AN ASSESSMENT OF CZECH CIVIL SOCIETY IN 2004:
after fifteen years of development

Tereza Vajdová

**CIVICUS Civil Society Index Report
for the Czech Republic[1]**

Prague 2005

NROS
Nadace rozvoje občanské společnosti

Trust for Civil Society
in Central & Eastern Europe
Washington D.C., USA

CIVICUS
World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Fakulta
humanitních studií
Univerzity
Karlovy

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» FOREWORD

Civil Society Development Foundation

NROS is one of the largest civil society foundations in the Czech Republic and Central Europe. As such, it feels a strong responsibility for the development of the non-profit sector, the direction it takes, for the analysis of needs and for setting priorities and long-term strategies in this area. To fulfil such a task, it is necessary to acquire sufficient valid data, background materials, statistics, research reports and arguments that could be of use not only to NROS but to the whole range of non-profit organisations, the state administration, corporate actors, and the public. This is why NROS participated in a number of research projects on the non-profit sector and civil society in the past (e.g. Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, 1998, Activities and Needs of the Non-Profit Sector in Czech Republic, 1998, Philanthropy and Voluntarism, 2001).

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index project of the international civil society network CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation thus drew on our previous research experience but at the same time was new and inspiring in many respects. First of all, it initiated new discussions about the notion of civil society, which as a concept is now, after fifteen years of democratic development, understood more broadly than at the beginning of 1990s. The process of the research itself was beneficial as it allowed a number of actors to participate in a debate about the needs and problems of civil society and created an opportunity to identify problems, propose solutions and clarify definitions at various levels (e.g. in the National Advisory Group, within the academic community, amongst students, non-profit organisations from the regions, the general public, etc.). The research as a whole has thrown up a number of concrete data, facts, comparisons and findings that are new and important not only for civil society organisations but also for professionals working for civil society, the public administration, as well as students, and the general public.

This research was carried out with collaborators and students at the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University (FHS UK), foreign partners from Central and Eastern Europe, colleagues from the National Advisory Group, and the regions. We hope that such cooperation does not end with the publication of this book but rather that the bookserves as an impetus and the springboard for further discussions and cooperation in thefield of strengthening civil society.

Hana Šilhánová
Director of the Civil Society Development Foundation

Faculty of Humanities, Charles University

I had the opportunity to set up the new Civic Sector Department in 2000 at the then newly established Faculty of Humanities at Charles University. I drew on the experience of similar centres at foreign universities. When planning the Civic Sector M.A. programme we found the studies of Professor Helmut K. Anheier, the founder and until 2002 director of the Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics and Political Science especially inspiring. Helmut K. Anheier, his close collaborators (above all Jeremy Kendall and Lester Salamon), and other researchers must take the credit for establishing the subject "civil society/civil sector" as an academic discipline by virtue of their research and intensive organisational activities in the international arena.

This subject, later to become a discipline, became an important part of the educational programmes both at universities and various information centres and agencies. There are departments and institutes of civil society/the civil sector at many western universities (e.g. the Center for Civil Society, School of Public Policy and Social Research, University of California, Los Angeles, USA; Oxford University, Great Britain; the Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden; Università degli Studi, Bologna, Italy); they offer special courses on civil society, carry out surveys and offer their methodology and empirical findings to similar institutions in other countries.

As the only such institution in the Czech Republic, the Civic Sector Department at Charles University seeks to build upon the interconnections between anthropology, sociology, philosophy, political science and economics to provide the most holistic picture of the topic of civil society. Many courses at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, cover the whole topic of civil society and non-governmental, non-profit organisations. The activities of our department contribute to the development of civil society and its relevant structures; non-governmental, non-profit organisations are an important base for the values and attitudes which are necessary if civil society is to exist and thrive.

The Civic Sector Department has been up and running at Charles University for four years now, offering the possibility of both full-time and part-time studies. Applicants are students who have completed their bachelor studies at different universities in the Czech Republic or people working in non-governmental or state non-profit institutions. Those who receive a degree find employment in non-governmental, non-profit organisations (foundations, foundation funds, civic associations and public benefit corporations), in the fields of employment, counselling and training, as well as in the media. in the Czech Republic as well as in international institutions and organisations. The course ends with the defence of a master's thesis on a topic of current significance to the civil sector.

The newly established discipline begins with its own research work. Ours was the only institution in the Czech Republic to participate on the international research project entitled "Roles and Visions of Foundations in Europe" (Marek Skovajsa). The research took place in 20 European countries in parallel. In 2004 the department collaborated with the Civil Society Development Foundation on the international research project "CIVICUS Civil Society Index" (Tereza Vajdová and David Stulík). Students and Marie Dohnalová, the head of the department, took part in the research project from the very beginning and the concluding national seminar was organised on the premises of Charles University in Prague in Jinonice. The head of the department was also a member of the project advisory group.

When involving students in the project we made an effort to ensure that they themselves benefited. To this end several meetings were held with the students to explain the history and aims of the project as well as its methodology and finally to evaluate the experience gained from the project. Students held consultations on their work on the project individually or in smaller groups at NROS or via email with Tereza Vajdova and/or David Stulík, who both also teach at the faculty.

Thirty two students of the Faculty of Humanities took part in the project and helped with various aspects, such as the translation of questionnaires, entering data into SPSS, media monitoring, case studies, overview studies and reviews, providing assistance during regional consultations, and organising the national seminar. The students were: Julie Čákiová, Jitka Čechová, Magdaléna Černá, Eva Drábková, Marek Gajdoš, Elena Germanová, Jan Havlíček, Eva Hejzlarová, Jana Horáčková, Bára Jandová, Anna Jirásková, Kateřina Kalousková, Inka Kleinová, Linda Klvaňová, Martin Kroll, Martin Kryl, Kateřina Kulhánková, Eva Látalová, Jaroslava Lávičková, Martin Novák, Lukáš Pfauser, Jindra Rotschová, Olga Smirnova, Jakub Suchel, Jarka Šimková, Zuzana Šenkýřová, Marcela Šobová, Kristýna Urbanová, Dana Václavková, Eva Vosáhlová, Zuzana Zabová and Jana Zahradníčková.

Through its involvement in the international Civil Society Index project, the Civic Sector Department has moved closer to its vision – to become a pedagogical and academic research centre of civil society and civic sector studies.

Marie Dohnalová
Head of the Civic Sector Department

❯❯ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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⏵⏵ LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEET	Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern European
CR	Czech Republic
CS	Civil society
CSI	Civil Society Index
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
CVVM	Centrum pro výzkum veřejného mínění [Public Opinion Research Centre]
CZK	Czech crowns
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EU	European Union
FHS UK	Fakulta humanitních studií Univerzity Karlovy [Faculty of Humanities, Charles University]
GDP	Gross domestic product
ICN	Informační centrum neziskových organizací [Information Centre of Non-Profit Organisations]
NAG	National Advisory Group
NCO	National Coordinating Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NNO	Non-state non-profit organisation
NPO	Non-profit organisation
NROS	Nadace rozvoje občanské společnosti [Civil Society Development Foundation]
SEA	Strategic environmental assessment
STEM	Středisko empirických výzkumů [Centre for Empirical Research]

» EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Czech civil society after 15 years of development: Active, ambitious, and diverse, but facing crucial challenges

This section presents the main findings, highlights and important implications of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) project in the Czech Republic, which was carried out by NROS in cooperation with the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University.

Over the course of 2004, the CSI project collected information and input from a broad range of civil society representatives, citizens, experts, and researchers on the state of civil society in the Czech Republic. The main data source was a representative surveys of the Czech population carried out by STEM, as well as regional survey, case studies, expert interviews and media monitoring. Drawing on this extensive data and using a comprehensive framework of 74 indicators, the project's National Advisory Group assessed the overall state of civil society in the country, which can be summarized in a visual graph (see Picture 1), the Civil Society Diamond. The diamond which emerged is rather well balanced in its four dimensions, i.e. structure, environment, values and impact, and is of moderately large size overall.
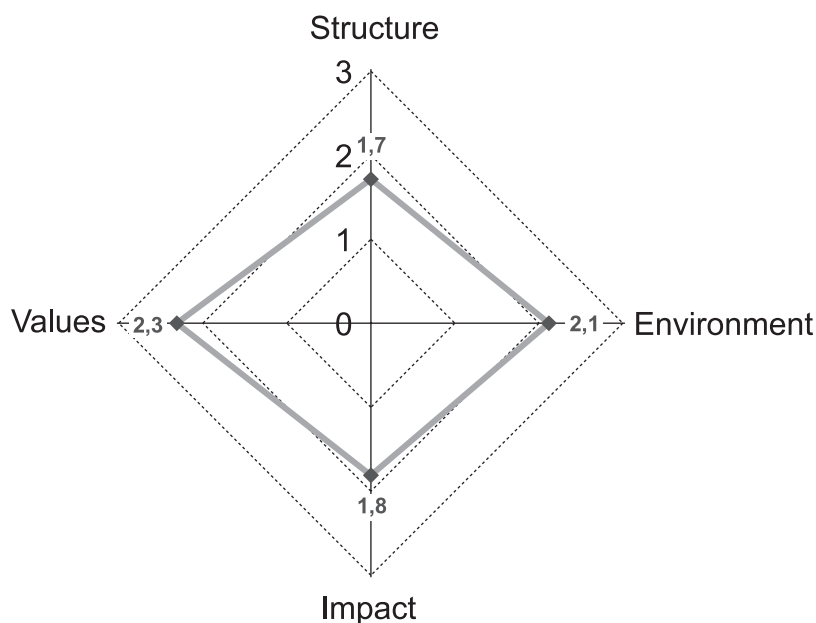
Picture 1: Civil Society Diamond for the Czech Republic

Czech civil society boasts many strengths, such as a relatively strong citizen base, successful role models in the form of environmental CSOs, a generally positive relationship with the state, and the positive values and practices of many CSOs. However, Czech civil society is not without its challenges. The study identified public accountability and internal management issues as two of the crucial issues for CSOs to address.

The CSI project brought to light many new insights, sometimes challenging existing wisdom on civil society in the Czech Republic. These highlights are briefly summarized below.

1. Setting the record straight on civic apathy

It is time to do away with the myth about widespread apathy and a lack of civic engagement among Czech citizens. Forty seven percent of citizens made a material or financial donation to a CSO in the last year, while the same percentage of citizens is a member of a CSO. Notably, half of these participate in more than one organisation. Almost 60% of citizens take part in civic and social activities – such as work brigades, assistance to older citizens, or the organisation of cultural and sporting events – in their communities.

2. Czech civil society is active and diverse

There are thousands of CSOs in the Czech Republic. The CSO types with the largest membership are sports organisations, followed by trade unions, beekeepers and similar organisations, and voluntary fire brigades. Apart from sports and recreational organisations with large memberships, there are also active and influential voluntary organisations that do not have significant membership. These are active, for example, in service provision to physically and mentally disabled or socially marginalised people, drug prevention, humanitarian aid, environmental protection, and consumer issues. Many of these organisations know how to bring marginalised issues onto the public agenda and how to effect positive social change, such as in the case of domestic violence or the care for terminally ill people.

3. The problem of umbrella organisations

There are an estimated 80 CSO umbrella bodies in the Czech Republic. Most of these networks provide effective support to their member organisations and many umbrellas also play a positive role in developing codes of conduct and demanding compliance. However, other umbrella organisations do not boast a strong membership base and are not respected by other CSOs. Despite this, they act as representatives of the civil sector and as partners for the public administration. These activities are considered by many other CSOs as illegitimate.

4. Moving from uneven dialogue to real partnership

A number of communication and dialogue mechanisms exist between the state and civil society, e.g. government and ministry advisory bodies, regional government commissions and committees, and tripartite structures. The media monitoring conducted as part of the project showed that the state mostly communicates with trade unions, and business and professional associations. Most other civil society actors do not enjoy the same status as respected and strong partners. The effective functioning of

the Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organisations is a positive development, as is the EU's partnership principle, whose application in the Czech Republic has begun to show its first positive results in terms of greater dialogue between the state and civil society.

5. Private companies are mostly indifferent towards civil society

Large companies know how to use the rhetoric of corporate social responsibility and have begun to portray their activities using this concept. However, this behaviour is sometimes regarded as self-promotion and PR. Whereas small firms are not aware of the notion of corporate social responsibility, they often behave responsibly in the communities where they operate, e.g. through supporting community activities. Cooperation between business and civil society is still rare. Consequently, according to two thirds of CSO representatives, the attitude of firms towards civil society activities is indifferent.

6. Low trust and civil society

Less than one fifth of Czech citizens agree with the statement that other people can be trusted, signifying low levels of interpersonal trust in Czech society. As a matter of comparison, the percentage of 'trusting' citizens in Germany is 40% and in Norway 65%. Low levels of trust, typical for many post-communist societies, represent something of a barrier to the development of civil society. However, it can be argued that, in the long run, strengthening civil society can also contribute to raising levels of trust in society at large. This optimistic perspective is supported by the fact that the level of trust is greater among members of CSOs than among non-members.

7. Corruption in public administration is mirrored within civil society

In recent years, Transparency International has consistently categorised the Czech Republic as a rather corrupt country, ranked as approximately the 50th least corrupt country in the world. Corruption is a societal problem, and therefore also affects civil society. Representatives of CSOs speak of the relatively common misuse of an organisation's influence for its own benefit and at the expense of other organisations, rather than of 'corruption' per se. This tendency may be exacerbated by the competition among CSOs for scarce resources and by the changing rules for grant schemes and for financing of CSOs.

8. Two flagships of Czech civil society: environmental protection and social services

Representatives of CSOs identified a particularly strong role for civil society in two specific fields: environmental protection and social service provision. Contrary to many other areas, such as human rights protection, anti-corruption initiatives, or unemployment, CSO representatives assessed both the activity and impact of CSOs working in these two fields very positively. Over the last decade, Czech environmentalists and ecologists have succeeded in becoming more than just nature conservationists. They have emerged as promoters of citizen rights and as monitors of public administration decisions and actions on environmental issues. CSOs working on social issues have managed to establish themselves as providers of much-needed social services.

For the first time for Czech civil society, a comprehensive and participatory assessment of civil society has been carried out through the CSI project. Its findings seek to contribute to charting the way for civil society's progress in the years to come. As the CSI study has found, the further development of civil society in the Czech Republic will require a focus on structural features, particularly the strengthening of networking, co-operation and communication within civil society. Another issue of concern is the relatively weak impact of civil society on government and society at large. Here, CSOs need to rise to the challenge of monitoring the state and corporate sector more effectively and extensively, and to invest in building greater trust by the general public.

It is hoped that the participatory and knowledge-based nature of the CSI project has laid the groundwork for specific initiatives by civil society and other stakeholders that may contribute to making Czech civil society even stronger and more sustainable in the future.

» INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) in the Czech Republic, carried out from December 2003 to November 2004 as part of the international CSI project.

The CSI is a participatory action-research project assessing the state of civil society in countries around the world. The project links this assessment with a reflection and action-planning process by civil society stakeholders, aiming to strengthen civil society in those areas where weaknesses or challenges are detected. 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.

The CSI is in each country implemented by a National Coordinating Organisation (NCO), guided by a National Advisory Group (NAG) and the CSI project team at CIVICUS. The NCO – NROS in the Czech Republic – collects and synthesizes data and information on civil society from a variety of primary and secondary sources. This information is employed by the NAG to score the 74 CSI indicators, which together provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of civil society. The findings are then discussed at a national workshop, where civil society stakeholders identify specific strengths and weaknesses of civil society as well as develop recommendations on how to strengthen civil society. The international CSI project team at CIVICUS provides training, technical assistance and quality control to the NCO throughout the project implementation.

The CSI is an international comparative project currently involving more than 50 countries from around the world. It was conceived with two specific objectives: (1) providing useful knowledge on civil society and (2) increasing the commitment of stakeholders to strengthen civil society. The first objective inherits a certain tension between country-specific knowledge and knowledge comparable cross-nationally on a global scale. CIVICUS sought to resolve this tension by making it possible to adapt the methodology and the set of more than 70 indicators to country-specific factors. While NROS made use of this option to some extent, we generally kept to the overall project framework. The research, and consequently this publication, still had to confront and consistently deal with the tension between the attempt at global comparability and the resulting rigidity of the framework employed, and the flexibility necessary to describe in detail the state of civil society in the Czech Republic.

For NROS, regional comparisons were particularly interesting. While conducting the research, we attempted to coordinate our activities and maintain comparability with neighbouring Poland. However, we believe the project´s main benefit to be the acquisition of useful data on Czech civil society and the application of the CSI methodology and approach in the context of the Czech Republic. In the application of the CSI in the Czech Republic, we saw both a challenge and an opportunity, since the CSI offers a broad and inclusive definition of civil society and introduces questions which we regarded as new and stimulating.

Structure of the publication

Section I, "The CSI Project: Background & Methodology", provides a detailed history of the CSI, its conceptual framework, and research methodology.[2]

Section II, "Civil Society in the Czech Republic", provides a background on civil society in the Czech Republic and highlights some specific features of Czech civil society. It also describes the use of the civil society concept in the Czech Republic as well as the definition employed by the CSI project. Lastly, it describes the exercise of developing a map of civil society, which was carried out as part of the CSI project activities in several regions in the country.

Section III, entitled "Analysis of Civil Society", is divided into four parts – Structure, Environment, Values and Impact – which correspond to the four main dimensions of the CSI. The presentation of the results according to individual dimensions and subdimensions is intended to be a resource repository, and readers looking for an overall interpretation of the report should refer to the conclusion. The third section also makes reference to the case and survey studies contained in Appendices 3 – 5.

Section IV, "Strengths and Weaknesses of Czech Civil Society and Recommendations for the Future", summarises the ideas, arguments and opinions raised at the National CSI Seminar, which was held on 16 October 2004 at Charles University in Jinonice, Prague. Close to 50 participants from CSOs and academic institutions had the opportunity to comment on, criticise, and supplement the findings through their participation in plenary sessions and small group discussions. One of the tasks was to identify the main strengths and weaknesses of Czech civil society and to formulate recommendations regarding how to improve the situation. The fourth section of this publication presents the results of these discussions.

Finally, the conclusion in Section V maps the Civil Society Diamond[3] and offers an interpretation on the report's implications for the overall state of Czech civil society.

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[2]   See also Appendix 1 The Scoring Matrix, and Appendix 2 A Survey of CSI Methods.
[3]   The Civil Society Diamond is a visual tool developed by CIVICUS and Helmut Anheier, Director of the Center for Civil Society at the University of California, Los Angeles, which presents the overall findings of the CSI study in form of a diamond-shaped graph.

⯈ I./THE CSI PROJECT AND ITS METHODOLOGY

⦿ I.1/THE CIVICUS CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX

The idea of a Civil Society Index 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, the Civil Society Index (Heinrich/Naidoo 2001; Holloway 2001). In 1999, Helmut Anheier, the then director of the Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics, played a significant role in the creation of the CSI concept (Anheier 2004). The concept was tested in fourteen countries during a pilot phase lasting from 2000 to 2002. Upon completion of the pilot phase, the project approach was thoroughly evaluated and refined. Since 2003, under the leadership of CIVICUS, the project has spread to more than fifty countries (see Table 1).

Table 1: Countries currently implementing the Civil Society Index

Argentina	Fiji	Nigeria
Armenia	Gambia	Northern Ireland
Australia	Georgia	Palestine
Azerbaijan	Germany	Poland
Bangladesh	Ghana	Puerto Rico
Bolivia	Guatemala	Romania
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Honduras	Russia
Bulgaria	Hong Kong	Scotland
Burkina Faso	India (Orissa)	Serbia
China	Indonesia	Sierra Leone
Colombia	Italy	Slovenia
Costa Rica	Jamaica	South Carolina (USA)
Croatia	Lebanon	South Korea
Cyprus	Macedonia	Taiwan
Czech Republic	Malawi	Turkey
East Timor	Mauritius	Uganda
Ecuador	Mexico	Ukraine
Egypt	Mongolia	Uruguay
England	Mozambique	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Nepal	Wales

In the Czech Republic, the project was implemented from December 2003 to November 2004 by the Civil Society Development Foundation (NROS), which has been a CIVICUS member since 1994.

I.2/ PROJECT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The CSI uses a comprehensive project implementation approach and a mix 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, regional stakeholder consultations, a media review and a series of case studies. The indicators also inform the assessment exercise undertaken by the NAG. The research and assessment findings are discussed at a gathering of key stakeholders, whose task is 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.[4]

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 definition 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. Secondly, while civil society is generally perceived as a sphere in which positive activities and values reign, CIVICUS seeks to also include negative manifestations of civil society into the assessment. The concept therefore covers not only charitable associations or nature conservation groups 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 shrouded in secrecy.

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 an examination of a way to define 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:

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[4] For a detailed description of the CSI approach, see Heinrich (2004).

⊕ 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 or economic, the relationship between civil society and the public administration and private sector)

⊕ The *values* practiced and promoted within the civil society arena (e.g. democracy, tolerance or protection of the environment)

⊕ The *impact* of activities pursued by civil society actors (e.g. how many CSOs respond to the interests of society, the impact CSOs' activities have in the sphere of human rights or the development of the state budget)

Each of these main dimensions is divided into a set of subdimensions which contain a total of 74 indicators.[5] 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 Czech civil society and the presentations at the National Seminar. It is also used to structure the main part of this publication.

I.2.2/ PROJECT METHODOLOGY

How to measure civil society?

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 national, regional to the local level. The CSI therefore includes the following set of research methods: (1) Review of existing information, (2) Regional stakeholder consultations, (3) Population survey, (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 and between civil society and other parts of society, identify key strengths and weaknesses of their civil society and assess collective needs.

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[5]   See Appendix 1.

+ For the CSI study in the Czech Republic, the whole list of proposed data collection methods was implemented, yielding an extremely rich information base on civil society. The specific methods were:[6]

+ Regional survey: CSO representatives were surveyed in four selected regions. A total of around 120 persons was contacted and 73 questionnaires were completed;

+ Regional consultations: In the same four regions, the same people were invited to participate at a day-long discussion on the results of the survey and other topics. A total of 43 persons participated in the consultations;

+ Representative population survey of the Czech Republic: A representative sample of 1018 adults in the Czech Republic was surveyed. Questions were asked regarding their membership in CSOs, the level of giving and volunteering, their opinions of the role of CSOs, etc. In the remainder of this report, this study is referred to as the 2004 Civil Society survey;

+ Desk studies: As part of their studies, students of the Civil Sector at the Humanities Faculty of Charles University gathered a mass of important information regarding the topics under consideration;

+ Media monitoring: Six media sources (newspaper, TV, radio) were monitored over a period of three months regarding their coverage of civil society actors, related topics and values, etc.;

+ Expert interviews: A total of 19 expert interviews were conducted as part of the project, some of which took the form of an electronic consultation;

+ Secondary sources: Civil society and various related subjects have already been the subject of many studies. The team attempted to draw on this existing data and research in its assessment of Czech civil society.

+ Civil Society Mapping Exercise: In the regional consultations, participants charted the key components of civil society (represented by circles) and arranged them in a two-dimensional space. The distance of organisations from the centre represents their position within civil society and indicates how strongly they belong to civil society.

Civil Society Diamond and CSI Indicator Scoring Process

One main project output is the Civil Society Diamond for the Czech Republic. This diagram, with its four extremities, visually summarises the strengths and weaknesses of civil society in the Czech Republic.[7] The diagram is the result of the individual indicator scores aggregated into subdimension and then dimension scores. Each score is rated on a scale of 0 to 3, with 0 being the lowest assessment possible and 3 the most positive. The scoring of each indicator was based on a short description of the indicator and a mostly qualitatively defined scale of values from 0 to 3.[8] The NAG scored each indicator, acting as "judges", as it were, as they scored the indicators on the basis of the 'evidence' presented in the CSI research report.

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[6] See Appendix 2 for more detailed information on each of the methods.
[7] See Section V.: Conclusion.
[8] See Appendix 1.

The scoring process was conducted as follows: Firstly, the members of the NAG scored each indicator individually. Then, an average of these scores was calculated for each indicator, from which the scores for the subdimensions and dimensions were calculated through averaging. For approximately a quarter of the 74 indicators, it was straightforward to determine the final score and it did not require a judgment by the NAG, as these indicators were quantitatively defined and therefore did not leave any room for interpretation (e.g. indicators 1.1.1.; 2.4.1.). There were about 30 indicators, for which the scores of NAG members differed considerably (i.e. more than 1 point). The NAG debated these controversial indicators at a day-long meeting and a new vote was taken for each of these indicators. A vote was also taken on the subdimensions and dimensions in case the average of the individual indicators and the result of an instant assessment of the whole (sub-)dimension by the NAG differed considerably. As has already been mentioned, National Seminar participants were also able to take part in the indicator assessment. This only took place in the case of one indicator – the level of corruption in civil society.[9]

I.2.3/ CSI AS AN ACTION-RESEARCH PROJECT

The CSI 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 Czech Republic, the extent of stakeholder participation in the CSI took place on several levels.

