

'TRAFFIC LIGHTS REPORT 2016' ALBANIA

Monitoring report against the EU Guidelines for the EU 2016 Progress Report

Note:

Following report contains information about the situation and consequent progress along the indicators of the Results Framework of the 'Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020' (EU Guidelines). The Results Framework encompasses elements that look for the progress in areas related to: legal and policy framework for existence, functioning and sustainability of the CSOs; CSOs involvement in decision making processes; and organisational development of the CSOs.

In addition to the representatives of the EU, elements of the Results Framework and its monitoring system have been developed since 2013 throughout 55 different regional and national events encompassing approximately 900 CSOs and 120 government representatives (Offices for cooperation with CSOs, Ministries for EU integration and other relevant resource ministries and agencies) from the countries of the Western Balkan and Turkey.

Main features of the monitoring system include:

- Unified approach in methodology in all countries of the region.
- Regional comparison and track of national progress.
- Majority of indicators are composite that are broadly defined assessing quality; therefore, for the monitoring purposes following had to be taken into consideration: existence of particular legal and policy frameworks, practice in implementation of the legislation, and perception of quality of the legislation and its consequent implementation of those who are affected by the legislation.
- Some indicators specifically call for measuring of perception.
- For majority of indicators there is no data available from reliable sources of information in the region; therefore, to acquire objective understanding of particular phenomenon, the perception was taken into account, where the perception of CSOs about the sector vs. perception of CSOs of their individual organisation and practice was assessed. In some cases, this was also complemented by the perception of general population about the same phenomenon.
- All of the information that are needed to assess the situation in a country are synthesized in this report. More elaborative data can be obtained from the accompanying country needs assessment report developed by TACSO and its Resource Centres, as well as from the narrative reports from the surveys.
- Sound and reliable research methodology and innovative and participatory approaches.

Methodology:

Information collection

- Information collected for this report, therefore for TACSO needs assessment reports, comes from following sources:
 - Desk study - review of legislation collection of information from some of the public institution, review of other related and relevant documents and reports (mainly for the part related to the legal and policy framework and cooperation between CSOs and governments).
 - In-depth interviews with representatives of relevant institution (10 different institutions) for information validation (mainly for the part related to the legal and policy framework and cooperation between CSOs and governments).
 - CSO survey - Sample universe is mainly unknown due to the lack of accurate data in majority of the countries, sample size is 180-250 per country, type of sample is convenience quota sample, where quotas are defined by region and main area of activity with the aim to maximise the dispersion. The most relevant CSOs are included. Data collection is based on combined method - F2F, CAWI, CATI. (Information from the survey is used throughout all indicators of the report, and is the main source of information for the indicators related to the organisational capacities of the CSOs.)
 - General population survey (GP survey) - sample universe is population of the country 18+, sample size of at least 1000 respondents per country. Type of sample - stratified random sample, representative for country population. Data collection in all countries F2F except in Albania, Macedonia and Turkey (CATI). Post-stratification was done by gender, age and education. (Findings from this survey were used for some indicators and for the correlation.)

Measuring change

- In order to quantify composite and all indicators, index has been developed. Results Framework consists of 6 broad objectives that are divided into 23 indicators:
For the purpose of index formation, indicators were operationalized by items and each of them is in fact operationalized benchmark from the EU Guidelines. At the end, 138 of items were analyzed. All of the steps related to calculation of indexes are incorporated into the macro document that can be easily used for the next years of monitoring, i.e. there is no need to go through the development of the metrics (mathematics for recalculation) beyond this stage. Simple entering of information and data can be recalculated in the macro document for the next year. Precise methodology for index calculation can be obtained from TACSO.
- It is important to mention that apart from obtaining information from the experts or TACSO Resource Centers, CSO survey and GP survey on the situation in the civil society sector in the country, one more measure was obtained – measure of importance of each of the items. In each country, various experts from the civil society sector have been evaluating the importance each of the items on the scale from 0 to 100.
- Unique measure of importance for each item, per country, was obtained by calculating average importance of all provided values from evaluators. Importance of these items significantly differs between the countries, which mean that each country received different weight for each of the items. Therefore, same answers on certain items in different countries may lead to different overall score for certain indicator, which finally can result in different colors in indexes. This aspect enabled preservation of national specificities and priorities identified by those concerned.
- Recalculated answers on the items were multiplied with average importance given for that item in the respective country.
- After that, all items belonging to one indicator were summed up in order to obtain one measure per indicator/sub-objective. This score was categorized to five categories:
 - 15% – green, the best evaluated in the region
 - 15% – light green, the second best evaluated in the region
 - 40% – yellow, middle positioned in the region
 - 15% – orange, the second worst evaluated in the region
 - 15% – red, the worst evaluated in the region

