. This slogan of children’s messages and everyday life sequences was supposed to promote the universal positive values regardless the ethnic and religious affiliation. The idea was to act on the consciousness of the complete population of Macedonia to provide tolerance towards the big number of refugees that came from Kosovo. By promoting peace and humane values, alleviating the fear and phobia of the wave of refugees the campaign strived to contribute to improving the internal stability of the country, at a national level and via set of channels of communication (TV, radio, billboards, printed media, etc).

The campaign also continued in the course of the 2001 crisis in Macedonia under the same slogan. The research that was done after the campaign showed that it was recognized as a campaign of promoting ethnic tolerance and promoting human rights and freedoms, while one quarter of the persons surveyed confirmed that the campaign had a positive impact on them.

The CSOs are significant actors that actively promote tolerance in society; however, its effects are not adequate.

3.4. Non-Violence

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which the area of civil society is characterised by non-violence and the extent of civil society actions to promote non-violence and peace. Table III.3.4 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.3.4. Indicators assessing non-violence

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>3.4.1</u>	Non-violence within the CS arena	<u>3</u>
<u>3.4.2</u>	CS actions to promote non-violence and peace	<u>3</u>

3.4.1 Non-Violence within the CS Arena. Violence within the civil society arena is a very rare phenomenon. Despite the evident existence of completely opposed positions, especially when it comes to inter-ethnic issues, civil society actors do not practise violent methods in expressing their positions. The research showed that 32% of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations feel that there are isolated groups in Macedonia that sometimes or regularly use violence, while 62% cannot point out any such occasion or think that using violence is a very rare phenomenon. Sixty-three percent claim that even if they occur, these acts of violence are condemned by the other civil society actors. No specific examples about isolated groups were given within the regional stakeholder consultations.

Despite of the increase of the non-partisan political actions, including protests, some of which happened in extremely polarized ambiance during the referendum concerning the territorial division of Macedonia, there was no any case of violent acts. The NAG did not find arguments what the base of the above respondents' perceptions was, especially because there was no any evidence case stated by the respondents themselves. So NAG concluded that CSOs have accepted the non-violent principle with consensus and any violent acts are condemned by civil society actors.

3.4.2 CS Actions to Promote Non-Violence and Peace. CSOs are very active in the promotion of non-violence.

Of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations, 58% can list examples of activities for the promotion of non-violence and a peaceful resolution of conflicts carried out last year. Ninety-one percent of the participants feel that civil society plays an important part in the promotion of non-violence and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The examples of campaigns in this field that were most often listed were: the disarmament campaign, joint appeals for peace and non-violent resolution of conflicts, Enough is Enough, Whole Is when It Has Everything, the Global partnership for armed conflict prevention and peace building, etc. There are two specific types of actions for non-violence. One emerges as a reaction to the development of military actions and arming en masse of citizens. During the armed conflicts, a group of CSOs tried to convey peace messages through joint press conferences, concerts and peace appeals, putting up posters, etc. All of the religious communities in Macedonia also sent a peace message. After the Framework Agreement was signed and the armed actions were stopped, there was a disarmament campaign in which a large number of CSOs participated, but it was initiated and financed by international agencies.

Frame III.3.4. Joint peace message of religious communities

When the ethnic armed conflict in Macedonia started to intensify in May 2001, the heads of the five largest religious communities, the Macedonian Orthodox Church, the Islamic Religious Community in Macedonia, the Catholic Church in Macedonia, the United Methodist Church in Macedonia and the Jewish Community in the Republic of Macedonia, signed a joint peace message. They sent the following message to the public and their believers: "We strongly condemn the use of violence for the achievement of political goals. Our churches and religious communities are convinced that the answers to all problems should be found in an open dialogue based on efforts to strengthen peace. Our dialogue rests on a full mutual respect and on the respect of the differences and values of other religious traditions and communities. We are sending this message to our believers and appeal that they follow the way of philanthropy and mutual respect, encouraging trust and peaceful coexistence in Macedonia, building enduring peace, stability and prosperity for all its citizens. We feel and accept the need for the establishment of lasting relations between our churches and religious communities. We agree on specific activities in this direction". (Joint Message of Religious Communities in Macedonia, May 2001)

The second type of action has a systematic approach in addressing violence as a social phenomenon, especially within the family. Part of women organisations, as well as organisations for the protection of rights of children, are particularly active in this field. Also, there are a small number of specialized organisations which continuously work on the promotion of methods for non-violent conflict resolution.

The non-violent approach of civil society actors when communicating their positions was predominant even in situations when interethnic conflicts escalated in the country. Thus,

during the 2001 crisis, a group of CSOs distanced themselves and condemned the violent resolution of the conflict and called on its transformation into a non-violent act.

Frame III.3.5. Dosta e (Enough is Enough)

“Dosta” e is a civil action initiated by dozens of civil associations working in Macedonia at the beginning of the so-called security crisis in Macedonia as a response to the situation in which Macedonian citizens were all put during the last several years. It did not have a national feature and no political party was backing it. Members of this platform believed that every citizen should do everything in his or her power to make his or her living surrounding better. Also, these members believed the vast majority of the citizens, regardless of their national origin, felt that enough is enough. Therefore the motto of this platform was “Begin by putting a full stop and saying enough is enough”.

Since 2001 until 2003 more than two hundred CSOs and many individuals joined the platform. The structure was established on regional base. There were members’ meetings every six months. There are no activities undertaken by its members since 2003. Still, it contributed to promotion of peace and tolerance during the conflict in 2001 as well as in improvement of communication and cooperation of its members on local, regional and national level. The campaign “Power is in the people” and network called “NGO Parliament” were initiated by members of this platform.

The civil sector in Macedonia is based on strong commitments to peace and non-violence. Many CSOs were involved in anti-war actions during the years of wars in the Balkans, but also in combating other forms of violence like home violence.

3.5. Gender Equity

This subdimension examines the degree of gender equity in civil society and the extent of the actions undertaken by CSOs to promote gender equity. Table III.3.5 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.3.5. Indicators assessing gender equity

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>3.5.1</u>	Gender equity within the CS arena	<u>2</u>
<u>3.5.2</u>	Gender equitable practices within CSOs	<u>2</u>
<u>3.5.3</u>	CS actions to promote gender equity	<u>3</u>

3.5.1 Gender Equity within the CS Arena. The perceptions indicate equal representation of men and women in civil society. There is a prevailing opinion among the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations that women are equally represented both in the membership body (72% of the participants) and in the management, although a little less convinced in the latter (57% feel that women are equally represented as leaders of CSOs). But if we set aside the impression which, to a certain degree, is based on the relatively large number of women organisations in which the leader is always a woman and if we look at the number of women in management positions in the rest of the CSOs, which is 25.4% (Directory of Civic Organisations), it can be concluded that women do not have an opportunity to have an equal impact in the decision making process within CSOs yet.

However, notwithstanding the representation of women in the management, it can be established that there is a satisfactory level of tolerance among civil society actors in every respect, as well as an understanding of gender relations which results in no known cases of unfair treatment of women by civil society actors.

3.5.2 Gender Equitable Practices within CSOs. In view of ensuring equal treatment for men and women, having especially in mind the traditional marginalisation of women in these parts of the world, there is a need for taking active measures which should ensure the implementation of the concept of gender equity in general policy, strategies, systems and CSO procedures. As much as 41% of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations claim that their organisation implements these types of measures, that is, have a systematic and documented approach which ensures equal opportunities for the work of women. Forty-six percent out of those that claim that their organisation implements these types of measures, for example has a systematic and documented approach which ensures equal opportunities for the work of women, are women.

However, after the insight into five leading CSOs from different sectors, it has been established that this issue has not been dealt with in special documents (rulebooks and alike), nor has it been integrated into the existing ones. It appears that in most of the organisations the application of the concept of gender equity is most often on a level of intuition and the feel of the management team, and that there is a complete lack of systematic approach towards this issue. However, having in mind that most of the organisations function on a voluntary basis and that the number of employees in this sector is very small (around 1 000 employees in total), conclusions for the existence of any kind of general tendency regarding this issue can hardly be drawn.

3.5.3 CS Actions to Promote Gender Equity. CSOs play an important role in the promotion of gender equity. Civil society segment which is active in the field of promoting gender equity is significant both as regards extent, i.e. number of organisations (21% of 858 major organisations registered in the Directory of Civic Organisations in Macedonia, notably those with women as the target group and those whose members are mainly women) and as regards the coverage of members (133,000 members of active women organisations or about 13% of the female population), but also as regards its activity and impact on societal developments. Almost every interviewed subject within the regional stakeholder consultations confirms that CSOs play an important role in promoting gender equity and 38% consider their role important.

There are different activities for the promotion of gender equity covering a whole spectre of issues starting from the political empowering of women, improving the position of women at the work place, the position in the family, through to health education, family planning, family violence, trafficking in human beings, etc. and they are carried out in different ways, as campaigns intended for strengthening public awareness, campaigns and lobbying for introducing changes in legal regulations, different SOS–phone numbers and shelters, conferences, seminars and training courses.

Frame III.3.6. Union of Women Organisations of Macedonia (UWOM)

One of the leading organisations active in this field is the Union of Women Organisations of Macedonia (UWOM) established in October 1994. UWOM is a network of 64 independent women organisations throughout the territory of the Republic of Macedonia with members of different ethnic, national and religious affiliation. UWOM contributes to the realisation of gender equity, of guaranteed women's rights, the elimination of the discrimination of women in the society and in the family. In the last ten years of active participation, UWOM initiated a large number of the above mentioned activities.

Activities mainly observed by the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations are: 30% of women in the Parliament and in municipality councils, Women Can Do It, Stop to

Violence towards Women, Equal Representation of Women in Politics, etc. The activities intended for strengthening awareness (notably training courses) mainly deal “only with the one side of the problem” and are almost completely directed towards encouragement and education of women and strengthening the awareness of women, while the efforts for raising gender awareness with men are just starting.

The initiatives taken by women organisations are often not isolated activities of only one organisation. Networks, as well as coalitions, are often established ad hoc based on gender issues, in order to increase the impact. These activities also mobilize a wider support outside civil society actors: political parties, government institutions, the local self-government, etc.

3.6. Poverty Eradication

This subdimension examines to what extent Macedonian civil society actors promote poverty eradication. Table III.3.6 below presents the indicator score.

Table III.3.6. Indicators assessing poverty

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.6.1	Civil society actions to eradicate poverty	<u>2</u>

3.6.1 Civil society Actions to Eradicate Poverty. CSOs are not active enough in the field of poverty eradication, both at national and a local level.

Thus, as many as 69% of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations do not know of or cannot remember any kind of CSO activity dedicated to poverty reduction during the previous year.

One of the reasons for not paying much attention to this issue is the CSO structure itself. Although as much as “33.54% of the population lives below the poverty threshold (the relative poverty threshold) and as much as 55.1% of the population finds itself in different forms of human poverty – multidimensional poverty” (UNDP, 2004), the representation of this group in CSOs is still very small. Thus, results from the regional stakeholder consultations show that 59% of the participants feel that the poor people are completely absent/excluded or, more or less, not represented in CSOs. This indicates that, within the organisation of civil society, there is no one to directly represent the interests of the poor. The role of unions and associations of redundant workers becomes more and more important as a large number of workers are faced with the possibility of being made redundant and with a sudden impoverishment of this category, previously a part of the middle class. This kind of association is the only way of mobilizing this category of citizens. However, their activities, with rare exceptions, mainly represent resistance towards the forthcoming structural reforms and do not represent a search for alternative methods for mobilisation of this work force (for ex. through retraining) and integrating in the reform system.

The number of organisations that have the unemployed people as their target group, as they fall under the category of poor people, is small (only 10 out of the organisations covered by the Directory of Civic Organisations), and generally very passive.

There are a number of socio-humanitarian organisations (256 or 4.4% of the registered organisations) that only treat the “symptoms” of poverty providing humanitarian assistance. The number of these organisations and the scope of their activities had a rising tendency especially during the period of the Kosovo crisis in 1999 and the conflict in Macedonia in

2001. These organisations, which at the time intensively dealt with socio-humanitarian activity, afterwards barely, or not at all, restructured their approach into a developmental one, which does not contribute to long-term poverty alleviation.

The religious communities also have an approach based on charity as far as the issue of poverty is concerned. They provide the very basic aid for the most endangered categories. For example, charitable kitchens at churches provide food for the poorest and the homeless. But a systematic activity for eliminating the reasons for poverty is lacking.

However, one part of the citizen associations belonging to some of the marginalised groups, who fall under the category of the poorest population (people with disabilities, single mothers, the Roma population), have a developmental/long-term treatment of the poverty issue as regards their target groups and address the reasons for poverty with their activities.

For example, a lot of organisations work in the field of raising awareness and a greater inclusion of the Roma population in the educational system, which in the long run should lead to an increase in their competitiveness on the labour market, an increase in employment possibilities and an improvement of their socio-economical situation.

Frame III.3.7. Programs Applied education for young Roma and Romaversitas

Since 2001 MCIC has been implementing the programme **Applied Education of Young Roma** in cooperation with 15 (Roma) CSOs and 15 primary schools in 11 towns in Macedonia. Inclusion of the Roma children in the primary education has been improved through different rising awareness activities. In the school year 2004/05 compared with the school year 2004/01: the number of Roma students increased from 18% to 23%, the number of drop-outs decreased from 61% to 57% and the number of students that repeated the class decreased from 84% to 34%. Through this programme 806 young Roma had an opportunity to improve their qualifications through professional training courses and apprenticeships. 82 young Roma, participants at the professional training courses, were employed in the period 2002-2004. At the same time the programme is making efforts to inform the public institutions and the general public about the Roma situation and to open public debate for long-term and systematic problem solving.

The Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia since 2001 has been implementing the **Romaversitas** project as a follow up activity of the scholarship programme for Roma students and high school pupils, started in 1997/98. Romaversitas is a project which purpose is promotion of equal approach and equal opportunities for the Roma students, improvement of their academic achievements and capacities and their development in professionals from different areas, contributing towards their inclusion into the society mainstreams. The project is implemented through programme for mentoring the Roma students, which consists of financial support through scholarship and provision of mentor support by a younger tuition staff who is guiding the student through the studying process. The project provides continuous academic support for improving the learning capacities, additional trainings for personal capacities development and social activities that provide possibilities for interaction and exchange with the students from other ethnic groups. Through this project, premises, equipped with computers and Internet connection, are opened in the central part of Skopje. Students could use these premises, library and other sources of information for supporting the studying process.

A number of organisations are active in promoting entrepreneurship and the concept of family and small businesses and especially their availability to the marginalised communities. Here we should point out the role of women organisations in the attempts to increase the possibilities for self-employment and employment of women, as well as a fair treatment of women at the work place.

Also, we should not ignore the rising level of activities of agricultural associations. For example, in the year 2001, 2% of the total number of projects carried out was for the rural population and in the year 2003 this number rose to 14% mainly due to activities of agricultural associations (MCIC, 2004). This is an important factor for dealing with rural poverty.

A group of citizen associations participated in the drawing up of the Government strategy for fighting poverty in the year 2001, which should have contributed to their larger involvement and to placing the issue of poverty on the agenda.

Members of the Civic Platform of Macedonia participated in the process of establishing the national Millennium Development Goals and in the preparation of the national report on developmental priorities for the Republic of Macedonia up to 2015.

3.7. Environmental Sustainability

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Macedonian civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability. Table III.3.7 below presents the indicator score.

Table III.3.7. Indicators assessing environmental sustainability

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.7.1	CS actions to sustain the environment	<u>2</u>

3.7.1 CS Actions to Sustain the Environment. Civil society is an important factor in environmental protection. It is confirmed by the regional stakeholder consultations: 20% of the participants feel that its role is significant, while 37% feel that its role is moderate and 26% feel that it is limited.

86% of the subjects interviewed were able to name a particular example of an activity for environmental protection. The examples most often mentioned are: One Car Less, We Do Not Have a Spare Planet, campaigns for protection of the Ohrid Lake and the Dojran Lake, campaigns for closing up/dislocating the Smelting Factory and reducing the pollution of Veles. These campaigns are organised by DEM, the ecological association Vila Zora, OHO and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.

The environmental organisations are among the first organisations that had access to international organisations and foundations, which also provided larger experience in influencing the public policy. Thus, in the 90s, the Environmental Movement of Macedonia, together with other organisations, managed to succeed in its efforts to establish the Ministry of Environment (as an independent Government body) in 1998, contributed for the adoption of the Law on Environment and Protection and Nature Promotion, known as the Eco-Constitution (adopted by consensus) and the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). It is also important to mention the Veles case where, in the past 15 years, the environmental organisations, especially the local organisation “Vila Zora”, were continuously working on raising public awareness with the citizens and the state for the issue of the pollution caused by the Smelting Factory.

At present, the activities in the field of environment have two directions. One part is carried out at national level and includes activities for strengthening public awareness – campaigns, lobbying for legislative solutions, for respecting and implementing the Aarhus Convention (access to information and justice), etc. The other part, on the other hand, is carried out at a

local level and includes different specific environmental actions, alarming and lobbying in cases of endangering the environment, etc.

Conclusion

Values – the assets of the civil society

Values are the assets of the civil society and thus form the base for the civil society achievements (high values) or failures (absent values).

The strongest values are peace – non-violence and gender. The weakest value is transparency.

Democracy is somewhere between and CSOs are on half way in practising internal democracy. The civil society is better in the promotion of democracy than practicing the same internally. Many of the organisations were founded by (charismatic) leaders. Some of them are failing to divide the leadership from the management and/or limit their powers and terms.

The issue of corruption of the civil society is contradictory issue. It's inside (internal) issue paraphrased in "corruption exists in the sector, but not in one's own organisation". Other sources are not confirming that perception, with exclusion of few cases of frauds and misuse of project funds.

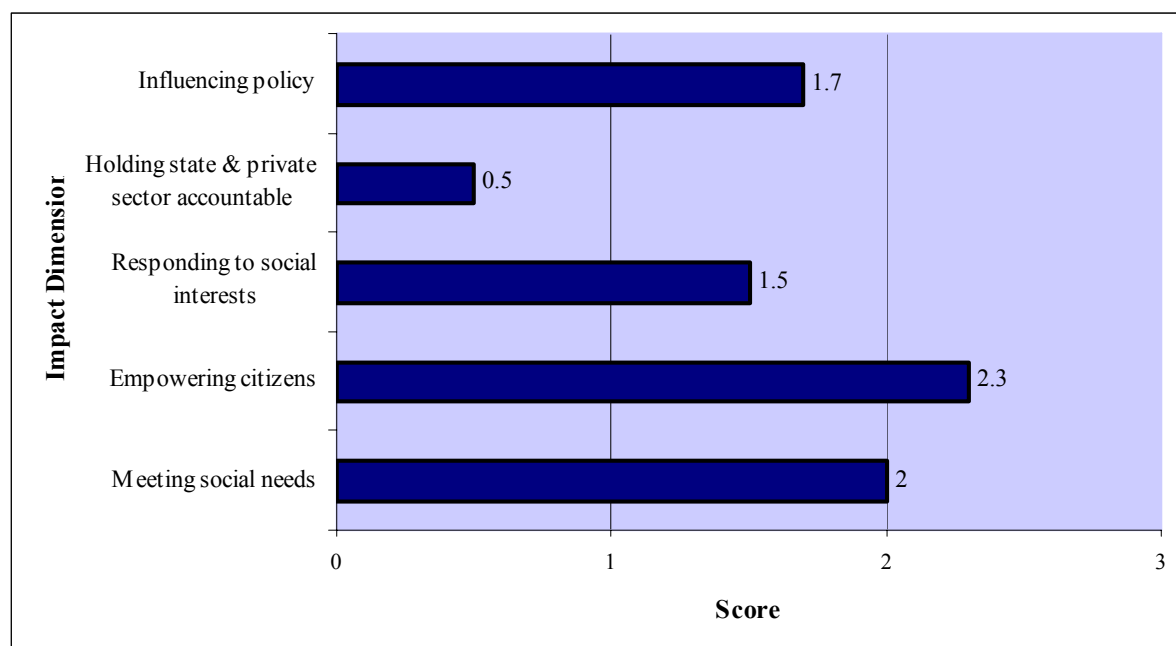
Still transparency is the weak spot of the civil society. Very few organisations provide public access to their financial accounts. There are few activities for promotion of transparency and fight against the corruption.