Firstly, from the very start, a diverse group of consultants and advisors guided the project implementation as the NAG. The group comprised representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), regional authorities, politicians and specialists in civil society research. At the beginning of the project, the NAG had the opportunity to amend the definition of civil society used for the purpose of the project and to provide input on the planned methodology. The NAG followed interim findings from the project and in the end developed an assessment of the state of civil society in the Czech Republic in the form of the Civil Society Diamond.[10]

Another interactive element of the CSI were four day-long regional consultations with a total of 43 representatives of CSOs. These consultations were held in Vysočina, Zlín, Karlovy Vary and Liberec regions. The aim was to bring together representatives of a wide range of organisations – philatelists, representatives of sport organisations, ecological organisation, social and health service providers, hunters, trades unionists and professional chambers. They were encouraged to discuss their views on the Czech Republic's civil society and its members, the negative behaviour in civil society and the role that codes of conduct and other regulations could play in the work and public profile of CSOs.[11]

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[9]   See Section III.3.2.
[10] See Section V. Conclusion.
[11] See Appendix 2 for further information on the regional consultations.

Lastly, a day-long National Seminar was held at the end of the project to discuss the research findings and to seek active participation from those who had been the subject of the research as respondents and interviewees. The Civil Society Diamond and the study's main findings were presented at the seminar. Participants had the opportunity to discuss these in four small groups, to offer their comments and even to change the scores given by the NAG. The discussions were recorded and formed another project input.[12]

Overall, every attempt was made to be as participatory and consultative as possible during the entire course of the project implementation. The project had its own website, a press conference was held in June 2004, and regular project updates were published in the non-profit sector magazine and elsewhere (Vajdová 2004a, b, c).

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[12] See the summary of outputs from the National Seminar in section IV.

⨠ II./ CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

ⓘ II.1/ SPECIFICS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society has a long tradition in the Czech Republic and has played its role in the history of the country, for example during the national revival in the 19th century, the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, and during the Velvet Revolution of 1989 (for a history of Czech civil society see Dohnalová et al 2003, Frič et al 1998, Müller 2002). This tradition was interrupted during the Nazi occupation (1938-1945) and subsequently during the time of the communist regime (1948-1989). During this latter period several organisations and groups operated illegally or were allowed to exist but were monitored by the state (e.g. Charta 77). The only trade union – the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement – enjoyed a privileged status in the state. In socialist Czechoslovakia there were many interest groups, as well as sports and cultural organisations which brought together large groups of people but which were only able to operate as part of the National Front. However, this does not mean that spontaneous civil activity did not take place, including activities critical of the regime (e.g. criticism of the approach to the environment on the part of the nature conservation federation, see Jehlička and Kostelecký 1995).

The communist regime had a huge impact on civil society in the Czech Republic, which persists to this day. This inheritance manifests itself, for instance, in the prominent role of the state, the paternalistic attitudes of the public, in the absence of a strong middle class, in the suspended traditions of giving and volunteering etc. For most Czechs, the experience of post-communist transformation is characterised by disillusion and the "bad mood" so often remarked on. A high level of mistrust in other people and in democratic institutions characterises all the post-communist countries, inhibiting the development of a strong civil society.

However, the Velvet Revolution in 1989 was clearly a milestone for Czech society at large and civil society in particular. In the following years, new legislation on associations was passed and thousands of new CSOs sprung up (for a description of the stages of the development of non-state non-profit organisations after 1989 see Frištenská 2003).

Looking at the last fifteen years of the development of civil society, we must draw attention to several important and unique aspects characterising Czech civil society. Several writers draw attention to the difference between "old" CSOs, which existed prior to 1989 and which have retained a relatively large membership as well as their assets, but are tainted by the "old structures" label (e.g. the Czech Women's Union or the youth organisation Pioneer), and "new" CSOs, which were set up subsequent to 1989 and which are seen as "genuine" civil society organisations. According to Frič (1998) "old" organisations represent perhaps a quarter of non-profit organisations in the Czech Republic.

In the 1990s Czech conceptions of civil society were influenced by a polemical debate between two of the leading political personalities of the time, Václav Havel (the then

president) and Václav Klaus (the then prime minister). A key question was that of the mandate and legitimacy of CSOs to protect public interest and to participate in public policy (in contrast to elected political representatives).

Also, at the beginning of the 1990s, foreign donors entered the Czech Republic to support civil society as part of the development of a new democracy. They brought with them their own themes and financial resources and thus, to a certain extent, had an impact on the type of issues that concerned Czech civil society. At present, the shift of foreign donors' priorities to other countries is challenging Czech civil society to find either other sources of financing or new issues. Lastly, since 1998, the Czech Republic has been moving ever closer to the European Union. This process culminated in 2004 when the country became a member of the EU; the values, priorities and financial support of the EU are a powerful driving force behind the future development of civil society in the country.

II.2/ THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

In the public and expert discourses in the Czech Republic, civil society usually refers to a positive association of people independent of the state, contributing to the development of civil values and social capital, and taking a generally constructive stance towards democracy as a social order. Different from the CSI definition of civil society, other types of association and citizen activities are not usually seen as part of civil society and fall into the category of extremism, nationalism, racism or illegal activities.

In contrast to the broader definitions of civil society (e.g. within the framework of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Non-Profit Sector Project, see Salamon, Anheier et al 1999, or the CIVICUS CSI definition), the civil society discourse in the Czech Republic, partly under the influence of the Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organisations, employs a narrower definition of "non-state non-profit organizations" (abbreviated as "NNO") which covers only those organisations which have the legal form of a civic association, foundation or foundation fund, public benefit corporation, or church-based legal entity. A tacit objective was to endeavour to assist those non-profit activities which did not have any permitted organisational form prior to 1989 (Müller 2003).

Research conducted by the Public Opinion Research Centre (CVVM) shows that only some 40% of respondents know what the term "civil society" means, though twice as many people have encountered the term. Much better known are the terms "volunteer" and "volunteer work", which almost every person has come across and which more than 80% of people know the meaning of (Public Opinion Research Centre 2003b). In the Czech Republic the term "non-profit organisation" is frequently used, though as Frič points out, people "do not even know what non-profit organisations actually are, e.g. they do not know that most football clubs, voluntary fire brigades, hunting groups, churches, trade union organisations, etc. are non-profit organisations, despite regularly meeting members of these organisations and observing their activities" (Frič 2001). If people are asked to provide an example of a non-profit organisation, they tend to mention those that organise public appeals for donations.

At present, new definitions of civil society are being discussed in the Czech Republic in response to three distinct events: (a) the country's accession to the EU; (b) the

inclusion of the Czech Republic in a project run by the UN Statistical Division and Johns Hopkins University, which seeks to create a 'satellite account' of NPOs, i.e. internationally comparable statistical monitoring of the economic size of the non-profit sector (United Nations 2003); (c) a new Civil Code is being drafted, which will re-define the concept of CSOs under the law and will also, for the first time, formulate a definition of public benefit.

The concept of civil society used in this study

As mentioned in Section I.2.1., the civil society definition proposed by CIVICUS is characterised by a very broad scope encompassing 'positive' and 'negative' organisations and also informal forms of citizen participation. Putting this civil society concept into practice was not an easy task. The Czech project team regarded this broad definition as a challenging standard, which, unfortunately, was not always possible to adhere to. For most of the research, the team focused on organisations, especially on 'positive ones'. The informality of civil society and its negative aspects only entered into the CSI assessment at certain points (e.g. informal and negative groups in indicators 3.3.1 or 3.3.2).

Apart from tackling the issue of the breadth of the civil society definition, the project team, together with the NAG, also had to make decisions regarding a number of organisational types whose membership in civil society is unresolved in the literature and strongly depends on country-specific historical factors.

CIVICUS drafted a list of 20 types of CSOs to operationalise the civil society definition, e.g. in the regional survey and stakeholder consultations. The task of the NAG was to adapt the list to the Czech environment. It decided on three substantial amendments.

Firstly, after a heated debate, it was decided that political parties would not be included as part of civil society. As far as the CIVICUS methodology was concerned, the question of whether to include or exclude political parties was left open. However, the fact that information about the political party system (e.g. ideological spectrum, stability etc) was included in the 'Environment' dimension suggested that the party system was not regarded as part of civil society. In the Czech study, political parties were left out for the following reasons: (a) they aim to acquire governmental power or a share thereof and several regularly form the government; (b) there is a very low public trust in political parties in the Czech Republic that sharply distinguishes them from voluntary non-profit organisations; by including them in one broad category we would create an extremely diverse (inconsistent) category that would for example produce unreliable responses in the population survey;[13] (c) most political parties in the Czech Republic are linked to Parliament and the state much more than with their members and constituents and have been characterised by strong centralist tendencies for most of the 1990s (Perrotino 2003); (d) the development of political parties in Europe is generally leading them away from being an expression of civil participation towards becoming essentially a part of the state (see the theory of cartel parties, Katz and Mair 1995).

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[13] Only 12% of the population says it trusts political parties (Eurobarometer 2002, cited in Frič et al. 2003) and the Civil Society 2004 survey showed that in the case of almost 80% of the population there was much greater trust shown in voluntary non-profit organisations than in political parties.

Secondly, after a debate it was decided that cooperatives would be excluded from the list of CSOs, since they are burdened with a specific history. Under socialism, cooperatives were purely economic organisations which did not pursue civil activities; social cooperatives (such as known in France or Italy) are so far rare in the Czech Republic.

Thirdly, the category of recreational CSOs and sport clubs was divided into six separate types (see no. 20-25 in Table 2 below). The resulting list of types of organisations was as follows.

Table 2: Types of CSOs in the study

1. Business federations and chambers	16. Organisations for the protection of human rights
2. Trade unions	17. Organisations for the protection of the environment, ecological organisations
3. Professional organisations and employees' federations	18. Political initiatives
4. Faith-based organisations	19. Local and neighbourhood organisations
5. Cultural organisations	20. Collectors, philatelists
6. Sports organisations	21. Hunters
7. Educational organisations	22. Beekeepers and other breeders
8. Student and parent organisations at schools	23. Voluntary fire brigades
9. Healthcare organisations	24. Gardeners and growers
10. Social services organisations	25. Anglers
11. Humanitarian organisations	26. Other recreational CSOs
12. Youth organisations	27. Funeral associations
13. Women's organisations	28. Mutual savings and mortgage banks
14. Ethnic, racial and traditional organisations	
15. Civic action organisations	

II.3/ CIVIL SOCIETY MAP

As part of the CSI methodology a map of civil society was created by charting the main types of organisations active within civil society and arranging them on a map. This exercise sought to create a visual picture of what stakeholders regard as the main components of civil society. It complements the CSI indicators by generating a disaggregated view of civil society and the relationships between its main actors. In the Czech Republic we used this exercise in regional consultations. The task was to chart civil society as a set of concentric circles, with organisations which are at the heart of civil society in the centre. The distance of organisations from the centre thus shows what position they have in civil society and whether or not they even belong in it.
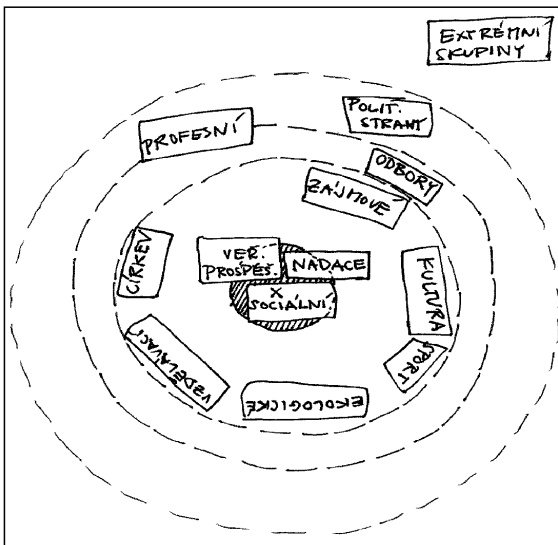
Picture 2: An example of a civil society map (Zlín)

At the centre of this map of civil society, there were placed CSOs working in the social sphere, public benefit CSOs and foundations. Social CSOs are marked with a cross to indicate that they are in very centre of civil society. In the second "tier", there were placed different hobby organisations, educational, cultural, sports and ecological CSOs, as well as the Church. Further from the centre of civil society, one would find trade unions and professional associations. Political parties were placed at the very last outpost of civil society. Extremist groups, however, lie already behind the borders of civil society.
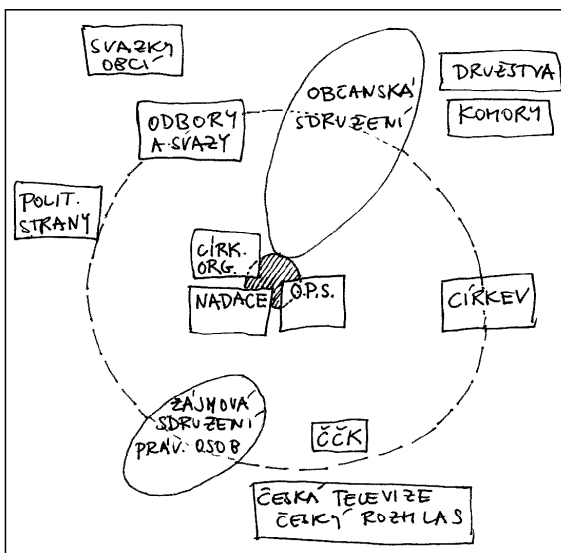
Picture 3: An example of a civil society map (Jihlava)

At the centre of civil society on the second map, there were placed public benefit corporations, faith based CSOs and foundations. Civil associations can be either at the very centre of civil society, or even outside civil society – it depends on the specific kind of activities they carry out. A similar logic applies to another legal organisational form ("zájmová sdružení právnických osob"). The Czech Red Cross was given as an example of a CSO that belongs to civil society. Trade unions, professional associations and the Church were placed at the borders of civil society. Political parties do not belong to civil society according to this picture and there was quite a heated discussion at the regional consultation whether political parties should or should not "touch" or connect to civil society at all. Associations of municipalities, cooperatives and economic or agrarian chambers were placed already outside civil society, as well as public television and radio.

Participants were confronted with the challenge that, in contrast to the terms non-profit sector or non-governmental organisations, which are frequently used by the public administration and non-profit sector itself, the civil society concept is uncommon. However, participants did not encounter major problems with this exercise and evaluated this part of the regional consultations very positively. In short, people were more than happy to be involved in a discussion on "what is civil society?" When discussing what constitutes the core of civil society, participants focused on three criteria:

⊕ the legal form of the organisation,
⊕ the non-profit form of the organisation
⊕ and above all the activities pursued.

The most important criteria for evaluating the place of an organisation within civil society were its activities. Activities such as the provision of healthcare and social services or nature conservation were placed at the very centre of the civil society map. Activities were also the key to assessing whether foundations belonged to the core of civil society: some participants opined that foundations "do not pursue activities, they simply manage the flow of finance"; "foundations are peripheral since they perform a mediating role for the activities of those bodies located in the centre". Activities were also crucial in discussions of the status of other, more controversial types of bodies, namely federations of towns and municipalities. At one regional meeting the majority opinion was that these federations do belong to civil society since they are concerned with nature conservation, promote community interests in the field of ecology, maintain ski slopes for thousands of people, create signposted cycle tracks, etc. As one participant stated, "Given what they do in this country they belong to civil society."

Another controversial subject was trade unions which many participants felt do not belong to civil society, since they are closed organisations and focus on the narrow sphere of relations between employee and employer. Others defended trade unions by pointing out that in the past they had organised cultural events, children's playgroups, joint leisure activities, and had reinforced solidarity between employees, and that even today they frequently operated on a wider basis. The degree to which a specific trade union was seen to be part of civil society depended above all on how open it was, and whether it protected simply the narrow interests of a single group of people or did something for other people and contributed to the development of more general values.

The discussion at the consultations also focused on a more general criterion for civil society, i.e. general or public benefit. Public benefit corporations[14] were placed at the very heart of civil society "because they create beneficial values for society as a whole". On the other hand, one participant put forward the following argument as to why, for instance, the Federation of Trade and Industry should not be part of civil society: "The mission of an organisation should be focused on its benefits to society, not on the benefits to an individual company" Similarly, another participant argued that "federations and chambers of business people are definitely not part of civil society because their purpose is to support their own business activities and to lobby for *them* rather than for the public benefit." In short, most participants felt that for an organisation to be at the heart of civil society it must contribute something to society and not just to its members. The formulation "giving something to society" was often used. At the same time all CSO representatives at the regional consultations claimed their own organisation also provided some form of a public benefit to society. This referred not only to organisations providing care for socially weak and handicapped people, but also, for instance, associations of anglers or beekeepers and sports clubs organising activities for young people. As somebody from a fishermen association remarked, "We are getting young people involved in the right kind of civil activity."

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[14] Public benefit corporation is a specific legal form of non-state non-profit organisations (Act on public benefit corporations No. 248/1995 Coll.).

⨠ III./ ANALYSIS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

In this section we present the main information gathered during the course of the project. The analysis is structured along the 74 individual indicators, as it was presented to the NAG for its assessment of the state of civil society in the Czech Republic. Unlike the report used for the scoring, this updated version includes the proposals, suggestions and arguments which arose both during the discussions within the NAG as well as during the National Seminar. The scope of the issues to be addressed as part of the project was so broad, that we were obliged to examine certain indicators less intensively than others. For example as far as the Environment dimension is concerned, which covers legislative, legal, political and other context factors for civil society, we mostly adopted the basic rating from sources recommended by CIVICUS (e.g. the Freedom House Civil & Political Rights, Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index).

The section is divided along the four dimensions: Structure, Environment, Values and Impact. At the beginning of each part, a graph 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 list and scores for the individual indicators for each subdimension.[15]

◑ III.1/ STRUCTURE

This section describes and analyses the overall size, strength and vibrancy of civil society in human, organizational, and economic terms. The score for the Structure Dimension is 1.7., indicating a medium-sized civil society. The graph below presents the scores for the six subdimensions within the Structure dimension.

⬤ III.1.1/ THE EXTENT OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY
This subdimension looks at the extent of various forms of citizen participation in Czech civil society. Table 3 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

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[15] For an in-depth understanding of the indicator scores, it is recommend to refer to Appendix 1 – The CSI Scoring Matrix.
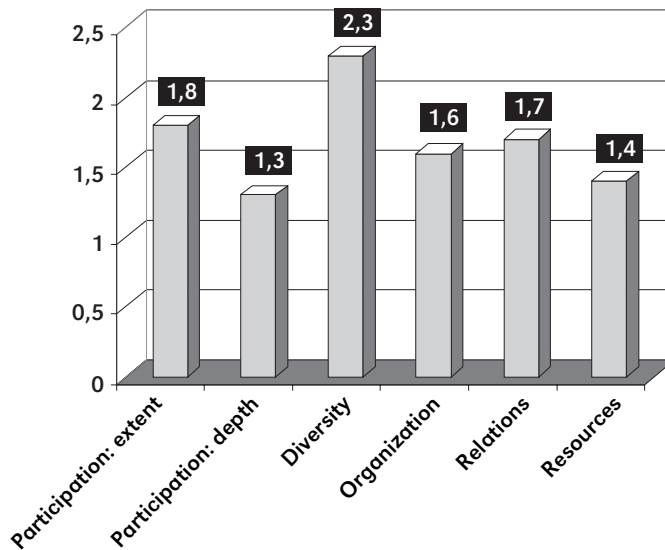
Graph 1: Subdimensions Scores in Structure Dimension

Table 3: Indicators assessing the extent of citizen participation

1.1.1 Non-partisan political action	1.9
1.1.2 Charitable giving	2.0
1.1.3 CSO membership	1.0
1.1.4 Volunteer work	2.0
1.1.5 Community action	2.0

1.1.1 Non-partisan political action: The survey Civil Society 2004, conducted by the STEM agency as part of the CSI, revealed that in the last 5 years some 12% of the Czech population has written at least one letter to a newspaper, around 14% have participated on a demonstration, and 43% have signed a petition. Forty eight percent of Czechs have participated in at least one of these activities in the last 5 years.

1.1.2 Charitable giving: The same survey revealed that 47% of people have donated either money or a gift to a CSO[16] over the last 12 months. According to the CSI criteria, this is a significant number of people and when compared to Poles, Czechs are even more likely to donate to CSOs (Gumkowska 2004). Over the past 4 years we have seen a slight increase of 4% in charitable giving in the Czech Republic (STEM 2004).

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[16] Since the term "civil society" is not widely known among the general public, after much consideration we used the term "voluntary, non-profit organisation" in the survey Civil Society 2004 as the nearest approximation of the term "civil society organisation". This distinction therefore applies to all results cited from this survey throughout the report.

1.1.3 CSO membership: The survey also showed that 47% of the Czech population is a member of at least one CSO. This is significantly higher than a figure obtained in a 2000 survey when only 29% of the Czech population claimed membership in at least one CSO (Frič 2001). This dramatic increase can be explained by different wording of the question,[17] as in the survey Civil Society 2004 most participants claimed they are members of as many CSOs as they were five years ago. The largest membership is found in sport organisations (16%) and trade unions (13%), followed by organisations of gardeners and growers (6%), voluntary fire brigades (6%), faith-based organisations (6%) and fishermen organisations (5%).

1.1.4 Volunteer work: The survey showed that 32% of citizens of the Czech Republic did voluntary work during the last year. In light of the CSI's assessment criteria this is a minority, but when compared to Poland, the percentage of citizens volunteering at least once in the last year is approximately twice as high in the Czech Republic than in Poland (Gumkowska 2004). This difference as well as the difference in charitable giving to CSOs probably has to do with the different role of the Church in the civil society: Church plays a major role in Poland while the Czech Republic is one of the most atheistic countries in the world with 59% of non-believers (Czech Statistical Office 2004); Church itself was not included among CSOs in the CSI project.

1.1.5 Community action: We firstly had to decide whether to interpret "community" as "municipality". In the small municipalities, which form a majority in the Czech Republic, this interpretation would be appropriate – municipal meetings, work brigades and other activities in the municipality belong to community life. Municipalities simply cannot be distinguished from the community. Even though the CIVICUS instructions suggested that community be interpreted as a 'special community', which is not identical to a municipality, we used the 2004 survey results which provided information on the basis of a municipality. These results revealed that 15 to 30% of citizens were involved either as promoter, volunteer or organiser of various events *in the municipality* – such as social events, care for the environment, the protection of historical monuments, work with children, work brigades, sports events, cultural and educational establishments, and assistance to ill, old and socially weak citizens. Most people participated in work brigades in the municipality (30% of citizens). Fifty seven percent of citizens participated in at least one of these activities, which is a surprisingly high figure, given that we often hear arguments about the apathy of Czech citizens towards any collective activities.

III.1.2/ DEPTH OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY

This subdimension looks at the depth of various forms of citizen participation in Czech civil society. Table 4 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

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[17] In the CSI survey a list of 27 types of organisations was presented to respondents, including popular organisations, such as the voluntary firebrigades, sports clubs or hobby associations. Many respondents normally do not know that such types of organisation belong to "civil society" or that they are understood under the label "non-profit". In the 2000 survey, the question was posed: "Are you a member of some civic association (club, group etc.)?"

Table 4: Indicators assessing depth of citizen participation

1.2.1 Charitable giving	1.0
1.2.2 Volunteering	2.0
1.2.3 CSO membership	1.0

1.2.1 Charitable giving: The survey Civil Society 2004 reveals that the total value of material or financial donations last year did not exceed CZK 700 for two thirds of citizens making donations. The average gift per citizen last year was CZK 1,161. With the average net income per annum in 2001 of CZK 83,000 this amounts to 1.4% of a person's annual income. The largest proportion of individual donors is found among people with university education (64% donated in the last year). Entrepreneurs, people with incomes over 15,000 CZK per month[18], people from the higher status group and believers belong to groups who give to charity significantly more often than others. Czech citizens most frequently donate to causes related to children (49%), physically handicapped people (35%) and people stricken by a natural catastrophe (24%). These main target groups remain the same as in 2000 (STEM 2004).

1.2.2 Volunteering: The survey revealed that, half of the respondents did not volunteer more than five hours per month. However, almost a third volunteered for 5-14 hours and some even more. On average a volunteer dedicated 79 hours per year, which is some six and a half hours per month. Volunteering is influenced by similar factors as charitable giving. Most voluntary work was carried out for organisations with the largest membership base, such as sports associations or voluntary fire brigades.