	ALB	BIH	KOS	MAC	MNE	SRB	TUR
1. An enabling legal and policy environment, for the exercise of the rights of freedom of expression, assembly and association	Green	Green	Light Green	Light Green	Green	Light Green	Yellow
2. An enabling financial environment, which supports sustainability of CSOs	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
3. Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow
4. Capable, transparent and accountable CSOs	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Orange
5. Effective CSOs	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow
6. Financially sustainable CSOs	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Orange	Red

These thresholds are provisional and can be adjusted based on the preferences of the EU. In general, all indexes will be cross-checked in September because in some countries there will be updated information available for 2015 (notably Turkey).

	Alb	BiH	Kos	Mac	Mne	Ser	Tur
1.1.a. Quality of existing legislation and policy framework	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1.1.b. Progress with the adoption and implementation of relevant legislation	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green
1.2.a. Number of employees in CSO (permanent and part-time)	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green
1.2.b. Number of volunteers in CSOs	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
1.2.c. Quality of legislative framework	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
1.3.a. Quality of the enabling environment for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
2.1.a. CSOs' perception of the ease and effectiveness of financial rules and reporting requirements	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green
2.1.b. Quality of financial rules (with the focus on built-in mechanisms)	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green
2.2.a. Quality and applicability/practice of the legal framework for individual and corporate giving	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Light Green	Light Green
2.3.a. Quality of the system of tax benefits for the CSOs' operational and economic activities	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
2.4.a. Increase of public funding for CSOs	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
2.4.b. Quality of state funding frameworks for civil society organisations (focusing on procedural document)	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
3.1.a. Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
3.1.b. Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4.1.a. Percentage of CSOs publishing their governance structure and internal documents	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4.2.a. External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities.	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4.3.a. Percentage of CSOs making their (audited) financial accounts and annual reports publicly available	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4.4.a. Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators	Green	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Green	Light Green
5.1.a. Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans including human resources development activities	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
5.2.a. Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
5.3.a. Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
6.1.a. Percentage of CSOs that confirm that they are able to raise funds according to their strategic plans	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
6.2.a. Diversity in CSO sources of income	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

1.1.a. Quality of existing legislation and policy framework

Freedom of speech is explicitly guaranteed in legislation; all individuals and legal entities can express themselves freely, assemble peacefully and establish, join and participate in formal and non-formal organizations.

Legislation does not require prior notification (and not authorization) for exercising freedom of assembly. The law regulates the procedures of prior notifications in case the assembly is organized in public spaces or public passages. When assemblies are planned on open public spaces they may be organized even without prior notification of the police. The Law foresees the right of administrative appeal by organizers.

Maximum number of days needed for registration of CSOs is 30.

The registration costs in Tirana are maximum 250 EUR (relating to legal fees for the development of the statute and other registration documents and public notary).

In terms of legislative standards:

- 1. There is a legal framework according to which any person can establish associations, foundations and other types of non-profit, non-governmental entities (e.g., non-profit company) for any purpose. Freedom of association is a constitutional right for any individual and legal entity without any age, nationality, legal capacity, gender, and ethnic based discrimination. Any person can exercise his right to establish associations, foundations and centers.*
- 2. The legal framework allows both individual and legal persons to exercise this right without discrimination (age, nationality, legal capacity, gender etc.).*
- 3. The legal framework provides guarantees against state interference in internal matters of associations, foundations and other types of non-profit entities. The legal framework guarantees the right of CSOs to regulate their internal structure and operating procedures without unwarranted state interference in their governance and activities.*
- 4. The legal framework is based on international standards and provides the right for freedom of assembly for all without any discrimination. The legal framework of the Albanian Constitution guarantees the right to enjoy freedom of peaceful assembly as specified in the Law on Assembly.*
- 5. The laws recognize and do not restrict spontaneous, simultaneous and counter-assemblies. The laws recognize and do not restrict spontaneous, simultaneous and counter-assemblies. The law regulates the procedures of prior notifications in case the assembly is organized in public spaces or public passages. When assemblies are planned on open public spaces they may be organized even without prior notification of the police. The Law foresees the right of administrative appeal by organizers.*
- 6. The legal framework provides freedom of expression for all. Albania offers constitutional and legal guarantees of the right of citizens to express freely.*
- 7. Restrictions, such as limitation of hate speech, imposed by legislation are clearly prescribed and in line with international law and standards. Any limitations, such as restrictions on hate speech, imposed by legislation are described clearly and in accordance with international laws in the Penal Code of the Republic of Albania. Libel is regulated in the Penal Code despite efforts in 2012 to remove it and include it in the Civil Code.*