Although there are activities to eradicate the poverty, the impact is low. Most of them are based on social-humanitarian grounds and they treat the consequences; very few activities are based on development principles and directed to identifying the reasons for poverty. Some positive examples are related to Roma.

III.4. IMPACT

The Impact dimension describes and analyses the extent to which civil society is active and successful in fulfilling several essential functions within society in the Republic of Macedonia. The score for the Impact Dimension is 1.8, reflecting a moderate level of impact for Macedonian civil society. Figure III.4.1 below presents the scores for the five subdimensions within the Impact dimension.

Figure III.4.1. Assessment of impact subdimensions



4.1. Influencing Public Policy

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which Macedonian civil society is active and successful in influencing public policy. In accordance with the CSI methodology, indicators under this subdimension looked specifically at the areas of human rights, social policy and the national budget process. Table III.4.1 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

The initiatives where there is cooperation with members of the Parliament of Macedonia are more successful. Two key cases where the impact is institutionalized are: Macedonian Women Lobby and Inter-Party Parliamentarian Lobby Group for Disabled People. The example of the cooperation of the Women Organisation of Sveti Nikole is similar.

Table III.4.1. Indicators assessing influencing public policy

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.1.1	Human rights impact	<u>2</u>
4.1.2	Social policy impact	<u>2</u>
4.1.3	Impact on national budget process	<u>1</u>

Civil society is more and more active in its impact on public policy. According to the Projects of Civic Organisations (MCIC, 2004), there is a significant increase of the information

activities from 9% in 2001 to 35% in 2003, as well as lobbying activities from 4% to 32% (or from 17 to 278 lobbying projects).²³

The media still do not pay lot of attention to this kind of activities. Although most of the analysed articles in the media (26.22%) concern the influence of civil society, a small number (8%) refer to the impact on public policy. The information primarily refers to human rights violations and stakeholder reactions on certain issues.

According to the research about the impact on the public policy with the members of the Civic Platform of Macedonia (twenty nine leading organisations), various initiatives to impact public policy have been undertaken in the course of the last several years: draft laws, changes and additions and amendments; requests to the Constitutional Courts and national strategy formulations, programs and action plans (see table III.4.3.). There have been 59 initiatives, 26 of which are on-going. Sixteen have been successful, 6 partially successful and 11 initiatives have been unsuccessful.

Table III.4.2. Overview of CPM members including public policy 2002-2005

Description	Total initiatives	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	On-going
Laws, changes and additions, amendments	33	10	2	6	15
Motions to the Constitutional Court	2	0	0	2	0
National strategies, programs, etc	24	6	4	3	11
Total	59	16	6	11	26

The initiatives where there is cooperation with members of the Parliament of Macedonia are more successful. Two key cases where the influence is institutionalized are: Macedonian Women Lobby and Inter-Party Parliamentarian Lobby Group for Disabled People. The example of cooperation of the Women Organisation of Sveti Nikole is similar.

More successful are the influences on the social policies that are specially related to some groups such as women, disabled, Roma, pensioners, etc.

The initiatives related to finances, most of all those that need bigger budget finances are less successful. The initiatives that ask for bigger transparency (access to information, conflict of interests) are also less successful. Less successful are those initiatives where there was no involvement and consultation with the Government in their early stages.

4.1.1 Human Rights Impact

Table III.4.3. Influencing public policy based on regional stakeholder consultations

Inter-ethnic relations	Activity %	Success %
Lot	28	8
Active./successful	38	22
Partial	27	45
Inactive./unsuccessful	3	19
Don't know	4	6

²³ Information – this group covers the activities on information/public awareness building.

The activity is considered active by 38% of the people surveyed in the area of inter-ethnic relations in the frames of the regional stakeholder consultations. Also, the area of inter-ethnic relations is seen as an area with success or partial success in the activity.

Frame III.4.1. Inter-party parliamentary lobby group (IPPLG)

The Inter-Party Parliamentary Lobby Group (IPPLG) for disabled people was established in May 2003. The goal of IPPLG is to promote the rights of the disabled people via providing favourable legal frame approximated to EU, as well as supportive public awareness. The group is made by 18 MPs of the Parliament of Macedonia from all political parties. The group is supported by a technical committee – secretariat led by CSO “Polio plus” and Advisory Committee (CSOs, experts, media). And it is financed by DfID and MCIC. IPPLG is an excellent example of cooperation of parliamentary and citizen groups. The group has had 20 sessions in two years (2003-2005), as well as 4 workshops and 4 exposure visits (visits to institutions hosting people with disabilities).

Upon IPPLG proposal, the Parliament adopted a Declaration for Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the People with Special Needs on 23 June 2003. The main achievements are: building of partnerships (between CSOs and CSOs and Parliament), public awareness building (for example, presence of people in wheelchairs at parliamentary sessions) and changes in the legal frame. The changes in the legal frame cover: changes and additions to the Law on Employment of People with Disabilities; changes in the Book of Rules for Procurement of Orthopaedic aids (decreased participation of the beneficiary from 40% to 10% of the price); an amendment to the Law on Social Protection (to include an educational part in the work with people with heavy mental disability); changes in the Law on Security in Road Traffic (right to mobility and parking spaces). There are for more legal initiatives going on.

Civil society is active in human rights, but still with limited impact. Most of the impact is related to specific groups as women (gender) and people with disability.

4.1.2 Social Policy Impact

Table III.4.4. Influencing public policy based on regional stakeholder consultations

Unemployment	Activity %	Success %
Lot	2	1
Active./successful	12	3
Partial	51	45
Inactive./unsuccessful	32	43
Don't know	3	7

According to the regional stakeholder consultations civil society influences the public policy most often partially actively in the area of unemployment (51%). The opinion on whether the activity in the area of unemployment is partially successful or unsuccessful is divided (45%, that is, 43% of the people surveyed, respectively).

Frame III.4.2. Early detection and prevention of diseases of reproductive organs with women

In 2003, the Women Organisation of Sveti Nikole (www.womsvetnikole.org.mk), together with 17 women organisations started an initiative on the need to introduce regular gynaecological checks for women in order to timely discover malignant diseases of the reproductive organs. In the course of October – November 2003, there was a media campaign Don't Look Aside in order to raise the awareness with women on the need of regular gynaecological checks, but also mobilize the institutions and broader public to improve the health care with women and introduce regular gynaecological checks.

The initiative was turned into a draft Amendment to the Health Care Law for introduction of regular gynaecological checks, which was submitted in December 2003 by a group of MPs (Liljana Popovska, Sonja Lepitkova, Slobodan Najdoski and Petar Apostolov). The amendment was adopted by the Parliament of Macedonia at its session held on 26 February 2004 and it is part of the Health Care Law. The Government adapted the Program for Early Detection and Prevention of Diseases of the Reproductive Organs with Women in the Republic of Macedonia for 2005 at its session of 7 March 2005. According to the program, there will be free of charge once per year gynaecological checks and PAP tests.

There have been 8,500,000 MKD provided for 2005, needed for screening of female population aged 19-65, or about 128,000 women.

Civil society is active in social policy, but still with limited impact. As in the human rights impact most of the impact is related to specific groups as women (gender) and people with disability.

4.1.3 Impact on National Budget Process. According to the 2005 Budget Law, the budget is made of central budget, user's budget, self-financing budget, donation budget and loan budget. The users of the budget funds can use the funds only if they adopt an annual plan for usage of funds, submitted to the Treasury of the Ministry of Finance. (Law on Budget Usage, 2005).

Civil society activities in the area of the national budget process are limited and focused solely on specific budget components. Even the successful citizen campaigns that led to certain changes and additions to the law have had a limited impact on directing the funds in the national budget process, which are necessary to implement the changes.

Successful examples are Early Detection and Prevention of the Diseases of the Reproductive Organs with Women (see case study in part 4.1.2) and decreased participation of the beneficiary – people with disabilities from 40% to 10% of the procurement price of orthopaedic aids (see case study in 4.1.2.).

There are no records (and no examples in the media) on activities related to the overall budget process.

Civil society is with limited activities in national budget process, with few initiatives focusing on concrete components (women health, disability).

4.2. Holding State and Private Corporations Accountable

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Macedonian civil society is active and successful in holding the state and private corporations accountable. Table III.4.5 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.4.5. Indicators assessing holding state and private corporations accountable

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>4.2.1</u>	Holding state accountable	<u>2</u>
<u>4.2.2</u>	Holding private corporations accountable	<u>1</u>

4.2.1 Holding State Accountable. The information on achievements of the state is not easily accessible. Although the access to information and documents is improved in practice, including the Internet sites, the access to legal acts is much better than the access to executive acts (Transparency Macedonia, 2002). In the last two years, a number of organisations have started initiatives for legal improvement to access to information (Transparency Macedonia, Association of Journalists of Macedonia, CSRD “Forum”) without a visible progress.

The participants in the regional stakeholder consultations consider that they are active (very active 2%, active 22% and partially active 45%) in their monitoring of the achievements of the state, while the perception of the success is smaller (successful 9%, partially successful 52% and unsuccessful 28%). There is also interest with the media on reporting on this type of activities, because the media review showed that 18% of the articles concern this issue. Most of the articles concern: social dialogue between the Ministry of Education and sector trade unions, demand of the parent’s association “Peperutka” to hold the Ministry of Health responsible for the lack of medicines for the children with malignant diseases, criticism of the Helsinki Committee for police not acting upon the abuse of authority.

There are no significant, at least not visible activities of CSOs that monitor the achievements and results of the state. The examples that are given by the media are also without a closure – there are demands for accountability, but no response to them.

Frame III.4.3. Privatization of Macedonian Telecommunications – example of not holding accountable

In 2001, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia sold 51% of the Macedonian Telecommunications to Hungarian Matav for about 350 million Euros. One of the goals of the privatization was to provide funds for support of poverty alleviation projects. According to the public calls, the Government planned 101 million Euro for 144 projects in 2001. The projects were implemented via the government, 12 ministries and 2 institutions. As early as 2002 and 2003 there were reports on corruption problems. But, until nowadays there is no activity for comprehensive assessment of the results of the projects.

These days there is a privatization of the Electric Power Company of Macedonia being prepared with the same rationale.

Significant exceptions in the monitoring are discriminatory acts when delivering public services and violations of human rights. There are a number of activities for monitoring and legal aid to citizens, besides the Ombudsman. An example for this are the Citizen Advisory Centers, established in six cities, under the guidance of HDZR “Mesečina” from Gostivar.

Frame III.4.4. Citizen Advisory Centres

The Citizen Advisory Centers were established in 2003 in 6 cities in Macedonia: Gostivar, Skopje, Kumanovo, Delčevo, Prilep and Štip, run by HDZR “Mesečina”, in cooperation with six partner organisations. CAC focus on improved information and strengthened awareness of the citizens (specially Roma) on the fulfilment of their rights.

The basic activities are support to citizens via advice and assistance in the preparation of their requests, pleas, complaints, as well as expert assistance in court procedures. During 2004, there were 576 individual and group requests with the centers on various grounds. During this period, there were 29 appeals, 93 demands and 32 pleas made; there were 17 cases of correspondence with government bodies, as well as 307 field visits and meetings and advice to citizens.

There is a Commission for Case Selection made of: representatives of HDZR “Mesečina”, expert in criminal law from the Law Faculty in Skopje, representative of the BAR association, representative of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and a judge of the First Instance Court. The task of the Commission is to select the cases that need further court procedure. Until now, there have been 4 court procedures started (one in Skopje, Ohrid, Prilep and Strumica respectively).

Even more significant are the activities for monitoring human rights violations, where the Helsinki Committee of Human Rights (HCHR) has a systematic approach, as well as the Information Centre on Civil Society (ICGO) and others. In 2004, HCHR published its report on the situation in the penitentiary institutions (Annual report on Human Rights Situation of 2004).

In 2003, there was a Working Group made of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ombudsman and the civic sector (MINOP), under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. This working group is trying to offer improvement of the work of MoI base don practical analyses.

Frame III.4.5. Working Group for Co-operation between MoI, CSOs and Ombudsman (MINOP)

MINOP is a working-advisory group whose goal is to improve the cooperation between the police and civil society in the area of strengthening democracy and respect for human rights in Macedonia. MINOP consists of representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the office of Ombudsman, as well as several leading CSOs that work in the area of protection of human rights in the country (HCHR, ICGO, ADI, etc). The group started working in 2002 under the auspices of the program for technical cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The name that consists of the titles of the Ministry of Interior, CSOs and Ombudsman was made in 2003. The work of MINOP is followed by interested international organisations present in the country.

MINOP has worked on consultative meetings. MINOP participated in the consultations of the application of the new Code of Police Ethics, preparation of a pocket book for human rights for the police and organised a workshop on involvement and participation of the CSOs in the police reforms. MINOP also works on preparing a draft for possible changes in the legislation that would lead to increase of the efficiency of the appeal procedures in the police procedure and more efficient fulfilment of the standards for protection of human rights.

There is a number of monitoring and implementation of international conventions. For example, the Association for Democratic Initiatives from Gostivar has been preparing a shadow report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities.

In 2003, the coalition “All for Fair Trial” was established, focusing on monitoring of judiciary. Their first report was issued in January 2004.

Prior to 2001 there were no citizen or business groups that were involved in activities against corruption. In 2000/1, the EU Delegation published a public call for projects for the European Initiatives for Democracy and Human Rights. One of the three priority themes was anti-corruption. Out of the 200 submitted application only three concerned anticorruption and only one of them was approved – “Culture of Law against Corruption” of CSRD “Forum”. In October 2001, Transparency Macedonia was established as part of Transparency International. At the same period, the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM) started supporting anti-corruption activities, along with COLPI. The anti-corruption activities

reached their peak in 2002. In April 2002, the “Macedonia without Corruption” coalition was established by 55 organisations, including the biggest. The anti-corruption activities slowed down after 2002. In 2004, the FOSIM report on corruption in the higher education attracted a lot of attention.

Although corruption is high on the list of social interests, the activities are few and they are slowly limited to Transparency Macedonia and FOSIM only. A problem is the lack of know-how in anti-corruption activities. The second one is the dilemma of part of the organisations on how to react to the needs for improvement of the public-private co-operation and also monitor at the same time. In 2004, eight leading CSOs published their audit reports in two daily newspapers in the frames of the project Together for Transparency, but part of them hesitated on the public call to the government to announce the State Audit reports.

Participants of the regional stakeholder consultations stated that civil society influences the public policy most often partially actively in the area of corruption handling (52%). The opinion on whether the activity in the area of anti-corruption is partially successful or unsuccessful is divided (45%, that is, 43% of the people surveyed, respectively).

Table III.4.6. Influencing public policy based on regional stakeholder consultations

Anti-corruption	Activity %	Success %
Lot	3	1
Active./successful	16	3
Partial	52	45
Inactive./unsuccessful	23	43
Don't know	6	7

The activities calling for accountability the local self-government units (LSG) are more and more important. As a response to these demands, a number of municipalities practice meetings with the citizens (example Karpoš, Lozovo, Staro Nagoričane, etc), publishing their annual reports (ex. Gostivar, Veles, Karbinci), issuing newsletters (ex. Centar, Gostivar) or managing web sites (Veles, Negotino, Bitola, etc).

Civil society is with some activities on holding state accountable, with limited impact, especially in activities as anti-corruption. A significant exception is holding state accountable for discriminatory acts when delivering public services and violations of human rights.

4.2.2 Holding Private Corporations Accountable. Holding the private corporations accountable can be grouped in accountability to: workers (and cooperative members), consumers, local communities and state.

In the last years, the activities directed to protection of consumers have increased. The Association of Consumers of Macedonia has more and more legitimacy in the public and has more and more space. In 2004, the introduction of the new price list by Macedonian Telecommunications (MT) caused a big dissatisfaction in the public. Many organisations were included in the action “Give Resistance – Say No” and it was well followed by the media. This activity was not successful and the CSOs were discredited by the public perception that they “struck a deal” with MT.

For a number of years the only activity for holding accountability for damages to the living environment was the Lead Smelting factory in Veles. These days the Smelting factory is

closed, but it is questionable whether it was due to civil pressure success or economic reasons. Still, one can conclude that the civil pressure in Veles has big impact. It is still question, was the real reason the protection of the environment and the health of the people of Veles or the non-profitability and problems in the privatization of the Smelting factory?

Frame III.4.6. Battling pollution of Veles

The environmental association “Vila Zora” was established in 1990. The primary goal of the association is to protect and promote the living environment and nature by raising the public awareness in Veles and broader. The reason for the establishment of the association was to provide healthy drinking water in Veles and stop the pollution of MHK Zletovo (Smelting factory).

In the course of the last years, supported by the The Ecologists’ Movement of Macedonia, Vila Zora has organised a number of protests, rallies, gatherings (at least once per year), street theatres, petitions, published various propaganda material, had numerous meetings with the institutions in charge, public debates and discussions, was permanently present in the media, local and national awards (Rotten Apple – Annual Public Criticism of DEM), public criticism to the manager, Smelting factory and competent authorities.

In the beginning, the environmentalists of Veles were not welcome, the citizens, unaware of the pollution in Veles accused the environmentalists for wanting to take jobs away from the people of Veles. Often, the members and activists of Vila Zora were threatened by various parties to be taken to court, lose their jobs, etc. In 2003, the president of Vila Zora was taken to court for a slander because of giving public opinion (results of the conducted survey).

Regardless of the reasons for the Government decision to stop the work of the Smelting factory, it is clear that there has been an improvement of the environment in Veles, as well as the degree of health protection of the people by the institutions in charge. Veles has moved from the darkest ecological spot in Macedonia and broader to a leader in practicing sustainable development and civil society principles.

The activities for asking support from the business sector for community activities or certain groups of population (for example, children with malignant diseases) increased in 2004.

A number of researches show that maybe the local trade companies cooperate more with the civic sector.

There are no CSO activities for building public awareness for fulfilment of the (legal) responsibilities for payment of taxes and other public fees.

There are no CSO activities for providing environment and encouraging social accountability of the corporate sector, except for limited initiatives for improving tax policy to encourage charitable giving and several other initiatives.

Holding private corporations accountable is present in the media with 7%; most of the articles are on civil protest against Macedonian Telecommunications increase of prices. With the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations there is an opinion that civil society is active and partly active (6% and 45%) and not active (29%) and do not know (19%). Similar are statements on success - successful and partly successful (3% and 42%), not successful (32%) and do not know (22%).

