

CIVICUS INDEX on CIVIL SOCIETY

*Deepening the Roots of Civil Society in
Ukraine. Findings From an Innovative and
Participatory Assessment Project on the
Health of Ukrainian Civil Society*

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Part 1. Introduction

The issue of civil society development in Ukraine has become a priority topic among non-profit organizations and donor agencies. It is also a concern of policy makers, journalists and scientists. The focus of civil society increased with the political developments, which occurred in the fall of 2000 and spring of 2001. The uprising was caused by speculations about involvement of high-rank officials in the disappearance and possible murder of independent journalist, Georgi Gongadze.

In the public hearings held on the implementation of the former Ukrainian government programs, we could recognize some civil society activities, when civil society organizations initiated reporting the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine before public and contested the data presented with independent analysis of think tank SCOs. However, it is unreasonable to declare civil society in Ukraine as a strong and influential public actor. Public opinion polls in Ukraine confirm this assumption, while making evident the dominance of apathy and distrust in social institutions among the public.

In order to achieve a better understanding of what comprises the civil society sector in Ukraine, where its boundaries lie, which ethical principles it follows and how much strong and efficient it is, the *CIVICUS Index on Civil Society Project* was implemented in Ukraine by the League of Regional Resource Centres for NGOs and the Counterpart Creative Centre.

The project was initiated by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation as a means of assessing the health of civil society in various countries around the world in order to provide local stakeholders with the information necessary to improve its development in the future. The period 2000-2001 marked the pilot phase of the Index project where it has been implemented in 13 countries around the world simultaneously. In each country CIVICUS collaborated with national lead organizations (NLOs), local CSOs that implement the project. In Ukraine, the NLOs for the Index project are the League of Regional Resource Centers for NGOs (LRRRC) and Counterpart Creative Center (CCC). Aside from an analysis of civil society in the selected countries, the research actively aims to develop recommendations for policymakers and civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote the role of civil society in governance and development.

The objectives of the Index project are as follows:

- To increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of civil society through reflecting on and assessing the strength, health and impact of the sector;
- To empower civil society stakeholders through promoting dialogue, alliances and networks;
- To develop visions of mechanisms to achieve stronger civil society through providing an agenda and goal-setting tool to help foster positive behavioural change.

The research methodology was adjusted to the particular needs and opportunities of Ukraine. The team conducted focus groups in different regions of Ukraine and presented an analysis of the data. A global NLO Workshop conducted by CIVICUS provided an excellent opportunity for the Ukrainian team to learn and share insights with their international colleagues. Stakeholder surveys and assessment and agenda-setting workshops all over the country provided basic data on the status and helped to set the vision of civil society development in Ukraine.

The CIVICUS Index on Civil Society project employs the following definition of civil society: *“Civil society is the sphere of institutions, organizations, networks and individuals (and their values) located between the confines of the family, the state and the market, which is bound by a set of shared civic rules, and in which people associate voluntarily to advance common interests.”*

The definition of civil society raised many discussions among civil society stakeholders in regions during project implementation and led the accomplishers to the assumption of the regionally specific development of civil society in Ukraine. The conclusion was based on the reflection how civil society stakeholders define themselves together with the data on regional distribution of SCOs. (See Appendix. Project Implementation)

On the basis this working definition, the following types of CSO have been specified for the Ukraine: faith-based organizations; trade unions; professional and business organizations; grant-making foundations;; CSOs active in education, development, training and research; environmental CSOs; advocacy CSOs; women’s associations; student and youth associations; health CSOs; sport clubs; social service CSOs; ethnic/traditional/ethno-cultural indigenous

CSOs; culture an art CSOs; community-based and informal associations; and economic interest CSOs.

The Index project employs the civil society Diamond Tool¹ as its main methodological approach in assessing civil society. This tool disaggregates the complexity of civil society into four dimensions:

- 1. Structure:** How large, structured and complex is civil society in Ukraine, what are its main resources?
- 2. Space:** What is the space available for civil society development in terms of the existing legal framework, attitudes of the government and business sectors toward civil activities?
- 3. Values:** What are the values civil society represents and advocates?
- 4. Impact:** What is the impact of civil society on government and public welfare? What is civil society's public image?

Previous research on civil society in Ukraine has been minimal, the topic of little interest to scientists. What information does exist is descriptive rather than analytical in nature. Thus the Index project has a number of additional values in the Ukrainian context:

- Its comparative nature provides an opportunity to compare the development of civil society in different countries.
- It looks at civil society through a broad range of indicators, thus capturing its diversity and dynamics.
- It involves a large number of different civil society stakeholders in the process.
- The project has the potential to place civil society issues onto the policy agenda, and to thus develop recommendations and strategies to further development.