31% of surveyed CSOs are negative about the legal regulation which regulate work of CSOs, and 66% of them are positive.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 1.1.a are:

The process of registration for CSOs might be centralized. At present it is centralized and the registration procedures are done only in the Tirana District Court. This is considered a barrier for CSOs based outside Tirana because of the additional costs and time needed. In addition, legal fees for the public notary are high for small organizations.

1.1.b. Progress with the adoption and implementation of relevant legislation

Though there is progress during 2015 regarding the gaps in legislation and policy framework regarding CSOs, still there are gaps. The decision of Council of Ministers on the Road Map for Drafting Policy and Measures for Enabling Environment to Civil Society and the law "On the Establishment and Functioning of the National Council for Civil Society" are important steps that should be followed up. The Council has not been established yet. Still, there is no National Strategy for creating an enabling environment for civil society development.

Legislation and policy framework regarding CSO are moderately implemented. Though there is progress, still the implementation of legislation and policy framework by some institutions, especially the Tax Authorities needs improvement. They should provide clear guidelines and instructions to CSOs regarding their rights and obligations. They should be trained regarding implementation of legislation and policies for CSOs.

In comparison to one year ago, gaps in legislation and policy framework regarding CSO are decreased for 20%.

Number of gaps in implementation of legislation and policy framework regarding CSO decreased for 20% in comparison with the last year.

Practice standards

- 1. Every individual or legal entity in practice cannot form associations, foundations or other non-profit, non-governmental organizations offline or online. Every individual or legal entity in practice can form associations, foundations, and other non-profit, non-governmental organizations, but only off line.*
- 2. There are no cases of state interference in internal matters of associations, foundations and other types of non-profit entities.*
- 3. There are no cases of encroachment of the freedom of assembly, and any group of people can assemble at desired place and time, in line with the legal provisions.*
- 4. Restrictions are justified with explanation of the reason for each restriction, which is promptly communicated in writing to the organizer to guarantee the possibility of appeal.*
- 5. Simultaneous, spontaneous and counter-assemblies cannot take place, and the state facilitates and protects groups to exercise their right against people who aim to prevent or disrupt the assembly.*
- 6. No excessive use of force is exercised by law enforcement bodies, including pre-emptive detentions of organizers and participants.*
- 7. CSO representatives, especially those from human rights and watch dog organizations enjoy the right to freedom of expression on matters they support and they are critical of.*
- 8. There are no cases of encroachment of the right to freedom of expression for all.*
- 9. There are no cases where individuals, including CSO representatives would be persecuted for critical speech, in public or private.*

30% of surveyed CSOs believe that the circumstances for development of CSOs have worsen in comparison to the last year, where 36% of them believe that circumstances have improved.

89% of surveyed citizens in Albania find freedom of press good, and 11% bad.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 1.1.b are:

The law "On the Establishment and Functioning of the National Council for Civil Society" should be implemented and National Strategy for creating an enabling environment for civil society development should be developed. Fiscal policies and legislation regarding CSOs need improvement. 46% of CSOs think that the most important thing in legal regulations for improving CSO functioning is CSO tax exemptions.

1.2.a. Number of employees in CSO (permanent and part time)

There are neither accurate data on the number of permanent nor part-time employees in CSO.

The data on the number of employees in CSO are not available on the annual level (permanent, part-time, both type of employees).

The situation on availability of the data on the number of employees in CSO is not better now than it was a year ago.

Percentage of all employed is employed in CSO sector is hard to be estimated due to the lack of relevant data.

56% of surveyed CSOs stated that they have full-time employees, and 44% of them stated that they have part-time employees. On average, surveyed CSOs have 7.5 employees.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 1.2.a are:

An accurate database of CSO employees should be established and made available by the responsible public institutions (Agency for the Support of Civil Society and/or Tax Authority).