According to NAG, the opinions in the regional stakeholder consultations about activity were not supported with evidence (e.g. media) and the visible cases were without success (e.g. Macedonian Telecommunications), excluding the case of pollution in Veles.

Thus the activities in this area are very limited and without visible impact.

4.3. Responding to Social Interests

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Macedonian civil society actors are responsive to social interests. Table III.4.7 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.4.7. Indicators assessing responding to social interests

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.3.1	Responsiveness	2
4.3.2	Public trust in CSOs	1

4.3.1 Responsiveness. The leading social problems are: unemployment with 55%, corruption with 18%, and poverty with 12.7% (UNDP, 2005). These three priorities have been leading almost during the complete transition period, together with inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic problems in 2001.

The self-perception of CSOs expressed at the regional stakeholder consultations was divided – 50% of respondents saw civic sector as responsive (significant 18% and moderate 31%) and 50% of respondents saw civic sector as not responsive in 51% (limited 39% and insignificant 11%). This division is related to different perception of different social interest. CSOs see themselves more active and successful in inter-ethnic relations and less active and successful on unemployment and anti-corruption (for more see 4.1.).

Table III.4.8. Number of organisations in areas and target groups of social interest (MCIC, 2003)

Type of organisation	Number	Share (858 org.) in %
<i>Per sector</i>		
Employment/Income generation	3	0.4
Emergency/Basic Aid	15	1.8
Social Policy	72	8.3
Rural development/Agriculture	39	4.6
<i>Per target group</i>		
Unemployed	10	1.2
Minorities	25	2.9

Table III.4.9. Number of projects in areas and with target groups of social interest (MCIC, 2004)

Area	Number	Share (652 projects) in %
Unemployed	6	1
Entrepreneurs	23	4
Cultural differences	75	12

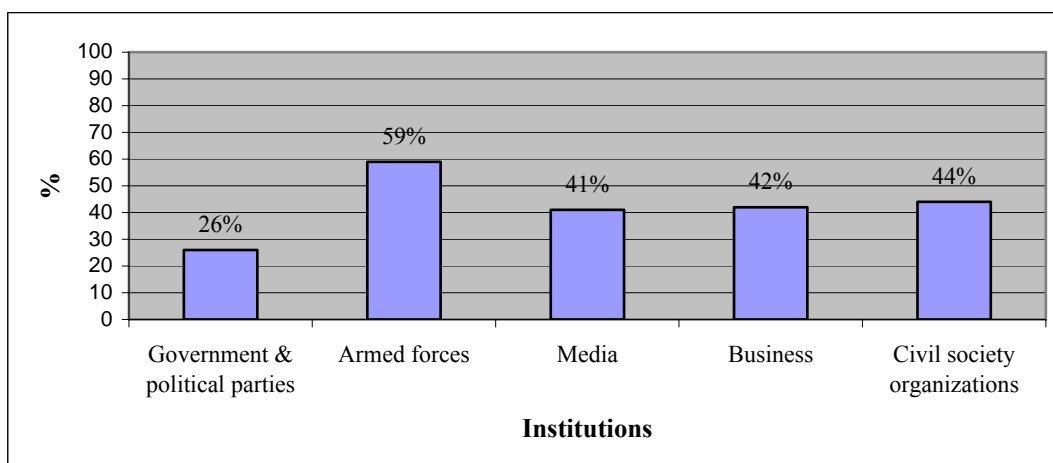
Below in “Public Trust” part, there is a high degree of positive statements with respect to the civic sector response to communal problems of the municipalities. The media put quite some

stress on the service to the marginalised groups or raising awareness on new social issues such as drug abuse and commercial sex and trade with human beings.

HOPS promoted the issue of commercial sex among the youth with their project “Mapping and Prevention of Concealed Prostitution and Trade with Human Beings”.

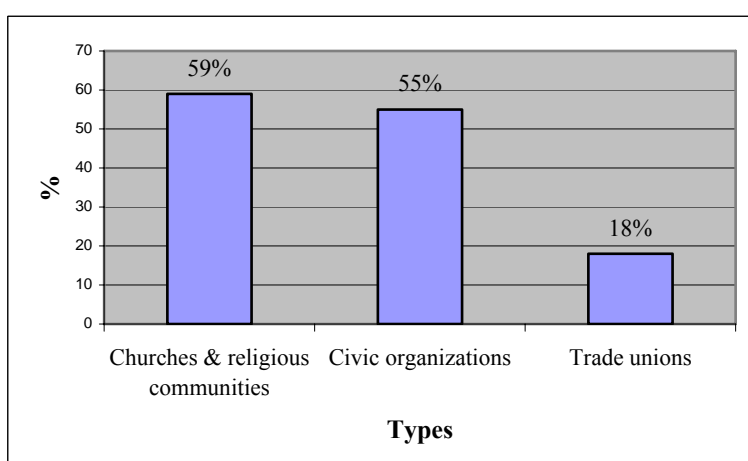
4.3.2 Public Trust in CSOs. In Macedonia, the community sample shows low public trust in the institutions. This is not surprise in country with significant level of distrust; even in people (87.7% think one should be cautious).

Figure III.4.2. Public trust in institutions according to community sample



The minority communities, the ethnic Albanians, Turks and Roma have much bigger trust in religious communities and CSOs than the ethnic Macedonians. With the ethnic Albanians, 77.4% trust the religious communities as opposed to 52.4% of the ethnic Macedonians, and 66.5% trust in CSOs as opposed to 56.2%. The ethnic Serbs have very little confidence in all institutions, including the civic sector (21.3%). All ethnic communities have similar trust in trade unions.

Figure III.4.3. Public trust in civil society organisations according to community sample



The ethnic differences in the trust to CSO-s are not based in the number and geographic distribution of the organisations, whereas there are 3.5% organisations in Tetovo as compared to 3.8% in Štip (MCIC, 2003). Or the geographic distribution of projects – 14.3% are in the

Polog region (MCIC, 2004) or 12% of projects on cultural differences. The ethnic variations might be based on the (financial) relations between the CSOs and international community and the relation between the international community and the efforts directed to minority rights (Klekovski S, 2002).

This trust is supported by the perception of the citizens given in the community sample that the services to the people who need help are better with the CSOs (42.3%) than with the government institutions (28.3%). Eighty-one percent of citizens think that the CSOs help a lot or to a certain degree in the resolving of the communal problems (CSR “Forum”, 2004).

The relatively high trust of the public of 55.1% does not have appropriate effects in the membership, volunteering or financial participation in the CSOs (according to the community sample, about 77% do not participate in CSOs in any way). There is no difference between ethnic Macedonians and Albanians with respect to the participation in the CSOs.

Civil society enjoys support of a significant minority of the citizens, with higher trust in religious communities and CSOs, than in trade unions

4.4. Empowering Citizens

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which CSOs perform an educational and empowering function, particularly with regards to marginal groups.

Table III.4.10 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.4.10. Indicators assessing empowering citizens

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.4.1	Informing / educating citizens	<u>2</u>
4.4.2	Building capacity for collective action and resolving joint problems	<u>2</u>
4.4.3	Empowering marginalised people	<u>3</u>
4.4.4	Empowering women	<u>3</u>
4.4.5	Building social capital	<u>2</u>
4.4.6	Supporting / creating livelihoods	<u>2</u>

4.4.1 Informing / Educating Citizens. Informing and educating citizens is an area where, in regional stakeholder consultations, CSOs themselves claim they are (the most) active, that is to say 19% very active, 44% active and 28% somewhat active, as opposed to 4% who consider that the CSOs are inactive. The same applies for the success (13% very successful, 30% successful, 52% somewhat successful and only 2% unsuccessful).

In Projects of Civic Organisations (MCIC, 2004), the information projects have increased from 37 projects (or 9%) in 2001 to 301 projects (or 35%) in 2003. In the community sample, 7.9% of the citizens stated that they had participated in information activities.

The CSOs use media campaigns, information phone lines and information offices. A number of these activities combine informing citizens and lobbying for providing public services. One part of these activities is approximately at the same time as the corresponding international days (for example 8th of April, World Day of Roma; 1st of December, World AIDS Day).

Examples of information campaigns in 2004 are: “Don’t Look Away” for breast cancer, organised by Women Organisation from Sveti Nikole; “Nobody Is Perfect” for the people with disabilities, organised by Polio Plus; as well as “Say Macedonia”.

There are a number of information phone lines in the country, which are successful. These are usually called SOS-lines and they provide information as well as give advice on certain issues. There is the SOS-line for women organised by UWOM, SOS-line for children and youth organised by First Children's Embassy in the World "Megjaši", SOS-line for drugs, as well as the line organised by the Consumers' Organisation of Macedonia (OPM). These lines are operative for some time now. Their success is due to the voluntary work and the field of action of a high social priority.

Since the end of 2003, HDZR "Mesečina" has started establishing citizen advisory centres in six towns. These centres provide counselling for citizens' rights in different fields (see Frame III.4.5.). Transparency Macedonia provides free legal help and advice for cases related to corruption in four towns: Skopje, Tetovo, Štip and Kavadarci.

Civil society is active in informing/educating citizens with media campaigns, information phone lines and information offices and there is some impact.

4.4.2 Building Capacity for Collective Action and Resolving Joint Problems. Participants in the regional stakeholder consultations feel that CSOs are active in building capacities (very active 8%, active 31% and somewhat active 47%) and that they are successful to some extent (very successful 8%, successful 19% and somewhat successful 52%). Within communities, 9.9% of the citizens organised themselves for a certain issue with the help of CSOs and 12.7% participated in collecting money according to the community sample.

There were 152 (or 38%) training and advice projects in 2001, while in 2003 their number fell to 148 (or 17%) (MCIC, 2004). What should be answered is how much are these training and advice projects connected to the skills for collective action. Only a small number of organisations have the skills needed for using participation methodologies. The two more successful examples for building capacities for collective action are environmental: Veles and the Skopje roundabout.

Frame III.4.7. Volkovo and Orman against Skopje roundabout

The citizen association "Proaktiva", together with the local population from Volkovo, Orman, Nikištane and Kučkovo formed a coalition for finding a more constructive solution for the "Skopje northern roundabout" route, that is, for the second section of this road from Orizari to Kondovo, in order to reduce its negative effects on the environment and the lives of the local population. This promoted furtherance of the interest of citizens in the field of environment and the promotion of public participation.

The Fund for Arterial and Regional Roads (FMRP) organised a public debate where the coalition stated its opinion and position related to the building of the second section. The conclusions from the public debate were taken into consideration or were incorporated in the Environmental Impact Assessment. The local population organised petition signing, which was later submitted to the FMRP. Proaktiva actively follows the works on the Skopje northern roundabout, although the process is status quo. The works are expected to begin in 2006.

Since 1994, MCIC has been working on building the capacities of communities for solving problems in the water supply.

Frame III.4.8. MCIC in community development

In the period of 1994-2004, MCIC supported 225 communities with about 16,000 inhabitants in their activities for resolving problems with water supply and sanitation.

In the period of 1994-1998, the local communities were responsible for maintaining the systems. After 1996 creation of rural municipalities and after the number of supported communities increased in some municipalities, communal enterprises were established in collaboration with the municipalities. MCIC provided support for 12 enterprises of this kind.

MCIC has provided consultations and training for the “local communities”, as well as financial support. The consultations and training were in participatory methods, project cycle management, maintenance and sustainability. Success stories have also been used (visits to successful communities). Around 650 persons from the local self-government, local communities, CSOs and communal enterprises were trained.

The table gives examples of poor rural municipalities, with the number of supported communities and collection of water bills as an indicator for the sustainability and the comparative indicator for the surrounding towns.

No.	Municipality	Supported communities	First year of maintenance	Ratio of collection 2003	Ratio of collection in neighbouring towns in 2003
1.	Dolneni	16	2000 (May)	42,00%	Prilep (47,85 %)
2.	Karbinci	10	1997 (December)	90,20%	Štip (41,70 %)
3.	Jegunovce	6	2003 (October)	70,50 %	Tetovo (61,20%)
4.	Lozovo	5	1997 (May)	75,42 %	Sv. Nikole (48,73 %)
5.	Rosoman	5	2001 (August)	65,12 %	Kavadarci (64,38%)

The Association of Communal Services Providers in the Republic of Macedonia (ADKOM) was established in 2004, with the help of DAI. MCIC was also involved in the support to this association.

Specific examples for building capacities are (sub)sector groups. A group for development of the sub sectors for tomatoes and peppers and apples, was started with the support of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation. These groups bring together the people of these sub sectors from farmers–producers to processing and trade workers with the aim of common solution of problems and development of sub sectors, mainly applying measures for upgrading farm production and establishing a dialogue with the processing and trade workers.

In 2004, with the support of UNDP, activities for building public–private partnerships for local economic development began in Štip and Kičevo.

Civil society is active in building capacities for collective action and resolving joint problems. Still, most of the impact is related to environmental and community issues.

4.4.3 Empowering Marginalised People. In 2003, 346 organisations or 40.35% (MCIC, 2003) have marginalised groups as their target groups. Three hundred forty-nine or 55% of the projects are intended for those groups (MCIC, 2004). Most of the projects, or 84%, are intended for training, information and representation. This shows a high level of activities for empowering the marginalised groups.

Table III.4.11. Overview of organisations and projects on marginalised groups (MCIC, 2004)

Group	Number of organisations	Number of projects
Children and Youth	133 (15.5%)	72 (11%)
Women	59 (6.9%)	64 (10%)
Elderly	32 (3.7%)	6 (1%)
Disabled	76 (8.9%)	24 (4%)
Unemployed	10 (1.2%)	6 (1%)
Rural population	7 (0.8%)	89 (14%)
Ethnic communities	25 (2.9%)	75 (12%)
Refugees	4 (0.5%)	13 (2%)
Total	346 (40.4%)	349 (55%)

Respective initiatives can be noticed for children and youth, women, disabled people and refugees. The establishment of an Inter-party Parliamentary Lobby Group for people with disabilities or the Macedonian Women Lobby, where the people with disabilities and women are included in and impact on the process of decision making, can be considered a result of these initiatives.

Fewer initiatives refer to elderly people and the unemployed. There is no donor in the country that supports the elderly people, while the activities supported by domestic associations, notably the Union of Associations of Pensioners of Macedonia, are not registered as projects. The initiatives for unemployed people are mainly supported through Government institutions (The Employment Office).

In the recent period, there are more initiatives for farmers and ethnic communities (an increase from 2001 to 2003). The increase of initiatives for farmers is due to the increased international support through GTZ, SIDA and MEDF. After the conflict in 2001 and the Ohrid Framework Agreement, there is a greater focus on ethnic communities.

The Roma community is in the focus of activities of empowering for some time now. It results in important activities as the establishment of a platform of Roma organisations “Roma 2002” or participation of Roma organisations in the drawing up of the National Strategy for Roma Population 2005–2015 and the Action Plans.

The first activities for empowering homosexuals are noticed in 2004. Several organisations that look after the needs of homosexuals, as for example the Centre for Civil and Human Rights, the Macedonian Association for Free Sexual Orientation (MASSO), EGAL and other, were established in a short time.

The international donors have a significant impact on the agenda, not only in empowering the marginalised groups, but generally also. The impact is based on the fact that the biggest part of the financing of CSOs comes from international donors.

Empowering marginalised groups, like people with disability or Roma, along with empowering women, is area where civil society is probably the most active and the most successful.

4.4.4 Empowering Women. Civil society sector is probably the most active and the most successful in empowering women. Item 4.4.3 above contains information about the number of

organisations and the number of projects focused on women. The highest participation of citizens, around 4%, is with the organisations of women and 8.3% knew about and participated in the CSOs activities for helping women improve their life according to the community sample. The media coverage of empowering women is small and in most cases it is concerned with particular activities. According to regional stakeholder consultations, 39% of participants could remember an example where a CSO provides services for the population and 12% of them were for women. However, most examples of successful lobbying and providing services or a direct help are related to the women organisations, which indicates the existence of already created capacities.

Women organisations also have excellent examples of network operations, mutual cooperation and organised lobbying.

The Macedonian Women Lobby is a key example.

Frame III.4.9. Macedonian Women Lobby

The Macedonian Women Lobby (MZL) is established as an informal movement on 1 March 2000 (formally registered in 2003). MZL is a coalition of all women leading figures from: CSOs (for example UWOM) and unions, political parties, the Government, media, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, the local self-government and women experts in different fields and with different background (national, religious and political).

Its goal is achieving gender equality through improving the legislation, development of a strategy and strengthening public awareness.

It is a group that applies pressure on the institutions. A lobby group which connects the different women groups and organisations for a more efficient representation of women interests in the public, in the institutions and in the decision making bodies.

The key result is the increased inclusion of women in the political life. MZL was active in the inclusion of gender quotas in the laws governing the parliamentary and local elections. The Law for the Election of Members of Parliament (2002) specifies that each gender shall be represented with at least 30% in the proposed list of candidates, while the Law for local elections (2003/4) regulates that, in the proposed list of candidates for members of the municipality councils and the City of Skopje, each gender shall be represented with at least 30% in both the upper and the lower halves of the list. It contributed to the increase of the number of women members of the Parliament from 4.2% in 1990, through 7.5% in 1998 to 17.5% in 2002. There is no major breakthrough in the number of mayors within the local self-governments (1996 – 0%; 2000 – 2.5%; 2004 – envisaged 3.4%), but there is a significant progress in the gender quotas within the councils of municipalities (1990 – 4.9%; 1996 – 6.1%; 2000 – 8.4%; 2004 – envisaged 22%).

A Club of Women Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia has been established in March 2003. Its goal is providing support for the work of the women members of the Parliament from every political party, especially for their activities as far as the promotion of equality between genders is concerned.

Civil society sector is probably the most active and the most successful in empowering women.

4.4.5 *Building Social Capital.* Civil society builds a social capital with a variable success.

Civil society is most successful in building tolerance. Special examples of mobilisation are the years of conflicts. In 1992/93 the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina led to the establishment of an informal coalition Civil Society and Peace Initiative Board. In 1999, during the Kosovo crisis, the CSOs cooperated across the ethnic divide. “Whole is when there is everything” is one of the most noticeable campaigns for tolerance in 1999 and 2000. In 2001, during the conflict in Macedonia, the CSOs were the first to appeal for non-violence and carry out activities for interethnic cooperation and MCIC, El Hilal and other organisations were an example for a mutual intervention for humanitarian aid for the different communities endangered by the conflict.

There are also isolated examples of activities that did not contribute to the social capital as for example the protests of the Union of Albanian Women in Macedonia (SAZM) in 2001 or the referendum organised by the World Macedonian Congress in 2004.

The confidence in civil society sector is comparatively better. Thanks to that, there are strong sub sector unions, platforms and the like, as is the Ecologists’ Movement of Macedonia, the Union of Women Organisations in Macedonia, the Union of Associations of Pensioners of Macedonia, etc.

In 2004, an informal Civic Platform of Macedonia was established by 29 leading organisations, as a result of the increasing mutual trust. On the other hand, there is still a high level of mutual accusations, for example of corruption.

Civil society moderately contributes to building social capital.

4.4.6 *Supporting/Creating Livelihoods.* In the supporting/creating livelihoods and/or possibilities for generating income, civil society is active with micro financing, business and professional training.