1.2.3 CSO membership: The survey showed that 47% of citizens are a member of at least one CS organisation. 23% of citizens are members of more than one organisation, which means that almost half of the members of CSOs belong to more than one organisation. Compared to the previous 2000 survey, this is a four-times increase (only 6% claimed membership in more than one CSO).[19]

⦿ III.1.3/ DIVERSITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPANTS

This subdimension examines the diversity and representativity of the civil society arena. It analyses whether all social groups participate equitably in civil society or whether there are any groups which are dominant or excluded. Table 5 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 5: Indicators assessing Diversity of civil society participants

1.3.1 Representation of social groups among CSO members	2.2
1.3.2 Representation of social groups among CSO leadership	1.8
1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs around the country	3.0

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[18] I.e. approx. 650 USD.
[19] However, the same methodological note applies as in the indicator 1.1.3.

1.3.1–2 Representation of social groups among CSO members and leadership: CIVICUS specified that the representation of five specific social groups (women, rural dwellers, ethnic/linguistic minorities, religious minorities and poor people, which we reformulated as "socially weak groups") amongst the members and the management of CSOs should be used to assess the diversity of civil society participants. We enquired about this issue in regional surveys. The representation of women and rural people amongst the members and management of CSOs was in most cases regarded as appropriate. As far as the representation of the other two groups (ethnic or linguistic minorities and socially weak groups) was concerned, opinions either diverged, it was assessed that these groups are underrepresented, or, in the case of religious minorities as much as a half of the respondents did not know the answer. This may reflect the general issue that the question of religion in our society is regarded as being a private matter which it is difficult to assess competently.

The results seem to imply that the question of the representation of various groups in civil society is not a "political" theme on which CSO representatives have a pre-formed opinion.

Participants of the National Seminar subjected the question of representation to a relatively thorough analysis, debating whether civil society should represent certain social groups at all, and if yes, to what extent. Also, the absence of certain social groups from civil society might be voluntary and therefore not indicate a 'deficiency'. Based on these conceptual and methodological challenges, the group concluded that the issue of representation of social groups cannot be answered, but that Czech civil society is characterised by a strong diversity of organisations.

1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs around the country: CSOs exist throughout the Czech Republic, although they are concentrated in the large cities and above all in Prague (see Table 6 below). Most regions have between 400 and 500 civil associations per 100,000 citizens. Only the Moravia Silesia and Zlín regions have a lower organisational density with 350 and 380 associations, respectively. The significantly higher number of associations in Prague is partly due to the fact that the capital city is home to many national organisations.[20]

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[20] This paragraph and Table 6 draws on the Report on the Non-Profit Sector in the Czech Republic (Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organisations 2005).

Table 6: Numbers of selected types of non-governmental non-profit organisation according to regions

Region	Civil associations		Generally beneficial companies		Foundations		Foundation funds	
	Number	index[18]	Number	index	Number	index	Number	index
Prague	8,237	709	164	14	146	13	213	18
South Bohemia	2,936	470	52	8	13	2	70	11
South Moravia	4,775	426	50	4	39	3	97	9
Karlovy Vary	1,393	458	15	5	8	3	12	4
Hradec Králové	2,712	494	24	4	11	2	50	9
Liberec	1,959	458	28	7	11	3	14	3
Moravia Silesia	4,384	347	52	4	14	1	68	5
Olomouc	2,620	411	30	5	15	2	57	9
Pardubice	2,335	461	27	5	5	1	36	7
Plzeň	2,483	452	33	6	12	2	18	3
Central Bohemia	6,392	566	46	4	17	2	33	3
Ústí nad Labem	3,794	463	53	6	11	1	21	3
Vysočina	2,548	492	17	3	6	1	36	7
Zlín	2,236	377	18	3	14	2	74	12
TOTAL	48,804	-	609	-	322	-	799	-

Czech Statistical Office, the Supervisory Processing Department, NGO statistics processing department, Brno. Indices calculated by the author. Preliminary information of the Czech Statistical Office for 2003.

III.1.4/ LEVEL OF ORGANISATION

This subdimension looks at the extent of infrastructure and internal organisation within Czech civil society. Table 7 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 7: Indicators assessing level of organisation

1.4.1 Existence of umbrella bodies	1.5
1.4.2 Effectiveness of umbrella bodies	1.8
1.4.3 Self-regulation within civil society	1.9
1.4.4 Support infrastructure	1.8
1.4.5 International linkages	1.2

1.4.1. Existence of umbrella bodies: There is no information available regarding the percentage of CSOs that are members of umbrella bodies. More than half of regional survey respondents shared the view that a majority of CSOs are probably or certainly members of an umbrella organisation. This assessment is supported by the fact that most organisations and those with the largest membership base belong to an organisational type which has a national representative umbrella structure (e.g. social,

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[21] The Index gives the number of NGOs per 100,000 of the population. For the purpose of calculation information was used from the Czech Statistical Office on the number of people in the regions as of 31. 12.

leisure, youth and sport, environment). However, in some regions there are no umbrella bodies whatsoever and elsewhere membership in these bodies is only formal.

1.4.2 Effectiveness of umbrella bodies: We examined the question of effectiveness of umbrella bodies in the regional survey. First, respondents assessed the importance of twelve selected objectives of umbrella bodies.[22] Below please find a list (ranked according to importance) of the six most important ones, which were indicated by 80% – 60% of respondents as "definitely important":

1. The defence and promotion of the joint interests of civil society as a whole
2. The coordination of a joint approach by member organisations in respect of the public administration
3. The protection of the rights and interests of members
4. Improved access to financial resources for members
5. Support for the activities and development of members (e.g. technical support and expert advice)
6. The extension of cooperation with other CSOs (domestic and foreign)

A majority of the respondents assessed the effectiveness of those umbrella bodies which they know of as quite successful in meeting these objectives. Whereas the effectiveness of technical and expert support for member activities was evaluated most positively, a majority of respondents said that the umbrella bodies did not succeed in improving access to financial resources for members.

1.4.3 Self-regulation within civil society: The regional survey indicates that some 60% of CSOs have written rules for internal operations. Different from the statute of an organisation required under the law, they are voluntary self-regulatory documents. The regional discussions showed that under these rules CSO representatives usually refer to (a) rules of procedure, (b) organisational regulations, (c) management instructions, (d) quality standards, (e) various sectional regulations, rules, measures, and instructions, (f) ethical codes, (g) the resolutions of federation bodies, etc. Most of these examples do not relate directly to ethical codes, but are concerned with the regulation of the general conduct of the organisation (e.g. with whom it will enter into a coalition or how it is to deal with clients).

On the basis of a questionnaire which we sent to 26 specialised umbrella bodies[23], it can be estimated that up to 90% of specialist umbrella bodies have internal regulations and that membership in these bodies is usually conditional upon agreement with these regulations. A quarter of these bodies requires direct acceptance of the collective regulations by the member organisation. Half of the bodies have a system for checking whether the regulations are followed and for applying sanctions in case they are breached. This seems to suggest that specialist networks have more frequent and extensive regulations than "ordinary" civil associations and by requiring acceptance of regulations from their members play an active role in the dissemination of these regulations.

2002.

[22] These objectives were established on the basis of analysis of statutes and programmes of selected umbrella organisations (Zahradníčková 2003).

[23] See Appendix 2.

1.4.4 Support infrastructure: Organisations which are concerned with information and support activities can be divided both by geography and the activities themselves. The Information Centre of Non-Profit Organisations (ICN) operates on a country-wide level across all spheres, and alongside this there are specialist organisations, e.g. Econnect (web pages and information technology), the civil association Spiralis (PR services), the Centre for Community Work (community development), and the civil association Tereza (fundraising). There are also national organisations which concentrate on a specific field of activities. This involves above all umbrella organisations providing support to its members.

There is a large number of organisations operating on a regional or district/municipal level, e.g. the Information Centre for Civil Society (CIPOS) in Prostějov, Vita in the Moravia Silesia region, the Information Office of Non-Profit Organisations (INKANO) in Písek, EkoCentrum Brno, the Civil Advisory Centre in Hradec Králové, the Information and Advisory Centre for Civil Activities (IPSOA) in Vyškov, the Jizer Mountains Association in Liberec. Along with the ICN the last six organisations listed are members of the Association of Advisory Information Centres (APIS). Several regional associations provide general information services and many organisations undertake these support activities in addition to their core function. Overall there is an unbalanced distribution of service organisations across the regions.

1.4.5 International linkages: At present international links are to a large extent a matter for umbrella bodies or large organisations with national representation. In the questionnaire sent to the specialist networks, 90% of umbrella bodies declared that they collaborate with foreign umbrella organisations, which interestingly is a higher figure than for cooperation with domestic umbrella bodies. However, it is not clear how strong and active this cooperation usually is. Additionally, unions and economic chambers are very well networked on an international level.

III.1.5/ INTER-RELATIONS WITHIN CIVIL SOCIETY

This subdimension analyses the relations amongst civil society actors in the Czech Republic. Table 8 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 8: Indicators assessing inter-relations within civil society

1.5.1 Communication between CSOs	1.8
1.5.2 Cooperation between CSOs	1.5

1.5.1 Communication between CSOs: There are periodicals (e.g. Grantis or Konec konců) focusing on civil society issues. Also, the campaign 30 Days for the Non-Profit Sector, which is organised every year by the ICN, plays a certain role in providing information both to the public as well as within the sector. Conferences and seminars at which CSOs and sometimes the public administration or companies participate take place. More than half of respondents in the regional survey said that the level of

communication between CSOs was good. However, they also often spoke of exaggerated competition between CSOs.[24]

1.5.2 Cooperation between CSOs: In the Czech Republic there are more issue-based alliances than inter-sectoral alliances. In certain regions, regional associations[25] operate on an inter-sectoral principle. At the national level, there is the Association of Non-Governmental Organisations in the Czech Republic, which has 50 members, including several issue-based members, and most of the regional networks.

How can we assess the extent of communication and collaboration within civil society as a whole? For instance, unions and professional chambers are often not regarded as part of civil society; despite attempts by NROS to involve them in the CSI project, only very few participated.[26] Also, the core types of CSOs (e.g. human rights, nature conservation, assistance to socially disadvantaged people) do not regard sports or hobby groups as part of civil society. Thus, it seems to be quite clear that there is no single and cohesive civil society arena which is closely connected and is perceived as 'a whole'.

III.1.6/ CIVIL SOCIETY RESOURCES

This subdimension examines the resources available for civil society organisations in the Czech Republic. Table 9 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 9: Indicators assessing civil society resources

1.6.1 Financial resources	1.0
1.6.2 Human resources	1.3
1.6.3 Technical and infrastructural resources	1.8

1.6.1 Financial resources: The regional survey revealed that the overwhelming majority of CSOs regard financial resources as insufficient (almost 80% of respondents). It is however not clear to what extent such an assessment would apply to unions or economic chambers and certain well-off civil associations. This evaluation by stakeholders

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[24] See Section III.3.2

[25] We may cite in all 12 organisations: ANNA KK – the Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Activities of the Karlovy Vary Region; ANNOLK – The Association of NGOs of the Liberec Region; ANOÚK – the Association of NGOs of the Ústí nad Labem Region; BANNO – The Brno NGO Association; CNOP – the Pilsen Centre for Non-Profit Organisations; the Podblanik Free Informal NGO Association; the Pardubice Community Coalition of NGOs; the Coordination Group of Independent Organisations; the Hradec Králové Association of NGOs; OKNO – the Olomouc Coalition of NGOs; PRKNO – Prostějov Coalition of NGOs; the České Budějovice Federation of NGOs; sources used: http://www.neziskovky.cz, http://www.spiralis-os.cz, www.mvcr.cz and the websites of the individual associations and coalitions (Zahradníčková 2003).

[26] In the regional survey we received 4 filled in questionnaires from representatives of economic/agricultural chambers or professional associations and 5 from trade union representatives. In the following consultations, however, only 1 representative of agricultural chamber participated and no invited trade union representative participated. On the other hand, several members of trade unions participated so to say "by the way" as they were invited as representatives of other civic associations.

is based on a subjective perception of insufficiency as there is no information regarding the real financial resources of CSOs. The NAG, however, agreed with this description.

1.6.2 Human resources: A large majority of respondents (around 85%) state that human resources (defined as the knowledge and experience of employees) are sufficient. However, as the NAG pointed out, many organisations rely on the work of volunteers without a professional backup. Only the large and well-established organisations can afford to employ a fundraiser, a qualified accountant, or a lawyer. According to the NAG, therefore, rather than assessing the state of human resources, the answers to the question indicate that CSO representatives understand the problem of human resources in a limited way, and that they do not realise they need better human resources.

It can be concluded that CSOs mainly rely on volunteers, have a minimum of paid employees and lack certain professions (e.g. accountancy, fundraising, computer technology, management, public relations) among their staff. According to a survey conducted by the Centre for Non-Profit Sector Research (2004), only 25% of foundations said that they had at least one employee. The NAG therefore re-evaluated the indicator and allocated it one point lower than the original score was, based on the results of the regional survey. The indicator now reflected a rather skeptical evaluation of the financial resources.

1.6.3 Technical and infrastructural resources: More than half of the respondents said that the technical equipment of their organisation (office, computer, Internet, telephone, fax, etc.) was adequate. This is supported by information from other studies. According to a survey conducted by the company Attavena (Cihlářová 2003)[27], a large majority of CSOs either owns a computer (60%) or has access to one (90%). According to the Attavena survey, organisations regard the number of computers and their quality as being adequate for their needs. More than 90% of organisations use the Internet for their work and every second organisation has its own connection. Most organisations have their own websites which most develop and maintain themselves. Use of email has increased since 1998 from 26% to 72% (Frič 1998); use of web pages for presentations has increased from 21% to 58%. Given these figures, the technical infrastructure can be assessed as adequate.

III.2/ ENVIRONMENT

This section describes and analyses the overall political, social, economic, cultural and legal environment in which civil society exists and functions. The score for the Environment Dimension is 2.1., indicating a conducive environment for civil society. Graph 2 presents the scores for the seven subdimensions within the Environment dimension. It shows that the weak socio-cultural norms and low support from the corporate sector are the only elements that detract from the otherwise positive context for Czech civil society.

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[27] Attavena collaborated on the national survey of NGOs with the agency Taylor Nelson Sofres Factum Praha and the civil association Econnect; 1400 respondents (foundations, foundation funds, civil associations, generally beneficial companies and religious organisations), return rate of 23%.
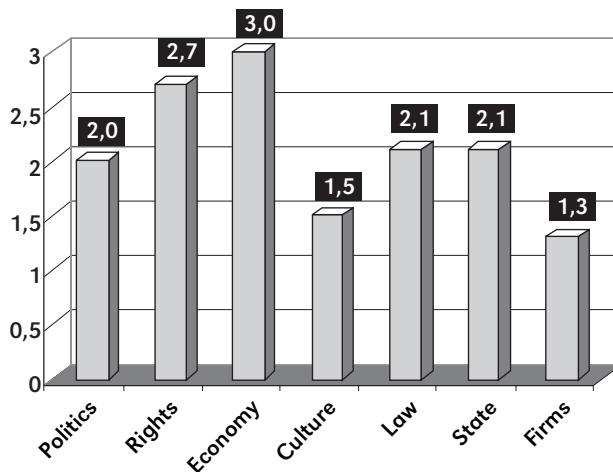
Graph 2: Subdimensions Scores in Environment Dimension

◉ III.2.1/ POLITICAL CONTEXT

This subdimension examines the political situation in the Czech Republic and its impact on civil society. Table 10 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 10: Indicators assessing Political Context

2.1.1 Political rights	3.0
2.1.2 Political competition	2.9
2.1.3 Rule of law	1.8
2.1.4 Corruption	1.3
2.1.5 State effectiveness	2.0
2.1.6 Decentralisation	1.0

2.1.1 Political rights: Citizens of the Czech Republic can freely elect their representatives, organise themselves into political parties, have full freedom of assembly, association, and petition, etc. The international organisation Freedom House (2004a) assigns the Czech Republic to the most positive category ('1') on political rights.[28]

2.1.2 Political competition: At present there are five parliamentary parties in the Czech Republic which represent the entire political spectrum from left to right. Parties which attain more than 3% of votes in the general election receive a state financial contribution according to the number of votes they received. Four of the five current parliamentary parties have existed since 1991 or longer and one was established by virtue of a split from one of the large parties in 1997. The parties are institutionalised and regular competition exists between them.

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[28] On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the best.

2.1.3 Rule of law: The legal system in the Czech Republic is structured along three levels: district, regional and supreme courts. Citizens may file suits for breach of basic rights at the Constitutional Court. The independence of the courts is enshrined in the Constitution. Judges are proposed by the Minister of Justice and appointed for life by the President. In 2002 an Act was introduced which strengthened the autonomy of the courts by setting up a judicial council. For a long time the problem with the judicial system in the Czech Republic has been the excessive length of the court process. Thirty five percent of the population has confidence in the courts (the EU average is 49%), which is slightly lower than the ratings for the army or police.[29] A report by Freedom House (2004b) draws attention to court delays and to the fact that the Czech Republic has lost many cases before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg because of court delay. The constitutional, legislative and judicial framework in the Czech Republic is awarded a less positive score of 2.5.[30] When considering this indicator, the NAG argued that the rights and rules are well established in the law but are often not observed in practice and, above all, the courts are overburdened and extremely slow to implement the rule of law.

2.1.4 Corruption: According to Transparency International, the Czech Republic was on 51st place in the world in 2004 in respect to corruption – three places up compared to 2003 – with a Corruption Perception Index score of 4,2[31] (Transparency International 2004). Freedom House (2004b) rated corruption in the Czech Republic in 2004 with 3.5 score.[32] The EU Commission also stated that corruption and economic crime were serious problems and criticized the way in which public contracts were awarded. According to Freedom House (2003), one third of Czechs has been offered bribes, one fifth claims to have offered them, and half the population thinks that the Czech Republic is a corrupt country. In April 2002 the government released its own Report on Corruption, which confirmed the unhappy state of affairs. A survey by GfK Praha (cited in Frič 2004) revealed that 64% of Czechs agree that we live in a corrupt country, which is up by 10% compared to 2001, though a similar or greater increase has been noted in Poland (92%) and Hungary (72%), while in Slovakia opinions regarding corruption have not changed (83%). To the somewhat misleading question as to whether corrupt politicians, civil servants and business people formed a connected network and helped each other, 77% of Czechs answered yes (yet the figures were even higher in Poland and Slovakia – 91%, as well as in Hungary – 81%).

2.1.5 State effectiveness: The state is able to fulfil its defined functions. Whereas the state's administrative capacity was a key requirement for joining the EU and an act on civil service has been passed after long discussions, it has not yet come into action and civil servants wages remain relatively low. Only a third of citizens are satisfied with the activities of civil servants in the state and public administration, while more than a half are dissatisfied (54%). (Public Opinion Research Centre 2003a). Thirty seven percent of the population trusts the government, which is similar to the average in the 15 old

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[29] Source: Eurobarometer 2002, cited in Frič et al. (2003).
[30] On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the best.
[31] On a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 is "highly clean" and 0 "highly corrupt".
[32] On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the best.

members of the EU (38%). Fewer people, 36%, have confidence in the state administration (the EU average is 44%).[33]

2.1.6 Decentralisation: In the Czech Republic, the districts were dissolved after 1989 and for a long time there has been unwillingness on the part of the government to deal with the issue of regional decentralisation. Between the government and more than 6,000 mainly small municipalities there existed no other level of self administration. The new regions were only created in 1997 and the first elections to the regional authorities were held in 2000. Another step towards decentralisation was the termination of the activities of the district authorities at the end of 2002 and the transfer of their agenda to the bodies of the regional self-governing units. At present there is a process underway towards the gradual reallocation of state finances from the central to the regional level, along with a transfer of assets and responsibilities vis-à-vis schools, museums, hospitals, roads, etc. The share of expenses of territorial self-governing units among total public expenses in 2002 was 23% (Czech Statistical Office 2003).[34] The process of decentralisation is of historical importance and a crucial part of the post-communist transformation. It is a long-term process but important first steps have been made.

⬤ III.2.2/ BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

This subdimension examines to what extent basic freedoms are ensured by law and in practice in the Czech Republic. Table 11 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 11: Indicators assessing basic freedoms and rights

2.2.1 Civil liberties	2.9
2.2.2 Information rights	2.3
2.2.3 Press freedom	2.9

2.2.1 Civil liberties: The Czech Charter of Basic Rights and Freedoms fully guarantees basic rights and freedoms. The Czech Republic respects freedom of speech, and citizens have the right to freely congregate, associate and submit petitions. Trade unions and professional associations are free and in many respects enjoy a privileged status, participating in the institutional tripartite structure. In general, minorities have all their rights guaranteed. There is a consultative body of the government for the Roma minority, though the Roma still experience discrimination and racially motivated attacks. There is also a Government Council for Human Rights. The government respects freedom of religious faith. Overall the index of civil freedoms in the Czech Republic according to Freedom House (2004a) scores 2.[35]

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[33] Eurobarometer (2002), cited in Frič et al. (2003).

[34] Source: Ministry of Finance of the CR; the expenses (including loans provided) of the consolidated governmental sector for 2002 were CZK 1,071,433 million; the expenses (including loans provided) of the local authorities as a whole were CZK 243,884 million.

[35] On a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the best.

2.2.2 Information rights: In 1998 an Access to Information Act regarding the environment was passed and in 1999 a general Freedom of Information Act came into being. The Freedom of Information Act is based on the principle of a priori publicity, which does not apply in specified cases – the courts decide what can be regarded as secret information in the highest instances. Government institutions and municipalities have a duty to publish certain important information on their websites. Notwithstanding this, compliance with this Act in practice is laggardly.[36] Additional Acts regarding environmental impact assessment (EIA, SEA) are in place and establish the right of access to information and the participation of citizens in the decision-making process. The Czech Republic signed the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in 1998 (in 2004 it was ratified by the Parliament). Despite this, individual ministries are not always publishing the working versions of draft Acts and other documents on the Internet (Drhová 2004). A positive aspect is that Parliament is publishing literal transcriptions of all its debates on its website, as well as draft Bills and other documents, and on the web pages of the Office of the Government it is possible to search amongst government resolutions and find electronic agenda and minutes of meetings of the government since 1991.

2.2.3 Press freedom: There are four national television stations in the Czech Republic (two public and two private) and some 60 private radio stations. The government respects freedom of speech and print, but libel remains a criminal offence. Freedom House (2004c) awarded the freedom of the press in the Czech Republic a score of 23,[37] which indicates a free media.

III.2.3/ SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

This subdimension analyses the socio-economic situation in the Czech Republic and its impact on civil society. Table 12 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 12: Indicators assessing Socio-economic context

2.3.1 Socio-economic context	3.0
The indicator in question attempts to cover the basic socio-economic context sufficient for the development of civil society on a world scale. Yes or no answers are given to the 8 criteria specified.	
2.3.1.1 Poverty	
2.3.1.2 Civil war	
2.3.1.3 Severe ethnic or religious conflict	
2.3.1.4 Severe economic crisis	
2.3.1.5 Severe social crisis	
2.3.1.6 Serious socio-economic inequities	
2.3.1.7 Illiteracy	
2.3.1.8 Lack of IT infrastructure	

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[36] The Open Society Fund, together with the drafter of the Freedom of Information Act, Oldřich Kužílek, runs a competition entitled "Open x Closed", which announces good and bad examples of the application of the Act.

[37] 0-30 means a free media, 31-60 means a partially free media, and 61-100 means the absence of free media.

The eight criteria indicate a negative impact of the socio-economic context on civil society. None of these criteria applies in the Czech Republic:

1. It is not possible to speak of extensive poverty in the Czech Republic (more than 40% of people do not live on less than USD 2 per day). Three percent of households in the Czech Republic are on the border of poverty.
2. During the last five years the Czech Republic has not experienced armed conflict.
3. The Czech Republic experienced a degree of national conflict in 1992, when on 1st January, 1993 the country was divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia; however, this did not take place during the last 5 years.
4. The Czech Republic is not in a severe economic crisis; GDP is not smaller than the foreign debt.
5. In the last 2 years the Czech Republic has not experienced serious social crisis (caused by hunger, HIV/AIDS or natural catastrophe).
6. While there are considerable social and economic inequities in the Czech Republic, e.g. in relation to the Roma or illegal foreign workers, the Gini coefficient for 2001 was 0.25,[38] i.e. lower than the cut-off point of 0.4.
7. Illiteracy is not widespread in the Czech Republic (not more than 40% of the adult population). 3% of the adult population are illiterate, mainly older people, rural dwellers and Roma people.
8. The Czech Republic enjoys relatively widespread ownership of computers in households and connection to the Internet (26% of the population older than 18 years has connection to the Internet) (BMI 2004).

III.2.4/ SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT

This subdimension examines to what extent socio-cultural norms and attitudes are conducive or detrimental to civil society, Table 13 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 13: Indicators assessing socio-cultural context

2.4.1 Trust	1.0
2.4.2 Tolerance	1.9
2.4.3 Public spiritedness	1.5

2.4.1 Trust: The Civil Society 2004 survey revealed that less than one fifth of the Czech population (17%) thinks that most people can be trusted.[39] Mistrust is therefore widespread in the Czech society. The experience of the totalitarian regime and the recent post-communist transformation left many people disappointed and increased levels of mistrust in the Czech society. This is a feature common to all post-communist countries.