1.2.b. Number of volunteers in CSOs

There are neither accurate data on the number of volunteers in CSO, nor the number of volunteers in CSO are not available on the annual level. Therefore, neither total number of volunteers in CSO in 2015 is not known, nor it is possible to estimate change in the number of volunteers in CSO in terms of an increase, decrease, or no change in comparison with the last year.

There are neither accurate data on the number of voluntary hours implemented in CSO, nor the number of voluntary hours implemented in CSO are not available on the annual level. Therefore, total number of voluntary hours implement in CSO in 2015 is not known.

41% of surveyed CSOs believe that CSOs in their countries engage volunteers, 80% of those surveyed stated that they have engaged volunteers during 2015, and average volunteering working hours per week is 20.3. 34% of surveyed CSOs stated that they have engaged the same number of volunteers during 2015 as during 2014, 43% engaged more than 2014, and 15% less than in 2014.

General population have stated that 4% of them have been engaged in volunteering during 2015, on average of 9 weeks, and 8.9 hours of volunteering work per week.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 1.2.b are:

There is a need to establish an official data base on number of volunteers engaged with CSOs; There is a need for state programs on voluntarism and incentives to support voluntarism; The draft law on voluntarism (it is under consultation in the Parliamentary committees since October 2015) should regulate volunteer work as well as supporting voluntarism.

1.2.c. Quality of legislative framework related to employment in CSOs and volunteers

There are no discriminative articles for CSOs in labour legislation (including active employment policy). The Albanian legislation related to human resources is unified for all employers and applied without differential treatment for CSOs. There are no incentive programmes for employment.

Legislative framework is not simulative towards promotion of volunteering. There are no state programs on voluntarism. There is no law on voluntarism yet.

Legislation disables tax-free reimbursement of travel expenses of volunteers. There is no law on voluntarism yet.

Legislation disables tax-free per diems to volunteers. There is no law on voluntarism yet.

30% of surveyed CSOs find the legal solutions stimulating for volunteering, and 64% of them find legal solution not stimulating.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 1.2.c are:

The draft law on voluntarism (it is under consultation in the Parliamentary committees since October 2015) should regulate volunteer work as well as supporting voluntarism. It is important that in the course of preparation of legal package the tax-free reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem of volunteers should be ensured.

1.3.a. Quality of the enabling environment for grass roots organisations and/or civic initiatives

Registration of grass-roots is not mandatory. Registration of CSOs is not mandatory and, in cases where a CSO decides to register, rules and procedures for registration are clearly established and foreseen by the law.

Unregistered organizations can freely operate. There are no sanctions applied for unregistered CSOs.

Unregistered organizations cannot receive financial support.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 1.3.a are:

Decentralization of the registration for CSOs in general, also including grass-roots and civic initiatives; Adopting mechanisms that enable the unregistered grass-roots and civic initiatives to receive funding for their initiatives.

2.1.a. CSOs' perception of the ease and effectiveness of financial rules and reporting requirements (disaggregated by type / size of CSO)

Financial (including tax) rules are moderately reasonable for implementation. In 2015, the National Accounting Standard for NPOs has been approved including concepts and principles for the preparation of financial statements and reporting formats, taking into account the specific nature of CSOs. For the first time (starting from 2016), CSOs will have a different financial reporting format and accounting rules from the business sector. A significant number of CSOs have been fined for delays in or lack of financial declarations and fines have not been proportional to their annual turnover.

Financial (including tax) rules are not clear. Lack of clarity relates to the lack of clarity of financial rules, the capacity of CSOs to absorb and follow the rules, and lack of information by the tax authorities regarding the implementation in practice.

Financial (including tax) rules are not proportionate to CSO turn-over. The fines for non-completion have been the same for all CSOs regardless their annual turnover.

There is no support system when it comes to implementation of financial (including tax) rules.

Support system somewhat clear instructions regarding implementation of financial (including tax) rules. There are no guidelines for tax inspectors about the changes in the legal framework regarding the fiscal treatment of CSOs.

Financial public officers within support system are somewhat knowledgeable.

Out of surveyed CSOs 78% are positive about how clear and understandable, 66% are positive how simple to implement, and 81% are positive how reasonable are prescribed financial rules, obligation of bookkeeping and accounting that refer to their organisation.