This report on the *CIVICUS Index on Civil Society Project* in Ukraine contains an extensive analysis of the findings of the project in Ukraine, highlighting the critical issues in the development of civil society and the recommendations developed by the project participants on how to tackle these challenges (Part I). The conclusion highlights the most remarkable findings of the project and the most important activities recommended to enhance the civil society in the future. The report also highlights the project contributions to the development and strengthening

¹ The Diamond tool, analytic framework and methodological approach were designed for CIVICUS by Helmut Anheier, Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics. For more information about the Diamond tool see Helmut Anheier with Lisa Carlson, *Civil Society: Measurement and Policy Dialogue*, London: Earthscan, (forthcoming).

of civil society in Ukraine (Part II). Appendix 4 contains full details about the procedures of the project implementation.

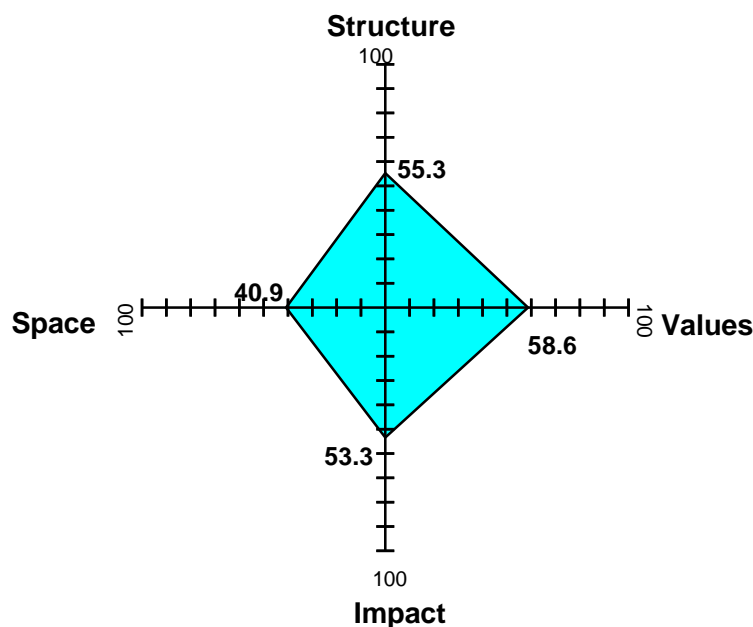
Part II.

Civil society in Ukraine

The status of Civil Society in Ukraine

Early in the research process, we recognized that a survey of existing data on civil society was insufficient to form an unbiased picture of civil society development in Ukraine; thus the conclusions reached in this project have relied on the knowledge of civil society stakeholders, i.e. representatives of different civil society sectors, government and business gained through a survey (figure 1). The status of civil society represented graphically by the civil society Status Diamond below. The data for this Diamond was collected using 58 indicators, both universal and specific to the Ukrainian situation.

The Civil Society Status Diamond for Ukraine



The status of civil society development in Ukraine, as the research findings show, may be defined in the terms of a medium health. This medium health may be explained with the fact that average scores were obtained from a broad number of indicators in each dimension, and also might be due to the dominance of a moderate level of competency of the respondents. (Table 1). Medium health indicates that civil society has taken root in post-totalitarian Ukraine: an

optimistic assumption as workshop participants recognized. So, the final results may be treated as an unbiased and true reflection of the current situation in Ukraine. In order to describe civil society in detail and to discover the challenges of its development, we have to delve more deeply into the data by looking at the individual indicators, comparing their scores to the existing data sources and the results of the National Goal and Agenda Setting Workshops held as a part of the project implementation (see Appendix 1).

Table 1. Survey Respondents Level of Competency

Structure		%
	(very) competent	41
	moderately competent	54
	(very) incompetent	4
Space		
	(very) competent	41
	moderately competent	53
	(very) incompetent	5
Values		
	(very) competent	42
	moderately competent	56
	(very) incompetent	2
Impact		
	(very) competent	43
	moderately competent	53
	(very) incompetent	3

The most developed dimension for civil society in Ukraine is the values dimension with a score of 58.6 out of a total of 100. This high score comes from the dominance of moral grounds and intentions, rather than the actual activities of civil society. This trend is also evident in the structure and space dimension. The structure, values and impact dimensions were each scored quite high, but the space dimension, with the poor attitudes of government, the public and business toward civil society, scored quite low (40.9). This is quite surprising, given the high scores in values dimension. Here we may conclude that being relatively rich with values Ukrainian society does not recognize SCOs as bearers of such values.