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[38] Source: Czech Statistical Office.
[39] Question: Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in your dealings with other people?

2.4.2 Tolerance: Whereas in the Czech society tolerance is an unambiguously accepted norm, there is a problem with increased xenophobia and intolerance, especially with regard to the Roma minority. According to the Civil Society 2004 survey less than one fifth of people (19%) would tolerate having a Roma person as their neighbour. People with AIDS would be tolerated without problem by a quarter of the population (27%) and just under one half of the population would have foreign workers, Muslims, Vietnamese people and homosexuals as their neighbours. Fifty eight percent of the population would have no problem with a mentally handicapped neighbour. Czechs are most tolerant toward people with physical handicaps (79%) or Jews (74%).[40] CIVICUS suggests to evaluate this indicator through a tolerance index (the average value of tolerance for five selected groups). In the Czech Republic, this index scores 1.3.[41]

2.4.3 Public spiritedness: To begin with we translated the English term "public spiritedness" – to which there is no obvious Czech equivalent – as "public spirit", and we have remained with this slightly high-flown term, even though a more precise translation would probably be "public discipline". CIVICUS defines this indicator as the extent to which citizens have a tendency to violate certain public norms, e.g. avoiding to pay taxes, traffic fees etc. As the Civil Society 2004 survey shows, such behavioural patterns are in no way exceptional in Czech society. They manifest themselves most frequently in a tendency to travel by public transport without payment – for more than two fifths of people (44%) a journey "on the black" is sometimes defensible. Fiddling with one's taxes is regarded as justifiable by almost three tenths of people. For every fourth citizen it is not a problem to request a state benefit even though one is not eligible for it. The overall public spiritedness index[42] scores 2.6, which corresponds to an indicator score of 2. However, the NAG interpreted public spiritedness more broadly, i.e. as the ability to forge solidarity and to put public interest above ones own, and the majority felt that Czech citizens do not act according to this norm. A new vote was taken on the indicator and the score was reduced by half a point.

⊙ III.2.5/ LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

This subdimension examines the legal environment for civil society and assesses to what extent it is enabling or disabling to civil society. Table 14 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

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[40] Question: How would you react if your neighbour was: <u>a person with AIDS</u>; a <u>homosexual</u>; a person with a mental handicap; a person with a physical handicap; <u>a foreign workers</u>; a Jew; <u>a Muslim</u>; Vietnamese; <u>a Roma person</u>. Answers: very well and without problem; it would not be pleasant; I would find it hard to take; I would regard it as completely unacceptable.

[41] In the original CIVICUS questionnaire the range of answers was simply "tolerate" or "not tolerate" a neighbour. We reworked the answers so that "very well and without problem" equals "tolerate" and "I would find it hard to take and "I would regard it as completely unacceptable" equals "not tolerate".

[42] The three types of conduct specified are: 1=always justifiable, 2 = sometimes justifiable and 3 never justifiable; the index is calculated as the average of these scores.

Table 14: Indicators assessing legal environment

2.5.1 CSO registration	2.1
2.5.2 Freedom of CSOs to criticise the government	2.6
2.5.3 Tax laws favourable to CSOs	1.7
2.5.4 Tax benefits for philanthropy	1.9

2.5.1 CSO registration: There are several legal forms of civil society organisations and corresponding registration procedures for each one:

Civil associations: There is a central register of associations held by the Ministry of the Interior. Registration is free of charge and usually takes a few weeks. The founding committee must have a minimum of three members and must submit the association statute together with the application for registration. Trade unions have a special registration system: the ministry does not approve them but simply takes due note (de facto immediate registration).

Foundations and foundation funds: Foundations register at the district courts, which check the various appurtenances (statute, foundation capital, etc.). Registration usually takes several months.

Church-based legal entities are registered by the Ministry of Culture.

Public benefit corporations are registered in the same way as foundations, i.e. at the district courts. Registration usually takes several weeks.

The registration process as defined by the law has no serious defects, though the registering organisations often encounter technical problems and delays in practice Also, there are differences according to region, institution, and individual civil servants. Of all the legal types of organisation the registration process is probably most complex for public benefit corporations. The status of church-based legal entities has also been the subject of controversy. The church has an undeniable right to establish "legal entities in the church" in accordance with its internal regulations, but such a status is only valid inside the church. These "legal entities in the church" do not have the status required to enter into various legal relations, either procedural (before the courts and administrative authorities), contractual, or other, outside the church as a legal entity in accordance with Czech legislation if they are not filed with the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

2.5.2 Freedom of CSOs to criticise the government: There are no formal barriers to CSOs criticizing the government and public administration. There were attempts to restrict a citizen's right to protest linked with the draft Act on Assembly in 2001-2002, but the amendments were not passed (League of Human Rights 2003). However, several advocacy organisations, active in the sphere of nature conservation and the corresponding fight against corruption, have come to be perceived by civil servants as impediments to the decision-making process or eco-terrorists, and some have even been included on a list of extremist groups and persons. Another problem is the fact that

these advocacy organisations rarely receive support from the state (with the possible exception of consumer organisations).

2.5.3 Tax laws favourable to CSOs: Tax advantages for donors exist: natural persons can deduct donations from their tax base of a minimum of 2% or 1000 CZK (a maximum of 10%) and legal entities may deduct a minimum of 2000 CZK and a maximum of 5%. However, it is the opinion of the NAG that the system does not provide sufficient incentives, is not receptive enough and does not motivate individual giving.

2.5.4 Tax benefits for philantrophy: Donations, endowments, grants, membership fees and contributions from public funds are not subject to income tax. Tax advantages relate to all CSOs if their main activity is non-profit-making, but does not relate to subsidiary profit-making activities. Overall the tax laws are somewhat complicated and unclear in respect of CSOs; problems are various definitions of favoured organisations in various Acts, inconvenient administrative procedures, problematic differentiation between main and auxiliary activities, etc. Several authorities refuse to recognise gifts in practice, and overall do not know how to deal with the specific status of non-profit organisations. The new Value Added Tax Act, which became valid in 2004, has further complicated the situation.

◉ III.2.6/ STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY RELATIONS

This subdimension describes and assesses the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the Czech state. Table 15 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 15: Indicators assessing state-civil society relations

2.6.1 Autonomy of CSOs	2.5
2.6.2 Dialogue between CSOs and the state	1.8
2.6.3 Support for CSOs on the part of the state	2.1

2.6.1 Autonomy of CSOs: The debate on autonomy of CSOs vis-à-vis the state in the Czech Republic focuses mainly on the issue of their financial dependence on the state. In the regional survey respondents were asked whether the control exerted by the public administration regarding CSOs constitutes a problem. A fifth of respondents did not have an answer to this question, and of those that answered more than 80% did not regard this as a problem. The few respondents who did see this as a problem (16%) referred to financial audits during the accounting of grants received from the public administration. Results from the regional survey also showed that CSO representatives would like the government to be more active in its relations with CSOs when it comes to financial assistance and cooperation on service delivery.

According to CIVICUS' criteria, interference by the state in the activities of CSOs should be restricted to the protection of "clear and legitimate public interests". The problem in the Czech Republic is that public interest is not a well-defined concept. Consequently,

there frequently is a dispute over what exactly public interest is and who has a mandate to protect it; the public interest argument is frequently used as a suitable weapon with regard to almost every issue. A problematic area has been, and still is, for instance, the relationship between the state and critical environmental organisations, who frequently dispute over what exactly public interest is and who has a mandate to protect it.

2.6.2 Dialogue between CSOs and the state: There exist a host of mechanisms for dialogue between the state and CSOs. On the level of the Czech government there are advisory bodies on which CSOs are represented (Government Board for People with Disabilities, Council for National Minorities , Government Council for Human Rights, Inter-ministerial Commission for Roma Community Affairs , Council of the Government for Drug Policy Coordination (National Drug Commission), Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organizations[43]).

On the level of individual ministries and several regions there are other advisory bodies and working groups on which several CSOs are represented as experts or representatives of special interest groups. An important incentive to dialogue with civil society was the EU accession process, since the principle of partnership between the public administration and CSOs had to be applied at all levels of the public administration. Representatives of several CSOs are also on monitoring committees, where they may be in a position to act as watchdogs.

The crucial mechanism for dialogue between the state and civil society, however, is tripartite, and operates in the Czech Republic as the Council of Economic and Social Agreement; in many regions and districts there are similar economic and social agreements in the legal form of civic associations. Also, the state regularly communicates with professional chambers. Media monitoring showed that when the state enters into dialogue with civil society (and this is covered by the media), in almost 70% of cases this involves trade unions and professional or economic associations.

While advisory bodies could be said to embody mechanisms for systematic dialogue with civil society, the question remains how to evaluate the breadth of engagement. The existence of a tripartite structure and communication with professional chambers does not necessarily mean that dialogue occurs with "small" organisations as well. Many organisations are unhappy that the state does not communicate with them. In the regional survey almost 60% respondents cited the fact that the regional authority communicates only with a few selected organisations as a problem. This lack of dialogue at regional level is linked to the missing legitimate and established CSO umbrella structures, the feeling of poor communication within civil society, to larger organisations not respecting smaller ones and latter not trusting the former, etc.[44]

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[43] The Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organisations (NNO) was created in 1992, at that time as the Council for Foundations. In 1998 the government expanded the council's competence to the entire NNO sphere. The council is part of the Office of the Government of the CR, is headed by a member of the government and thus has direct contact with the government. At present it has 35 members who represent NNOs, ministries and the regions. The Government Council played a role in the distribution of resources from Foundations Investment Fund (NIF); since 1998 it has promoted a certain framework of state financing for NNO known as the State Grant Policy, the implementation of which on an annual basis is monitored by means of the NNO financing analysis; finally it has pushed through the presence of NNO representatives on committees supervising the implementation of EU structural funds in the Czech Republic.

[44] See the discussion on regional consultations and also Section III.3.2

2.6.3 Support for CSOs on the part of the state: The Czech state supports CSOs, but there is no overall quantitative information on the extent of financial support. In 2003, the total amount of grants from all levels of the public budget to non-state non-profit organisations was CZK 5.4 billion. However this amount represents only grants from specific public budgets to certain types of CSOs (the so-called NNO or non-state non-profit organisations[45]). Up till now support for NNO has unquestionably been of centralised character and financial resources from the state budget predominate. In 2003 the ministries provided CZK 3.3 billion, which means an annual increase of some 15% in comparison to the previous year. Over the last four years, the total amount provided by the ministries has increased by 75%. In 2003 non-profit organisations received from regional and municipal budgets only a half of what they received from the budgets of the ministries. However, the ongoing gradual decentralisation of public budgets to the regional level might change this proportion over the coming years.

Grants by ministries were mainly targeted towards the provision of social services (36%), sport and physical training (34%) and culture, including conservation of the cultural heritage (11%). Together these three spheres receive 80% of resources. The range of organisations which receive support is difficult to gauge. Some opinion holds that too much assistance is given to sport; on the other hand it is argued that sports organisations have the most members.[46]

Civil society organisations thus receive at least CZK 5.4 billion from public budgets.[47] In 2002 foundations and foundation funds (including corporate) provided a total contribution of CZK 880 million, which is 16% of the funds provided by public budgets. We do not have information regarding the total amount of individual giving, nor of the size of resources generated by membership fees and the sale of services. Older information from the research conducted by Johns Hopkins University (Salomon, Anheier et al 1999; data from 1995) shows that membership fees and income from the sale of services comprise the largest item, namely 47% as compared to 39% from public budgets and 14% from philanthropy.

III.2.7/ PRIVATE SECTOR – CIVIL SOCIETY RELATIONS

This subdimension describes and assesses the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the private sector. Table 16 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 16: Indicators assessing private sector – civil society relations

2.7.1 Private sector attitude to civil society	1.0
2.7.2 Corporate social responsibility	1.4
2.7.3 Corporate philanthropy	1.6

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[45] CSOs with the legal form of civic association, foundation or foundation fund, church-based entity and public benefit corporation. The definiton of NNO does not include e.g. trade unions or economic chambers.

[46] This and the previous paragraph are taken from the Report on the Non-Profit Sector in the CR (Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organosations 2005). The data is from the Analysis of the Financing of NNOs from selected public budgets in 2003.

2.7.1 Private sector attitude to civil society: Public opinion in the Czech Republic believes that large companies should help the government resolve the country's social problems (76%), but most people believe that the management of large companies is not interested in the possibility of helping the government in this way (67 %) (Kalmická a Pavlů 2004). Two thirds of people also think that a company should do more than simply create profit and pay tax, though the population generally regards companies in a critical light and the irresponsible conduct of companies forms a norm expected in advance (STEM 2003).

In the regional survey almost two thirds of respondents described the attitude of companies to CSOs as indifferent. Two thirds of respondents also felt that companies had a tendency not to concern themselves with the impact of their activities on people and the environment.

2.7.2–3 Corporate social responsibility and philanthropy: The concept of corporate social responsibility has three main aspects: a responsible approach to employees, a responsible approach to the environment, and a responsible approach to the community within which a company operates. In the NAG the opinion prevailed that there was not a single company in the Czech Republic which was meeting its responsibilities in all of these aspects. This was despite the fact that a survey of annual reports of the largest companies in the Czech Republic[48] reveals that almost all the companies surveyed devote space to themes linked to care for their employees and many include the environment or publicly beneficial activities. Another study shows that most large companies believe that they should be actively engaged in contributing to society. Seventy six percent of companies stated that they look after their employees, and 44% mentioned care for the environment, above all companies whose activities directly impact upon the environment (Business Leaders Forum 2004).[49]

However, in civil society and the media there is a considerable degree of caution regarding the "responsible" behaviour of companies. In the Czech Republic there is still no clear distinction between corruption and sponsoring and some organisations are extremely cautious to partner with business. For example the Foundation Partnership supporting projects and organisations in the environmental sphere rejected the donation from the tobacco concern Philip Morris ČR. Another, debated example could be the donation from the Appian Group to the Czech Swiss National Park (Pudil 2004). At the same time cooperation between companies damaging the environment and ecologists has taken place, for instance in the creation of the public benefit corporation Lower Moravia Bio-spherical Reserve, which linked Moravian Diesel Mines, Czech Forests, the District Economic Chamber and members of the Czech Nature Conservation Federation and the Veronika Ecological Institute (Fránek 2004). Such a cooperation can be seen as beneficial, but also as an attempt to legitimise negative consequences of a company's conduct.

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[47] As well as the annual grants from the public budgets the creation of the Foundation Investment Fund (NIF) in 1992 must be mentioned, where a government resolution allocated 1% of the stock intended for privatisations for the financing of foundations. The aim was to support the financial independence of foundations in order for them to participate in the development of civil society. After certain delays foundations were awarded around CZK 2.3 billion from 1998 to 2004.

[48] See Appendix 5.

[49] A survey of a sample of 111 companies, return rate of 42%.

In recent years corporate social responsibility has become a more and more popular theme of surveys, conferences, round-table discussions, projects, etc. Several CSOs are concerned with it. Some large companies created via the Donors Forum a corporate donors club named DONATOR, and the Viva Etika project is part of the Transparency International ČR project.[50] VIA Foundation has for several years worked on developing cooperation between firms and CSOs and it awards the VIA Bona prize for corporate philantropy since 2001. The first large companies are publishing independent reports on social responsibility (e.g. Plzeňský prazdroj, ČEZ).

Corporate philanthropy is part of corporate social responsibility. At the end of 2002 companies (either limited liability companies or joint-stock companies) had established 39 foundations. According to the association of foundations, the Donors Forum, the first corporate foundation was registered in July 1998. In 2002 corporate foundations distributed CZK 74.9 million, i.e. some 10% of the foundation contributions of all foundations in the Czech Republic (Centre for Non-Profit Sector Research 2004). Nevertheless, the fact that corporate foundations or foundation funds exist does not necessarily mean corporate philanthropy (companies can use them for various purposes).

In assessing this subdimension CIVICUS suggests to focuse on large companies. However, it was frequently expressed, e.g. in NAG, that it is necessary to distinguish between small Czech companies and large companies, often with foreign capital or part of supranational corporations, since they have a different approach to civil society and social responsibility. Large supranational companies are sensitive to social responsibility (foreign practices play a decisive role in the cultivation of the environment), they have their own strategy of philanthropy, etc. Small companies not only lack these opportunities, but above all do not even understand the significance of the notion of social responsibility. However, small companies (family and local firms) often provide material assistance to civic associations (e.g. they make available a car, premises, some of their products – foodstuffs, furniture, etc.); they are automatically part of the community in question and behave responsibly without even knowing they thus implement the concept of "corporate social responsibility".

This conclusion is supported by the findings from the regional survey where half of respondents believed that small and medium sized companies participate in civil society activities "sometimes"[51] while only less than one fourth of respondents believed the same holds true for the large companies. On the contrary, a half of respondents were of the opinion that large companies take part in CS activities only "rarely".

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[50] The project Viva Etika includes companies which declare their support for transparent accounting and business. The difficulties linked with the realisation of such a project are described in the articles by David Macháčk entitled "Two thirds of companies disappear from an anti-corruption project" and "We are not inspectors making sure that companies behave ethically" in the newspaper Hospodáře noviny on 7. 10. 2004.

[51] The possible answers were "rarely", "sometimes", "often", "dont know".

▶ III.3/ VALUES

This section describes and analyses the values promoted and practiced by Czech civil society. The score for the Values Dimension is 2.3., reflecting an overall positive value basis of Czech civil society. Graph 3 presents the scores for the seven subdimensions within the Values dimension. Only the low score for the transparency subdimension stands out as a problematic area.
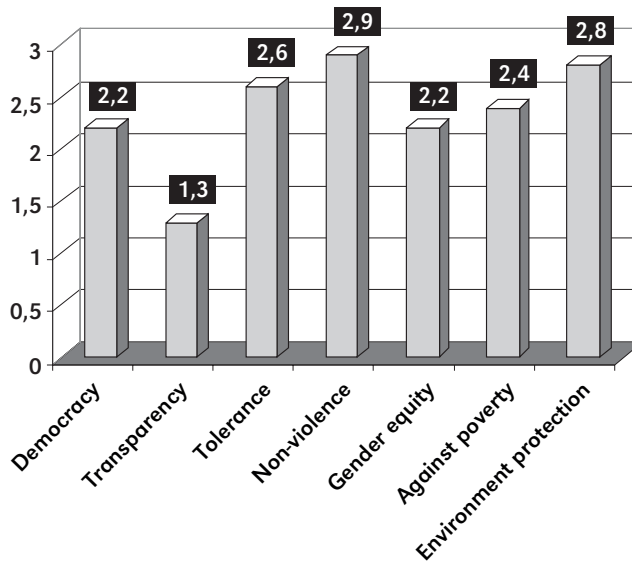
Graph 3: Subdimensions Scores in Values Dimension

● III.3.1/ DEMOCRACY

This subdimension examines the extent to which Czech civil society actors practice and promote democracy. Table 17 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 17: Indicators assessing democracy

3.1.1 Democratic practices within CSOs	2.6
3.1.2 Civil society actions to promote democracy	1.8

3.1.1 Democratic practices within CSOs: CIVICUS proposed to assess internal democracy in CSOs through examining the type of leadership elections in an organization, and the extent to which members influence decision-making processes. In the regional survey, we acquired information on more than 100 CSOs:[52] in three

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[52] The questionnaire was filled out by 73 respondents but some were members of up to 3 organisations and filled out information for each of these organisations (therefore, in all we have information for 107 organisations).

quarters of these the leadership is elected by members; for most other CSOs, it is appointed, and only in a few cases the leadership "selects itself". The influence of ordinary members on the decision-making process was rated as substantial or great by respondents of three quarters of the organisations.

However, these indicators apply primarily to voluntary membership organisations. There are many organisations which, for instance, provide social services and employ dozens of people. In these organisations "democracy" (understood as the right of each member/employee to voice an opinion on all matters) can be seen as negative and as contributing to organisational ineffectiveness. Some participants at the National Seminar suggested that democracy be understood as the quality of management and decision-making, i.e. the ability of management to communicate with members/employees and to engage them in the decision-making process in the organisation, and the willingness of members/employees to participate and respect the decisions that have been reached. In this sense, participants of the National Seminar felt that within Czech civil society internal democracy was not so widely practiced and would have to be awarded a lower score.

3.1.2 Civil society actions to promote democracy: There are many CSOs working on promoting democracy, such as, for instance, the Democratic Club, the Policy Centre for the Promotion of Democracy, the Association for Education for Citizenship and Democracy, the Czech Freedom Fighters Association, the Confederation of Political Prisoners, the Young Social Democrats, etc. There are not many campaigns or activities for the support of democracy as such in civil society. The reason might be that the consolidation of democracy in the Czech Republic (as opposed, for instance, to Slovakia in the era of Vladimír Mečiar) was never in danger or doubted by the international community. For this reason, the resources provided by foreign donors were never directly intended for the promotion of democracy.

In the 1990s there was a dispute in the Czech Republic as to whether CSOs have a mandate to protect the interest of the population as opposed to the majority mandate of political parties. At the end of the 1990s the petition movements "Thanks, now get lost" and "Impulse 99" appeared on the scene, protesting against the practices of political parties, especially the Opposition Agreement signed between the two largest parties, which was perceived as a threat to democracy. With the support of the then President, Václav Havel, several petition groups attempted to create new political parties – Hope and The Route to Change (Perrotino 2003). The question as to whom CSOs represent remains a subject of debate.

The regional survey indicates that civil society in the Czech Republic sees its role mainly in the providing of social services and nature conservation rather than in promoting democracy. Whereas three quarters of respondents agree with the statement that without CSOs democracy would not work, only just under a half of these "definitely agree". Agreement is much stronger in the case of other possible roles for the civil sector, e.g. the support of solidarity among people or assistance to the socially weak. In a similar vein, the Civil Society 2004 survey reveals that only half of the citizens agree that democracy would not work well without voluntary non-profit organisations.

III.3.2/TRANSPARENCY

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Czech civil society actors practice and promote transparency. Table 18 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 18: Indicators assessing transparency

3.2.1 Corruption within civil society	1.7
3.2.2 Financial transparency of CSOs	1.0
3.2.3 CS actions to promote transparency	1.2

3.2.1 Corruption within civil society: Transparency International in the Czech Republic defines corruption as the abuse of public authority for personal benefit. What corruption means in the public administration is generally understood, but during the course of the study it became clear that the meaning of corruption in civil society is much more difficult to define, not least because nobody in civil society commands "public authority" as a public official does. NAG members discussed the option to adopt a broader concept of corruption defined as the abuse of status for one's own benefit, the provision of favours to known persons or groups, and clientelism. However, a narrower concept of corruption prevailed, namely corruption as bribery of the public administration or the acceptance of bribes, for instance from companies. The theme was also explored at the National Seminar, but this time a decision was taken by vote to use the broader concept of corruption as the misuse of influence and clientelism. The score for this indicator was consequently lowered from 2.5 points to 1.7 points.[53] Given that during the CSI study corruption and abuse of influence had been profiled as one of the main themes, we would like to focus on it in more detail here.

In the regional survey respondents were asked both about the extent of corruption and the misuse of an organisation's influence to its own benefit.[54] In the case of corruption, half the respondents did not know how to respond to the question. Of those who replied, half had occasionally, or quite frequently, encountered corruption. Based on information obtained from subsequent regional consultations, corruption is perceived as a behaviour which is first and foremost linked to the public administration and private companies. This made it difficult for participants at the meetings to speak about it within the context of civil society. Those who mentioned it referred to situations in which someone from within civil society had received payment to ignore their ideals or do something unethical, e.g. an organisation accepting payment to withdraw a protest against a construction plan. Corruption is therefore regarded more as deliberate unethical conduct, rather than negotiating dubious deals or using one's connections to one's advantage.

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[53] This is the only indicator which was amended as a consequence of the National Seminar. All the members of the NAG gave their assent to the change of interpretation and the new score awarded (the 11-member discussion took another vote and the average was 1.5). However, two members of the NAG rejected the low score and proposed 2 and 2.5 points respectively. I decided to incorporate their votes into the 11-member group vote and calculate the new average.

[54] Sometimes examples of negative conduct are observable within the civil sector itself. In your opinion how often does the conduct in question appear amongst organisations, initiatives or movements in your own region?

An entirely different matter is the abuse of influence. Unlike corruption, here more than three quarters of respondents offered their opinion. Of those that replied as many as two thirds had encountered the misuse of influence occasionally or quite frequently. Much was said at the regional consultations about wheeler dealing, i.e. non-standard means by which to achieve one's ends which close down the space for open competition, and of clientelism, i.e. an attitude of "you rub my back I'll rub yours", and of rivalry and unwillingness to cooperate. Examples of misuse of influence covered everything from excessive competition to negatively perceived lobbying. Examples provided by participants were: "the promotion of the projects of certain organisations by individuals on the city council"; "lobbying of several influential organisations with regional representatives"; "wheeler dealing one's way all the way to the town hall".