Civil society is where the first initiatives for micro financing started: Možnosti in 1996 (supported by USAID), MEDF in 1998 (supported by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Horizonti (supported by USAID). A large number of users are supported through these initiatives (see frame: Three cases of micro financing). Today, the micro financing is accepted by the financial sector.

Different forms of business training (training courses, consulting services, incubators, etc.) are carried out through a number of foundations for support of small and medium enterprises, as the ESA in Gostivar and Tetovo.

The examples mentioned above are not perceived as typical CSOs, since some have already registered private legal entities (for example Možnosti has established a savings bank), or because their actions are similar to those of consulting firms.

The professional training is an area where civil society sector is active. The activities for professional training are mostly intended for marginalised groups, as for example the ethnic Roma population or women (see frame III.3.5.)

In 2004, Roma economic forum, organised by RMC, was held with the aim of building a strategy for improving the rate of employment for the Roma population. In 2005, the Roma Decade of Inclusion 2005–2015 was promoted in nine countries from Central and Eastern Europe, including Macedonia. One of the four components is the employment.

On the other hand, according to the review of the media, there is not enough information about how to provide an income (16 out of a total of 131 articles about training of citizens) and the number of organisations which have the unemployed people as their target group is small (1.17% (MCIC, 2003)), or the number of projects for unemployed people is small (6 or 1% in 2003 (MCIC, 2004)).

The articles in the media were mostly related to the attempts of the Union of Macedonian Farmers and other associations to provide their target group better conditions for generating income. There is one article about the activities of the American–Macedonian Association for placing Macedonian products on the USA market and another one about a training programme for unemployed people organised by the Youth Information Centre in Skopje.

Frame III.4.10. Three cases of micro financing

Možnosti was established in 1996, as a citizen association. Today, it is a financial institution – a savings bank. So far, the total number of realised credits is 13,940 with a total value of over 37 million euros. 16,257 jobs and 5,713 new employments have been supported with an average amount of 2,700 euros of the realised credits.

The **Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation** (MEDF) was established in 1998 by MCIC. MEDF supports the employment and development possibilities of micro and small businesses. In this period, MEDF has granted loans with a total value of over 11.6 million euros to 2,526 loan beneficiaries through three banks. Most of the beneficiaries are farmers and micro-entrepreneurs, the total number of which is 2,359 or 93.3% of the total number of beneficiaries. These loans are used mostly for investments in agriculture and in businesses within rural areas (around 80%). At the same time, 3,350 jobs have been supported through 2,526 loan beneficiaries and 420 new employments are envisaged.

Horizonti has been active since March 2000. So far (March 2005), it has supported around 4,100 women–entrepreneurs and has granted over 11,000 loans for businesses in the fields of trade, services and small-scale production. The average value of credits is 800 USD. 40% of the clients are the population from the Roma community, while 70% of the businesses are within the small businesses and unregistered self-employed people. It operates in seven towns in Macedonia: Skopje, Bitola, Štip, Prilep, Kočani, Veles and Gostivar. The loans are processed through Tutunska Banka – Skopje. Horizonti is still a part of CRS and it is expected to be registered as a local foundation soon. Since September 2004, Horizonti has started organising business training courses (together with FOSIM) for Roma women–entrepreneurs.

Civil society is active with micro financing, business and professional training. Still these activities are with limited impact, especially for the poorest of the poor.

4.5. Meeting Societal Needs

This subdimension examines the extent to which Macedonian civil society is active and successful in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalised groups. Table III.4.12 below summarises the respective indicator scores.

Table III.4.12. Indicators assessing meeting social needs

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.5.1	Lobbying for state service provision	2
4.5.2	Meeting pressing societal needs directly	2
4.5.3	Meeting needs of marginalised groups	2

4.5.1 Lobbying for State Service Provision. About 23% of participants in the regional stakeholder consultations know examples of lobbying for state service provision and 5% feel that those activities are very successful or simply successful.

However, there are activities in this field. The differences between the findings in the regional stakeholder consultations and the level of activities are most probably due to the different levels. Most of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations were local organisations, while most of the activities for lobbying are at national level, in the capital city.

The most successful example is probably the activity of the Women Organisation from Sveti Nikole together with 17 other organisations for early diagnosing and preventing female reproductive organs illnesses, which finished with a programme for physical examination free of charge (see the case example in Section 4.1.). There are many other examples of success in the lobbying for state service provision, mostly in health care (disability, children with cancer) and social care (homeless people).

Frame III.4.11. Family violence

In the past seven years, starting with 1998, ESE initiated and successfully finished the process of lobbying for the adoption of an appropriate legal regulation for the problem of family violence. The system for protection has been enlarged through: providing the required accommodation for the family violence victims; providing appropriate health care; providing appropriate psycho-social intervention; referring to the appropriate counselling service; continuing with the full-time education of children; providing different kinds of legal help and taking other measures necessary for solving the problem.

It also created the basis for establishing and developing different forms of aid for family violence victims where both the government institutions, as a part of the formal system for protection and the CSOs, as a part of the informal system for protection, participate equally. ESE also provides direct services for family violence victims through the legal centre, in the form of advices by an interdisciplinary team, as well as court representation in certain cases.

There are similar examples in the case of people with disabilities where lobbying was undertaken for amendments to the Rulebook for Purchasing Orthopaedic Aids and the participation of users is reduced from 40% to 10% of the price of the aid (frame III.4.1).

The media follows the examples of lobbying for state service provision in the field of health care and social welfare policy (31 out of 57 articles are about solving social problems).

The Association of People with Diabetes supports a greater coverage of people with diabetes by the free health care services, but with no success for now. The association “Peperutka” asks for appropriate provision of medications for children suffering from cancer.

As a result of the lobbying and the public pressure, the Ministry of labour and social welfare decided to establish a Centre for homeless people in Skopje.

There is no debate for appropriate division of the work responsibilities among the social service providers (the state, the business sector and the civic sector). One part of CSOs feels that they should be social service providers as a part of their sustainability strategy. However, in the process of reforming the social welfare policy, the Ministry of labour and social welfare decided to support financially those CSO projects that are intended not for social service provision but for building public awareness (social prevention).

The state does not see the CSOs as part of meeting the social needs, apart from the education of the public. This is contrary to the trends in Central and Eastern Europe where CSOs are included as space fillers for gaps that occur with the state withdrawal. The Government is expected to adopt a strategy for cooperation with CSOs in 2005/6. It will be excellent basis for a debate on the above-mentioned topic.

Civil society is more engaged in lobbying for state service provision, with some impact in health care (women, disability, children with cancer) and social care (homeless people).

4.5.2 Meeting Societal Needs Directly. Civil society sector has activities for meeting pressing societal needs directly, providing alternative funds for development and especially in response to humanitarian catastrophes in 1999 and 2001 (and before that in 1992/3).

Of citizens, 30.6% are aware of the fact that these organisations have activities in their municipalities and that those activities were mostly as a support to the poor (16.9%) according to the community sample. On the other hand, 67% of the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations know of meeting pressing societal needs directly. They feel that the organisations are successful (30%) or partly successful in providing these services (26%). Rest of the participants feel that organisations are very successful (12%), do not know (21%) or did not answer (12%)

However, a significant part of the examples listed as “meeting societal needs directly” could probably not be considered as such. The most often listed example is giving legal assistance and advices free of charge, which usually consist of informing the citizens or calling for state accountability.

And, also, there are a small number of articles in the media about meeting societal needs directly; in fact, there are only a few articles about the humanitarian work of El Hilal and DHD “Mother Theresa” from Struga.

The examples mentioned by the participants in the regional stakeholder consultations are the Shelter Centre for family violence victims and the day centres for people with disabilities, as well as the SOS Children Village in Skopje.

What is not mentioned are important activities of civil society sector in providing alternative funds, outside the state, raising the level of progress of the communities, as for example the

support of Roma population and the rural areas, or the Solidarity Fund (for funerals) of the Union of Associations of Pensioners of Macedonia.

FOSIM, through its Programme for Education of Roma Population, awards scholarships for Roma high school and university students. Starting with the academic 1997/98 to this academic year (2004/05), 526 scholarships for high school students, 239 scholarships for university students, 80 scholarships for courses in computers and 176 scholarships for courses in English language have been awarded.

In the period from 1994 – 2004, MCIC has supported 225 communities with around 160,000 inhabitants in their activities for solving problems with the water supply and sanitation (see Section 4.4.2.).

Besides El Hilal, an organisation of Islamic origin, organisation based on faith and those that have important social and humanitarian activities, as are Deaconry and Charity of the Macedonian Orthodox Church; the Macedonian Caritas; and United Methodist Church's Miss Stone in Strumica, are also not mentioned.

However, CSOs have probably had the greatest results in response to the humanitarian catastrophes, notably the Kosovo crisis in 1999, the crisis in Macedonia in 2001 and before that the Bosnia crisis in 1992/93.

During the Kosovo crisis (March – July 1999), Macedonia became a refuge for around 350,000 refugees. Most of them were placed in host families. El Hilal played a key role in accommodating and distributing food and other necessities.

Frame III.4.12. Humanitarian response of NGOs in 2001

In 2001, there were many consequences of the conflict in Macedonia. The number of IDPs was the biggest in August when it reached about 120,000 people, 75,000 out of whom were in the country and 45,000 abroad; by December 2001 it decreased to 26,000 persons, 14,000 out of whom were in the country. Communities such as Vratnica and Lipkovo had limited movement due to the clashes and had blocked supplies; chronic problems were stressed, such as the water supply in Kumanovo and Tetovo. NGOs, as well as the agencies related to the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements, as well as UN provided the biggest part of the response.

Local NGOs were most probably the key suppliers of aid to crisis areas, especially those with limited access, such as Lipkovo and Vratnica. The total aid was 9,866 tons of food, 1,392 (14%) provided by local organisations.

Table III.4.11. Assistance of local civil organisations, June – December (Klekovski, 2002)

NGO/municipalities	Amounts	Kumanovo	Tetovo	Skopje	Others	Total
MCIC	78/2	130/16	88/21	26/8	21/10	343/57
El Hilal		411/177	118/49	99/41	10/4	638/271
Other NGOs		331/18		80/36		411/54
TOTAL	78/2	872/211	206/70	205/85	31/14	1392/382

Data refers to tons of food/thousands of hygienic packages. The overview was made per municipalities (only part of the villages covered). Other NGOs are: Natyra, Mother Theresa, Jeta, Merhamet, Klasje na dobrinata, SAZM, Flora.

Civil society sector has activities for meeting pressing societal needs directly, especially in response to humanitarian catastrophes in 1999 and 2001 (and before that in 1992/3), with little impact outside of that.

4.5.3 Meeting Needs of Marginalised Groups. The participants in the regional stakeholder consultations feel that 15% of the activities for meeting societal needs directly are aimed at the poor, 11% at the women and 11% at other groups. It conforms to the citizens' perception expressed in the community sample, where as much as 16.9% of respondents knew of civil society activities aimed at assisting the poor and 8.3% knew of civil society initiatives for women.

Civil society sector, that is to say the CSOs, provide better services for the people who need help (the poor, etc.). In the communities sample, 42.3% of the citizens feel that CSOs provide better services than state institutions (28.3% feel that the latter are better). This ratio is in correlation with the ratio of trusting CSOs (55.1%) and the authority (26%) (see Section 4.3.2.).

But, on the other hand, a greater number of citizens sought help from a state institution (19.6%) than from a CSO (10.6%) according to the community sample. It is probably due to the fact that the state resources are much larger than those of CSOs.

The impression that CSOs provide better services than the state, when the meeting of societal needs directly is not at a high level (see 4.5.2.), is probably due to two things. The first is that services of civil society supplement, but do not replace the services that are an obligation of the state (e.g. the inclusion of the Roma population in the education). The second is the flexibility of the civil society sector (in facing new needs), since some CSOs are better positioned, that is, are closer to the people and are ready to accept responsibilities.

However, there are challenges in those areas where there are still not enough activities - with the poorest of the poor, as are the children of the street, the homeless, the isolated ethnic communities (the Roma population in ghettos, the Turkish population in the mountains, etc.), the elderly people in mountainous regions, etc.

Conclusion

Civil society in Macedonia active and starts to play role

The area of key achievement is empowering citizens and especially empowering women and marginalised persons and informing and educating the citizens. Most of the results are related to social groups like women and disability, or youth, pensioners and to issues like human rights.

Areas where civil society plays moderate role are influencing public policies and meeting societal needs. Results in these areas of influencing public policies and meeting societal needs are connected to results in empowering citizens. Empowered women and people with disability start to meet the needs of their social groups and influence public policies.

It is possible to make further connection between the values, structure and impact. Strong gender value is followed with strong constituencies and networks. That resulted in empowerment of women and influencing public policies.

Civil society has less or even no achievements in: impact on national budget process, anti-corruption (holding state accountable) and holding private corporations accountable.

The relation here can be drawn to lack of value of transparency, but also to lack of know-how and skills needed (e.g. financial analysis).

Even here there is relation to more successful areas. The only cases of impact on national budget process are related to women, disability and youth or to their health.

Civil society enjoys public trust of significant minority of the citizens and that is higher levels of public trust than most of the other institutions in Macedonia. Even with that in mind the public trust is low. Most probably because of the low trust, a lot of the increased non-partisan political action is not organised by the civil society, but it is on ad-hoc base.

IV. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF MACEDONIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

The key strong and weak aspects of Macedonian civil society, as well as the recommendations for strengthening civil society were identified and discussed at the National Workshop and regional stakeholder consultations. The National Workshop took place on 7th July 2005 in Skopje and gathered 91 participants from civil society, the public/governmental sector, media and others and worked in a plenary session and four working groups following the CSI dimensions.

IV.1. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Discussions at the National Conference, regional consultations and NAG identified a range of strengths and weaknesses of Macedonian civil society. More specifically, they demonstrated the capacity of civil society to evaluate the external environment and self-evaluate themselves and their activities and the impact of civil society as a whole. Particularly at regional consultations, more space was given to weaknesses, than to the strengths present within Macedonian civil society.

Strengths

Empowering Citizens

The most significant impact of civil society is achieved in the area of empowering the citizens, especially empowering women and marginalised persons, for example, people with disabilities, and informing and educating citizens.

High Values of Peace, Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability

Civil society is known for its high values of peace, non-violence and tolerance, as well as gender equality and environmental sustainability. The high value placed on peace is a response to the long wars in the Balkans and the 2001 conflict in the country itself.

3Cs - Communication, Coordination, Cooperation

Civil society in Macedonia has a strong focus on 3Cs - communication, coordination and cooperation.

Civil society is quite organised, with a support infrastructure and significant level of networking in associations, umbrella structures and similar organisations, as well as in the recent examples of cross-sector alliances/coalitions of CSOs.

In many areas, more permanent 3C-structures, such as national or umbrella organisations exist. This is the case with pensioners (Union of Association of Pensioners in Macedonia), women (Union of Women's Organisations in Macedonia, Macedonian Women Lobby), environment (The Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia) and the disabled (Union of Organisations for Disabled of Macedonia, Inter-party Parliamentarian Lobby Group).

Big crises also lead to ad hoc coalitions or networks. The formation of Committee for Peace and Civic Initiatives was created in reaction to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the National Humanitarian Coordination's were reactions to the Kosovo and Macedonia crises and the coalition "Enough is enough" ("Dosta e" in Macedonian) was a reaction to the growing dissatisfaction with the Government in the crisis period from 2001 to 2002.

In 2001, the largest civil society 3C event was initiated: the NGO Fair – Forum of civil society in Macedonia. These successes led to the establishment of Civic Platform of Macedonia, with the membership of more than 30 leading CSOs in the country.

Human Capital

CSOs have a rather small number of well-qualified and committed human resources. Civil society is attracting and retaining good human capital due its high values, open space, flexibility of work and merit system. There are some transfers of staff from civil society to international organisations or Government, such as in the case of environmental organisations.

Commentary on the Strengths

Achievements of civil society based on local social and foreign financial capital

Women and the disabled have been raised throughout the CSI process as specific areas of achievement, with youth, Roma, pensioners and human rights coming in close second next to them.

An initial conclusion based on an analysis of the strengths point to the fact that the achievements of civil society are made possible jointly through local social and foreign financial capital.

Local social capital is (consisted of):

- value-based;
- based on constituencies;
- good human capital and
- focus on 3C – communication, coordination, cooperation.

There is high value placed on gender equity, which is rooted in Macedonia's socialist past of women's emancipation and equality. There is strong constituency of women's CSOs, which make up 15% of all CSOs (also rooted in the socialist time women organisations). The transition from the "old" women organisations to the new context was mostly successful. Many of women's organisations are part of the Union of Women's Organisations in Macedonia, which was successful in establishing relations with women in political parties, Parliament and universities, which resulted in Macedonian women lobby.

A similar case can be made for the issue of disability. Gender and disability, as well as human rights, simultaneously received adequate attention from the foreign donors and foreign financial support. The youth and pensioners received less attention.

Environmental sustainability successfully mainstreamed to Government

In CSI reports from some SEE-CEE countries environmental protection was seen as flagship of civil society.

In Macedonia, there is a relatively high value of environmental sustainability, with some cases of impact of environmental organisations (holding private sector accountable, building capacities for collective action). However, from the CSI perspective, it is difficult to see environmental sustainability as a flagship. This is because in the period from 1996 to 2001 environmental sustainability was successfully mainstreamed to government.

Environmental organisations were the first of the "new" civil society to occur in the late 1980s. Environmental organisations were successful in mobilising human capital.

Intellectuals, academics and teachers and quickly organised themselves into the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia in 1990. The Law for Protection and Promotion of Environment and the National Environmental Action Plan were adopted in 1996 and from then on many municipalities adopted Local Environmental Action Plans. In 1998 new Ministry of the Environment was established and the first two environmental ministers (1998-2002) were from the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia.

After this success and due to the search for a new role the environmental movement was less active and visible.

Weaknesses

Poverty Eradication, a Declarative Priority and Ad-hoc Actions

Although CSOs declare that poverty eradication is a priority, its activities and impact in this area are far from satisfactory. Most of the actions are ad-hoc and based on social-humanitarian grounds and treat the effects or consequences rather than the causes. Very few activities are based on development principles or directed at identifying the causes of poverty.

There is only a limited understanding of poverty and its connection to the poor, both for those living in the rural areas, and those who moved to the outskirts of the larger urban centres and especially to the capital city, Skopje.

A positive example is the activities for the Roma, through the Decade of Roma inclusion 2005 – 2015 and especially in Roma education.

Transparency and Self-Regulation, a Weak Spot

Although there are very few cases of corruption in CSOs, transparency is a weakness in Macedonian civil society.

Very few organisations provide public access to their financial accounts and even fewer organisations provide audited accounts. The action "Together for transparency", which aims to publish audited reports in the dailies, was joined by nine organisations. Civil society activities for the promotion of transparency of the State and private sector are limited to Transparency International/Macedonia.

Lack of transparency includes a lack of self-regulation mechanisms. Aside from some efforts for self-regulation, there is no nationwide accepted Code of conduct.

Better in Promoting than Practising Democracy

Civil society is better at promoting democracy than at practicing democracy. In particular, there is limited application of organisations' statutes and acts. In addition, there are problems in civil society with regard to conflicts of interests, separation of non-executive and executive functions, favouritism, as well as supervision of the work. Overall, many organisations were founded by charismatic leaders and some are failing to divide leadership from management and/or limit their powers and terms.