The structure of Ukrainian civil society seems to be well developed, despite the unequal distribution of CSOs in rural and urban areas. The resource base of civil society seems to be problematic, a problem that resonates in the space and impact dimensions. Effective impact of CSOs on society and government, its principal feedback function, is largely inhibited with the low attitude of general public to CSOs, limited donor support and small number of CSO volunteers. For the impact dimension, with moderate scores, the data concerning insignificant

impact on government was counterweighted with rather positive data on CSOs service delivery function.

A comprehensive picture of Ukrainian civil society and a development of appropriate strategies for its improvement can only be obtained on the basis of an analysis of the specific indicators within each dimension which will follow in the next sections.

Structure

The overall score for the structure of Ukrainian civil society is 55.3, indicating a civil society that has a fairly developed structure, mirroring the medium health of the overall Ukrainian civil society. However, when analysing specific indicators of the structure dimension, particular challenges emerge for civil society development (Table 2). The first challenge is the poor, uneven distribution of CSOs throughout all regions of Ukraine; second is the poor financial sustainability of CSOs; and third is the relatively low levels of CSO membership and volunteering among the general public.

Table 2. Indicators of Structure Dimension

Sub-Dimension	Value	Indicator	Value
Networks & co-operation	58,80	Umbrella body1	62,12
		Umbrella body2	59,78
		Umbrella body3	59,47
		Alliances	57,29
		Links	60,38
		Co-operation with business	54,43
Composition & activities	54,42	Internal Cultural Diversity	68,13
		Membership	58,46
		Distribution	37,03
		Political participation 1	46,30
		Political participation 2	46,30
		Cooperation	58,24
Resources	67,14	Financial Sustainability?	50,39
		Foreign Funding	61,92
		Public Funding	81,58
		Private Funding	73,91

There are near 25490 associations and charities, and 8000 non-formal groups² in Ukraine. Only 8500 associations and charities, and 500 groups are actually operating. Though official statistics

² The non-formal groups are associated with the Ministry of Culture infrastructure. These are arts and music associations that are not registered as NGOs by Ministry of Justice. They are registered by Ministry of Culture and

note a constant growth of the total number of CSO (Sydorenko 2000), only approximately 50% of these are in operation. This conclusion is based on a comparison of national and regional databases on CSO run by umbrella organizations to the official statistics data (see Table 3). Still, the most challenging factor the unequal geographic distribution of CSOs throughout Ukraine, a challenge that is especially apparent when comparing the relevant indicators from different regions. (see Table 3). The ratio of CSOs per capita is 1:3985 individuals, with an average density of 50 CSOs per 100,000 individuals. The largest number of CSO per capita is in the capital of country (87,6 per 100000)³, and regional centers (60), the smallest in agricultural and traditionally rural areas (30-40).

? ?ble 3. Correlation of data of really existing SCOs to official registries in some regions of Ukraine

Region	Official Data	Numbers according to data bases	Percent age	Number of NGO per capita (official data for 100000 of population)	Correlated number of SCOs per capita
Kirovograd region (central unemployment)	567	377	59 %	47,4	27,9
Vinnitsia (west-central, rural)	675	484	72 %	36,69	26,41
Rivne (west rural)	564	53	9 %	47,4	4,26
Chernigiv (north rural)	541	56	10 %	41,5	4,15
Kharkiv (east, unemployment)				52,0	
Kiev (developed)				87,6	
Lviv (West, developed)				67,9	
Total for 4 regions	2347	970	41 %		
Ukraine national	25490	3359	13 %	50,9	6,61
Non-formal cultural groups	7997	4000	50 %		

The table 3 is illustrative to the assumption of regional differences in civil society development in Ukraine. While rural and economically underdeveloped regions comprise low numbers of working SCOs and consequently number CSO per capita, the former industrial and currently unemployed areas show middle numbers due to national level, the highest level of development show centers of political and economic activity like L'viv (67,8) and Kiev (87,6). Still, the major conclusion about regional differences were derived after close communication with civil society stakeholders and their perception of civil society concept. Participants from ex-industrialized

have elements of formal institutions. We consider such groups as an element of civil society. About informality see: Borocz, Jozsef "Informality and Nonprofits in East Central European Capitalism", in *Voluntas*, Vol. 11, N2, 2000.

Eastern Ukraine approached civil society as a philosophic concept based mostly on values and perceptions of people. Participants from Western part has recognized civil society as an opportunity of political change and empowerment of people. Participants from semi-private and socialist central Ukraine were speaking about social role of SCOs and well-being guarantors. Heterogeneous Southern part of Ukraine has brought the issues of efficiency and outcome of civil society. SCOs from the capital of Ukraine, being experinced in the advocacy and lobbying national change, especially business development associations, see civil society in changing policies and involving people into protection and promotion of their interests.