The fact that misuse of influence in all its guises is felt to be such a problem may be the consequence of strong competition for limited resources. As one participant summed it up: "There are many NGOs but money for grants is limited and demand outstrips supply". It might also be linked to the limited sustainability of resources. The rules are changing, along with the levels and priorities of grants and their sources. Each change can potentially benefit the party who receives the correct information first. Such instability leads to non-standard solutions and contributes to the persistence of an unpredictable, i.e. non-transparent environment. And finally, as one of the members of the NAG put it, "Nothing entitles us to the opinion that civil society is any different from the rest of society".

3.2.2 Financial transparency of CSOs: CIVICUS proposed to use the proportion of CSOs that publish their financial statements as a measure of financial transparency. From more than 100 CSOs surveyed in the regional survey, over 80% had published an annual report.[55] This information is close to the even more positive result of research carried out by the Partnership Foundation on a sample of environmental organisations, which showed that around 90% of these organisations published an annual report (Partnership Foundation 2004). However, both samples contained a selection of organisations which are completely (in the case of Partnership Foundation) or partially (in that of the NROS survey) recipients of financial grants from foundations. With foundations usually requiring an annual breakdown from their grant recipients of how their resources have been used, these grantees are likely leading the way in terms of financial transparency.

Annual reports are not necessarily produced by all foundations, even though the Act on Foundations and Foundation Funds (No. 227/1997 Coll.) stipulates that every foundation must provide the registration courts with a publicly available annual report every year. The Centre for Non-Profit Sector Research investigated all seven registration courts and their branches and concluded that the number of annual reports for 2002 filed in the digest of documents of foundation registers was not even one third of the total number of foundation bodies. Thus, the requirement was only met by half of the foundations and under one third of foundation funds.

The issue of financial transparency generated long discussions at the NAG meetings and the National Seminar. Are organisations financially transparent if they do not cover

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[55] The question was phrased so that we are unable to distinguish whether each annual report contained the annual financial statement or no. However, we assume that most of the annual reports do contain some form of financial statement.

up anything? Is it sufficient that everything is in order "if someone takes a peek"? Or does transparency mean the systematic preventative publication of certain information? And if so, is there a system which would allow for de-facto transparency (i.e. best practice, instructions, and well known models of what and how to publish)?

3.2.3 CS actions to promote transparency: Only a relatively limited number of CSOs is concerned with the transparency of the public administration and companies. These watchdog organisations include Transparency International Czech Republic and the Ecological Legal Service. The Civil Society 2004 survey shows that 60% of the population agrees that voluntary non-profit organisations help people in the fight against the bureaucracy of state institutions. Media monitoring results point to two types of organisations which appear in the media in a public watchdog role: so-called advocacy organisations (which include the two organisations already referred to) and professional or business organisations (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Association of Health Insurance Companies, Confederation of Industry, Czech Medical Chamber). It is professional or business organisations which in many respects create a strong counterweight to the public administration and take on a monitoring role on issues of their concern. However, using the narrow definition of civil society, which is common in the Czech Republic, this important contribution of business organizations is left out.

III.3.3/ TOLERANCE

This subdimension examines the extent to which Czech civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance. Table 19 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 19: Indicators assessing tolerance

3.3.1 Tolerance within the civil society arena	2.2
3.3.2 CS activities to promote tolerance	2.9

3.3.1 Tolerance within the civil society arena: A third of the respondents in the regional survey did not know how, or did not want to evaluate instances of intolerance, discrimination or racism within civil society. Of those who responded, most felt that intolerance in civil society occurred only on rare occasions.

As in other European countries, there are openly racist groups in Czech civil society. While their intolerant conduct is generally condemned by the rest of civil society, Czechs nevertheless have a low level of tolerance towards the Roma minority. Only a fifth of Czechs would tolerate having a Roma as a neighbour, and almost half would find it difficult or unacceptable. However, the attitude of the population is not relevant in assessing this indicator – the issue is whether civil society actively protests against instances of racism and intolerance, which is the case in Czech Republic.

3.3.2 CS activities to promote tolerance: There are CSOs which have as their specific goal the development of tolerance in society, above all in respect of the Roma, but also

mentally and physically handicapped people or refugees. Many organisations are not specifically concerned with tolerance, yet support for tolerance and education of the majority population is one of the impacts of their activities.[56]

Participants at the regional consultations were unanimous in seeing civil society's role in strengthening tolerance as strong and positive. Ninety seven percent of respondents agreed with the statement that "CSOs play an important role in reducing social and racial prejudice between people". Some participants of the National Seminar were of the opinion that intolerance towards ethnic, racial and other minorities in Czech civil society does not represent a fundamental problem; they saw a larger problem in the intolerance amongst the actors of civil society: organisations are incapable of reaching agreement amongst themselves on joint issues, compete amongst each other and it is difficult to establish umbrella organisations.

III.3.4/ NON-VIOLENCE

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which Czech civil society actors and organisations practice and promote non-violence. Table 20 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 20: Indicators assessing non-violence

3.4.1 Non-violence within the CS arena	3.0
3.4.2 CS actions to promote non-violence	2.7

3.4.1 Non-violence within the CS arena: The Czech Republic has not experienced armed conflict since 1968, when foreign troops invaded the country. The revolution which ended the communist regime in 1989 took pride in the fact that everything took place without violence, for which reason it earned itself the title "Velvet Revolution". Acts of violence in Czech civil society are marginal. In the regional survey one third of respondents did not know how to, or did not want to answer the question on the incidence of violence and aggression in civil society. Most of those who replied were of the opinion that violence never occurred in civil society (43%).

At the beginning of the 1990s racially motivated violence was more frequent than today and the last racially motivated murder took place in 2001. While right-wing violence is decentralised, left-wing extremism extends to violence during organised mass events such as street parties, or demonstrations against the International Monetary Fund. Violence is the extreme manifestation of both the hardcore left and right-wing politics and is sometimes linked to football hooligans. The clashes between fans generate huge media interest and are condemned by the public.

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[56] Examples from the social/healthcare sphere: The event entitled Tranquil Day, the aim of which is to acquaint visitors with the life of handicapped people (Pohoda); a seminar on the theme of Dying in an Old People's Home (Naděje Brno); An AIDS public advisory centre and prevention at schools in the form of workshops (the Czech AIDS Association); participation in the creation of the Czech Television documentary "Time for the Family" (Federation of Foster Families). We acquired the examples within the framework of an analysis of 26 annual reports of CS organisations operating in various spheres for 2002, on which students of the Civil Sector Department of the Humanities Faculty of Charles University participated.

3.4.2 CS actions to promote non-violence: Given that violence in society is generally not a major problem, CSO activities in this sphere are uncommon. However, it can be said that CSOs in the Czech Republic are leaders in the promotion of non-violence. Many of the organisations that publicly condemn violence focus on racially motivated violence (e.g. the League of Ethnic Minorities of the Czech Republic, the civil association Lačo Drom, the civil association R-Mosty) or domestic violence (e.g. ROSA, White Circle of Safety, proFem).

III.3.5/ GENDER EQUITY

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Czech civil society actors practice and promote gender equity. Table 21 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 21: Indicators assessing gender equality

3.5.1 Gender equity within the CS arena	3.0
3.5.2 Gender equitable practices within CSOs	1.7
3.5.3 CS actions to promote gender equity	2.0

3.5.1 Gender equity within the CS arena: To assess the equality of men and women in civil society, the CIVICUS methodology proposed to look at the extent to which women are represented in CSO management structures. More than half of the respondents in the regional survey indicated that the representation of women within management was adequate and three quarters of respondents said that women were adequately represented amongst CSO members in general. According to the survey Civil Society 2004, slightly more men are members of CSOs (53%) than women (42%). The representation of men and women is difficult to assess as a whole since it differs according to the type of organisation. The NAG suggested that women prevail in the social sphere (even though there are men on a management level), while men prevail in sports organisations, and in other typically male clubs (e.g. hunting federations).

3.5.2 Gender equitable practices within CSOs: The suggested criterion to assess the equality of men and women in CSO practices was whether an organisation with paid employees had regulations which guaranteed the equality of men and women. From expert interviews it emerged that there are very few such organisations. However this does not mean that their practices are deficient with regard to gender equality. Specific regulations are seen as unnecessary and, if they are passed on the basis of foreign models, they often do not fit the Czech context. The NAG therefore discarded the presence of regulations as a valid indicator of the equality of men and women in the practice of an organization. Instead, it based its assessment on the NAG members' own experience and a collective discussion.

3.5.3 CS actions to promote gender equity: The Interdepartmental Commission for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, at which representatives of women's organisations are represented, lends its support to

the equity of men and women in society. Dozens of women's organisations have come into being since 1989. Whereas the public is not particularly aware of the existence of these organisations (examples of well known organisations are the Czech Women's Union, the White Circle of Safety and the South Bohemia Mothers), they have considerable influence on the media and education system. There are topics related to women's issues which have won great attention amongst the general public and had a real impact (e.g. popularisation of the problem of domestic violence).

Women's organisations have no or only a small membership base. The largest Czech women's organisation with a firm background from the period prior to 1989, the Czech Women's Union, declares an interest in the rights of women but is not concerned with actively promoting them, or lobbying or working with the public. It farms out these activities to the "new" organisations. It is the only Czech women's organisation based on an extensive nationwide membership. However, membership is not based on the successful mobilisation of members around the question of women's equality, but rather on a long-term affiliation and the interest of women to meet for recreational activities.

III.3.6/ POVERTY ERADICATION

This subdimension examines to what extent Czech civil society actors promote poverty eradication. Table 22 presents the indicator score.

Table 22: Indicator assessing power eradication

3.6.1 CS actions to eradicate poverty	2.4

Using the standard for poverty as it is defined by CIVICUS in indicator 2.3.1., the Czech Republic, unlike many other countries, has no substantive poverty. We have therefore chosen a relative definition of poverty defined as 'income under or at the limit of sustaining basic needs'.[57] Many organisations such as Hope, refugee homes, the Salvation Army and the Czech Red Cross concentrate their work on people, families and children affected by poverty and homelessness. Other organisations are active in the fight against global poverty (e.g. People in Need, Adra).

However, the state, as the guarantor of a certain minimum standard of living for citizens, is perceived by the population as being the main actor in eradicating poverty in the Czech Republic. Yet, despite this fact, CSOs see a significant role for themselves in this area. More than 60% of the respondents in the regional survey "definitely agreed" with the role of CSOs in expanding solidarity between people and resolving the problems of socially weak groups of people. For comparison's sake, we would like to point out that only half of this share of respondents was "definitely" convinced of the role of CSOs in promoting democracy or fighting against corruption. The general public also perceives CSOs as playing this role: almost 70% of people agree with the statement "without voluntary non-profit organizations, the neediest people would be left to fend for themselves" (STEM 2004).

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[57] The minimum income is determined by a government decree and depends an several conditions (single person, family, number and age of children). In 2004 it was CZK 4100 per month for a single adult person (approx. USD 178)

III.3.7/ ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Czech civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability. Table 23 presents the indicator score.

Table 23: Indicator assessing environmental sustainability

3.7.1 CS actions to sustain the environment	2.8

Environmental conservation is the focus for large membership organisations , such as the Czech Union for Nature Conservation as well as advocacy organisations with less membership, but with a high media profile and many activities in environmental protection, such as the RAINBOW Coalition – Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Arnika, Greenpeace. Many organisations concentrate on educational activities.[58] Nature conservation is also part of the activities of special interest federations, such as hunters and anglers, and is inseparable from the spirit of the bushwhacker and tramping movements, which have a long tradition in the Czech Republic and belong to civil society as non-institutionalised movements.

Under the disguise of nature conservation concerns, a partial political opposition formed during the period of the communist regime. To this day such organisations address a wider circle of topics, above all the protection of democracy and the promotion of citizen participation in public decision-making processes. They also participate in administrative proceedings[59], consulting or criticising government plans.[60] Overall, organisations concerned with nature conservation are amongst the most active in Czech civil society. The regional survey confirmed that the role of these organisations is amongst the most important, along with organisations working on topics such as solidarity and assistance to the socially weak (in the case of all three issue areas, 90% of respondents agreed with a statement regarding the importance of the role of CSOs and more than 60% "definitely" agreed).

The significance of organisations active in the field of nature conservation is underlined by the fact that the population strongly trusts ecological associations on providing information regarding pollution of the environment. Among six types of institutions, (1) trade and industry, (2) ecological groups, (3) government ministries, (4) newspapers, (5) radio and television, and (6) independent research centres, people have most trust in independent research centres (87%) and ecological groups (74%) (Soukup 2001).

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[58] Ecological education, i.e. the promotion of nature conservation and the creation of a positive/responsible attitude to nature on the part of children and adults, e.g. educational meetings for infants and junior schools, the operation of a forest education centre, programmes for children, families and the general public, the training of teaching staff, special interest circles, nature trails, Planet Earth Day, Tree Day, Planet Earth Game, a national campaign to increase the interest of the population in the environment, etc. Information activities are linked with education (e.g. EkoCentrum Brno). Source: analysis of annual reports.

[59] The Czech Federation of Nature Conservationists over five years (1996 – 2000) participated in 80% of the administrative proceedings in the Benešov district when informed of them; more than 400 of a total of 500 resulting decisions reached by the administrative bodies were issued in accordance with the approach and requirements of the federation (Daňková 2001).

[60] E.g. the Ecological Legal Service (EPS) in 2002 led a campaign against an amendment to the Administrative Proceedings Bill and attempted to win the right of ecologists and conservationists to file suits in the public interest.

III.4/ IMPACT

This section describes and analyses the extent to which civil society is active and successful in fulfilling several essential functions within Czech society. The score for the Impact Dimension is 1.8, reflecting a slightly better than average level of impact for Czech civil society. Graph 4 presents the scores for the five subdimensions within the Impact dimension. Here, the low score for civil society's watchdog role is noticeable.
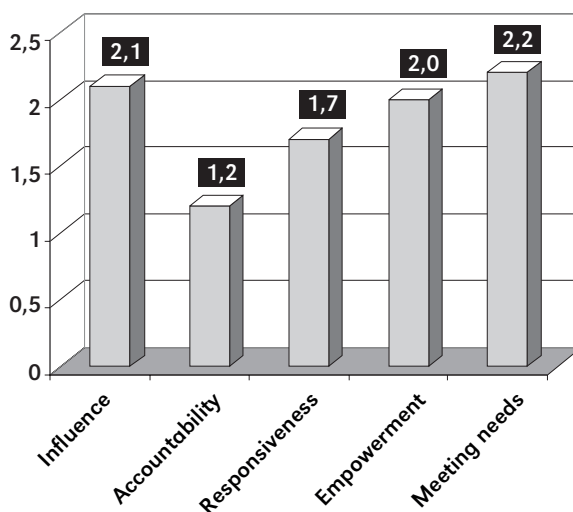
Graph 4: Subdimensions Scores in Impact Dimension

III.4.1/ INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY

This subdimension decribes and assesses the extent to which Czech civil society is active and successful in influencing pubic policy. Table 24 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 24: Indicators assessing influencing public policy

4.1.1 Social policy impact	2.5
4.1.2 Human rights impact	2.7
4.1.3 Impact on national budgeting process	1.0
4.1.4 Impact on the prevention of criminality	2.0

The study investigated the impact of CSOs on public policy in the regional survey[61] and focused on the following seven issue areas:

1. the rights of ethnic and racial minorities
2. protection of the rights of citizens
3. corruption and criminality
4. protection of environment
5. unemployment
6. social services
7. healthcare

We were surprised by the large number of respondents who could not answer the questions on civil society activities (around one third) and successes (more than a half) in the selected areas. This could mean that the question was too specialised and that respondents did not feel sufficiently competent to judge an issue in which their organisation did not operate. However, there were two exceptions, where some three quarters of respondents provided responses, namely protection of environment and social services.[62] 96% of respondents assessed that CSOs working in the field of environmental sustainability were active and 75% felt they were successful. The assessment of CSOs working on social services shows a similar pattern, with 89% of respondents considering these organisations to be active and 74% stating they are successful. This indicates that these two areas can be regarded as civil society flagships in the Czech Republic.

As part of the media monitoring exercise, we examined the coverage of certain issues in the media. The frequency of coverage may indicate the extent of civil society activity in a particular area, and possibly its level of success in this area, or that civil society actors are regarded as experts on the issue. The issues most frequently covered by the media were labour and employment, advocacy, trade and industry, and health.[63] Each of these issues relates to national policy, where an important role is taken by trade unions and professional or business groups. CSOs are very active and influential in areas regarding levels of wages in the public administration. Similarly, individual professional organisations and chambers are active and influential in their own field of interest, which sometimes coincides with the interest of the population as a whole or with the public interest.

Other popular issues of media reporting on civil society related to culture (art, entertainment, culture) and nature conservation (sustainable development, ecology, education in ecological issues). In contrast to the first set of issues, these themes most frequently related to matters of a regional and local character. Thus, apart from civil society activities and impact on a national level, where trade unions and professional federations dominate, there is also substantive media reporting on civil society activities

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[61] Q1. How **active** in your opinion were NGOs in their efforts to influence public policy in the region in the following problematic spheres? Q2. To what extent in your opinion were the organisations **successful** in influencing public decision-making?

[62] As the number of responses to these questions clearly exceeded the representation of these specialist areas amongst our respondents, the higher response rate cannot be attributed to a large number of experts on these issues.

[63] For media monitoring methodology see Appendix 2.

on a regional and local level. The main actors here are community organisations, organisations operating in the sphere of art and culture, sport and recreation, and nature conservation, and which organise entertainment, exhibitions, competitions and other social events in the community or municipality.

In conclusion, looking at civil society's impact on public policy issues, two separate sets of impact emerge: (1) impact on a national level, mainly exerted by trade unions and professional or economic associations, and (2) impact on a regional and local level, the more significant actors being the traditional civil associations and community organisations. It is important to recognise that the greatest impact of civil society takes place within these two, quite separate, arenas, characterised by different themes, types of organisations and different geographic level of activity.

Case and overview studies on civil society's policy impact
To further assess civil society's impact on public policy, the project team also conducted specific case and overview studies in four areas (comprehensive reports on these studies can be found in Appendix 3 and 4):

1. Social policy
2. Human rights protection
3. National budget process
4. Crime prevention [64]

4.1.1 Social policy impact: We selected two cases of social policy, a campaign against domestic violence and the passing of the Social Services Act. In the following, we only report the main results of these case studies.

The campaign against domestic violence showed that CSOs are capable of forming relatively broad and stable coalitions around a specific theme (in this case a coalition of 11 organisations), and are able to use a host of educational and activating methods, e.g. training, publications, studies, market research, media campaigns, seminars in Senate, etc. The organisations attained the declared goals of their activities. The second case selected related to the participation of CSOs in the creation of the Social Services Act. The opportunity to participate on drafting the Act was available for CSOs through the appointment of a new Social Democratic minister at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in 1998. Once the opportunity for civil society participation was available, it had a huge effect on both the form of the Act (the equal status of NGOs as service providers and the establishment of service quality standards), and on the cooperation amongCSOs (establishing working relationships and effective communication between CSOs). During the course of collaboration with MoLSA, the cooperation within the sector was improved, especially between sector-specific organisations, such asthe federation of organisations operating in the social and healthcare sphere SKOK, and the National Council of Physically Handicapped. The CSOs partially attained their declared goals, even though the Act has yet to be approved due to a change of government.

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[64] Apart form the three topics defined in the CSI methodology, we added this specific issue because public opinion research places the issue of criminality as one of the most urgent in the Czech Republic.

4.1.2 Human rights impact: In the field of human rights, the selected issue concerned a protest against the controversial verdict of the judiciary in a case of a racially motivated attack on a Roma family. The case study revealed the ability of civil society activists to respond quickly and effectively and use the media efficiently as media pressure was a crucial factor in the success of the campaign. Whereas representatives of the Roma minority are quite capable of defending their rights, the existence of effective allies in the form of the Government Plenipotentiary for Human Rights and the Government Council for Human Rights clearly contributed to the success. The CSOs reached their declared goals.

4.1.3 Impact on national budgeting process: The national budget process in the Czech Republic is regarded as open and transparent (Gomez, Friedman and Shapiro 2004).[65] It is therefore interesting to assess the activities of CSOs in influencing the national budget. Here, the organisations are mainly active in lobbying on grants and individual components of the budget in the preparatory and legislative phases, i.e. through influencing specific ministries in the preparatory phase and MPs in the parliamentary committee stages. No CSOs are active in the budget monitoring phase. However, for CIVICUS, the important factors to assess civil society's overall impact on the budgeting process were whether CSOs coordinate their activities, whether they concentrate on the budget as a whole and, above all, whether they examine the budget as a process which should satisfy certain criteria. Organisations coordinate their activities only in exceptional cases. The range of CSOs expressing an opinion on the budget as a whole is very limited and is primarily made up of economic think-tanks with a right-wing orientation concerned with budget deficits, or isolated cases where ecological organisations focus on environmental taxes, etc. There are no CSOs which systematically focus on the overall budget or monitor the budgetary process as there are insufficient financial resources for these types of activities.[66]

4.1.4 Impact on the prevention of criminality: Public opinion research shows that crime is one of the most important issues of popular concern in the Czech Republic. However, CSOs work only on certain issues relating to crime and virtually ignore important instances of criminality, such as corporate crime. CSOs are very active in the field of drug prevention, where they are responsible for up to 80% of all care, as opposed to, for instance, the provision of assistance to the deaf and blind, where they provide only some 20% of services. They are the main provider of services on the ground, where they encounter the highest risk groups of drug users (Fránek and Holub 2004, Holub 2004). CSOs actively cooperate with the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police Force in other areas (e.g. assistance and asylum for foreigners and refugees, assistance to the victims of criminal acts, prevention of trafficking in women, training of members of the police force etc.). However, only few CSOs work on alternative

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[65] The openness of the budgetary process was evaluated in 36 countries (of Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe) from three main perspectives: public availability of budgetary documents on the level of the central government – Czech Republic 1st place (86% out of 100%); monitoring and evaluation of the budget during and at the end of the fiscal year – Czech Republic 4th place (76%); discussions on the budget in legislation and on the part of the general public – Czech Republic 3rd place (65%).

[66] For more information on this topic see Appendix 4.

punishment, which relates to integration of the convicted criminal into the community and prevention of recidivism)[67], though the Association for the Development of Social Work in Criminal Justice did play a role in promoting the Alternative Punishment Bill.[68]

⟩ III.4.2/ HOLDING THE STATE AND PRIVATE CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Czech civil society is active and successful in holding the state and private corporations accountable. Table 25 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 25: Indicators assessing holding state and private corporations accountable

4.2.1 Holding the state accountable	1.2
4.2.2 Holding private corporations accountable	1.2

4.2.1 Holding the state accountable: There are cases in which CSOs hold the state accountable, mostly relating to nature conservation and human rights. As far as labour rights, wages and specific interests are concerned, trade unions and professional organisations play a monitoring role. Economic think-tanks monitor the expenses of public budgets and criticise the government for budget deficits. Overall these activities are relatively restricted and tend to be unsuccessful, with the exception of nature conservation, where some successes have been achieved; however at the expense of the negative branding of some of these organisations as radicals and eco-terrorists.

According to Frič (2000) the main form of relations between the state and CSOs is cooperation. Conflicts are exceptional and play a marginal role. This corresponds to the results of the regional survey, which showed a marginal role played by CSOs as watchdogs within our sample of respondents and probably within Czech civil society as a whole. For instance, of the twelve objectives of umbrella organisations, "public accountability" was the least important. Likewise, in a survey conducted by Spiralis (2003) on the role of NGOs in respect of the regional public administration, the accountability role was rated last of six options and only a fifth of organisations saw themselves performing this role. In the regional survey we also asked for seven roles which CSOs can play in society, with two of these roles – the fight against corruption and the functioning of democracy – being related to the function of monitoring the state. It was precisely these two roles which participants at the regional consultations associated least with civil society. Only a fifth of respondents "definitely" agreed with CSOs having a fundamental role in the sphere of corruption and a third in respect of democracy. In the case of other functions, e.g. creating solidarity amongst people, providing assistance to the socially weak, two to three times the number of respondents "definitely" agreed to these roles.

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[67] E.g. in the Teplice region in 2004 the probation and mediation service distributed a questionnaire with an offer of placements as alternative punishment, but only a seventh of the 43 NGOs contacted were interested in cooperating (three sports organisations, a faith-based organisation working with youth, and two organisations in the social and health care).

[68] When writing this paragraph we drew on two studies prepared by students at Charles University as course work within the CSI project (Lávičková 2004; Šobová and Rötschová 2004).