Limited Achievements in Holding State and Private Corporations Accountable

The civil sector has achieved very little impact on holding the state and private sector accountable.

There are positive developments in demanding to state to uphold human rights. With the exception of some environmental cases, activities to hold private corporations accountable are very limited and there is no visible impact of these activities.

This is linked to a lack of activities and impact on national budgeting process. It is not easy for civil society, to hold the state and private sector responsible, while at the same time trying to develop its own positive relationships with the state and private sector, including securing funding sources.

Limited Public Trust

Based on the findings, the level of public trust in civil society is limited and only 44% of respondents trust civil society. This level of trust is significantly higher than trust in the government and political parties, but still a minority of citizens trust civil society. The trust in churches and religious communities and in CSOs, is significantly higher than that in trade unions. Since unemployment, corruption and poverty are the top three social problems, limited poverty eradication and anti-corruption activities leave an impression that civil society is not responding to social interests. This, in turn, decreases public trust.

From Ad-Hoc to Structured Cooperation with the State

The relations between the state and civil society hover between productive and non-productive. Cooperation between the state and CSOs is less frequent, but dialogue is improving on an ad-hoc basis. Nonetheless, improved dialogue is not followed by improved support. Only a limited number of organisations, such as sports organisations and people with disabilities receive state funding.

Insufficient Resources and Lack of Diversification

The findings revealed that CSOs have insufficient financial resources to achieve their goals. Particular problems include: a lack of diversification of financial sources and heavy dependence on international or foreign sources. These problems negatively influence the autonomy of civil society. Improving financial resources will be critical during the next three years, as there will be withdrawal of foreign donors and funding for social-humanitarian and post-conflict activities and key donors, such as USAID or DFID because of an improvement in the country political, social and economic situation and progress toward joining the European Union.

Relatively disabling environment

Civil society in Macedonia functions, to a certain extent, in a disabling environment with low trust levels in society and a relatively difficult socio-economic context. Consequently, there is a minority of support for civil society by Macedonians, particularly regarding the breadth and depth of citizen participation, with limited opportunities for membership fees, philanthropy and economic activities.

Likewise, government support, especially financial support from the state budget and lottery, is limited and not very transparent. The tax system is unfavourable for CSOs and for philanthropy activities. This poses an obstacle to the future development of civil society.

Mutually indifferent civil society and private sector relations

The views and relationship between civil society and the private sector is mutually indifferent. There is virtually no dialogue; for example, economic-social council do not function in

practice. The corporate social responsibility and financial support to civil society is not very present in the business sector.

Commentary on the Weaknesses

Multiple reasons why Poverty Eradication is a declarative priority

There are multiple reasons why poverty eradication is only a declared, but not a practised priority area for civil society, such as:

- Legacy of the socialism;
- State monopoly;
- Poverty eradication planning and resourcing and
- Urban – rural gap (including within civil society).

Poverty eradication, in the form of establishing an egalitarian society, was the basis of the socialist period and was taken care of by the state. In other words, eradicating poverty was the responsibility of the state, not necessarily society at large and a state monopoly over welfare concerns was created. Furthermore, the role of faith-based organisations, which are historically important stakeholders in poverty eradication, was suppressed.

The state monopoly and image of social welfare is still functioning. Poverty eradication is seen as an issue of social welfare, the Ministry of labour and social welfare spend 25% of the State budget on social welfare, not as issue of (un)employment and education, or skills and know how. Even the new strategies include privatisation and involvement of the private and civil sectors. However, implementation is very slow, due to resistance within the ministries.

There is a Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Ministry of Finance worked on action plans. This strategy, like most of the other strategies, is not reflected in the national budget, meaning that it is not resourced.

The urban-rural gap is a consequence of disharmonised development during socialism, especially in terms of access to education. Most poverty is now seen as related to rural poor both in villages and city peripheries. That is followed by mistrust from both sides.

As civil society is a predominantly urban phenomenon there is under-representation of the rural population and the urban poor. There is also a lack of attitude and skills to listen and learn from the poor. This is an important issue to raise, since some of the poor, like the Roma, are well represented in civil society and most of the positive examples of poverty eradication are within their communities.

The same was the case with most foreign donors. Even there is growing funding on improvement of infrastructure for the rural-poor, this has little effect on the (un)employment rate in the country.

Transparency, Self-regulation, Anti-corruption, State budget

There are cause-effect relations between transparency, self-regulation, anti-corruption and the state budget.

Transparency is the weak point in the values of civil society. It is immediately reflected in the absence or limited amount of self-regulation within civil society. There are also limited activities to influence the national budgeting process and activities against corruption.

Transparency is a problem of both socio-cultural and know-how origin, since, as a result of Macedonia's socialist or authoritarian past, transparency and accountability remain un-rooted in (civil) society.

Due to the fact that most of civil society's funding relations are with foreign donors, there is a perception of primary accountability towards the donors and secondary, if any, accountability to the constituency or general public.

When there is an understanding of the need for transparency and accountability, there is very little know-how. Transparency and accountability are dependent on certain systems and procedures, including financial ones. Many the organisations have a very limited knowledge on transparency and accountability and financial systems.

V RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Based on Macedonian civil society's strengths and weaknesses, the following recommendations for the future development of civil society were considered at the National Workshop that took place in Skopje on 7 July 2005 and gathered 91 participants from civil society, the public/governmental sector, media and others and worked in a plenary session and four working groups following the CSI dimensions.

Macedonian civil society will continue to face a somewhat restrictive environment in the next three to five years. Macedonia expects to make significant progress in the EU integrations during this period, but it is unrealistic to expect a significant shift in the socio-economic and socio-cultural situation. This can be seen by the EU integration examples of some Eastern European countries, such as Bulgaria, which is to become an EU member, but there is little support to civil society. With progress in the EU integration process, many existing donors, including USAID, will withdraw from the country.

Moving force for poverty eradication

Poverty eradication should move from the margins and become the focus of the society as a whole and civil society in particular. Civil society should research the cause-and-effect relations of poverty and reveal the social-economic injustices resulting from poverty. This should shift the activities from mainly social-humanitarian, or charity as a status quo situation, towards advocacy to target the causes of poverty. Special stress should be placed on rural and peri-urban poverty.

Improving transparency and democracy

Civil society should further strengthen its transparency. If demonstrating achievements or results is a first step in strengthening public trust, the second step is strengthening openness and transparency. The achieved results must be accompanied by information on how the finances have been used.

The strengthening of internal democracy should take place through: an increased participation of members and constituencies in the decision making processes; implementation of the legal and statutory regulations; regulating the conflict of interests between governing and executive bodies and the development of good governance practises.

Civil society should also further strengthen its self-regulation. It should cover areas such as the above-mentioned openness and transparency, including access to information, as well as other checks-and-balances mechanisms to increase public responsibility. The necessary activities include codes of ethics, quality standards, professional standards, internal control and certification.

Strengthening trust levels in society and public trust in civil society

Civil society should contribute to restoring trust in society at large and work to ensure public trust in the civil society sector. To achieve this, it is necessary to publicize and improve information on civil society's success and achievements. A special approach to certain actors, such as the media, state and corporate sector is necessary.

Also, civil society must demonstrate that it is responding to society's needs. Two key societal issues are unemployment or poverty and corruption. Activities related to these issues are needed and civil society should play a critical role.

In its response to social problems, the civil sector must be careful about the division of responsibilities. The risk that it is a sole responsibility of civil society should be avoided; as it is a shared responsibility of the citizens, state and corporate sector. In that sense, there is a need for stronger civil society action in holding the state and private sector accountable and influencing the national budgeting process.

Diversifying and Rooting Civil Society

Civil society should be further rooted in Macedonia and should work toward including all social groups. Apart from the achievements with women, people with disabilities and others, it is necessary to increase the inclusion of the rural population, the poor and ethnic communities. Active involvement in the decentralisation process, from the state to the municipalities, will help increase civil society's reach to the public and promote inclusion of the above mentioned groups.

Social responsibility, public-private partnership and dialogue

It is necessary to strengthen the responsibility and involvement of the corporate sector. Activities to promote the social responsibility of the corporate sector, or public-private partnerships, are needed.

There is a need for a structured dialogue, such as via a tri-partite economic-social council that will include trade unions, employers and different actors, such as CSOs.

In the relations with the state there is a need to develop dialogue from ad-hoc dialogue into structured dialogue.

Strengthening the social capital and networking

In a situation of inappropriate financial resources, further stress on social capital and networking is necessary. Special activities for strengthening cross-sector alliances and platforms are also needed.

Strategy for mobilisation of resources

In a context of insufficient financial resources and the withdrawal of foreign donors from social-humanitarian and post-conflict activities, civil society needs a strategy to mobilize resources. This strategy should include diversification of resources to local support (philanthropy – citizens and private sector), support from the state and economic activities.

The improvement of the legal framework should also be addressed, in order to provide an enabling environment for resource mobilisation (economic activities, public interest and favourable tax frame).

Nevertheless, because of the limiting environment, in short term, significant support from foreign donors, such as the EU, will still be needed.

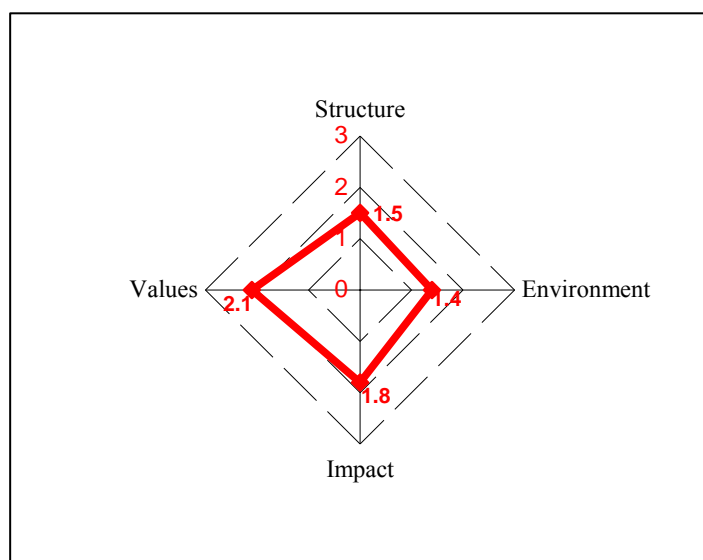
The issue of voluntarism deserves specific attention, both in the legal framework and activities to encourage volunteerism. Another issue is developing the professionalism of civil society, for example through planned human resources development.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

1. CIVIL SOCIETY DIAMOND FOR MACEDONIA

Based on the analysis of the research, the NAG assessed the state of civil society in Macedonia through scoring the indicators, which are summarised in their four dimensions in figure V.1.1.

Figure V.1.1. Civil Society Diamond for Macedonia



The diagram, visualising the state of Macedonian civil society in the form of a diamond, shows that civil society in Macedonia is moderately well-developed. The practice and promotion of positive values are the strength of civil society and thus form the base for its achievements and impact. The environment is disabling to a certain extent, with a partially ineffective state and a deep lack of public trust and public spiritedness. This, in turn, negatively affects the structure of civil society, which can be described as moderate in size and imbalanced in

composition.

The structure of civil society is moderate and not balanced

The structure of civil society is moderate and not balanced. On the negative side one has to note the limited breadth and very limited depth of citizen participation; on the positive side are good inter-relations, levels of networking, a wide diversity of civil society participants and sufficient human resources. The limited breadth and depth of citizen participation in civil society is related to disabling socio-cultural context. That leads to “minority effect” – rather than reaching out to society at large, civil society focuses internally, i.e. on the inter-relations among CSOs

There is an increase in non-partisan political action, especially on an ad-hoc base, with significant parts of citizens being involved. However, still only a minority of citizens participates in civil society. This is related most probably to low public trust in institutions overall and particularly in civil society organisations.

Civil society is well rooted in certain social groups such as women, youth and pensioners and around some issues like human rights and disability. These social groups are related to some civil society values such as gender, which were already rooted in society in the socialist period. Almost all social groups are presented in civil society, both in membership and the leadership, although not equally. There is smaller representation of the poor, rural communities and ethnic communities (esp. ethnic Albanian). There is high concentration of CSOs in the capital city and urban areas. A large share of organisations (43%) are concentrated in the capital Skopje. CSOs are nearly absent from the rural areas.

Civil society is quite organised with a adequate support infrastructure and significant level of networking in associations, umbrella structures and similar organisations, as well as in the first examples of cross-sector alliances/coalitions of CSOs. However, there are very few rules for conduct and self-regulation in civil society sector in Macedonia.

CSOs have insufficient (financial) resources to achieve their goals. A special problem is the lack of diversification of the financial sources and the big dependence on international or foreign sources. Civil society it is a pool of well qualified and committed human resources.

The environment is disabling to a certain extent, with a partly ineffective state and deep lack of public trust

Despite the progress in the field of basic rights and freedoms, civil society's political context is unfavourable. The most limiting factors are the (lack of) rule of law, corruption, (in) efficiency of the state and a highly centralized state.

Macedonia is facing a deep lack of public trust in society and low tolerance and public spiritedness. One can argue that this is a result of a cause and effect relation between an ineffective state (lack of rule of law, corruption, in efficiency of the state and the highly centralized state) and low public trust and public spiritedness.

Civil society is still not recognised fully by the state and, even though there is improvement of dialogue, this has not been followed by improved cooperation and support. Again, this is most probably related to problems of ineffective state. The views and the relations, between civil society and the private sector, are mutually indifferent and there is no dialogue or cooperation.

Values – the assets of civil society

Values are the assets of civil society and thus form the base for civil society's achievements (high values) or failures (absent values). The strongest values are peace – non-violence and gender. The weakest value is transparency.

Transparency is the weak spot of civil society. Very few organisations provide public access to their financial accounts. There are few activities for promotion of transparency and fight against corruption.

CSOs are making progress in practising internal democracy. Civil society is better in the promotion of democracy than practicing the same internally. Many of the organisations were founded by (charismatic) leaders, and some of them are failing to divide leadership from management and/or limit their powers and terms.

Although there are activities to eradicate poverty, their impact is low. Most of them are based on social-humanitarian grounds and they treat the signs of poverty; whereas few activities are based on development principles and directed to identify the root causes of poverty. Some positive examples in this regard are related to the situation of Roma people.

Civil society in Macedonia is active and starts to play a role

Here, the areas of civil society's key achievement are the empowerment of citizens and especially empowering women and marginalised persons as well as informing and educating the citizens.

Most of the results are related to social groups like women and disabled people, or youth, pensioners and to issues like human rights. Results in areas with moderate achievements like influencing public policies and meeting societal needs are connected to results in empowering citizens since empowered women and people with disability start to meet the needs of their own needs and influence public policies. Even in areas with low or no achievements like impact on national budget process there are some successes related to women, disability and youth.

It is possible to make further connections between the values, structure and impact dimensions. For example, a strong gender value leads to strong gender-based constituencies and networks, which, in turn, result in the empowerment of women and substantive influence on gender policies.

Civil society has less or even no achievements in: impact on national budget process, anti-corruption and private sector accountability. These issues are all related to the lack of the value of transparency, but also to the lack of know-how and skills needed (e.g. financial analysis).

Civil society enjoys low public trust, but still receives higher levels of public trust than most of the other institutions in Macedonia. Based on the assumption that public trust is related to the ability to respond to society's interests and needs as well as internal transparency, it is possible to conclude that there is not enough appreciation of civil society's work and concerns about its transparency.

15 Years of Transitions - Stabilisation toward citizen's participation

Macedonia is ending the period of stabilisation. Built around strong values, Macedonian civil society, even with limited citizen support, is rooted in some social groups (women, disability, youth,) and performing and playing important roles. Civil society should build on that success and start to expand citizen's participation. For that civil society will have to respond to two social needs – combating poverty (unemployment) and corruption.

2. CONCLUSIONS ON THE RESEARCH

2.1. About the process

The strength of the CSI research process was its participatory approach (which involved the NAG, regional and national conference and NIT) and its weakness was the length of the process.

The NAG was very representative membership of society, which made it possible to develop a first ever stakeholder agreement on the definition of civil society in Macedonia.

The NIT was composed of nine members, plus a back-stopping consultant from Intrac, UK. The NIT members were from MCIC and other institutions and together they brought both efficiency and external know-how to the project.

The process, in part was lengthy (two years) because this was the first such experience for MCIC in conducting this type of research. The time spent between the National Workshop and the final report was long, also in part because of changes made by CIVICUS in the format and somewhat different issues raised by CIVICUS in different stages of the report.

The process could be improved through an improvement in the methodology and by planning the next research phase well in advance. With advanced planning, the NIT could better plan the data collection and implement part of the additional research as part of other civil society activities. This would also bring more human and information resources to the research.

2.2 Research is strengthening civil society

The CSI contributed to strengthening civil society with increased common understanding between civil society stakeholders and by providing input for evidence based planning and advocacy. The CSI significantly contributed to the strategic orientation of the Civic Platform of Macedonia, the platform of the leading CSOs and its plan for 2006-2007.

3. FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES TO THE RESEARCH

MCIC, as the national coordinator of this research, plans to have the following follow-up activities: to publish the research and disseminate the information; to conduct further comparative analysis; to encourage the development of a strategy for civil society and to repeat the research.

Publishing of the research and disseminating the information

The research results will be published. The information will also be disseminated via promotional events and round tables with various actors, since a good dissemination of the information is a significant investment in building momentum around a civil society strengthening strategy.

Further comparative analysis

This research has established the basis for comparative analysis at several levels. These comparative analyses should lead to improvement in the research methodology, but particularly towards finding joint solutions and opportunities. There is an interest in comparing the research from similar countries that is, the post-communist countries, such as the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, or with divided societies, such as Northern Ireland, where there is already some cooperation, but there is also interest in comparing the results on a global level.

Encouraging strategy development

The research is a good basis for the development of a strategy for further civil society development. MCIC used the information to formulate its own civil society medium- term plan. The plan includes parts of the research methods as monitoring and evaluation tools. The CSI also provides the information needed for the Government Strategy for cooperation with Civil Society, due in 2006. The CSI influenced the Civic Platform of Macedonia (CPM) plan for 2006-2007. Many of the key CSOs were members of both CPM and the NAG, which will ease the dialogue on medium and long term objectives.

Repeating the research

Based on the experience of implementing this phase of the CSI and the improved methodology, there is a need to regularly assess the situation. This is especially important if a common strategy is developed. Then, the CSI will be an instrument for assessing progress. The CSI research should be repeated in Macedonia in 3 to 5 years; regardless of the whether it will be repeated on a global level. The CSI contributed to the strengthening of civil society and with incorporation of the lessons learned into a modified methodology, it should be repeated.

Next Steps

This publication will serve as the basis for international comparisons within the framework of the Civil Society Index project as a whole and will be used in the publication of the two Volume *Global Report on the State of Civil Society*. In 2006 a global CSI conference took place. It convened all of the national teams that participated in the Civil Society Index, as well as other project partners and external stakeholders.

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ANNEX 1: SHORT PROFILES OF NATIONAL INDEX TEAM MEMBERS

Biljana Gerasimovska-Kitanovska works as a specialist in internal medicine at the Clinic of Nephrology in Skopje. She has been involved in the work of the civil organisations since 1994. At the moment she is a president of the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of the Women of the Republic of Macedonia (ESE) and a member of the Executive Board of MCIC. She has worked in the area of female health, family violence, interactive education training, evaluation of organisations, programs and projects of civil organisations. She is the co-author of several books, reports and analyses that concern evaluation, family violence and organising in the civil world.