19% of surveyed CSOs completely agree and 58% mainly agree that there is efficient support system within the institutions CSOs are obliged to report to. 15% of surveyed CSOs completely agree and 58% mainly agree that support system within these institutions provide clear instructions regarding implementation of financial (including tax) rules. 15% completely agree and 55% mainly agree that these institutions are providing support services in standardised manner with competent and knowledgeable staff on the matter in hand.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 2.1.a are:

Tax authorities should provide practical guidelines for tax inspectors as well as for CSOs regarding the implementation of financial rules; The capacity of tax officers dealing with CSOs s regarding the implementation of financial rules should increase

2.1.b. Quality of financial rules (with the focus on built-in mechanisms that financial rules and obligations change as the turn-over and non-commercial activities change).

There are no different formats (different forms of reporting) according to CSOs' turn-over. Until the end of 2015, all CSOs had to report according to the same financial reporting format. The National Accounting Standard for CSOs includes lighter reporting requirements (cash-based accounting and statement of cash flow) for small organizations with annual revenues below 36,000 EUR.

There is 1 type of format for reporting.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 2.1.b are:

Proper implementation of the national Accounting Standards should be based on capacity development of the tax inspectors dealing with CSOs and CSOs reporting.

2.2.a. Quality and applicability/practice of the legal framework for individual and corporate giving

Legislation does not provide for stimulating tax incentives for corporate giving. There are no tax incentives for individual and corporation donations that would increase receipt of funding from individuals, corporations and other private sources.

There is a tax relief in the amount of 3 % of taxable income for corporations. The amount of sponsorship is recognized as deductible expense up to the amount of 3% of the earning before tax. While the amount of sponsorship for the publishing houses, cultural, artistic, and sportive activities is recognized as a deductible expense up to the amount of 5% of the earning before tax (EBT).

Legislation does not provide for stimulating tax incentives for individual giving.

There no a % of tax allocation for public benefit purposes (for the countries with % law system)

Data on the number of registered individual taxpayers who donated to CSOs is not available at all, so it is not available on the annual level too.

Data on the number of registered corporate taxpayers who donated to CSOs is not available at all, so it is not available on the annual level too.

There is neither data on percentage of corporations' taxpayers nor individual taxpayers donated to CSOs during the previous year.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 2.2.a are:

legislation should be improved to provide for stimulating tax incentives for corporate and individual giving; Data about corporate and individual tax payers who donate for CSOs should be established and made available on annual basis.

2.3.a. Quality of the system of tax benefits for the CSOs' operational and economic activities

Income from CSOs mission-related economic activity is not tax free. Economic activities are not subject of tax on incomes, only in the cases when these incomes are not used for activities for which the organization is registered.

Economic activities of CSOs are called “activities with public interest” are exempted from VAT. CSOs can benefit from VAT exemption when fulfilling three conditions simultaneously:

- a. The decision-making bodies of the organization must not have interests directly related with the activity of the organization;
- b. The non-economic activity of organization must significantly prevail compared to the rest of activity of the CSO operations;
- c. Supplies carried out by CSOs should not compete with the profitable commercial sector. Organizations should apply to the Tax Authorities.

Exempted from this procedure are the non for profit organizations that perform economic activity exempted from VAT by law. The effectiveness of this procedure is not proved yet.

The total amount of incomes from the economic activity, as secondary activity conducted support of the non-profit purpose of the CSO, received during the calendar year must not exceed 20% of the total annual revenues of the organization.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 2.3.a are:

Need to provide information and training to tax inspectors as well as CSOs regarding the tax regulations about the economic activity of CSOs.

2.4.a. Increase of public funding for CSOs

Data on the amount of public funding of CSOs is available, so the data on the amount of public funding of CSOs is available on the annual level tool. Only data about the government Agency for Supporting Civil Society (ASCS) funding is available.

There is very slight increase in funding by ASCS as required by law.

- In which percentage has the public funding of CSOs increased in comparison to one year ago? (2% in the case of ASCS)

29% of surveyed CSOs believe that there has been decrease of the public funding to their organisation in comparison to one year ago., while 44% of CSOs believe that there has been no change.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 2.4.a are:

Data about public funding from central and local institutions should be established and disseminated; There is a need for significant increase in public funding.