It can therefore be concluded that only a minority of CSOs perceive their monitoring role as crucial. This assessment is also shared by the general public. The Civil Society 2004 survey found that only half the population believes that democracy would not work without CSOs, and three fifths believe that CSOs help people in the fight against the state bureaucracy. This is a large number, but considerably less than the number of people who associate civil society with solidarity amongst people (80%) or the provision of assistance to the needy (70%).

4.2.2 Holding private corporations accountable: The same ecological organisations that monitor the state, also work on holding companies accountable, not only with regard to the impact of their activities on the environment, but also in relation to obscure practices and the links between companies and the state. Some organisations (e.g. Donors Forum, Transparency International ČR, VIA Foundation, Ethics Forum, and the Business Leaders Forum) aim to improve corporate philanthropy and support best practice and the transparency of companies, but their activities are still very limited and have little impact. The more than 60 consumer organisations in the Czech Republic operating on both a local and national level, play a role in monitoring companies. They focus on particular issues as well as the more general protection of consumers, including consumers as clients of state services. Around 16 of the larger organisations are linked to umbrella organisations such as the Coalition of Consumer Activities (KOSA) and the Association of Consumer Organisations (ASA). The trend is positive, but for the time being we cannot speak of a strong consumer movement or of stable consumer organisations with great public authority.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, watchdog activities of CSOs have been mainly supported by foreign donors. With the Czech Republic's entry into the EU and foreign donors' shift of priorities to supporting civil society in the former Soviet Union ('moving East'), some would argue that the existence of these advocacy and watchdog organisations has reached a critical point. While EU membership is expected to make the resources of the EU Structural Funds accessible to Czech CSOs, monitoring activities do not fall within the realm of these funds. Organisations that are critical of the state or the private sector can also not expect to receive much support from these sources. These organisations have up till now relied on foreign support and have yet to learn to work with a circle of supporters and sympathisers who could provide financial support to such organisations.[69]

III.4.3/ RESPONDING TO SOCIAL INTERESTS

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Czech civil society actors are responsive to social interests. Table 26 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

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[69] "Will NGOs survive the departure of foreign donors?", Supplement to the magazine *Respekt* on 31.5.– 6.6.2004.

Table 26: Indicators assessing responding to social interests

4.3.1 Responsiveness	2.4
4.3.2 Public trust in CSOs	1.0

4.3.1 Responsiveness: Part III.1.3 focused on the diversity of CSOs in the Czech Republic and how they react to a wide range of social interests and needs. However, the priority concerns affecting everyone in the Czech Republic, namely unemployment, health, and crime, are problems which largely fall under the remit of the state and the population clearly expects the state to handle them. The results of the Civil Society 2004 survey show that the population expects CSOs to come in at the point where the state is unable to resolve a problem. However, CSOs know how to "create" issues which have been hitherto overlooked by the general public and the state. This includes the pioneering work of civil associations in the field of care for the terminally ill and dying.[70]

To judge the responsiveness of civil society, we sought to find a public issue on which no CSOs were working. We found the question of Ukrainian workers illegally working in the Czech Republic to be such an issue. This issue is somewhat addressed by the Ukrainian minority organisations in the Czech Republic, which focus primarily on culture, traditions and language.[71] However, it does not receive widespread support by more mainstream CSOs.

4.3.2 Public trust in CSOs: CIVICUS proposed to employ the level of public trust in CSOs as an indicator that the organisations are genuinely responding to social interests. The results of the Eurobarometer survey[72] show that 24% of Czech citizens trust the trade unions, 31% trust NGOs, and 48% trust charitable organisations. The average for the second two categories is 40%. This is comparable to the level of trust in the government (37%), but less than the level of trust in the police (51%) or even television and radio (around 75%). For the sake of comparison, in the older 15 EU countries, the same year 37% of the population trusted trade unions, 39% trusted NGOs, and 57% trusted charitable organisations. The average for the second two categories is 48%.

● III.4.4/ EMPOWERING CITIZENS

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which Czech civil society is active and successful in empowering citizens, especially traditionally marginalized groups, to shape decisions that affect their lives. Table 27 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

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[70] E.g. the civil association Road Home, after 2 years of researching and cooperating with experts in the healthcare spheres, compiled a Report on Dying in the CR, which it presented to Parliament.
[71] Source: Survey by Olga Smirnová (Charles University Humanities Faculty, Civil Sector Institute), 2004.
[72] Source: Eurobarometr 2002, cited in Frič and collective (2003).

Table 27: Indicators assessing Empowering citizens

4.4.1 Informing/educating citizens	2.3
4.4.2 Building capacity for collective action and resolving joint problems	1.5
4.4.3 Empowering marginalized people	2.3
4.4.4 Empowering women	2.3
4.4.5 Building social capital	2.4
4.4.6 Supporting/creating livelihoods	1.4

4.4.1 Informing/educating citizens: Some of the information activities of CSOs have been described in the part III.1.4. On a general level, the provision of information to the population is dealt with, for example, by citizen consultancy centres working under the Association of Civil Advisory Centres. Human rights are dealt with by the League of Human Rights, numerous Roma organisations, the Czech Helsinki Committee, the Ecological Legal Service, etc. Services for marginalized groups are provided by the network organisation of the Czech Association for Psychic Health in the form of telephone help lines. Other telephone help and trust lines (for children, victims of violence, etc.) exist and are often maintained by the target groups themselves.

4.4.2 Building capacity for collective action and resolving joint problems: The building of community coalitions is being undertaken by, for instance, the Centre for Community Work (CpKP). CpKP states that there are still not enough organisations concerned with this type of activity. Local development and local initiatives are supported by the VIA Foundation as part of the programme Development of Regional and Community Life. Successful initiatives of many local mayors could be included here, since they have managed to mobilise their community to resolve specific issues. For example, it was mayors who organised the protests of the local population against the expansion of coalmining in North Bohemia or against the new border agreement with Slovakia.

4.4.3 Empowering marginalized people: Many organisations in the social and healthcare sectors include educating target groups of their rights as part of their regular activities. Some specific examples include:[73]

- The seminar organised within the framework of the RAINBOW Home aimed at expanding awareness of the rights and duties of every person (the RAINBOW organisation);
- Support for the cooperative activities of people with tumours (Therapeutic Oncology Centre);
- A free consultancy service by lawyers and social advisors: consultations are combined with practical assistance during interactions with public authorities (Betánie);
- General and expert social consultancy (e.g. social legal consultations), the provision of general information to clients (the Centre for the Physically Handicapped);
- Service provision and publication of the brochure "For a Better Life for Handicapped Persons", in which replies to questions made by handicapped people are found along with contacts to service providers (Pohoda).

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[73] Source: Analysis of the annual reports of 26 civil associations or public benefit corporations for 2002.

4.4.4 Empowering women: Women's organisations operate in many sectors: health, family and childcare (Single Mother's Club, Mother's Centres, etc.), violence against women (White Circle of Safety, etc.), the professional development of women and the position of women on the labour market (e.g. the Association of Businesswomen and Managers), the status of women in society generally (Gender Studies, proFem, etc.), draft Bills, etc. Several women's organisations have a political agenda (Social Democratic Women, the Left-Wing Women's Club). An overview of the number of organisations is available on the Gender Studies database and in an address book of refuge homes and maternity centres: 59 women's organisations, 134 maternity centres, 60 asylums for mothers and pregnant women, 21 other projects being undertaken by organisations which are not primarily concerned with women's issues (Hašková and Křížková 2003).

4.4.5 Building social capital: Civil society can be regarded as a source of social capital, which we have assessed by comparing the level of general trust of CSO members with the one of individuals who are not members of any CSO. As the Civil Society 2004 survey shows, the level of trust among members of CSOs is significantly higher (24%) than among non-members (13%).

4.4.6 Supporting/creating livelihoods: The respondets to the regional survey did not know how to assess the activities of CSOs in the field of fighting unemployment. At present, there are programmes within the framework of the EU Structural Funds to generate employment and integration into the labour market, for which CSOs are eligible. However, up until now we do not know how many and what projects have made use of this opportunity. Sheltered workshops for people with physical or mental handicaps are part of the remit of many organisations operating in the social service field. If we were to understand indicator 4.4.6 as examining the existence of what is known as "social economy",[74] we can conclude that this concept still does not have sufficient resonance in the Czech Republic, though the first attempts are being made to publicise it.

III.4.5/ MEETING SOCIETAL NEEDS

This subdimension examines the extent to which Czech civil society is active and successful in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalized groups. Table 28 summarizes the respective indicator scores.

Table 28: Indicators assessing meeting societal needs

4.5.1 Lobbying for state service provisions	1.6
4.5.2 Meeting societal needs directly	2.5
4.5.3 Meeting the needs of marginalized groups	2.5

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[74] Definition of social economy: The objective of the social economy enterprise is to serve its members or the community, instead of simply striving for financial profit. The social economy enterprise is autonomous of the State. In its statute and code of conduct, it establishes a democratic decision-making process that implies the necessary participation of users and workers. It prioritizes people and work over capital in the distribution of revenue and surplus. Its activities are based on principles of participation, empowerment, and individual and collective responsibility (Neamtan 2004).

4.5.1 Lobbying for state service provisions: In the Czech Republic a debate is currently underway as to whether crucial services to the population should be provided by the state, the market or civil society. Thus far the state is the main provider of and main source for the financing of these services. There is no great demand for radical change amongst the general public. Non-profit organisations so far did not succeed to resolve the "hybrid situation" , in which the state is not willing or unable to differentiate between providing grants to CSOs on the one hand, and contracting CSOs to provide specific services on the other.

An example of success of CSOs in lobbying the state on these issues is the preparation of the Social Services Bill (1998 – 2004). Non-profit organisations were included in the preparatory stage of the draft bill and were able to exert influence so that the system of state financing of social services was not based on the legal form of the service provider, but on the quality standards of the services which were provided. Non-profit organisations participated on the preparation of these standards.[75] However, the Bill has not yet been passed.

4.5.2 Meeting societal needs directly: Organisations provide alternative forms of services to groups which have fallen through the net of state services. However, the state and its budgetary and contributory organisations play a crucial role in the provision of services. Data from 1999 shows, that the central state is the main provider of social services (48%), followed by the municipality and local authorities (35%). Just under a fifth of services were provided by churches (10%) and NGOs and natural persons (7% of services).[76]

4.5.3 Meeting the needs of marginalized groups: Generally it is said that CSOs are more effective at providing services to marginalized groups than the state. By effective we mean better value for money as the costs for the client care are seen as lower in NGO facilities. A second aspect is the higher satisfaction with the quality of services provided – through higher commitment of employees – in the case of CSO-administered services. In the Civil Society 2004 survey two questions examined this issue. As many as a third of respondents did not know whether the state or NGOs provided better services to socially marginalised groups. It was probably not clear how to compare the quality of services of the two actors. For example, from the point of view of the extent of services the state is incomparably "better" than CSOs. Whereas 39% felt the state provided better services, only 26% believed this to be true for CSOs.

In the last twelve months, 15% of respondents had requested assistance from state institutions and only 4% from non-profit organisations, which meant that there were only a few people who could compare the institutions based on their own experience. Twenty eight respondents (just under 3%) requested assistance both from the state and non-profit institutions; 17 said that non-profit organisations provided them with more help (61%).

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[75] Source: a case study written within the CSI project (Zahradníčková 2004).
[76] Proposed orientation of the Social Services Bill (January 2001), page 6.

IV./ STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF CZECH CIVIL SOCIETY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

IV.1/ STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF CZECH CIVIL SOCIETY

In this section we summarise the main outcomes of the National Seminar which was held at the end of the project. Almost 50 people from CSOs, academic institutions and the public administration participated in the seminar. After a presentation of the CSI project's results we invited participants to identify the strengths and weaknesses of civil society in the Czech Republic and to come up with recommendations regarding how to strengthen civil society. Participants worked in four small groups and each group examined one dimension of the CSI: structure, environment, values and impact. Though each group was concerned with a different dimension, they identifiedcertain common topics and issues.

The National Seminar, regional consultations and the discussions within the NAG proved that CSO representatives are not only capable of examining their external environment (e.g. the conduct of companies, the public administration, politicians, etc.), but above all are willing and able to self-examine and scrutinize themselves and their activities and conduct in civil society as a whole. When participants at the National Seminar discussed the strong and weak points, each time they focussed on the weak points more frequently and in more detail than on the strong points. Critical discussions also took place at the regional consultations and in the NAG.

Strengths:
The following section captures the main strengths identified and discussed during the course of the National Seminar. As they cover a disparate set of issues and themes, they are listed in bullet-point form:

⊕ Human resources of CSOs: CSOs rely on a large number of people who are willing to get involved, are educated, flexible and full of enthusiasm and have specialist qualifications for the specific field in which they work (both paid staff and volunteers).

⊕ The diversity of civil society: It is difficult to assess to what extent CSOs are representative of society at large, but civil society is certainly extremely diverse and conducts a wide range of activities, addresses a myriad of objectives, and works with a large number of target groups.

⊕ Protection of the environment as a value: Ecological organisations were already a significant part of civil society in the Czech Republic prior to 1989 and helped create an "underground" revolution; nature conservation has continued to be a prominent value within civil society ever since.

- Protection of the environment as a public impact: Since the beginning of the 1990s ecological organisations have managed to lobby and influence legislation, have opened up public debates on the involvement of citizens in public decision-making processes. They represent almost the only grouping in Czech civil society which is actively monitoring the behaviour of the state and companies.
- Concern for socially marginalised groups as a value: Solidarity and assistance to socially marginalised groups is a strong value in civil society. CSOs frequently and successfully provide assistance to poor, uneducated, ill, excluded and discriminated groups of people.
- Concern for socially marginalised groups as an impact: Since 1989 CSOs have gradually managed to become an important supplier of social and healthcare services; they know how to address many needs of the population, especially those of disadvantaged people, such as associally or physically handicapped people.
- Agenda-setting: CSOs know how to detect and define existing societal problems, turn them into issues for discussion, put them on the public agenda, and manage to formulate opinions and propose resolutions for these issues; e.g. the problem of domestic violence or the issue of caring for the terminally ill and dying.

Weaknesses

This section deals with the main weaknesses identified for Czech civil society. It first discusses two broad sets of weaknesses (poor management and 'bad atmosphere') and then goes on to list an additional set of disparate weaknesses mentioned during the course of the National Seminar.

First and most important, one overriding set of linked themes was identified during the analysis and reflection on the work of CSOs in the Czech Republic. This 'super-theme' or 'super-weakness' could be described as civil society's poor management and conduct, in short, an inability to manage. It comprises the following specific weaknesses, for which there is a common denominator solution, namely to increase the credibility of CSOs within civil society itself, the general public, the corporate sector and the public administration.

- Clientelism: A problem for many organisations and persons in civil society is the misuse of authority or status for personal reasons and the practice of favouring certain groups or persons.
- Lack of transparency: The lack of transparency in accounting for finances and activities is not deliberate, but is more a result of there being no "intention to be transparent". People working in CSOs frequently believe that their laudable aims and objectives are enough in themselves and worthy of respect. Sometimes they lack the ability – skills, human capacity and will – to account for money received and to show the results which have been achieved through this money. One of the reasons for lack of transparency is that many organisations do not have personnel which is able, for instance, to compile an annual report, nor do they have the money to commission an annual report.
- Poor publicity: Most CSOs are not able to effectively present their activities, and to sell and publicise them.

- Lack of professionalism: Organisations do not have sufficient professionals capable of strategic planning, fundraising, management, and communication with the public; these activities are not being sufficiently pursued.
- Poor quality of management and decision making: CSOs unambiguously espouse general norms and values such as democracy, tolerance, transparency, but have difficulty putting these very values into practice on a day-to-day basis. Problems with management, personal responsibility, dissatisfaction with one's superior, and the inability to communicate with subordinates are a general feature of Czech society and therefore also affect the work of CSOs.
- Limited financial resources: Insufficient financial resources cause an excessive dependence on voluntary work, without which the organisations would be hamstrung. It also translates into restricted possibilities of developing sustainable organisations.
- The poor operation of umbrella organisations: Many umbrella organisations were created without any demand from individual CSOs. They lack a substantive membership base and respect from the CSOs. Yet, they have obtained a certain competence and role as a partner for the public administration. This is seen by many CSOs as an artificial and forced construction of upper structures within civil society – guided by the wish for personal influence, power, finances and privileged access to decision-making – rather than the bottom-up development of an organic civil society structure.
- Inability to communicate within as well as outside of civil society: CSOs frequently fail to reach agreement on common concerns and interests. For instance, they are incapable of establishing a national association which would enjoy some authority. There is often not enough will and ability to communicate amongst themselves, as well as with the public administration and the corporate world.
- Inability to mobilise the public: CSOs do not know how to mobilise and activate the public. This is related to a lack of self-esteem and an inability to deal with conflicts. As a consequence, CSOs are often unable to make use of existing opportunities to play a public role and therefore have low impact on the external environment (e.g. regarding amendments to legislation, etc.).

The second larger set of weaknesses can be referred to as the atmosphere in society as a whole. Discussions revealed at least a partial awareness among civil society stakeholders of the fact that CSOs do not exist in isolation of society at large, and that their problems and weaknesses are very often the general problems and weaknesses of Czech society as a whole. Two specific problems were mentioned in this respect:

- Limited public spiritedness: Low levels of public spiritedness in society are related to the overall situation in society and will not improve as long as corrupt, dishonest or incompetent politicians remain in office or the tax office refuses to judge large and small institutions by the same yardstick.
- Low levels of trust: CSOs do not enjoy the level of trust which they could and should, either amongst the general public or even amongst themselves. Low level of trust among people and towards public institutions is a general problem in society. CSOs must earn people's trust, but thus far have been unable to do so.

As well as these larger themes, the following other weaknesses were mentioned:

⊕ In many fields, CSOs are not active enough, e.g. on fighting crime, cooperating with the police, monitoring the conduct of elected representatives and the government.

⊕ The potential dependency of organisations working in the social and healthcare service sectors on the state: These organisations are too focused on clients and the provision of services and have no strength left for lobbying and pushing through changes of public policy or perform a watchdog role. The state has entered into contracts with them and has thereby 'domesticated them', as it were and only regards them as subcontractors. Whereas this can be regarded as somewhat of a success, it also creates a strong dependency of these CSOs on the state.

ⓘ IV.2/ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Here we present the recommendations by participants of the National Seminar. They are addressed both to civil society itself, as well as to the public administration and politicians and strongly rely on the specific weaknesses mentioned above. Just as I coined the term of a "super-weakness" of Czech civil society, I can also identify one single "super recommendation", which strongly resonated among participants of the National Seminar, that is to beef up the credibility of civil society. But while the super weakness synthesizes a host of individual weaknesses, strengthening civil society's credibility was specifically and repeatedly cited by participants of the National Seminar as a specific issue. The following action points are seen as effective mechanisms to increase levels of credibility for civil society:

⊕ Establishing effective communication channels and structures among CSOs, such as e-mail lists, networks, coordinating bodies.

⊕ Improving openness and transparency: (a) Publicising more positive examples, e.g. as a 'cook book of best practices'; (b) explaining what organisations have achieved and how financial resources were used, and providing information on results and successes, e.g. as instructions for the minimum requirements of an annual report on the Internet; and (c) making more use of the new media.

⊕ Strengthening checks and balances within civil society and creating mechanisms for public accountability: ethical codes, internal "policing", certification mechanisms (e.g. a professional chamber for employees of CSOs). The state also has a duty to create the conditions for appropriate disclosure of information by CSOs and thereby public accountability. For example, even though foundations are required to provide the registration courts with their annual reports, most do not meet this requirement; however, the courts are inactive about this issue.

⊕ Strengthening the professionalism and professional skills of CSOs: train more professionals and keep them in the sector, to tackle the challenges for organisations that rely too heavily on volunteers. Also, to improve the learning and receiving advice from companies (e.g. on PR issues).

⊕ The role of the umbrella organisations: such organisations should communicate with the Parliament on legislative measures; they should protect the interests of small organisations which do not have the resources for such activities.

Several recommendations related to the specific requirement to build partnerships between civil society, companies and the public administration, either in general or in relation to EU Structural Funds.

⊕ Partnership cooperation: To reinforce partnerships between sectors and to be capable of using mechanisms which are already up and running. Merely receiving financial support does not qualify as a proper partnership and CSOs should engage with companies and the public administration beyond the issue of grants. Links between sectors should instead be based on the values of cooperation and equality.

⊕ EU Structural Funds: (a) To establish a global grant for the renewal and reinforcement of civil society for the period 2007-2013 (capacity-building, growth, greater independence of CSOs); (b) Organisations should be more active in seeking partnerships with companies and bodies of the public administration (as they are being required to do at present within the framework of the programme EU EQUAL); (c) Representatives of CSOs should participate more strongly in the preparation of programmes, the selection of applicants, the dissemination of results, and the monitoring of the EU Structural Funds. This would contribute to a greater control of the public administration and a greater influence on the part of CSOs.

Two recommendations focussed on the role of CSOs as watchdogs for democracy, opponents and critics of the government:

⊕ Ascertain why ecologists have managed to become government and corporate watchdogs more than any other type of CSOs. Do they cooperate more on an international level and thereby import foreign know-how? Do they know how to analyse and make recommendations on draft Acts, analyse voting in Parliament, etc.? Use the answers to these questions to bolster the monitoring capacity of other types of CSOs.

⊕ Organisations providing social services are strongly dependent on the state and focus only on the provision of services. Another type of social healthcare organisations should emerge or be developed, which could complement the existing social sector CSOs through activities, which are more independent and critical of the government.

And finally, two other recommendations:

⊕ To draw the government's attention to the fact that civil society employs a significant labour force in order to create awareness and get more support from the government.

⊕ To publicise the concept of a social economy in order to articulate and stress the role of many types of CSOs in the economy, e.g. in solving unemployment of

disadvantaged groups, in developing local communities, in creating innovative and sustainable enterprises in specific local contexts etc.

Commentary on the selected recommendations

The National Seminar brought up a large number of considerations and recommendations which I have attempted to summarise above. These recommendations are made public so that readers and civil society stakeholders can reflect on these matters and maybe decide to act upon them. Personally, I was most struck by the following three specific themes that emerged from this comprehensive analysis of the state of Czech civil society: (a) trust and accountability, (b) consensus versus conflict and the public impact of CSOs, (c) protection of the environment and social healthcare services as a flagship of Czech civil society.

(a) The issue of trust and accountability

Some of the participants of the seminar expressed their belief that greater public or mutual control in civil society would lead to greater transparency and trust. However, trust does not always have to be the results of control mechanisms, but more their prerequisite. Any accountability system, if not directly based on state power and coercion (which would be potentially very threatening for civil society), must operate on the basis of trust. The parties in this relationship, both the organisations being held accountable and the public, must believe that the rules laid down are fair and the control institutions are acting impartially and in good faith. Without this basic trust the accountability system will only operate with immense difficulty. However, trust in fellow citizens and institutions is very low throughout Czech society, and in post-communist countries in general. Addressing the issue of trust and accountability is not therefore simply a problem of civil society alone.

CSO representatives often think that trust can be manufactured and that it suffices to publish, disseminate and provide information. However, if there is suspicion of the information being provided on the side of the recipient, the information will not be seen as accurate and will be regarded as mere propaganda. This does not mean that the provision of information is meaningless, but more that there is no direct correlation or obvious causal relationship between transparency and trust. The acquisition of trust is a long-term process and a single instance of inappropriate behaviour can easily undo the positive effects of many previous efforts.

(b) Consensus versus conflict and the impact of CS organisations

Throughout the entire project we have seen the impact of CSOs as a positive factor void of any problems. But as participants at the National Seminar pointed out, impact often does not result from consensus but conflict. And this does not only involve conflict with the public administration, politicians or companies, but also conflict inside the civil society sector. Civil society is not a consensual space of mutual agreement, but rather a space where various interests are formulated and often clash with each other. Certain organisations act as though a priori they had the public interests at heart; yet when examined from the outside, it is clear that their interests are more restricted.

Impact is thus usually a result of conflict, often between civil society actors themselves. It might be therefore more beneficial to examine the ability of civil society

actors to formulate themes and to offer alternative solutions when evaluating the impact of civil society, rather than on how many and which alternatives were eventually realised. This would also correspond more closely to the notion of civil society as a source of diversity and debate that creates a 'foundation' for politics, rather than being part of the political sphere itself.

The perception of civil society as a space for consensus informs to a considerable extent the conception of the CSI (mainly vis-à-vis the dimensions of value and impact), and is also part of how civil society is usually seen in the Czech Republic. The question could be posed whether we would be less vexed and disappointed by the disagreements and rivalry between CSOs, if we did not always expect consensus as one of civil society's fundamental norms.