Daniela Stojanova has been an active member of the civic organisations since 1992 and from 1996 to 2001 she was holding high positions at the Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia (DEM). In 2000 she was participating in the initiative and establishment of the South East European Environmental NGOs Network (SEEENN) and from 2001 to 2004 she managed its Secretariat. From 2000 to 2004 she was a member of the Task Force of the Regional Program for Environment Reconstruction at the Stability Pact. As part of the first team of trainers in Macedonia in the period of 1996 to 2002 she received and delivered training sessions of civic organisations in Macedonia. At the moment she works for the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) and is in charge of the Secretariat of the Civic Platform of Macedonia, in whose initiative and establishment she participated as well. She is also in charge of several advocacy and lobbying activities and she is actively involved in the organisation of the NGO Fair.

Emina Nuredinoska graduated from the Law Faculty in Skopje in 1997 and at the moment she is finishing her graduate studies in international law and international politics at the same faculty. Since 2001 she has been working at MCIC as project officer in civil society and Democratization department. The focus of her activities is institutional development and creation of enabling environment for the civil organisations and her special interest is the legal and fiscal frame for the civil organisations, as well as promotion of civil sector in the public. She has actively participated in the process of establishing the Civic Platform of Macedonia and she is part of the team that organises the NGO Fair – Forum of Civil Society in Macedonia. She also delivers training in advocacy and lobbying of the CSOs. Since December 2005 she has been working as a team leader of the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) project “Technical Support to civil society Department at the Government of the Republic of Macedonia”.

Fatmir Bytiqi is in charge of the program for capacity development/trainer at the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation. He has been active in the capacity development activities for civil organisations in Macedonia and the neighbouring countries in the region. He has graduated from the Faculty of Economy at the University in Tirana, at the business management department. In the course of his 6 years of work at MCIC, he has spent many training sessions in more efficient work and development of civil society as a whole.

Goran Buldioski works as a program manager at the Open Society Institute, Network Programs in Budapest and he is in charge of the Support Program for Public Policy Centers. His previous work includes Youth Council of Macedonia, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation in Macedonia and the Council of Europe in Budapest, Hungary. He has worked as an independent expert in many organisations in Macedonia, such as the Institute for Sustainable Communities, Nansen Dialogue Center, Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia and others. He has special interest and expertise in strategic planning and capacity building of civil organisations, organisational and project management of the non-profit sector, training of trainers, intercultural learning and education on human rights. He has a graduate degree from the George Washington University in the USA on organisational development and at the moment he is completing his master studies in human resource management at the Institute for Sociological, Juridical and Political Research in Skopje.

John Beauclerk is a development practitioner with 21 years of NGO management experience at community, provincial, national and regional levels in Latin America and Central Africa (with OXFAM UK) and in Asia and Europe with Save the Children (UK). He joined INTRAC's capacity building team in 2000 as the program manager for the Balkans and Central Europe and in 2004 became an Associate of INTRAC in order to concentrate on consultancy in program design, evaluation work and training. With a background in journalism, he has written on field work with indigenous groups (Oxfam 1986, 1990) and has contributed to publications on civil society (INTRAC 2003). With the INTRAC Director Brian Pratt, he co-facilitates the INTRAC 5 day course on Strengthening Civil Society. His current interests are in peace building and accession processes in the Balkans, the equal integration of Roma populations in Europe and indigenous peoples' land rights in Peru.

Kelmend Zajazi is in charge of institutional development of municipal associations at the USAID Decentralization Project. He worked at the Humanitarian Office of the European Commission where he supervised programs in the area of health, social work, etc. He also worked at the Institute for Sustainable Communities on implementation of the USAID program for development of CSOs. He has received his M.A. in applied policy and management at Pittsburgh University and has a B.Sc. degree from the Medical Faculty in Priština. He is the author of several publications in the area of working with organisations of public and civil sector. He has an in-depth knowledge of topics related to good organisational management, strategic planning, project cycle management, etc. He is a member of the Central and Eastern Europe working group for good NGO governance, a member of the MCIC Council, Committee of the Civic Platform of Macedonia, as well as many other initiatives related to civil society development in Macedonia and abroad.

Natasa Gaber-Damjanovska is a senior researcher with a 21-year experience in the field of civil society and in bringing her contribution with numerous publications, in co-authorship or alone. She works at Sociological and Political and Juridical Researches and also teaches at the University St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, to postgraduate and doctorate students. She has drafted several Laws (e.g. Law for Citizens Associations and Foundation; Law on Election of Representatives in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia) and led or participated in the teams for developing several national strategies (e.g. Roma Decade in Macedonia). Since the establishment of MCIC she has been a member of the Governance Board and at the moment held the position of Chair.

Sašo Klekovski was born on 13 April 1966. He graduated from the Medical Faculty in Skopje. He is married to Ana and has two children, Angelina and Nikola. He has sixteen years of experience in executive positions at civil society. At the end of the eighties and beginning of nineties he was a president of the Association of Medical Students of Macedonia and the Association of Students of the St. Cyril and Methodius University. In 1993 he was one of the founders and since 1994 he has been the Director of the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation. Since 1998 he has been the representative of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation. He has been a member of several committees in Macedonia and abroad, previously the Executive Board of the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia, now also the Executive Board of Transparency Macedonia and the Advisory Committee of the Danish Interchurch Aid. He has experience in Macedonia and the Balkans, as well as experience in consulting missions in the Caucasus (Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan).

Sunčica Sazdovska has worked at the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) since 1998 as a project assistant at civil society Program and since 1999 she has been a manager of civil society department. She has worked on several programs for civil society development in Macedonia, which aimed at institutional and organisational strengthening of the civil organisations. She has actively participated in the initiative and establishment of the Civic Platform of Macedonia and she has been its committee member. Before working for MCIC, she worked on several researches on employment, unemployment, health care and welfare conducted by the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

Representatives of CSOs in alphabetical order

1. **Abdurauf Prusi**, Honourable President, Humanitarian Organisation “El Hilal”, Skopje
2. **Dojčin Cvetanovski**, President, SONK (branch – education, science, culture of the Trade Union of Macedonia)
3. **Dragi Zmijanac**, Executive Director, First Children Embassy in the World “Megjashi”, Skopje
4. **Gjuner Ismail**, President, Center for Strategically Researches and Documentation “Forum”
5. **Igor Taseski**, Program Assistant, Center for Civic Initiatives, Prilep
6. **Samet Skenderi**, Secretary General, Humanitarian and Charity Roma Organisation “Mesecina”, Gostivar
7. **Savka Todorovska**, President, Union of Women’s Organisations of Macedonia
8. **Slagjana Taseva**, Executive Director, Transparency Macedonia
9. **Špend Imeri**, President, Association for Democratic Initiatives, Gostivar
10. **Violeta Eftimova**, President, Women Association “New Life”, Štip
11. **Vladimir Milčin**, Executive Director, Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia
12. **Zoran Kostov**, Member of the Board of Trustees, Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation
13. **Zoran Stojkovski**, Project Manager, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Representatives from institutions outside civil society in alphabetical order

14. **Gordana Duvnjak**, Policy Editor, Daily Newspaper “Utrinski vesnik”
15. **Liljana Popovska**, Vice-President, Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia
16. **Nafi Saracini**, Delegation of European Commission in Macedonia
17. **Nataša Gaber-Damjanovska**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research
18. **Ratko Lazarevski**, Advisor of the Executive Director, Company “Makstil”
19. **Sonja Trajkovska-Stefanoska**, Program Associate on Good Governance, UNDP c.o. Macedonia

ANNEX 3: CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STUDY

Goal and Subject

This report deals with the activity of business entities in the development of civil society in Macedonia. The goal is to see the degree of involvement in the promotion and support to the social development goals of the socially responsible enterprises.

Methodology

The methodology of the report consists of an analysis of the annual reports of the ten business entities that had the biggest profit in the course of 2003. The data on these companies are obtained from the Central Register of the Republic of Macedonia. Part of the annual reports was provided by representatives of the business entities, part of them submitted written reports, part of them were found on their web sites and for some of them there was no information whatsoever.

Target Group

Target group of the report are the ten most profitable business entities in the Republic of Macedonia from 2003, according to the data of the Central Register of Macedonia. They are: Macedonian Telecommunications, Mobimak, Kameni most, Makpetrol, Tutunski kombinat AD, USJE cement plant, Pivara AD Skopje, Alkaloid AD Skopje, Jaka 80 Radoviš, Marble combinate Prilep.

Findings

Reviewed individually per entity, the situation is the following:

Macedonian Telecom (MT) – there was a meeting with the management and a narrative report on the investments in the Macedonian society was obtained. These investments are not done according to set criteria and they are within the marketing department. Still, since this year MT has started a corporate activity department, which mapped the needs of the society in 2004. MT mostly directs its investments in the society in the areas of culture, future (education) of the children, historical monuments, as well as in creating a positive image of the Republic of Macedonia. There have been no specific data and figures of the participation in the profit of the company. (The list of supported institutions, organisations and events is annexed).

Mobimak is a company established by MT. According to their annual report, a special feature of 2003 are several projects, such as: Humanitarian Race on Wheels, Foresting around Macedonia, MobiDay, Project on Skopje ZOO, Family Days, M2 Project and New Year Celebration for the citizens of Skopje. No specific data and figures on the participation in the profit of the company have been obtained.

Kameni most – is a company owned by the foreign investor of the previous two companies and have no activity in the Macedonian society, because it is done via their companies (MT and Mobimak).

Makpetrol – is the next company with which there was a meeting. The meeting was with the marketing director of the company. According to the information, Makpetrol has directed its activities in the following areas: sport support (sport clubs, bowling, karate, AMD), advertising, blood donation, leisure, holidays, sponsorship and donations. There was information presented that it amounted to 40.8 million denars for 2003, but the data do not indicate the participation in the total profit of the company. Makpetrol also takes care of their employees by providing continuous training, loans, employment of family members of the employees (outside the management team). No specific data and figures on the participation in the profit of the company have been obtained.

Tutunski kombinat AD Skopje – there was a meeting held with the manager of the sector for corporate affairs and the general manager. TKS provided information on their socially beneficial activities for 2002, 2003 and 2004. The participation in the profit of TKS per years is the following: 2.0% for 2002, 0.5% for 2003 and 1.2% for 2004. In 2003, most of the support was for the cultural activities and less

for others, such as: better living environment, marking of historical events, etc. TKS has a continuous cooperation with the Association of Partisans of Macedonia and the Jewish Community in the Republic of Macedonia and also takes constant care of its employees.

“USJE” cement plant – there was a phone contact with the person in charge at the company. Because there was a change in the management, there was no meeting with the management and there is no information on their activities.

Pivara AD Skopje (Skopje Brewery) – again because of a change in the management there was no meeting with them. The web page of Pivara has information on sponsorship of cultural and social events (festivals, socio-cultural events, fairs), but no data on the financial participation. Pivara Skopje also has a policy of environment protection. The annual report is not accessible at the web page of this business entity.

Alkaloid AD Skopje – there were several telephone contacts without visible results in obtaining information. Involvement in socially beneficial activities is mentioned in their 2003 annual report, especially those in the area of health and health care, but without any specific data and figures.

Jaka 80 Radoviš - there were several telephone contacts without visible results in obtaining information. The official web page of Jaka 80 does not contain the annual report and there is no additional information on the socially beneficial activities.

Marble Combinat Prilep - there were several telephone contacts without visible results in obtaining information and it can not be taken from their web page. In the end there was a negative answer on the involvement of this entity in the research.

Conclusions

The above mentioned can lead to the following conclusions:

- Three out of the ten business entities that had the biggest profit in 2003 are part of Macedonian Telecommunications, two in the area of pharmaceutical industry and one business entity in the tobacco industry, oil industry, extractive industry (ore and minerals), food industry and construction material industry.
- There were no meetings with 5 out of the 10 business entities that were subject to this report. The explanation was different, but most often it was the change in management or simply lack of interest in discussing this topic.
- Even when they are prepared to discuss the topic, the business entities in Macedonia are not willing to give precise data on their socially responsible activities.
- Besides Tutunski Kombinat Skopje, which provided information on the participation of the socially useful activities in their profits, the other data are not relevant for comparison and analysis of the socially beneficial activities that were undertaken.
- Although there is a positive trend in these business entities, mainly there is no long term strategy for this purpose; if there is one, it has just been established and its results are not visible yet.
- Small part of these entities have separate departments for their socially responsible activities (TKS and MT) and with the others, these activities are within the marketing and PR departments.
- Most of the undertaken activities are directed towards sport development (sport clubs and events) and culture (support of big cultural events) that are most visible and provide promotion of these business entities

Besides these remarks, the trend of development of awareness and the need for undertaking socially responsible activities is visible.

ANNEX 4: CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE MEDIA

The media have a significant role in informing and establishing the image of the CSO-s in the public. They are the biggest transmitters of the messages that CSOs want to send to the public. Therefore, they are of essential importance for the promotion of civil society activities. As part of the CSI project, the representation of civil society in the media was monitored over a period of three months. The study-media review was carried out by the MCIC employees and participants of the on-job training at MCIC. The media monitoring process was guided by the criteria outlined by CIVICUS, which involved an initial screening of the media for civil society related news, followed by the classification of this news according to standardized criteria. This data was then inputted into an MS Access database which was used to analyse the data. The media review took place in May, June and July 2004. Within this overview, 4 dailies (Vreme, Dnevnik, Utrinski vesnik and Fakti), 1 weekly (Aktuel) and 1 monthly (Forum) were monitored.

Table A.1. Reviewed newspapers, type, language, ownership and orientation

	Type	Language	Ownership	Orientation
Vreme	Daily newspaper	Macedonian	Private	Liberal
Dnevnik	Daily newspaper	Macedonian	Private (foreign)	Conservative
Utrinski vesnik	Daily newspaper	Macedonian	Private (foreign)	Left
Fakti	Daily newspaper		Private	Right
Aktuel	Weekly magazine	Macedonian	Private	Center to left
Forum	Monthly magazine	Macedonian	Private	Liberal

In the course of these three months, 321 articles were published, 316 of which in the dailies. On average, this was 1 article per issue of the dailies. One should also mention that the short news such as announcements for exhibitions, promotion and similar issues published on the last pages of the newspapers were not involved in the media overview.

Table A.2. Number of articles per media

Media	Vreme	Dnevnik	Utrinski vesnik	Fakti	Aktuel	Forum
Number of articles	103	87	78	48	3	2
Percentage in %	32.09	27.10	24.30	14.95	0.93	0.62

Most of the articles, that is, 95.3% are neutral, small percentage of 1.88% are positive and only 2.82% are negative. The main criterion for the presentation of the organisation in the articles was not the contents of the news, that is, if the article reported on negative events in some organisation, but if the journalists had a negative or a positive comment on it. As the figures indicate, the journalists usually abstain from commenting when informing.

Civil society issues feature mostly as short reports on activities of CSOs. Usually this information is provided by civil society representatives, who supply media with press releases. This is supported by a big number of short news (70.22%). The other types of published articles are stories (22.57%). There were only 2 letters to the editor signed by CSOs in these media, 4 analyses and there were only 4 interviews with activities of leaders of the CSOs.

Table A.3. Number of articles presented in different news types

Type of article	Number of Articles	Percentage in %
News story	72	22.57
In brief/short	225	70.22
Opinion piece	2	0.63
Feature/news Analysis	4	0.94
Business	11	3.45
Interview	4	1.25
Letters to editor	2	0.63
Other	1	0.31

Concerning the representation, there is also a positive fact that 19.62% of the articles published were on the cover pages, that is, the first, second and third page of the media. Still, in the period when the media were reviewed there were only two editorials on CSOs.

With respect to the geographic coverage, the articles mainly concerned the complete territory of the Republic of Macedonia (80%). Only 4% of the articles concerned the international news that influence Macedonia or vice versa and even a smaller percentage were of regional character. The local news covered 15.76% of the total number of articles.

Table A.4. Geographical focus

Origin	Number of Articles	Percentage in %
International	12	3.74
National	257	80.06
Regional	3	0.93
Local	49	15.26

From the articles, one can see that the most present or most active are the organisations that are active in the area of democracy, rule of law and human rights; many activities are related to civil society development, for example, cooperation, networking, etc; however, they also work in the area of economy, health and advocacy (marches, petitions, etc). According to the overview of media, CSOs had very little or not at all activities in the area of voluntary work, sexual rights, housing, natural disasters, etc.

Table A.5. Distribution of dimensions in media

Dimension	Structure	Environment	Values	Impact
Percentage in %	24.83	31.96	16.99	26.22

The most present organisations in the media are those that work on the area of democracy, human rights and rule of law (23.44%) and the least present were the organisations whose target group are the elderly, that is, the ones that represent the interests of pensioners, care of elderly, etc.

Table A.6. Distribution of CSOs types in media

CSO Type	No.	%	CSO Type	No.	%
Democracy, human rights, rule of law	90	23.44	Women and gender issues	8	2.08
Children, youth and students	31	8.07	Disabled persons	8	2.08
Development of civil society	29	7.55	Donor	8	2.08
Trade Unions	28	7.29	Patriotic	5	1.30
Rural development	26	6.77	Faith-based/religious communities	4	1.04
Environment and nature	24	6.25	Ethnic communities	4	1.04
Professional associations	24	6.25	Culture and art	4	1.04
Health and health system	22	5.73	Non-violence and tolerance	4	1.04
Information	21	5.47	International	3	0.78
Social and humanitarian	16	4.17	Elderly People	2	0.52
Education and science	12	3.13	Other	2	0.52
Financial Services	9	2.34	Sport, hobby and leisure	0	0.00

The CSI methodology required that each civil society related article be classified according to a primary and a secondary topic that are most central to the article. The articles were classified by a list of 34 topics covered in relation to civil society news in Macedonia.

The topics that were most frequent in the media when reporting on civil society are civil society (12.62%), business (10.03%), health and health care (8.74%) and advocacy (8.74%). With respect to the second topic, there are again articles on the activities of the CSOs in the area of civil society

(9.14%), but unlike the first topic, this time most of the articles are on children, youth and students (12.18%), national policy (9.14%), education/training (6.60%).

Table A.7. Distribution of topics in media

Topic	No.	%	Topic	No.	%
Children/Youth	24	12.18	Sustainable Development/ Environment	5	2.54
National Politics	18	9.14	Service Delivery/Welfare	5	2.54
Civil Society	18	9.14	Land	5	2.54
Education/Training	13	6.60	Human Rights	5	2.54
Agriculture	11	5.08	Housing	4	2.03
Labour, Unemployment	10	5.08	Racism, Ethnicity, Xenophobia	4	2.03
Business	10	5.08	Gender Issues	4	2.03
Media & ICT	9	4.57	Migration/Refugees	3	1.52
Justice System	8	3.55	Culture, Tradition, Religion and Language	3	1.52
Local Government	7	3.55	Poverty	2	1.02
Arts, Entertainment, Lifestyle	7	3.55	War	1	1.02
Advocacy	6	3.05	Crime	1	0.51
Corruption	6	3.05	Sexuality/Sexual Rights	1	0.51
Health/Health System	6	3.05	Volunteerism	1	0.51
			Sports	1	0.51

Conclusion

The media review once again confirmed that perception and reality are different in the area of CSO image in the media. If one asks the CSOs on how the media present them, most frequent responses are that the media do not follow them enough, that the articles are quite hostile, etc. The trust in the media, according to community sample, shows that the citizens are also sharing this perception. In this research, very few citizens said that they have a big trust, that is, about 30% said that they have partial small or no trust in the media (newspapers and TV).