2.4.b. Quality of state funding frameworks for civil society organisations (focusing on procedural document)

Legal framework for public funding includes total of three positive statements out of 8 following:

1. Public funding is not decided on the basis of policy papers
2. There is inclusion of beneficiaries in programing of the tenders
3. Clear criteria is published in advance
4. There are deadlines for decision
5. There are no merit decision with arguments
6. There is no evaluation of achieved outputs and outcomes on the project and program level
7. There is no possibility of prepayments
8. There is no possibility of multi-annual contracts

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 2.4.b are:

Public funding should be based on policy papers; It should be more flexible including possibility of pre-payments and multi-annual contracts; Public funding should be better based on consultations with CSOs and merit decisions with arguments.

3.1.a. Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively* consulted with CSOs

Data on the draft laws/bylaws consulted with CSOs in accordance to national legislation is not available, so the data is not available on the annual level.

When it comes to consultations with CSOs regarding draft laws/bylaws/strategies and policy reforms:

1. *There is an adequate access to information (there is a legal obligation to publish draft laws on the Internet and drafts are regularly published)*
2. *There is no sufficient time to comment (sufficient time to comment: minimum 15 working days)*
3. *There [is no selection and representativeness / diversity of working groups (criteria for appointment of the representatives are transparent, open, inclusive and known in advance)*
4. *There is no an acknowledgement of input*
5. *There is no a degree to which input is taken into account*
6. *There is no a feedback / publication of consultation results (there is an obligation to publish a feedback report with a summary of consultation process, list of involved stakeholders, summary of received comments/proposals, their impact on the draft law and justification of rejected comments/proposals)*

24% of surveyed CSOs are not familiar with the state institutions, and 47% of the CSOs are familiar with such structures and mechanisms but they believe that structures and mechanisms have no use.

Out of surveyed CSOs, 13% of them have participated in development of policy documents, 15% of them have stated that they have participated in development of bylaws, 18% have participated in IPA programming, 24% in development of specific laws, 25% in national action plans, 26% in local strategies, 27% in local action plans, and 30% have participated in development of national strategies.

4% of CSOs who participated in consultation process find that all of their inputs during consultation process have been considered, 10% find that most of their comments have been taken into consideration, and 65% believe that the comments were somewhat taken into consideration.

10% of surveyed CSOs who participated in consultation process stated that public administration provided detailed enough feedback, and consultancy results were easily available to all parties; 62% of surveyed CSOs who participated find that there was some feedback, and some consultancy results were published by the public administration bodies.

There is no data available on percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 3.1.a are:

Public access to draft laws should be eased; Sufficient time should be left for CSOs' input in draft laws; Feedback about the results of consultations should be provided; data about the laws, strategies, and policy reforms consulted should be established and made available.

3.1.b Quality* of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions

Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions in terms of:

1. *CSO representation in general is poor.*
2. *Representation of smaller/weaker CSOs is poor*

3. Its visibility and availability is poor

4. CSOs perception of structures and mechanisms is good. 73, 70, and 74 % of survey participants think that mechanisms for dialogue are respectively clear, open, and accessible. 61% think they are efficient.

There is no a designated body, institution or contact point for dialogue between the Government and CSOs. The establishment of the National Council is in the process.

There is a designated body, institution or contact point for dialogue between Parliament and CSOs. It is an office for the relations with CSOs within the Service of Public Relations.

100 % of ministries have such a body, institution or contact points with continuous and constructive cooperation.

80 % of local governments have such a body, institution or contact points with continuous and constructive cooperation.

Data on designated bodies, institutions or contact points is available in the transparent and accessible manner.

Mechanisms for dialogue are moderately clear.

Mechanisms for dialogue are moderately open.

Mechanisms for dialogue are moderately accessible.

Mechanisms for dialogue are moderately efficient (issues are resolved in timely manner).

68% of surveyed CSOs find that the quality of mechanisms for cooperation between CSOs and government are good, and 24% of CSO find them to be bad. 79% of CSOs believe that representation of CSOs in structures and mechanisms is good, and 16% believe that representation is bad, 40% believe that representation of smaller CSOs is bad, 74% of CSOs believe that availability and visibility of the structures is good.

When it comes to mechanisms for dialogue 73% of surveyed CSOs find them clear, and 25% of CSOs find them not clear, 70% find them open, and 25% find them not opened. 74% of CSOs find mechanisms accessible, and 22% do not agree with it, and 61% of CSOs find mechanisms efficient, whereas 33% find them inefficient.

Suggestions for further improvements under the indicator 3.1.b are:

Representation of smaller/weaker CSOs should increase; The designated bodies within institutions should increase their effectiveness and outreach to CSOs; Mechanisms of dialogue should further improve.