(c) Environmental protection and social healthcare services as a flagship

The protection of the environment and the provision of social healthcare services have been profiled throughout the course of the CSI project as two specific fields in which civil society is more active and successful than in others.[77] Participants at the National Seminar admired the success of ecological organisations in lobbying and influencing new laws and their broader effect in involving people in decision-making and monitoring the conduct of the state and companies on a national level. In the social and healthcare field, participants regarded the way that CSOs had managed to establish themselves as service providers in a positive light, but at the same time they pointed out that these organisations lacked the necessary distance from and were too dependent on the state to be active as watchdogs.

A comparison of the activities of CSOs in both these fields could prove to be very useful, but falls outside the scope of this report. Questions to be addressed could include: Is the difference between these two types of CSOs caused by the differing foreign models, a different media tactic or use of different methods of public mobilisation? Could the reason be that religious legal entities play an important role in the provision of social and healthcare services, which accentuate the value of assisting fellow human beings rather than the value of citizenship and civic participation? Or is the reason that the provision of social services is traditionally monopolised by the state, and that CSOs can at best aspire only to be a junior contractual partners of the public administration?

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[77] Here, we are deliberately not considering the activities of otherwise very influential trade unions and professional federations

◉ V./ **CONCLUSION**

The diagram visualising the state of Czech civil society in form of a diamond is rather well balanced and of moderately large size. Thus, no dramatic overarching weaknesses in any of the four dimensions could be detected and civil society in the Czech Republic, as studied and assessed in this project, is a relatively balanced and stable sphere.
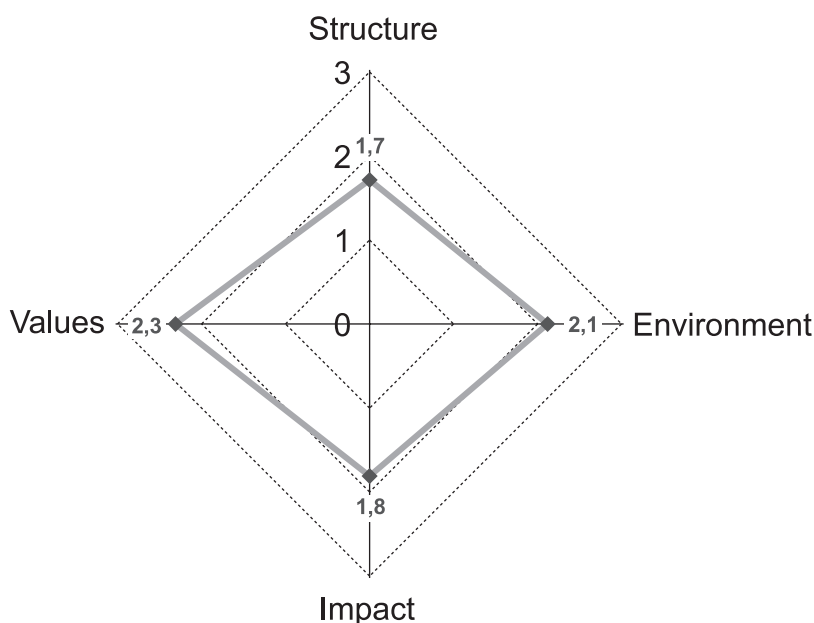
Picture 4: Civil society diamond in the Czech Republic 2004

The four dimension scores are all close to score of two, indicating a fairly well developed civil society existing in a positive environment. Whereas over the last decade impressive progress has already been achieved, there is still some time to go before the ideal score of three can be reached. The further development of civil society in the Czech Republic will require a particular focus on the structure dimension, particularly increasing CSO membership, the scope of donations and voluntary work, and communication and self-regulation within civil society, as well as civil society's impact. Here, CSOs need to strengthen monitoring activities, become a stronger partner of state and companies, be able to provide more assistance to citizens and build greater trust by the general public.

In my view, the weakest dimensions, impact and structure, are related to each other: Impact is weak despite the fact that civil society has relatively strong values and

therefore has 'something to offer' to the public. The diamond shows that the relatively conducive external environment does not stand in the way of greater impact. The reason for the moderate impact is perhaps to be found in the somewhat weaker structure of civil society, in which relatively few people are involved, which cannot count on reliable support from the general public (e.g. in the form of donations and volunteer work), and which therefore also has weaker financial resources. Furthermore, it stands to reason that the poor relations between CSOs and the small number and limited authority of umbrella organisations, etc. also stand in the way of greater impact.

It is also interesting to compare the weakest and strongest dimensions, i.e. structure and values. Values came out as the strongest dimension of the Diamond and was awarded an even higher score when a spontaneous vote was taken by the NAG, namely 2.6 points. Thus, it seems that we, as civil society stakeholders, have a tendency to judge the values of civil society very positively, perhaps to exaggerate, which clearly relates to the idea of civil society as a sphere of automatically positive civic values. However, this civil society, well developed from the point of view of values, is limping along on weak structural legs which should be strong enough to carry it. The structure dimension can be regarded as the "basis" for civil society, comprising membership, public philanthropy, human resources, finance, technical infrastructure, and the ability to cooperate. We may conclude that if a civil society strong in values were to rest upon a strong structure, it would have a much greater impact.

However, the opposite relationship is also possible between values and structure. It could be argued that if the values of CSOs are "too strong" and do not conform to the values and preferences of the majority population, or the values of the government or companies, then there can be no room for reinforcing the structure. Civil society with extreme, though positive, values might be losing touch with its citizen base and thus also the potential for strengthening its structure. Since the early 1990s, the structure of civil society in the Czech Republic has been constructed with foreign aid. Thus, civil society was not forced to ensure that its values and goals conform to those of its domestic base, i.e. citizens, companies and the government, and a certain estrangement of certain types of organisations towards society at large might have taken place.

The idea of conformity may not be compatible with the idea of civil society as a 'democratic vanguard' of society. And yet this vanguard role is how people in some CSOs often regard civil society; also, civil society is sometimes perceived by the general public and certain political parties as a rebel or preacher to society. But if we regard a certain unanimity between civil society's and society's values to be a positive featureand necessary for the development of civil society, the ideal extent of this conformity remains an open question, the answer to which is probably the key to a successful future development of Czech civil society.

Future activities within the framework of the Civil Society Index
NROS will make every attempt to publicise the findings of this study as wide as possible, to popularise this publication both amongst CSOs and amongst that part of the public which is less familiar with the topics discussed here – the government, civil servants and politicians both at the central and regional level. This publication should also serve as a useful reference text for students of civil society and related themes. NROS will also initiate meetings with those members of the NAG and other interested parties, who are

interested in continuing to be involved in taking the findings and recommendations of the CSI project further, e.g. by elaborating on the recommendations and attempting to put them into practice.

In its English version, this publication will also serve as the basis for international comparisons within the framework of the Civil Society Index project as a whole. The Czech Republic was the **first** of more than 50 countries involved in the project to create its Civil Society Diamond and hold a National Seminar, and will also be amongst the first to publish a report on the research conducted. Other countries will complete their work on the CSI during the course of 2005. International comparison is the task of CIVICUS and we can look forward to the final study in 2006. For 2006, a global CSI conference is planned which will convene all national teams which participated in the Civil Society Index as well as other project partners. CIVICUS will then evaluate and refine the methodology employed on the basis of current experiences and findings, as it plans to repeat the project in the future.

Within the international CSI project, the Czech team cooperated mainly with Poland and partly with Germany. First plans are being made as to how to modify the concept of the project and to use it for more modest comparative research within the framework of Central Europe. However, even if there are no further rounds of the CSI, we believe that this current exercise has already yielded important results that can be used as a benchmark for future assessments of Czech Republic civil society.

» LIST OF APPENDICES

⦿ APPENDIX 1:
THE CSI SCORING MATRIX

⦿ 1. / STRUCTURE

⦿ 1.1./ BREADTH OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

How widespread is citizen involvement in civil society? What proportion of citizens engage in civil society activities?

1.1.1 Non-partisan political action
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
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
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
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

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

How deep/meaningful is citizen participation in CS? How frequently/extensively do people engage in CS activities?

1.2.1 Charitable giving

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

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

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

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
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
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
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

How well-organised is civil society? What kind of infrastructure exists for civil society?

1.4.1 Existence of CSO umbrella bodies
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**
A large majority (more than 70%)	**Score 3**

1.4.2 Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies

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**
Effective.	**Score 3**

1.4.3 Self-regulation

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**
Mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place and function quite effectively. A discernible impact on CSO behaviour can be detected.	**Score 3**

1.4.4 Support infrastructure

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**
There is a well-developed support infrastructure for civil society.	**Score 3**

1.4.5 International linkages

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**
A significant number of CSOs from different sectors and different levels (grassroots to national) have international linkages.	**Score 3**

1.5./ INTER-RELATIONS

How strong / productive are relations among civil society actors?

1.5.1 Communication
What is the extent of communication between CS actors?

Very little	**Score 0**
Limited	**Score 1**
Moderate	**Score 2**
Significant	**Score 3**

1.5.2 Cooperation
How much do CS 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**
CS actors regularly cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Numerous examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	**Score 3**

1.6./ RESOURCES

To what extent do CSOs have adequate resources to achieve their goals?

1.6.1 Financial resources
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
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 goals.	**Score 1**
On average, CSOs have most of the human resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	**Score 2**
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure human resource base.	**Score 3**

1.6.3 *Technological and infrastructural resources*
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. / ENVIRONMENT

2.1./ POLITICAL CONTEXT

What is the political situation in the country and its impact on civil society?

2.1.1. *Political rights*
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 and their participation in political processes.	**Score 2**
People have the full freedom and choice to exercise their political rights and meaningfully participate in political processes.	**Score 3**

2.1.2 *Political competition*
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**
Robust, multi-party competition with well-institutionalised and ideologically diverse parties.	**Score 3**

2.1.3. Rule of law
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**
Society is governed by fair and predictable rules, which are generally abided by.	**Score 3**

2.1.4. Corruption
What is the level of perceived corruption in the public sector?

High	**Score 0**
Substantial	**Score 1**
Moderate	**Score 2**
Low	**Score 3**

2.1.5. State effectiveness
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**
State bureaucracy is fully functional and perceived to work in the public's interests.	**Score 3**

2.1.6. Decentralisation
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**
Sub-national share of government expenditure is more than 49.9%.	**Score 3**

2.2./ BASIC FREEDOMS & RIGHTS

To what extent are basic freedoms ensured by law and in practice?

2.2.1. Civil liberties
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**
Civil liberties are fully ensured by law and in practice.	**Score 3**

2.2.2. *Information rights*
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*
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 CONTEXT

What is the socio-economic situation in the country and its impact on civil society?

2.3.1. *Socio-economic context*
How much do socio-economic conditions in the country represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society?

Social & 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 & economic conditions significantly limit the effective functioning of civil society. Three, four or five of the conditions indicated are present.	**Score 1**
Social & economic conditions somewhat limit the effective functioning of civil society. One or two of the conditions indicated are present.	**Score 2**
Social & 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

To what extent are socio-cultural norms and attitudes conducive or detrimental to civil society?

2.4.1. Trust
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**
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**
There is a high level of trust among members of society (e.g. more than 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	**Score 3**

2.4.2. Tolerance
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 spiritedness
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

To what extent is the existing legal environment enabling or disabling to civil society?

2.5.1. CSO registration
How supportive is the CSO registration process? Is the process (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) Following legal provisions (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
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
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**
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 or 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
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

What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the state?

2.6.1. Autonomy
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
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
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

What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the private sector?

2.7.1. Private sector attitude
What is the general attitude of the private sector towards civil society actors?

Generally hostile	**Score 0**
Generally indifferent	**Score 1**
Generally positive	**Score 2**
Generally supportive	**Score 3**

2.7.2 Corporate social responsibility
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 philanthropy
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

To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote democracy?

3.1.1 Democratic practices within CSOs
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 CS actions to promote democracy
How much does CS 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**

◉ 3.2./ TRANSPARENCY
To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote transparency?

3.2.1 Corruption within civil society
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

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 CS actions to promote transparency

How much does CS 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

To what extent do civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance?

3.3.1 Tolerance within the CS arena

To what extent is CS 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 all viewpoints is actively encouraged. Intolerant behaviour are strongly denounced by civil society at large.	**Score 3**

3.3.2 CS actions to promote tolerance

How much does CS 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

To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote non-violence?

3.4.1 Non-violence within the CS arena
How widespread is the use of violent means (such as damage to property or personal violence) among CS 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 CS actions to promote non-violence and peace
How much does CS 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

To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote gender equity?

3.5.1 Gender equity within the CS arena
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*
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 *CS actions to promote gender equity*
How much does CS 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

To what extent do civil society actors promote poverty eradication?

3.6.1 *CS actions to eradicate poverty*
To what extent does CS 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

To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability?

3.7.1 CS actions to sustain the environment
How much does CS 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

How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?

4.1.1. - 4.1.2. Human Rights & Social Policy Impact Case Studies
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
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.	**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**

4.2./ HOLDING STATE & PRIVATE CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE

How active and successful is civil society in holding the state and private corporations accountable?

4.2.1. Holding state accountable
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
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

How much are civil society actors responding to social interests?

4.3.1 Responsiveness
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
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

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
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
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**

4.4.3 Empowering marginalized people
How active and successful is civil society in empowering marginalized 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
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 capital
To what extent does civil society build social capital among its members? How do levels of trust, tolerance and public spiritedness of members of CS 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
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

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
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
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**
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
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**

Regional survey

The regional survey was carried out from March to April 2004 in two waves. The first wave was conducted in the Vysočina and Karlovy Vary regions, the second one in the regions of Zlín and Liberec. The aim was to contact a diverse group of approximately 30 participants in each region, who would represent the full range of CSOs. The selection of the respondents was based on (a) a list of 27 types of organisations[78], (b) the headquarters of the organisation as we did not want all the organisations to be based in the capital of the region, and (c) a contact of the organisation's manager. There were no other criteria used during the selection process. In three regions the project team was assisted by staff from the regional authorities who are responsible for the non-profit sector and who sent us upon request lists of organisations with which they cooperate. We also used the NROS address book. Where we did not have contact to a certain type of organisation, we searched for it on the Internet. The regional authorities in Vysočina, Zlín and Karlovy Vary supported the research by providing premises for the regional consultations.

Table 29: Regional Survey Response Rate

Region	Questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires completed (response rate)
Vysočina	32	23 (72 %)
Karlovarský	25	20 (80 %)
Liberecký	31	15 (48 %)
Zlínský	28	15 (54 %)
Celkem	**116**	**73 (63 %)**

Half of the 73 respondents have their main employment in civil society, and the rest works in the public administration, the corporate sector, or are unemployed, here most frequently retired. Around a third of the respondents are churchgoers. There were 7% more men than women and the age distribution was uniform, with most respondents aged between 30 and 60. Half of the respondents had a secondary school education and 40% had a university education. The representation of types of CSOs is similar across the regions.In the sample as a whole organisations working in the field of social services were most strongly represented, with 16%, followed by various recreation organisations (e.g. collectors and philatelists, hunters, beekeepers and breeders, voluntary fire service workers, gardeners and growers, fishermen and others) with 14%, and environmental organisations with 9%. Fourteen other types of organisations accounted for the remaining

[78] See Table 1 in Section II.

60%. These were: economic chambers or professional federations, trade unions, religious organisations, cultural organisations, sports organisations, educational organisations, student/parent school organisations, healthcare organisations, humanitarian organisations, youth organisations, women's organisations, racial organisations, and organisations supporting civil activities and the protection of human rights.

Regional consultations

Respondents of the regional survey were invited to participate in a face-to-face meeting, which took place in Jihlava 6 April, Karlovy Vary 8 April, Liberec 11 May and Zlín 13 May 2004. The regional consultations were held to gather input and opinions from all around the country and to go beyond the views expressed by CSOs in Prague. However, identifying regional differences was not the goal of the research. Also, the method employed did not permit such differences to be inferred from the consultations as the groups were too small in size with only one in each region. The differences between the groups resulted more from a different composition of the group than a different situation in the regions.

Table 30: Participation at regional consultations

Region	Number of participants	Expressed as the percentage of those who filled in the questionnaire
Vysočina	15	65
Karlovy Vary	10	50
Liberec	10	67
Zlín	8	53
Total	**43**	**60**

Each regional consultation lasted almost a whole day and comprised two main blocks: (1) a discussion on the topic of what civil society actually is, and (2) discussions of selected other topics.

(1) After an introduction to the CSI project, and to the aims of the consultation and mutual introductions, research results were presented, which focused on the misunderstandings surrounding the civil society term in the Czech Republic as only a small number of people understand concepts such as *non-profit*, *voluntary organisation*, and trade unions are not regarded as civil associations etc. The participants were then invited to indicate whether their organisation belongs to civil society or not, and to give reasons for their assessment. Then a discussion followed during which the moderator allowed participants to interact and debate and only asked questions on controversial subjects, such as the inclusion/exclusion of political parties, economic chambers, and trade unions from civil society. Then participants were divided into two groups; each worked for around 20 minutes on a 'civil society map'. The instructions were to chart civil society in the form of a circle with a centre and certain perimeter and to discuss which organisations were in the centre, which on the edges of the circle, and which were outside the circle altogether. We left it up to each group to decide by what criteria they arrive at their decisions. The group then presented its results to the rest of the participants.

(2) In the second part of the regional consultations we presented the regional survey results to participants and then initiated a discussion on the following topics: (a) negative conduct in civil society (e.g. corruption, abuse of influence, intolerance, violence, etc.); (b) the role and importance of written rules in civil society (e.g. code of ethics, regulations, etc.); (c) communication of CSOs with the region.

The group dynamics were different from region to region. For instance in Jihlava a small group of participants emerged, which dominated the discussion, whereas the other participants were passive, several only making a single comment during the whole meeting. Interestingly, it was only in this region that the discussion also examined theoretical issues, as well as a discussion of highly technical issues, such as draft Bills. In Karlovy Vary and in Zlín an unconstrained atmosphere led to everyone participating actively and interacting with each other frequently. In all consultations, participants offered many practical examples for the issues under discussion.

Representative Population Survey

A survey of a representative sample of the Czech population was carried out by the agency STEM under the title Civil Society 2004. The representative study focused on the current attitudes of the Czech population to membership, donations, and voluntary activities within CSOs. The main part of the research took place in April and was completed in May 2004. The sample of respondents numbered 1,018 people aged 18 and over who were selected on the basis of quotas. In May 2004 STEM presented NROS with a Final Report (STEM 2004), from which data and interpretations for this report were drawn.

Case and overview studies

The case and overview studies focused on selected fields of CSO activities. Each study was processed by a student of Civil Society at the Humanities Faculty of Charles University as part of her course work from March to June 2004. Each of the papers was approximately 15 pages long.

The following case studies were conducted:[79]

⊕ Campaign for commensurate punishment in the case of the assault on the Žigovis (Jana Horáčková)
⊕ Foundation Investment Fund (Barbora Jandová and Martin Novák)
⊕ Appropriate punishment for domestic violence (Jaroslava Šimková)
⊕ Preparations of the Social Services Bill (Jana Zahradníčková)

Overview studies:

⊕ Non-profit organisations representing the interests of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic (Olga Smirnova)
⊕ The cooperation of the Czech Ministry of the Interior with non-profit organisations in the fight against criminality (Jaroslava Lávičková)
⊕ The involvement of NGOs in fighting crime: alternative sentences in the community (Marcela Šobová and Jindra Rötschová)

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[79] See Appendix 3.

⊕ The impact of civil society on the national budget (Tereza Vajdová) (see Appendix 4)
⊕ Corporate social responsibility (Tereza Vajdová) (see Appendix 5),

Survey of issue-based umbrella organisations

As part of the CSI project, a survey amongst issue-based networks was conducted between April and May 2004. As there is no official database of such networks, the project team based its research on a combination of lists from the Information Centre of Non-Profit Organizations (ICN) and the Spiralis association, which were merged into a single database by Jana Zahradníčková.[80] In the case of the larger associations working on both the regional and national level, a questionnaire was sent to the national level. In total we contacted 27 specialist networks. The response rate was 70% (i.e. 19 completed questionnaires). The survey was prepared and processed by Jana Zahradníčková, Jitka Čechová and Magdalena Černá, students of Civil Society at the Faculty of Humanities Charles University.

Media monitoring

As part of the CSI project, a review of relevant media on its reporting on civil society issues was carried out. In selecting a sample of the media, we used the following criteria: (a) frequency: daily; (b) geographical coverage: national and local; (c) type of media: newspapers, television and radio; (d) ownership of media: public and private. We selected the newspapers Mladá fronta Dnes, Hospodářské noviny and Liberecký den, the television stations TV Nova and Czech Television 1, and the radio station Czech Radio 1 Radio Journal. We focussed only on certain sections of these media. In the case of newspapers, we monitored the main section without specialist supplements and advertisements. In the case of television and radio, we monitored only the main news bulletins, i.e. Current Affairs on CT1, the Television News on TV Nova, and Repercussions on CRO – Radio Journal.

Table 31: Characteristics of the sample monitored from March to May 2004

Media	Level and type of ownership	Part monitored	Dates of monitoring
Hospodářské noviny	National Private	Main part of issue without supplements	March 9/11/15/17/19/23/25/29/31 April 2/6/8/12/14/16/20/22/26/ 28/30 May 4/6/10/12/14/18/2024/26/ 28
Mladá fronta Dnes	National Private	Main part of issue without supplements	March 9/11/13/15/17/19/23/25/ 27/29/31 April 2/6/8/10/12/14/16/20/22/ 24/26/28/30 May 4/6/8/10/12/14/18/20/22/ 24/26/28
Liberecký den	Regional Private	Main part of issue without supplements	Ibid.
ČT 1	National Public	Current Affairs	Ibid.
TV Nova	National Private	Television News	Ibid.
ČRO – Radiožurnál	National Public	Repercussions of the Day	Ibid.

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[80] Seminar work entitled "Networking in the Non-Profit Sector in the Czech Republic – Umbrella Organisations", Civil Sector of the Humanities Faculty of Charles University, 2003.

We monitored the selected media for twelve weeks over for the period 9th March to 28th May 2004. Due to human resource constraints, we monitored a rotating sample of three days in the week, i.e. in the first week always Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and the following week always Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. In total 36 issues of the respective newspapers were monitored, with the exception of Hospodářské noviny, which is not published on Saturday.

Monitoring was carried out by a team of five students of Civil Sector Department at the Humanities Faculty of Charles University. Each student was responsible for one newspaper or news bulletin. They were trained and led by David Stulík from NROS. The students coded the selected articles according to the criteria and categories specified and then entered them into the CIVICUS Access database in cooperation with the head of the monitoring team. This helped to ensure accuracy and uniformity of the coding.

We selected articles and reports based on two general guidelines: (a) they dealt with civil society defined as the space between the family, state and market, in which people associate for the purpose of advancing their interests; (b) they dealt with organisation which belong to the types of CSOs listed by CIVICUS.[81] We included articles in the monitoring process in which civil society actors or activities appear. The presence of a civil society actor in an article was sufficient, either as a participant in an activity or as a directly or indirectly quoted commentator regarding an event. The article did not have to be explicitly concerned with civil society as such.

For each article or report ("item"), we recorded the general information (date, title of the medium, etc), and the following main variables:

⊕ type of item (character of article/report, whether it was a short report, opinion, interview, analysis, etc.);
⊕ topic of the item (primary and secondary topic, both taken from a list of 37 themes, e.g. education, work and unemployment, accommodation, children, sport, agriculture, human rights, etc.);
⊕ geographical scope of the item (i.e. international, national, regional, local);
⊕ type of organisation (i.e. what types of CSOs appear in the item, i.e. written about or provide a comment on an event; according to a list of 23 CSO types);
⊕ prominence of the item within the issue (press: article published on page 1, television and radio: report broadcast 1st in sequence; the importance of the article or report);
⊕ presentation of the CSO (i.e. was the CSO presented in the article, as positive, neutral or negative).

Expert interviews

As part of the research 20 expert interviews and shorter consultation meetings were held on specific topics. We would like to thank the following persons for agreeing to be interviewed or consulted. They are not responsible for the accuracy or truth of the information or opinions contained in this report.

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[81] See Table 1 in section II.2.1.