The data received by the media review show that monitored media provided sufficient space for their reporting on civil society issues and focused on CSO activities and achievements. Other positive fact is that one fifth of the articles were published on the cover pages. Still, having in mind that big majority of articles are presenting civil society in a neutral light and the fact that 70.22% of articles belong to the category of “in brief/short” we can conclude that journalists in general, do not consider civil society as important issue to comment or analyse. CSOs influence this way of informing too. It is very rare for CSO to have public relations strategy or spokesman. The regional stakeholder consultations also show that even CSOs among themselves do not know for the results of their activities as there is no habit to inform on regular base, not only for activities but also for achievements.

It is important to emphasize that there were no differences among six monitored newspapers and magazines concerning representation, geographic coverage or way of reporting.

CSOs should pay more attention to developing public/media relations. Activities for familiarising the journalists with civil society issues as study visits, joint activities or development of mechanisms for informing the public could motivate media (journalists or editors) to improve quality of presentation of CSO.

ANNEX 5. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CSOS

Prime Court (Town)	HDI	GDP (PPP in US\$)	Total Population (1994)	Total NGOs	NGO/1000 citiz.	Urban Population	Total /town	NGO/1000 citiz.	Rural Population	Total/village	NGO/1000 citiz.
Skopje Region	0.822	11,964	545,228	2,454	4.5	444,299	2,381	5.4	100,929	73	0.7
Skopje 1	0.822	11,964	212,483	1,683	7.9	187,430			25,053		
Skopje 2	0.822	11,964	332,745	771	2.3	256,869			75,876		
Northeastern Region		3,541	163,841	309	1.9	89,500	327	3.7	74,341	5	0.1
Kratovo		3,541	10,898	22	2.0	6,481	22	3.4	4,417	0	0.0
Kriva Palanka		3,541	25,129	27	1.1	11,166	49	4.4	13,963	1	0.1
Kumanovo	0.787	3,541	127,814	260	2.0	71,853	256	3.6	55,961	4	0.1
Eastern Region		5,104	201,525	557	2.8	111,695	535	4.8	73,180	22	0.3
Berovo		5,104	19,829	32	1.6	9,784	32	3.3	10,045	0	0.0
Vinica		5,104	19,063	29	1.5	9,971	29	2.9	9,092	0	0.0
Delcevo (M.Kamenica)	(0.820)	5,104	25,287	102	4.0	10,554	102	9.7	14,733	0	0.0
Kocani	0.787	5,104	48,538	103	2.1	26,364	93	3.5	22,174	10	0.5
Sveti Nikole		5,104	21,444	44	2.1	13,292	44	3.3	8,152	0	0.0
Stip (Probistip)	0.796	5,104	67,364	247	3.7	41,730	235	5.6	8,984	12	1.3
Southeastern Region		6,050	168,481	390	2.3	68,466	325	4.7	100,015	65	0.6
Gevgelija (Valandovo)	0.803	6,050	46,909	161	3.4	19,331	124	6.4	27,578	37	1.3
Radovis		6,050	30,525	50	1.6	15,068	50	3.3	15,457	0	0.0
Strumica	0.794	6,050	91,047	179	2.0	34,067	151	4.4	56,980	28	0.5
Central Region		5,591	131,035	329	2.5	92,087	311	3.4	38,948	18	0.5
Veles	0.789	5,591	65,942	175	2.7	46,798	173	3.7	19,144	2	0.1
Kavadarci	0.793	5,591	41,937	140	3.3	32,773	124	3.8	9,164	16	1.7
Negotino		5,591	23,156	14	0.6	12,516	14	1.1	10,640	0	0.0
Western Region		6,905	201,338	822	4.1	159,803	759	4.7	82,793	63	0.8
Bitola (Demir Hisar)	0.801	6,905	77,469	393	5.1	77,464	372	4.8	41,263	21	0.5
Krusevo		6,905	12,005	50	4.2	5,507	49	8.9	6,498	1	0.2
Prilep	0.790	6,905	94,183	322	3.4	68,148	290	4.3	26,035	32	1.2
Resen		6,905	17,681	57	3.2	8,684	48	5.5	8,997	9	1.0
Southwestern Region		4,192	212,874	590	2.8	80,178	539	6.7	124,891	51	0.4
Debar	0.796	4,192	25,452	60	2.4	13,883	60	4.3	11,569	0	0.0
Ohrid	0.806	4,192	60,763	231	3.8	25,129	230	9.2	27,829	1	0.0
Struga		4,192	62,679	138	2.2	16,037	110	6.9	46,642	28	0.6
Kicevo (M.Brod)		4,192	63,980	161	2.5	25,129	139	5.5	38,851	22	0.6
Northwestern Region		3,076	280,352	400	1.4	91,352	326	3.6	189,000	74	0.4
Gostivar	0.800	3,076	108,181	180	1.7	41,008	149	3.6	67,173	31	0.5
Tetovo	0.798	3,076	172,171	220	1.3	50,344	177	3.5	121,827	43	0.4
Macedonia		6,850	1,945,932	5,851	3.0	1,163,598	5,481	4.7	782,334	370	0.5

ANNEX 6: MEMBERS OF CIVIC PLATFORM OF MACEDONIA

1. Association for Cancer “New Life”, Štip
2. *Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), Gostivar*
3. Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women of Republic of Macedonia (ESE), Skopje
4. Association for Preventive Activities with Children and their Families Groups Felix, Bitola
5. Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Macedonia “Arna”, Skopje
6. Association for rehabilitation and resocialisation of drug users “Doverba”
7. *Center for Civic Initiative (CCI), Prilep*
8. *Center for Institutional Development (CIRa), Skopje*
9. Center for Multicultural Understanding and Cooperation, Skopje
10. Center for Roma Community “DROM”, Kumanovo
11. *Center for Strategic Research and Documentation “FORUM”, Skopje*
12. Citizens’ Association “Natyra” - Lipkovo
13. Civic Association “OHO”, Skopje
14. Environmental Association “IzgreV” – Sveti Nikole
15. Environmental Association “Vila Zora” – Veles
16. *First Children’s Embassy in the World “Megjaši”, Skopje*
17. *Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM)*
18. HOPS – Options for Healthy Life, Skopje
19. Humanitarian and Charity Roma Organisation “Mesečina”, Gostivar
20. Humanitarian Organisation “El Hilal”, Skopje
21. Journalists Legal Enviro Center “ERINA”, Skopje
22. *Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC)*
23. Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF)
24. Macedonian Women Lobby, Skopje
25. Nansen Dialogue Center (NDC), Skopje
26. Organisation of Consumers of Macedonia
27. *Post Polio Support Association “Polio Plus”, Skopje*
28. *Roma Organisation of Women in Macedonia “DAJA”, Kumanovo*
29. Shelter Center – Shelter for women and children victims of violence
30. SOS - Kumanovo
31. *The Ecologists’ Movement of Macedonia (DEM)*
32. Union of Blind People of Republic of Macedonia
33. *Union of Women’s Organisations in Republic of Macedonia (UWOM)*
34. Union of Pensioners of Republic of Macedonia
35. Youth Alliance - Tetovo
36. Youth Cultural Center, Bitola

* *Members of the Committee of Civic Platform of Macedonia (2004-2006)*

ANNEX 7: CATEGORIES OF CSOs DEFINED BY NAG

	Category	Formal or informal associations, organisations and networks that act in the field of
1	Faith-based	Religious, spiritual
2	Democracy, human rights and rule of law	Monitoring of the implementing the laws, accountability of state, free and fair elections, human trafficking
3	Children, youth and students	Children rights, youth issues, high school students, students
4	Ethnic	Cultural rights of ethnic communities, promotion and gaining of culture, tradition, language, inter-ethnic relations
5	Women and gender issues	Women rights, gender equity
6	Environment and nature	Environmental protection, nature conservation, protection of wildlife, sustainable development, healthy food, GMO, water, forests
7	Health and health system	Health, disease prevention, HIV, STD
8	Information	Journalism, non profit media, ICT
9	Culture and art	Culture, art, movies, music, theatre, writers
10	Disabled persons	Protection of rights of disabled persons and securing the better life conditions
11	Donor	Delivering of grants, donations, financial support
12	International	Branches of international organisations in RM, international cooperation, bilateral cooperation
13	Non-violence and tolerance	Promotion of peace, cultural differences, disarming, xenophobia
14	Education and science	Training, school, research, academy
15	Elderly People	Care for elderly people, pensioners, WW II veterans
16	Financial Services	Entrepreneurship, economical development, financial services, tourism, forests, water
17	Development of Civil Society	Building capacities, service delivery
18	Patriotic	Sympathizers of native soil, town, country
19	Rural development	Agriculture, village development, infrastructure
20	Trade	Labour, workers, protection of their rights
21	Social and humanitarian	Self-supporting parents, marginalised groups, help delivery, orphans, homeless, poor people
22	Sport, hobby and recreation	Football, box, bicyclists, hunt, fishing, philately, pets
23	Professional associations	Certain profession/occupation
24	Other	

ANNEX 8: SMALL DIFFERENCES IN CATEGORIES OF CSOS

CIVICUS has prepared a proposal of 20 categories of organisations to make the definition of civil society operational. The task of the NAG was to adapt this proposal to the Macedonian environment. NAG has defined 24 categories of CSOs.

There are significant deviations in a small number of categories. There are bigger or smaller deviations in a number of categories.

Small changes have been made in a number of categories:

- “non-profit media” has been replaced with “information”, which is broader and covers associations of journalists and organisations for training of journalists and media development;
- “women associations” has been broadened to “women and gender issues”;
- “student and youth organisations” has been replaced by “children, youth and students”;
- “professional and business” has been narrowed down to “professional associations” or associations of certain professions: doctors, nurses, etc. The chambers of commerce are not included here. The position of chambers of commerce and associations of employers (considered synonyms in Macedonia) in civil society shall be a subject for future discussion;
- “economic citizen associations” has been replaced with “financial services” and “rural development”. The cooperatives (enterprises founded by civic organisations) have been included from both, as part of the business sector;
- “ethnic, local, traditional organisations” has been divided to “ethnic” and “patriotic”;
- “foundations” has been split to “donor (local) organisations” and “international organisations”;
- “civil networks/federations” have been included in different types and if they are of mixed character, they are part of the “civil society development”;
- “social movements” is replaced with “non-violence and tolerance” and with other categories.

ANNEX 9: THE CSI SCORING MATRIX

1 – STRUCTURE

1.1 - Breadth of citizen participation

Description: How widespread is citizen involvement in civil society? What proportion of citizens engage in civil society activities?

1.1.1 - Non-partisan political action

Description: What percentage of people have ever undertaken any form of non-partisan political action (e.g. written a letter to a newspaper, signed a petition, attended a demonstration)?

A very small minority (less than 10%).	Score 0
A minority (10% to 30%)	Score 1
A significant proportion (31% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

1.1.2 - Charitable giving

Description: What percentage of people donate to charity on a regular basis?

A very small minority (less than 10%)	Score 0
A minority (10% to 30%)	Score 1
A significant proportion (31% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

1.1.3 - CSO membership

Description: What percentage of people belong to at least one CSO?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

1.1.4 - Volunteering

Description: What percentage of people undertake volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?

A very small minority (less than 10%)	Score 0
A small minority (10% to 30%)	Score 1
A minority (31% to 50%)	Score 2
A majority (more than 50%)	Score 3

1.1.5 - Collective community action

Description: What percentage of people have participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organised event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% -50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

1.2 - Depth of citizen participation

Description: How deep/meaningful is citizen participation in civil society? How frequently/extensively do people engage in civil society activities?

1.2.1 - Charitable giving

Description: How much (i.e. what percentage of personal income) do people who give to charity on a regular basis donate, on average, per year?

Less than 1%	Score 0
1% to 2%	Score 1
2.1% to 3%	Score 2
More than 3%	Score 3

1.2.2 - Volunteering

Description: How many hours per month, on average, do volunteers devote to volunteer work?

Less than 2 hours	Score 0
2 to 5 hours	Score 1
5.1 to 8 hours	Score 2
More than 8 hours.	Score 3

1.2.3 - CSO membership

Description: What percentage of CSO members belong to more than one CSO?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

1.3 - Diversity of civil society participants

***Description:* How diverse/representative is the civil society arena? Do all social groups participate equitably in civil society? Are any groups dominant or excluded?**

1.3.1 - CSO membership

Description: To what extent do CSOs represent all significant social groups (e.g. women, rural dwellers, poor people and minorities)?

Significant social groups are absent / excluded from CSOs.	Score 0
Significant social groups are largely absent from CSOs.	Score 1
Significant social groups are under-represented in CSOs.	Score 2
CSOs equitably represent all social groups. No group is noticeably under-represented.	Score 3

1.3.2 - CSO leadership

Description: To what extent is there diversity in CSO leadership? To what extent does CSO leadership represent all significant social groups (e.g. women, rural dwellers, poor people and minorities)?

Significant social groups are absent / excluded from CSO leadership roles.	Score 0
Significant social groups are largely absent from CSO leadership roles.	Score 1
Significant social groups are under-represented in CSO leadership roles.	Score 2
CSO leadership equitably represents all social groups. No group is noticeably under-represented.	Score 3

1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs

Description: How are CSOs distributed throughout the country?

CSOs are highly concentrated in the major urban centres.	Score 0
CSOs are largely concentrated in urban areas.	Score 1
CSOs are present in all but the most remote areas of the country.	Score 2
CSOs are present in all areas of the country.	Score 3

1.4. - Level of organisation

***Description:* How well-organised is civil society? What kind of infrastructure exists for civil society?**

1.4.1 - Existence of CSO umbrella bodies

Description: What percentage of CSOs belong to a federation or umbrella body of related organisations?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 70%)	Score 2
<u>A large majority (more than 70%)</u>	Score 3

1.4.2 - Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies

Description: How effective do CSO stakeholders judge existing federations or umbrella bodies to be in achieving their defined goals?

Completely ineffective (or non-existent)	Score 0
Largely ineffective	Score 1
Somewhat effective	Score 2
<u>Effective</u>	Score 3

1.4.3 - Self-regulation

Description: Are there efforts among CSOs to self-regulate? How effective and enforceable are existing self-regulatory mechanisms? What percentage of CSOs abide by a collective code of conduct (or some other form of self-regulation)?

There are no efforts among CSOs to self-regulate.	Score 0
Preliminary efforts have been to self-regulate but only a small minority of CSOs are involved and impact is extremely limited.	Score 1
Some mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place but only some sectors of CSOs are involved and there is no effective method of enforcement. As a result, impact is limited.	Score 2
<u>Mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place and function quite effectively. A discernible impact on CSO behaviour can be detected.</u>	Score 3

1.4.4 - Support infrastructure

Description: What is the level of support infrastructure for civil society? How many civil society support organisations exist in the country? Are they effective?

There is no support infrastructure for civil society.	Score 0
There is very limited infrastructure for civil society.	Score 1
Support infrastructure exists for some sectors of civil society and is expanding.	Score 2
<u>There is a well-developed support infrastructure for civil society.</u>	Score 3

1.4.5 - International linkages

Description: What proportion of CSOs have international linkages (e.g. are members of international networks, participate in global events)?

Only a handful of "elite" CSOs have international linkages.	Score 0
A limited number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages.	Score 1
A moderate number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages.	Score 2
<u>A significant number of CSOs from different sectors and different levels (grassroots to national) have international linkages.</u>	Score 3

1.5 - Inter-relations

***Description:* How strong / productive are relations among civil society actors?**

1.5.1 - Communication

Description: What is the extent of communication between civil society actors?

Very little	Score 0
Limited	Score 1
Moderate	Score 2
<u>Significant</u>	Score 3

1.5.2 - Cooperation

Description: How much do civil society actors cooperate with each other on issues of common concern? Can examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances/coalitions (around a specific issue or common concern) be identified?

CS actors do not cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. No examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances/coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 0
It is very rare that CS actors cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Very few examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 1
CS actors on occasion cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Some examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 2
<u>CS actors regularly cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Numerous examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.</u>	Score 3

1.6 – Resources

***Description:* To what extent do CSOs have adequate resources to achieve their goals?**

1.6.1 - Financial resources

Description: How adequate is the level of financial resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious financial resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate financial resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the financial resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure financial resource base.	Score 3

1.6.2 - Human resources

Description: How adequate is the level of human resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious human resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate human resources to achieve their goal.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the human resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
<u>On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure human resource base.</u>	Score 3

1.6.3 - Technological and infrastructural resources

Description: How adequate is the level of technological and infrastructural resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious technological and infrastructural resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate technological and infrastructural resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the technological and infrastructural resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure technological and infrastructural resource base.	Score 3

2 - ENVIRONMENT²⁴

2.1 - Political context

***Description:* What is the political situation in the country and its impact on civil society?**

2.1.1 - Political rights

Description: How strong are the restrictions on citizens' political rights (e.g. to participate freely in political processes, elect political leaders through free and fair elections, freely organise in political parties)?

There are severe restrictions on the political rights of citizens. Citizens cannot participate in political processes.	Score 0
There are some restrictions on the political rights of citizens and their participation in political processes.	Score 1
Citizens are endowed with substantial political rights and meaningful opportunities for political participation. There are minor and isolated restrictions on the full freedom of citizens' political rights	Score 2

²⁴ For most of the indicators, secondary data sources are available for a broad range of countries. For each indicator, the scores indicate how to translate the original secondary data into the 4-point scale of the CSI scoring matrix.

and their participation in political processes.	
<u>People have the full freedom and choice to exercise their political rights and meaningfully participate in political processes.</u>	Score 3

2.1.2 - Political competition

Description: What are the main characteristics of the party system in terms of number of parties, ideological spectrum, institutionalisation and party competition?

Single party system.	Score 0
Small number of parties based on personalism, clientelism or appealing to identity politics.	Score 1
Multiple parties, but weakly institutionalised and / or lacking ideological distinction.	Score 2
<u>Robust, multi-party competition, with well-institutionalised and ideologically diverse parties.</u>	Score 3

2.1.3 - Rule of law

Description: To what extent is the rule of law entrenched in the country?

There is general disregard for the law by citizens and the state.	Score 0
There is low confidence in and frequent violations of the law by citizens and the state.	Score 1
There is a moderate level of confidence in the law. Violations of the law by citizens and the state are not uncommon.	Score 2
<u>Society is governed by fair and predictable rules, which are generally abided by.</u>	Score 3

2.1.4 – Corruption

Description: What is the level of perceived corruption in the public sector?

High	Score 0
Substantial	Score 1
Moderate	Score 2
<u>Low</u>	Score 3

2.1.5 – State effectiveness

Description: To what extent is the state able to fulfil its defined functions?

The state bureaucracy has collapsed or is entirely ineffective (e.g. due to political, economic or social crisis).	Score 0
The capacity of the state bureaucracy is extremely limited.	Score 1
State bureaucracy is functional but perceived as incompetent and / or non-responsive.	Score 2
<u>State bureaucracy is fully functional and perceived to work in the public's interests.</u>	Score 3

2.1.6 – Decentralisation

Description: To what extent is government expenditure devolved to sub-national authorities?