4.1.a. Percentage of CSOs publishing their governance structure and internal documents (statutes, codes of conduct etc.)

86% of surveyed CSOs believe that decision making in CSOs is in compliance with the prescribed laws and rules of the organisation, and 95% of surveyed CSOs claimed that decision making in their organisation is in compliance with the prescribed laws and rules of the organisation.

55% of of surveyed CSOs believe that decision in CSOs are made by key individuals and top management, and 33% believe that decision in CSOs are made by the top management in consultations with employees. Whereas 45% of surveyed CSOs claimed that decision in their organisations are made by the key individuals and top management making, and 37% claimed that decisions are by the top management in consultations with employees.

71% of CSOs claim that they publish their statute, 69% claim that publish their rulebook, 72% claim that they publish their annual activity report. Whereas, surveyed CSO claim that they believe that only 33% of the sector publishes their annual activity report.

4.2.a. External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities.

CSO in Albania are moderately trustworthy (56% of CSO believe that people find them trustworthy, whereas 35% of general population find CSOs trustworthy).

Self-perception of the CSOs is that 6% of surveyed CSOs believe that people completely trust to CSOs in Albania; 51% believe that people mainly trust to CSOs, 34% believe that people mainly do not trust to people, and 6% believe that people do not trust to CSOs at all.

6% of surveyed CSOs believe that CSOs are too often present in public, 34% believe that they are just right present in public, 56% believe that CSOs are not present enough in public, while 4% did not say anything.

35% of citizens trust in civil society organisations, and 36% of citizens have perception that the CSOs are committed to solve the problems.

3% of citizens believe that they are very well informed about the activities of the CSOs in their countries, 58% are somewhat well informed, 27% somewhat not informed, and 12% not informed at all.

84% of citizens use media as a main source of information about CSOs and their activities, and 33% use social media.

1% of citizens believe that cooperation between CSOs and government is very good, 57% believe it is mainly good, 37% believe it is mainly bad and 4% that it is very bad.

4.3.a. Percentage of CSOs making their (audited) financial accounts and annual reports publicly available

68% of CSOs said they make their financial reports available to the public, and 67% of them stated that they make their financial statements that are audited also available to the public.

Nevertheless, CSO believe that only 29% of all organisations make their financial reports publicly available, and only 27% of the organisation make audited financial statements available to the public.

4.4.a. Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators

47% evaluate their programs as to learn lessons for the next cycle and to assess the quality, while the rest of 53% does the pro forma evaluation

85% of CSOs stated that they have an established system for assessment of efficiency of implementation of projects. . 64% of CSOs use internal evaluation when evaluation their projects. 79% of surveyed CSOs stated that they have established efficient system for assessment of efficiency of implementation of their strategic plans. 28% of CSOs use external and 62% use internal evaluation when evaluating efficiency of implementation of their strategic plans.

5.1.a. Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans including human resources development activities

60% has human resources plan. 68% of surveyed CSO stated that they have a strategic plan.

81% of CSOs claimed that they have established system for staff performance appraisal. 19% of CSOs claimed that they do the staff performance appraisal externally, and 75% of them do it internally.

5.2.a. Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals

Out of surveyed CSOs who are active in the area of public advocacy 37% stated that they use it always, 26% use often, 17% sometimes, 9% rarely, and 11% never use analyses and/or research results for their advocacy activities.

5.3.a. Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks

Data on CSO networks active in Albania is not available.

There is no number of active CSO networks in your country.

6.1.a. Percentage of CSOs that confirm that they are able to raise funds according to their strategic plans

47% of organisations claim that they stick to the strategic plan when fundraising for their organisations, while 41% of them stated that they mainly stick to the organisation's mission. Nevertheless, they believe that only 36% of CSOs stick to the organisation's strategic plan when fundraising for their organisation, 39% stick to the organisation mission, and 26% of CSOs believe that CSOs mainly adapt to the donors' priority. 46% of those that have strategic plan, acquire funds in accordance with it.

6.2.a. Diversity in CSO sources of income

On average, CSOs in Albania have 2.7 sources of financing per CSO

The largest part is funded from other foreign private or state resources (embassies for example) (56%), 33 % of CSOs from EU, 27 % from their own economic activity and members' donations, 25 % from citizens' donations, 24 % from member fees, 23 % from government ministries/state bodies, 22 % from private companies.