Hana Foltýnová (Centre for Environmental Questions, Charles University)
Pavol Frič (Centre for Social and Economic Strategy, Charles University)
Roman Haken (Centre for Community Work)
Pavlína Kalousová (Donors Forum)
Tomáš Kostelecký (Sociological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
Alena Králíková (Gender Studies, o.p.s.)
Aleš Kroupa (Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
Lukáš Linek (Sociological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
František Lobovský (Consumer Protection Federation of the Czech Republic)
Miroslav Mareš (Faculty of Social Sciences, Masaryk University)
David Ondračka (Transparency International Czech Republic)
Miroslav Patrik (RAINBOW movement)
Hana Pernicová (VIA Foundation)
Petra Rakušanová (Sociological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
Ondřej Schneider (Institute for Social and Economic Analysis)
Jana Stachová (Sociological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
Milan Ščasný (Centre for Environmental Questions, Charles University)
Marek Šedivý (Non-Profit Organisations Information Centre)
Jana Zahradníčková (VIA Foundation)
Tomáš Žižka (Mamapapa)

APPENDIX 3:
SUMMARY OF CASE STUDIES

A./ SUMMARY OF CASES

CAMPAIGN FOR COMMENSURATE PUNISHMENT IN THE CASE OF THE ASSAULT ON A ROMA COUPLE[82]

Sphere: Human rights

Case ran from: 5. 1. – 15. 1. 2004

Core details of case: A Roma couple was assaulted in their own apartment by three young people who did serious harm to the health of the man and his pregnant wife. The perpetrators faced imprisonment of up to ten years but received only a conditional sentence. The racially motivated attack on the family belonging to an ethnic minority was a breach of their human rights. Activists condemned the verdict of the courts as a further breach of rights.

Objective: To urge the state representative to appeal against the court verdict: the state representative has only eight days during which to appeal the verdict.

Results: Success – the verdict was overturned.

Main events: on 28. 6. 2003 the Žigovis were assaulted; on 5. 1. 2004 the court verdict given in Jeseník; from 5. 1. to 13. 1. 2004 protests of activists and several representatives of the state in the media; the issuing of the statement by the Association of Roma Regional Representatives; Roma activists threaten to inform individual embassies; a letter is sent from the civil association Jekhetano drom to the Ministry of Justice with a request for a new investigation of the case; a meeting of representatives of the Association for the Human Rights of Roma Citizens with a government representative, the Deputy Prime Ministry and the Minister of Justice; the Deputy Prime Ministry requests an explanation from the Minister of Justice; the magazine Respekt publishes an open letter to the state representative on its website which demands him to appeal against the court verdict; the open letter is accompanied by signatures; on 14. 1. 2004 under pressure the state representative waives the right to appeal and the file is transferred to the regional authorities, which assign the case to Bruntál with a recommendation to file an appeal and to request a harsher sentence; on 12. 2. 2004 revocation of the original verdict and the case is returned to the courts in Jeseník.

Main actors: The Association of Roma Regional Representatives; Association for the Human Rights of Roma Citizens; the association Jekhetano drom – Společná cesta;

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82 Source: a study within the CSI project (Horáčková 2004).

government representative for human rights; Deputy Prime Ministry and chairman of the Government Council for Human Rights; the magazine Respekt and its 5-member editorial board.

FOUNDATION INVESTMENT FUND (NIF)[83]

Sphere: National budget

Case ran from: 1993 – 2004

Core details of case: In 1992 at the initiative of the chairperson of the National Property Fund the government decided to create an off-budget fund (NIF) to support the development of the Czech foundation sector; it also created a government advisory body which was to look at this question – the Council for Foundations. However, the sale of stock from the NIF and the distribution of the proceeds kept being delayed, even though in 1992-3 more than 900 foundations submitted applications for support. In cooperation with the Council for Foundations (since 1998 the Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organisations) the foundations applied pressure and worked systematically over the long term to get the resources distributed. In particular the sale of the stock had to be carried out and transferred to a special account (1995); rules had to be passed for the distribution of the proceeds (1999); it had to be ensured that the stock which remained unsold in the first wave was not taken out of the account (1999); it had to be ensured that the remaining money was not retained for no reason in the National Property Fund (2002).

Objective: To realise the distribution of resources from a government fund to foundations

Result: Success – from 1999 to 2004 more than 2 billion crowns was distributed to foundations.

Main events: the creation in June 1992 of the Council for Foundations; October 1995 the sale of fund's stock, which is deposited in a special account; in 1997 the working group of the Council for Foundations prepared draft principles for the distribution of resources from the fund; in 1999 a working group of the Donors Fund (4 members and 1 coordinator) lobbied for four months for the distribution of the resources of NIF in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Council. In May 1999 approval of the rules for distribution of the 1st wave of NIF by the government; in July 1999 approval of the results of the selection of foundations by Parliament; in December 1999 the Parliament approved the rules of the 2nd wave, including a decision that the revenue from the future sale of remaining shares would become part of this resolution; January 2003 approval of the annex by which the National Property Fund was to transfer the resources automatically to the foundations when the amount in the account exceeded CZK 200 million.

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[83] Source: a study within the CSI project (Jandová and Novák 2004).

Main actors: the chairman of the National Property Fund; the Government Council for Foundations (RNNO); working group of the RNNO composed of representatives of the foundations; the RNNO committee for the NIF; working group initiated by the Donors Forum; working group of the Parliamentary budgetary committee.

PUNISHMENT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE[84]

Sphere: Social affairs

Case ran from: 1995 – 2003

Core details of case: Criminal law in the Czech Republic did not allow for effective recourse in the event of domestic violence because it did not recognise such violence as an independent criminal act and dealt with it as a common misdemeanour. It was necessary to change the way that the problem was perceived by the general public and the judiciary (domestic violence not some feminist excess, but a problem affecting the entire society).

Objective: (1) To push through an amendment to the criminal law, to make it punishable to tyrannise a person close to one or living in a joint household (penal law, paragraph. 215a); (2) to educate the public in questions relating to domestic violence

Result: Success – activation of the media and general public, implementation of an amendment to paragraph 215a

Main events: 1995 the creation of the Coordination Circle for the Prevention of Violence (5 NGOs: Elektra o.s., La Strada o.p.s., ROSA o.s., the consultation centre proFem o.p.s., Gender Studies o.s.); 1998 a hearing on domestic violence in the Senate; 1999 Senator Seitlová organises a seminar in the Senate; 2000 proFem submits draft legislative amendments to the Council for Human Rights (rejected); 2001 White Circle of Safety commissions STEM to conduct research on public awareness of domestic violence; publicity of the cause of women battered by men in the constituency of Senator Seitlová; 2002 the draft amendment to paragraph 215 proposed by the People's Party is rejected; 2003 a panel discussion organised by the inter-departmental group for domestic violence of the Czech Ministry of the Interior; media campaign against domestic violence against women (NGOs); second survey on violence against women by STEM; the draft amendment proposed by Seitlová passes its 3rd reading.

Main actors: the Coordination Circle for the Prevention of Violence; Senator Jitka Seitlová; the civil organisation White Circle of Safety; the Czech Ministry of the Interior; the campaign against domestic violence (11 NGOs: ROSA, proFem and 9 others, including the Czech Women's Union).

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[84] Source: a study within the CSI (Šimková 2004).

⊙ PREPARATIONS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES BILL[85]

Sphere: Social affairs

Case ran from: 1998 – 2004

Core issues of case: A new Social Security Bill (later the Social Services Bill) has been in the pipeline in the Czech Republic since mid-1990s, but for a long time did not reflect the fact that NGOs are among the range of service providers. CSOs put together a petition against the draft bill and when the opportunity arose to participate at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs because of a change of minister, the organisations seized their chance. In the draft Bill they were accorded the same status as other services providers and thanks to their participation social services quality standards were compiled.

Objective: To participate in the preparations of a Bill and to enshrine therein the equal status of NGOs with state and other service providers (a "material" approach concentrating on the quality of services, not the legal form of the provider).

Result: Success – participation on preparation of the Bill, equal status attained, the introduction of service quality standards.

Main events: in 1994 while preparing the new act on social assistance the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs failed to reflect the existence of a large number of NGOs which were providing services; the NGOs put together a petition; 1998 the new minister invited NGOs to participate on preparations of the Bill: a series of social conferences, the representation of NGOs on working groups drawing up the bill and related service quality standards; 2002 another new minister set up an expert working group to prepare the Bill and NGOs were again represented; 2004 a revised version of the material objectives of the Bill in cooperation with regional and municipal representatives; 6/2004 termination of the committee stage (but approval deferred because of a change of government).

Main actors: The Government Board for People with Disabilities (the advisory body of the government); the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; NGO umbrella organisation in the sphere of social services SKOK; the umbrella organisation National Council for the Physically Handicapped.

⊙ B./ COMPARISON OF CASES

How the cases differ:
Various length and overall character of cases

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[85] Source: a study within the CSI (Zahradníčková 2004)

⊕ Žigovis: short-term event in which a speedy resolution was required (10 days)
⊕ Criminal Code: long-term campaign linked with education and the attempt to achieve social change (8 years)
⊕ NIF: long-term task requiring both speedy action (the working group of Donors Forum – 4 months of active lobbying) and steady pressure applied to a particular theme (9 years)
⊕ The Social Services Bill: long-term expert activities in close cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (6 years)

Objective of event

⊕ to attain a certain decision (NIF, Žigovi, criminal code, the Social Services Bill)
⊕ to achieve a certain status in relation to the state – partners, specialists, equal providers of services (Social Services Act)
⊕ to encourage changes in the way a certain problem is perceived by the public (criminal code)

Resources

⊕ lobbying of government and MPs (NIF, criminal code)
⊕ mobilisation of the media and public (criminal code, Žigovi)
⊕ participation in working groups and ministerial committees and specialist activities (the Social Services Act)

Attitude of the state (MPs, the government)

⊕ from the start have several strong state representatives on its side (Žigovi, NIF, Social Services Bill)
⊕ must gradually obtain the support of state representatives (amendment to the criminal law – linked with the partial reformulation of the problem from a feminist issue to one affecting the entire society)

What each case actually demonstrated:
⊕ The verdict in the case of the Žigovis: the ability of human rights activities to react quickly and effectively, effective publicity in the media, representatives of the Roma minority are able to look after their rights; the existence of an effective ally in the person of the Plenipotentiary for Human Rights and the Council for Human Rights (with pressure on the government in the person of its chair and Deputy Prime Minister).
⊕ The NIF case: the Council for NNO (including the committees) established itself as an effective place from which non-profit organisations could exert influence on the government; it provided a long-term and stable institutional anchor and allowed the non-profit sector to concentrate its attention over the long term on one political theme.

⊕ Amendment to the criminal code: the ability to create a broad and stable coalition between NGOs on the themes in question, the ability to use a variety of education/activation methods – training, publications, public opinion studies, media campaigns, seminars in the Senate, etc. The link to the Council for Human Rights in this case failed, but NGOs found allies in the Senate. In my opinion this study demonstrated the significance of an acceptable formulation of requirements linked with finding allies in parliament or government: in this respect see the unsuccessful efforts made by proFem over many years, when the issue was perceived as feminist in character and therefore not broadly acceptable.

⊕ Preparation of the Social Services Bill: the possibility of participating on preparations of the Bill depended totally on specific persons at the head of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Once the possibility of participation had opened, it had a huge impact both on the form of the Bill (the equal standing of NGOs, service quality standards), and on the cultivation of an internal environment in the civil sector: during the course of collaboration with the Ministry cooperation was strengthened inside the sector, especially within the sector-specific umbrella organisations (SKOK, NRZP).

CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE NATIONAL BUDGETARY PROCESS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Introduction

As part of the CSI research a brief study of the impact of civil society on the development of the national budget was conducted. The aim was to ascertain to what extent CSOs in the Czech Republic concern themselves with the budgetary process in all four stages – the preparatory stage, the legislative stage, implementation and monitoring. In an ideal situation NGOs meet and discuss and promote changes to the budget in certain areas (e.g. the fight against poverty, childcare, equal opportunities for women, sustainable development, etc.) and some are also concerned with the budget process as such, i.e. how transparent it is, the formalisation of procedures, compliance with deadlines etc.

The task of this study was to describe the activities of NGOs in the individual phases of the budgetary process, and to assess their scope and impact. The study is based on secondary sources and interviews with representatives of environmental NGOs, economic think tanks, and with a political scientist.

Framework of the budgetary process in the Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic the budgetary process is enshrined in the law. The constitution stipulates that the government is responsible for submitting a draft budget and reports on budget compliance to Parliament, that the draft budgets must be discussed in an open session, and that the National Control Authority is responsible for monitoring compliance with the budget. The budgetary regulations (Act on the regulations for handling budgetary resources no. 218/2000 Coll.) stipulate the categories of income and expenses and a framework procedure for the preparation of the budget. The budgetary process is overseen by the Ministry of Finance and a draft is prepared in cooperation with other ministries, the management of state funds, and the regions. The parliamentary procedural regulations specify that the government must submit the draft budget no later than three months prior to the start of the next fiscal year and sets forth the course of discussions in Parliament. There is a total of three readings and the budgetary committee approves the basic outline of the budget during its first reading.

Every year the budget features certain priorities which are debated in the media. The first commentaries usually appear in mid-year and media discussion is intense when the draft budget appears in Parliament. The commentaries usually come from the ministries, trade unions, MPs, academics, professional federations and chambers, special interest groups (e.g. farmers), think tanks, banks, etc. Since the end of the 1990s some general budget features have been a regular theme, such as the large percentage of mandatory expenses, the public budget deficit, etc. However, this is mainly debated among experts, particularly economists from academic institutions or financial institutions (banks and companies working on the capital market), including the Czech National Bank or foreign experts (e.g. the OECD or the World Bank).

Almost nobody deals with the budgetary process as a theme. There have been unsuccessful attempts by the World Bank to change the process, when it recommended

to change the budget compilation practice and to stipulate ceilings for four-year long periods for individual ministries within they which would have to rein in their spending. Individual departments would then be required to make savings.

Budgetary process and NGOs
Budget preparatory phase
Most advocacy efforts on the budget are directed to the ministries. To a large extent the budget is determined by law, and therefore there are relatively limited resources to be allocated freely. The key for successful lobbying lies in placing ones demands at the appropriate time within the budgeting cycle.

The role of the Council for NNO is to establish priorities for the state grant policy vis-à-vis NGOs and to look after the joint interests of NGOs.

Several NGOs concentrate on budgetary grants in their "own" sectors. In general NGOs focus on the expenditure side of the budget. An exception to this are attempts at amendments, for example ecological tax reform.

The organisations do not usually combine forces. In the preparatory phase, each organisation lobbies on its own through its links to the ministries. The traditional organisations (sports organisations, hunting federations, etc) are probably most successful, along with the professional federations (the Federation of Industry and Transport, the Cement Manufacturers' Federation, trade unions and economic chambers).

Legislative phase
Over the last ten years MPs have increasingly authorised growing volumes of money through amendments to the government budget proposal in the legislative phase. Many people hold the opinion that lobbying MPs is the most effective means of influencing the budget, i.e. visiting a specific MP with a specific issue and a specific sum in mind. For example, lobbying for the construction of cycle paths as against publicity for cycling in general.

Implementation phase and control of the budget
In the research, no activities of NGOs could be identified with dealt with these phases.

Budget as a theme
The public finance debt and the poor structure of the budget (large mandatory expenses) are mainly the preserve of right-wing economists think-tanks. The Liberal Institute (LI) or the Centre for Economics and Politics (CEP) organise seminars, articles and discussions on these topics. From February 2002 to March 2004 the budget was discussed several times at the CEP, always in the guise of the problematic of increasing public budget deficits, a reflection on the history of an increasing budget deficits, the causes, consequences and potential cures. The CEP, like the LI or the Institute for Social and Economic Analysis (ISEA), as well as other Czech think-tanks does not have sufficient funds to systematically monitor the budget.

Budgetary process as a theme

In the United States, for instance, there are institutions which specialise in monitoring the budgetary process, its transparency, etc. No resources for such organisations and activities exist in the Czech Republic, and therefore the development of the national budget is an obscure "black box". Most studies are concerned with figures and the results of the budget (e.g. how much the deficit has increased, etc.) and not the budgetary process itself.

Summary: How to evaluate the budgetary activities of Czech civil society?

Generally speaking the budget is mainly perceived as a matter for economists, and it is economically oriented non-governmental organisations which concern themselves with the budget as a whole. As an exception, one could mention the unique endeavours of the Czech and Slovak Transport Club and the Association for Sustainable Development.

CSOs usually seek specific interventions in the budget, either through contacts at the ministries or via MPs during the legislative phase. These activities are frequent, usually behind the scenes, and rarely involve cooperation between NGOs. The more successful are the strong players, i.e. national organisations with large memberships, traditional organisations, trade unions, professional chambers, etc. Many CSOs are only just beginning to involve themselves in lobbying, and the negative associations about lobbying are starting to diminish (Grantis 2004).

As far as analysing and dealing with the budgetary process itself is concerned, no activities of CSOs could be detected. There are no CSOs which explicitly deal with this issue and no donor has offered grant support for such activities. This is undoubtedly related to the fact that several NGOs are only now beginning to get involved in lobbying, while others have their connections to public authorities and are therefore not overly concerned by issues of overall budgetary transparency.

There are few CSOs which systematically deal with the structure or contents of the budget. They are either liberal right-wing think-tanks or, in exceptional cases, other types of organisations, e.g. the Association for Sustainable Development (STUŽ) who compiled alternative green budget (2001-2004) and the Czech and Slovak Transport Club (ČSDK) who proposed alternative allocations of national funds in the area of transport (1998-2002). Both of these organisations concerned themselves with ecological issues, their work required high levels of specialist knowledge, and without the support of a grant project, it was difficult to implement such activities over the long-term. The alternative budget of the ČSDK has not proven to be effective and has not been compiled over the last two years. The alternative green budget generated by STUŽ was a project initiated and financed from abroad, and the bulk of the work was performed by the Environmental Centre, an academic centre at the Charles University.

APPENDIX 5:
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Introduction

One of the components of the CSI research project was the compilation of a brief study on corporate social responsibility (CSR). CSR relates, for instance, to the approach taken by companies to their employees (motivation, education, clear rules, health and safety at work, etc.), to clients and shareholders, and to their surroundings (the environment, communication with the general public and the local community, etc.) (Social Venture Network 2004). Several institutions in the Czech Republic are concerned with CSR or closely related themes. These include the Corporate Responsibility Centre, set up by the Institute of the Federation of Industry of the Czech Republic, the Business Leaders Forum, the Donors Forum, the corporate donors club DONATOR (an offshoot of the Donors Forum), Transparency International Czech Republic and VIA Foundation (VIA Bona prize for corporate philantropy).

In our study we use CSR as an indicator of the supportive attitute of the corporate sector towards civil society. In line with the CIVICUS guidelines this study analysed the annual reports of the 10 largest companies in the Czech Republic (in terms of revenue) for 2002.[86] We focussed on large companies, since in terms of CSR they may lead the way. The analysis of annual reports is mainly concerned with the level of corporate responsibility as declared by the companies themselves, since it is not possible to acquire accurate information on their actucal activities and impact.

The attitude to civil society

In the Czech Republic under socialism all companies were state run and performed certain social functions, e.g. they were part of the central national planning process, ensured 100% employment, each company provided social and cultural benefits to employees, and many structures of political participation – however forced and formalised – also routinely functioned at the workplace. A legacy of this situation is still manifest in the attitude of the general public, the overwhelming majority of which believes that large companies should help the government resolve the country's social problems (76%). Two thirds of people believe that a company should do more than simply generate profits and pay taxes. (STEM 2003) However, most people believe that the management of large companies is not interested in assisting the government resolve these questions (67%). (Kalmická and Pavlů 2002)

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[86] When selecting the largest companies we used the list of "Czech Top 100" 2002 non-financial companies. We did not receive an annual report from the companies in 8th and 10th place on the list so went to the next two companies on the list. Certain companies were represented on the list as an entire group (e.g. Unipetrol) and as individual companies from the group (e.g. Česká rafinérská), which again necessitated a downwards adjustment of the list. We added financial institutions to the list according to size. We ended up with annual reports from the following companies: ŠKODA AUTO; UNIPETROL, part of which is ČESKÁ RAFINÉRSKÁ; ČEZ; Transgas; OKD; CZECH TELECOM; Agrofert; Česká pojišťovna; MAKRO Cash and Carry ČR; Komerční banka.

In the regional survey two thirds of respondents described the approach taken by companies to CSOs as indifferent, and the same number stated that companies were not concerned with the impact of their activities on people and the environment. Opinions differed significantly regarding how frequently companies became involved in the activities of civil society. Most respondents in each region provided specific examples of corporate involvement in the civil sector over the last three years. Practically all the examples related to one-off assistance and donations (e.g. donations of materials, reductions on the rent of premises or work carried out), which were usually directed at a specific event (often a sports event or something involving children and young people). Two commentaries evaluated the trend for cooperation with companies positively:

"Over the last three years we have managed to gradually improve cooperation with companies, above all by means of large events." (Youth organisations from the Liberec region)

"My impression is that the corporate sector is moving in the right direction as far as sponsoring is concerned. Support for our organisation on the part of the private sector is on the up and up." (Social care organisation from the Vysočina region)

The private sector and social responsibility

There are companies which describe their individual activities in the sphere of CSR on websites, but not in a special report, or which issue separate reports regarding one aspect of CSR. ČEZ a.s. issued a special Report on Social Responsibility in 2003.

Research carried out by the Business Leaders Forum (Trnková 2004) shows that 64% percent of companies know the concept of CSR, but only 10% of companies have employees concerned exclusively with CSR. These are mainly large companies with a foreign investor or part of supra-national corporations. Three quarters of companies claimed to care for their employees. Ecology was a sphere in which activities were undertaken by more than 40% of participating companies; these were mainly companies which produce or utilise natural resources or are involved in the construction industry. Many of them intend to acquire environmental certificates or have already done so. The conclusion seems to be that positive steps in the sphere of ecology are being taken mainly by companies whose activities have direct impact on the environment. Eighty four percent of companies plan to expand their CSR-related activities.

Results of the analysis of the annual reports

The annual reports differ in respect of length, design and structure. None of the reports deals explicitly with "corporate social responsibility" as such, but several employ similar formulations: we respect the environment, we want to create a transparent business environment, we look after our employees, we provide the public with information, etc. The annual reports of the first four companies on the list were strong in terms of such declarations: Škoda Auto, Unipetrol (and Česká rafinérská), ČEZ, Transgas, as well as Telecom and Komerční banka.

An active employment policy and the provision of benefits to employees is the strongest aspect of CSR and is to be found in 90% of the companies monitored. With one exception, all the annual reports had a special part devoted to employees. Seven

companies mentioned active assistance to employees, such as active work with employees, career guidance, remuneration and incentive systems and training programmes. Eight companies described their cooperation with trade unions, and six made reference to an existing collective agreement between the company management and the trade unions. Special social and/or health benefits for employees were mentioned in five annual reports, for example contributions to retirement pensions schemes, refreshments, transport, accommodation, rehabilitation stays, preventative health measures, a works doctor, contributions to social and cultural events and family members, interest-free loans, etc. Several companies also described investments made in improving health and safety at work.

Five companies made specific mentioning of the environment as a theme. Other companies did not deal with the issue because of the character of their activities, which do not impact directly on the environment (e.g. Komerční banka). It is difficult to make out from the reports what are statutory duties and what is above standard in this respect. An example of an above-standard measure in the sphere of the environment is the international programme Responsible Care in the chemicals industry. Most of Unipetrol's companies have the right to use the programme's logo and since 2002 public discussions have been held regarding the reports with trade unions and local and regional authorities. Unipetrol has a Joint Ecological Policy and its companies compile a special report every two years on the company's impact on the environment. Another example is the environmental management norm ISO 14001, which has been awarded to most of Unipetrol's companies as well as Škoda, ČEZ and one Telecom subsidiary. Škoda is constructing an information system dealing with the environment.

Seven annual reports examine public activities outside of the company, such as communication with the general public, sponsoring, etc. In 2002 there was large-scale flooding in the Czech Republic, and around half of the reports refer to the various forms of assistance offered to those affected (financial and material). Philanthropic activities are aimed above all at culture and sport, slightly less at education, then in the direction of children, young people and healthcare. Large companies are partners of the Czech Olympic team (but also the Para-Olympic team), the National Theatre, orchestras, etc. Several companies collaborate with universities (Škoda Auto, ČEZ, Komerční banka). Two companies have their own foundations: Nadace Eurotel (Telecom) and the Rainbow Energy Foundation (ČEZ).

Summary

Over the last 2 years the concept of corporate social responsibility has become better known in the Czech Republic. Several CSOs have been working on this issue for a long time, but only in 2004 did the Chamber of Commerce organise its first conference devoted to this theme.

The assistance to its employees is traditionally the most developed component of Czech companies' CSR-related activities. Companies whose activities impact on the environment frequently monitor the impact of their activities, or at least they claim to. The analysis conducted of the annual reports confirms that most large companies claim to be pursuing activities which fall under the rubric of CSR, though in 2002 none of them were using the term itself, or indeed any other similar translation of the English term CSR.

From the point of view of CSR we have to distinguish between large companies (which are often parts of foreign corporations) and small, usually Czech-owned firms. The first group constitutes the vanguard as far as utilising CSR as a concept or model is concerned. This includes compiling special reports, using the CSR rhetoric, and utilising CSR as part of PR activities. Companies in the second group often do not know the term, but express their duties to the community in some other way, e.g. through donations, help in renting premises, price reductions on work, etc.

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