Sub-national share of government expenditure is less than 20.0%.	Score 0
Sub-national share of government expenditure is between 20.0% and 34.9%.	Score 1
Sub-national share of government expenditure is between 35.0% than 49.9%.	Score 2
<u>Sub-national share of government expenditure is more than 49.9%.</u>	Score 3

2.2 - Basic freedoms and rights

***Description:* To what extent are basic freedoms ensured by law and in practice?**

2.2.1 - Civil liberties

Description: To what extent are civil liberties (e.g. freedom of expression, association, assembly) ensured by law and in practice?

Civil liberties are systematically violated.	Score 0
There are frequent violations of civil liberties.	Score 1
There are isolated or occasional violations of civil liberties.	Score 2
<u>Civil liberties are fully ensured by law and in practice.</u>	Score 3

2.2.2 - Information rights

Description: To what extent is public access to information guaranteed by law? How accessible are government documents to the public?

No laws guarantee information rights. Citizen access to government documents is extremely limited.	Score 0
Citizen access to government documents is limited but expanding.	Score 1
Legislation regarding public access to information is in place, but in practice, it is difficult to obtain government documents.	Score 2
Government documents are broadly and easily accessible to the public.	Score 3

2.2.3 - Press freedoms

Description: To what extent are press freedoms ensured by law and in practice?

Press freedoms are systematically violated.	Score 0
There are frequent violations of press freedoms.	Score 1
There are isolated violations of press freedoms.	Score 2
Freedom of the press is fully ensured by law and in practice.	Score 3

2.3 - Socio-economic context²⁵

***Description:* What is the socio-economic situation in the country and its impact on civil society?**

2.3.1 - Socio-economic context

Description: How much do socio-economic conditions in the country represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society?

Social and economic conditions represent a serious barrier to the effective functioning of civil society. More than five of the following conditions are present: 1. Widespread poverty (e.g. more than 40% of people live on \$2 per day) 2. Civil war (armed conflict in last 5 years) 3. Severe ethnic and/or religious conflict 4. Severe economic crisis (e.g. external debt is more than GNP) 5. Severe social crisis (over last 2 years) 6. Severe socio-economic inequities (Gini coefficient > 0.4) 7. Pervasive adult illiteracy (over 40%) 8. Lack of IT infrastructure (i.e. less than 5 hosts per 10.000 inhabitants)	Score 0
Social and economic conditions significantly limit the effective functioning of civil society. Three, four or five of the conditions indicated are present.	Score 1
Social and economic conditions somewhat limit the effective functioning of civil society. One or two of the conditions indicated are present.	Score 2
Social and economic conditions do not represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society. None of the conditions indicated is present.	Score 3

2.4 - Socio-cultural context

***Description:* To what extent are socio-cultural norms and attitudes conducive or detrimental to civil society?**

2.4.1 - Trust

Description: How much do members of society trust one another?

Relationships among members of society are characterised by mistrust (e.g. less than 10% of people score on the World Value Survey (WVS) trust indicator).	Score 0
There is widespread mistrust among members of society (e.g. 10% to 30% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 1

²⁵ This sub-dimension/indicator is not broken up into individual indicators to facilitate and simplify scoring. The sub-dimension/indicator consists of 8 socio-economic conditions which are of importance to civil society. The scores for this indicator are designed in such a way that they indicate how many socio-economic obstacles are there for civil society (max: 8; min: 0). The task for the NAG scoring meeting is to simply verify the number of obstacles (as identified by the secondary data) and assign the score accordingly.

There is a moderate level of trust among members of society (e.g. 31% to 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 2
<u>There is a high level of trust among members of society (e.g. more than 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).</u>	Score 3

2.4.2 - Tolerance

Description: How tolerant are members of society?

Society is characterised by widespread intolerance (e.g. average score on WVS derived tolerance indicator is 3.0 or higher).	Score 0
Society is characterised by a low level of tolerance (e.g. indicator between 2.0 and 2.9).	Score 1
Society is characterised by a moderate level of tolerance (e.g. indicator between 1.0 and 1.9).	Score 2
Society is characterised by a high level of tolerance (e.g. indicator less than 1.0).	Score 3

2.4.3 - Public spiritedness²⁶

Description: How strong is the sense of public spiritedness among members of society?

Very low level of public spiritedness in society (e.g. average score on WVS derived public spiritedness indicator is more than 3.5).	Score 0
Low level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator between 2.6 and 3.5).	Score 1
Moderate level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator between 1.5 and 2.5).	Score 2
High level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator less than 1.5).	Score 3

2.5 - Legal environment

Description: To what extent is the existing legal environment enabling or disabling to civil society?

2.5.1 - CSO registration²⁷

Description: How supportive is the CSO registration process? Is the process (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) following legal provisions and (5) consistently applied?

The CSO registration process is not supportive at all. Four or five of the quality characteristics are absent.	Score 0
The CSO registration is not very supportive. Two or three quality characteristics are absent.	Score 1
The CSO registration process can be judged as relatively supportive. One quality characteristic is absent.	Score 2
The CSO registration process is supportive. None of the quality characteristics is absent.	Score 3

2.5.2 - Allowable advocacy activities

Description: To what extent are CSOs free to engage in advocacy / criticize government?

CSOs are not allowed to engage in advocacy or criticise the government.	Score 0
There are excessive and / or vaguely defined constraints on advocacy activities.	Score 1
Constraints on CSOs' advocacy activities are minimal and clearly defined, such as prohibitions on political campaigning.	Score 2
CSOs are permitted to freely engage in advocacy and criticism of government.	Score 3

2.5.3 - Tax laws favourable to CSOs

Description: How favourable is the tax system to CSOs? How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that are eligible for tax exemptions, if any? How significant are these exemptions?

The tax system impedes CSOs. No tax exemption or preference of any kind is available for CSOs.	Score 0
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²⁶ The score is derived by averaging the means for the three variables (1. claiming government benefits, 2. avoiding a fare on public transport and 3. cheating on taxes).

²⁷ This indicator combines a number of individual quality characteristics of the registration, namely whether the registration is (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) fairly applied and (5) consistently applied. The process of using these five 'Yes/No' variables for the scoring of the CSO registration indicator by the NAG follows the process outlined for sub-dimension 3. The indicator scores are defined by how many of these five quality characteristics are existent/absent.

The tax system is burdensome to CSOs. Tax exemptions or preferences are available only for a narrow range of CSOs (e.g. humanitarian organisations) or for limited sources of income (e.g. grants or donations).	Score 1
The tax system contains some incentives favouring CSOs. Only a narrow range of CSOs is excluded from tax exemptions, preferences and/or exemptions, or preferences are available from some taxes and some activities.	Score 2
The tax system provides favourable treatment for CSOs. Exemptions or preferences are available from a range of taxes and for a range of activities, limited only in appropriate circumstances.	Score 3

2.5.4 - Tax benefits for philanthropy

Description: How broadly available are tax deductions or credits, or other tax benefits, to encourage individual and corporate giving?

No tax benefits are available (to individuals or corporations) for charitable giving.	Score 0
Tax benefits are available for a very limited set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 1
Tax benefits are available for a fairly broad set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 2
Significant tax benefits are available for a broad set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 3

2.6 - State-civil society relations

Description: What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the state?

2.6.1 – Autonomy

Description: To what extent can civil society exist and function independently of the state? To what extent are CSOs free to operate without excessive government interference? Is government oversight reasonably designed and limited to protect legitimate public interests?

The state controls civil society.	Score 0
CSOs are subject to frequent unwarranted interference in their operations.	Score 1
The state accepts the existence of an independent civil society but CSOs are subject to occasional unwarranted government interference.	Score 2
CSOs operate freely. They are subject only to reasonable oversight linked to clear and legitimate public interests.	Score 3

2.6.2 - Dialogue

Description: To what extent does the state dialogue with civil society? How inclusive and institutionalized are the terms and rules of engagement, if they exist?

There is no meaningful dialogue between civil society and the state.	Score 0
The state only seeks to dialogue with a small sub-set of CSOs on an ad hoc basis.	Score 1
The state dialogues with a relatively broad range of CSOs but on a largely ad hoc basis.	Score 2
Mechanisms are in place to facilitate systematic dialogue between the state and a broad and diverse range of CSOs.	Score 3

2.6.3 - Cooperation / support

Description: How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that receive state resources (in the form of grants, contracts, etc.)?

The level of state resources channelled through CSOs is insignificant.	Score 0
Only a very limited range of CSOs receives state resources.	Score 1
A moderate range of CSOs receives state resources.	Score 2
The state channels significant resources to a large range of CSOs.	Score 3

2.7 - Private sector-civil society relations

Description: What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the private sector?

2.7.1 - Private sector attitude

Description: What is the general attitude of the private sector towards civil society actors?

Generally hostile	Score 0
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Generally indifferent	Score 1
Generally positive	Score 2
Generally supportive	Score 3

2.7.2 - Corporate social responsibility

Description: How developed are notions and actions of corporate social responsibility?

Major companies show no concern about the social and environmental impacts of their operations.	Score 0
Major companies pay lip service to notions of corporate social responsibility. However, in their operations they frequently disregard negative social and environmental impacts.	Score 1
Major companies are beginning to take the potential negative social and environmental impacts of their operations into account.	Score 2
Major companies take effective measures to protect against negative social and environmental impacts.	Score 3

2.7.3 - Corporate philanthropy²⁸

Description: How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that receive support from the private sector?

Corporate philanthropy is insignificant.	Score 0
Only a very limited range of CSOs receives funding from the private sector.	Score 1
A moderate range of CSOs receives funding from the private sector.	Score 2
The private sector channels resources to a large range of CSOs.	Score 3

3 - VALUES

3.1 – Democracy

***Description:* To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote democracy?**

3.1.1 - Democratic practices within CSOs

Description: To what extent do CSOs practice internal democracy? How much control do members have over decision-making? Are leaders selected through democratic elections?

A large majority (i.e. more than 75%) of CSOs do not practice internal democracy (e.g. members have little / no control over decision-making, CSOs are characterised by patronage, nepotism).	Score 0
A majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 50%) do not practice internal democracy (e.g. members have little/no control over decision-making, CSOs are characterised by patronage, nepotism).	Score 1
A majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 50%) practice internal democracy (e.g. members have significant control over decision-making; leaders are selected through democratic elections).	Score 2
A large majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 75%) practice internal democracy (e.g. members have significant control over decision-making; leaders are selected through democratic elections).	Score 3

3.1.2 – Civil society actions to promote democracy

Description: How much does civil society actively promote democracy at a societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a democratic society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

²⁸ The NAG's task in scoring the indicator is to assess the significance of corporate support to civil society. Here, the score descriptions focus on two elements: (1) the overall size of corporate support to civil society and (2) the range of CSOs supported by the corporate sector. Both elements are combined in the indicator score descriptions.

3.2 – Transparency

Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote transparency?

3.2.1 - Corruption within civil society

Description: How widespread is corruption within CS?

Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are very frequent.	Score 0
Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are frequent.	Score 1
There are occasional instances of corrupt behaviour within CS.	Score 2
Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are very rare.	Score 3

3.2.2 - Financial transparency of CSOs

Description: How many CSOs are financially transparent? What percentage of CSOs make their financial accounts publicly available?

A small minority of CSOs (less than 30%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 0
A minority of CSOs (30% -50%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 1
A small majority of CSOs (51% -65%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 2
A large majority of CSOs (more than 65%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 3

3.2.3 – Civil society actions to promote transparency

Description: How much does civil society actively promote government and corporate transparency?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in demanding government and corporate transparency. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

3.3 – Tolerance

Description: To what extent do civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance?

3.3.1 Tolerance within the civil society arena

Description: To what extent is civil society a tolerant arena?

CS is dominated by intolerant forces. The expression of only a narrow sub-set of views is tolerated.	Score 0
Significant forces within civil society do not tolerate others' views without encountering protest from civil society at large.	Score 1
There are some intolerant forces within civil society, but they are isolated from civil society at large.	Score 2
Civil society is an open arena where the expression of <i>all</i> viewpoints is actively encouraged. Intolerant behaviour is strongly denounced by civil society at large.	Score 3

3.3.2 – Civil society actions to promote tolerance

Description: How much does civil society actively promote tolerance at a societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a tolerant society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

3.4 - Non-violence

Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote non-violence?

3.4.1 - Non-violence within the civil society arena

Description: How widespread is the use of violent means (such as damage to property or personal violence) among civil society actors to express their interests in the public sphere?

Significant mass-based groups within CS use violence as the primary means of expressing their interests.	Score 0
Some isolated groups within CS regularly use violence to express their interests without encountering protest from civil society at large.	Score 1
Some isolated groups within CS occasionally resort to violent actions, but are broadly denounced by CS at large.	Score 2
There is a high level of consensus within CS regarding the principle of non-violence. Acts of violence by CS actors are extremely rare and strongly denounced.	Score 3

3.4.2 – Civil society actions to promote non-violence and peace

Description: How much does civil society actively promote a non-violent society? For example, how much does civil society support the non-violent resolution of social conflicts and peace? Address issues of violence against women, child abuse, violence among youths etc.?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions actually contribute to societal violence.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a non-violent society. CS actions in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility	Score 3

3.5 - Gender equity

***Description:* To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote gender equity?**

3.5.1 - Gender equity within the civil society arena

Description: To what extent is civil society a gender equitable arena?

Women are excluded from civil society leadership roles.	Score 0
Women are largely absent from civil society leadership roles.	Score 1
Women are under-represented in civil society leadership positions.	Score 2
Women are equitably represented as leaders and members of CS.	Score 3

3.5.2 - Gender equitable practices within CSOs

Description: How much do CSOs practice gender equity? What percentage of CSOs with paid employees have policies in place to ensure gender equity?

A small minority (less than 20%)	Score 0
A minority (20%-50%)	Score 1
A small majority (51%-65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

3.5.3 – Civil society actions to promote gender equity

Description: How much does civil society actively promote gender equity at the societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions actually contribute to gender inequity.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a gender equitable society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

3.6 - Poverty eradication

Description: To what extent do civil society actors promote poverty eradication?

3.6.1 – Civil society actions to eradicate poverty

Description: To what extent does civil society actively seek to eradicate poverty?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions serve to sustain existing economic inequities.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in the struggle to eradicate poverty. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

3.7 - Environmental sustainability

Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability?

3.7.1 – Civil society actions to sustain the environment

Description: How much does civil society actively seek to sustain the environment?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions serve to reinforce unsustainable practices.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in protecting the environment. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

4 - IMPACT

4.1 - Influencing public policy

Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?

4.1.1 – 4.1.2 - Human Rights and Social Policy Impact Case Studies

Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.1.3 - Civil Society's Impact on National Budgeting process Case Study

Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing the overall national budgeting process?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and focused only on specific budget components. ²⁹	Score 1
Civil society is active in the overall budgeting process, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role in the overall budgeting process. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

²⁹ The term "specific budget component" refers to a single issue or sub-section of the budget, such as the defence budget or welfare grants. Higher scores are assigned for those civil society activities, which provide an analysis, input and advocacy work on the overall budget.

4.2 - Holding state and private corporations accountable

Description: How active and successful is civil society in holding the state and private corporations accountable?

4.2.1 - Holding state accountable

Description: How active and successful is civil society in monitoring state performance and holding the state accountable?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.2.2 - Holding private corporations accountable

Description: How active and successful is civil society in holding private corporations accountable?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.3 - Responding to social interests

Description: How much are civil society actors responding to social interests?

4.3.1 - Responsiveness

Description: How effectively do civil society actors respond to priority social concerns?

Civil society actors are out of touch with the crucial concerns of the population.	Score 0
There are frequent examples of crucial social concerns that did not find a voice among existing civil society actors.	Score 1
There are isolated examples of crucial social concerns that did not find a voice among existing civil society actors.	Score 2
Civil society actors are very effective in taking up the crucial concerns of the population.	Score 3

4.3.2 - Public Trust

Description: What percentage of the population has trust in civil society actors?

A small minority (< 25%)	Score 0
A large minority (25%-50%)	Score 1
A small majority (51%-75%)	Score 2
A large majority (> 75%)	Score 3

4.4 - Empowering citizens

Description: How active and successful is civil society in empowering citizens, especially traditionally marginalised groups, to shape decisions that affect their lives?

4.4.1 - Informing/ educating citizens

Description: How active and successful is civil society in informing and educating citizens on public issues?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.4.2 - Building capacity for collective action

Description: How active and successful is civil society in building the capacity of people to organise themselves, mobilise resources and work together to solve common problems?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2

Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3
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4.4.3 - Empowering marginalised people

Description: How active and successful is civil society in empowering marginalised people?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.4.4 - Empowering women

Description: How active and successful is civil society in empowering women, i.e. to give them real choice and control over their lives?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.4.5 - Building social capital³⁰

Description: To what extent does civil society build social capital among its members? How do levels of trust, tolerance and public spiritedness of members of civil society compare to those of non-members?

Civil society diminishes the stock of social capital in society.	Score 0
Civil society does not contribute to building social capital in society.	Score 1
Civil society does contribute moderately to building social capital in society.	Score 2
Civil Society does contribute strongly to building social capital in society.	Score 3

4.4.6 - Supporting livelihoods

Description: How active and successful is civil society in creating / supporting employment and/or income-generating opportunities (especially for poor people and women)?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.5 - Meeting societal needs

***Description:* How active and successful is civil society in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalised groups?**

4.5.1 - Lobbying for state service provision

Description: How active and successful is civil society in lobbying the government to meet pressing societal needs?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.5.2 - Meeting pressing societal needs directly

Description: How active and successful is civil society in directly meeting pressing societal needs (through service delivery or the promotion of self-help initiatives)?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1

³⁰ To score this indicator, we make use of the measure of trust (see sub-dimension socio-cultural norms in Environment dimension): 1) Compute the three measures for two sub-groups of the population: (1) CSO members and (2) non-CSO members and 2) Compare each measure's score for the two sub-groups and establish which sub-group has the better score (i.e. indicating higher trust).

Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.5.3 - Meeting needs of marginalised groups

Description: To what extent are CSOs more or less effective than the state in delivering services to marginalised groups?

CSOs are less effective than the state.	Score 0
CSOs are as effective as the state.	Score 1
CSOs are slightly more effective than the state.	Score 2
CSOs are significantly more effective than the state.	Score 3

ANNEX 10. MACEDONIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MCIC)

The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) is a civic society organisation that operates in the domain of sustainable development, awareness raising and social - humanitarian (basic) assistance.

The goal of MCIC is the promotion, support and development of local, national and international initiatives for encouraging sustainable development of human resources in Macedonia and abroad.

For the implementation of its goals and tasks, MCIC mobilises and organises human resources, financial and material assets, both in the country and abroad. MCIC provides funding for the activities from numerous agencies of the World Council of Churches and from governmental and international organisations.

The strategic goals of MCIC are: promotion of peace; further development of civic society; and help to groups in need.

MCIC is active in the following sectors: water supply and sanitation; education and health; rural development; employment and income generation; civic society and democratisation; and emergency aid.

MCIC implements its activities through support of projects; training and consulting; information; advocacy and lobbying; and management.

It is established in 1993 by joint efforts of local initiatives and Dutch Inter-church Aid. Officially MCIC is registered in 1994.

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