While CSO total number has increased, the active participation of citizens in their activities is still low. The relevant indicators in national surveys show that 83% of citizens have never participated in any CSO activities. (DIF, 2000). Despite of the fact that these data do not focus on CSO membership specifically, one can see that there is not a long standing tradition of citizen participation in Ukraine. When comparing previous research findings, one sees that the World Value Survey found that 8.9% of Ukrainians are engaged in CSOs; a survey by Innovation and Development Center revealed a share of volunteers among the total population of 15.6% (IDC, 1999). These results contrast strongly with the stakeholder survey data (58,46) and make the challenges for civil society in this field evident.

There is also a small gap in the estimations of CSO financial sustainability between the existing and stakeholder survey data. The stakeholder survey data score on financial sustainability indicator is 50,39, while the estimation of 1999 US AID Sustainability Index for Ukrainian CSOs is only 34. (US AID, 2000). Here we may speculate that financial sustainability of CSOs has grown since 1999, but rather sights of SCOs optimism are seen about their future. Poor financial sustainability of Ukrainian CSOs emerge in their modest share in the national GNP only 0,3 % (1999)⁴ of the total amount and inadequately diversified sources of funding. International donors' grants make around 80-85% of income of the registered NGOs (Vinnikov, 2000). Umbrella organizations, as a crucial element of civil society, are funded mostly by foreign donors. (USAID, 2000). Fundraising in business and obtaining government subsidies are challenging, too. As one participant of the National Workshop said, "While civil society organizations are at lower stage of their development, government subsidies may be even dangerous, as this might cause a dependency of civil society organizations from bureaucracy."

⁴ Data was derived from total amount of NGOs income in 1999 (Sydorenko, 2000) and GNP amount for 1999 (World Fact Book 1999).

The workshop participants drew special attention to the shortage of direct connections between foreign donors and civil society in Ukraine. Currently, foreign funded programs for civil society development are managed, with few exceptions, via foreign intermediaries⁵, which makes the public suspicious of misuses and unequal treatment to Ukrainian civil society. Being focused on getting funds from donor structure, the "intermediaries" often fail to take into consideration cultural, regional and other general specifics of the country. Moreover, these intermediary institutions take a portion of the funding away from Ukrainian CSOs to cover their own costs. The lack of public financial transparency⁶ means that these intermediaries often become competitors for Ukrainian CSOs rather than partners. (Miroslav Ruzica et al, 2000).

Currently, umbrella organizations play an important role in the structure of the sector. They forge infrastructure for CSOs, and their presence is of vital importance for newly established CSOs, and those operating in remote regions. Survey respondent estimated general networks and cooperation climate as high 58,8. However, umbrella organizations often face serious difficulties in their activities because of their weak connections to the local communities and because they are subject to the impact of their foreign donors. (Deichakivski, 1998)

The number of umbrella organizations and coalitions is constantly growing. There are almost 10 umbrella organizations that unite CSOs according to their field of activity (e.g. Women's Consortium, Ednannia Ecological Network, Eco-Pravo network, Ukrainian National Committee of Youth Organizations, etc.). Common interest networks are the League of the Regional Resource Centers, which nationally unites CSOs developing centers, Freedom of Choice 99 Coalition of 268 NGOs formed in favor of free and fair elections. It was admitted that all the networking activities are heavily concentrated around foreign donors and are supported by them. (USAID 1999). The recent example of coalition-building for better legislation for philanthropy by indigenous NGOs, which transformed into International Renaissance Foundation (Soros network) project, testifies to the practice of rather donors' dependent networking procedures.

- **Space for Civil Society in Ukraine**

The space dimension addresses the following questions: does the legal, political and socio-cultural environment promote or inhibit the civil society development in the Ukraine? Do

⁵ Foreign intermediaries are mostly represented by larger nonprofits from overseas countries providing technical assistance, which develop programs in appointed areas of Ukraine development and apply to major grant-makers during tenders announced by later . These NGOs form formal and informal alliances with local NGOs, which become in their turn major recipients of assistance. Supposed that practice of escaping direct transfer of funds to Ukrainian NGOs is caused by speculations about abuse and corruption in Ukrainian society.

effective CSO laws exist that are in favour of civil society development? What is the general attitude of government and business toward civil society?

The research findings show a total score for the space dimension as 40.9, the lowest score of all the dimensions measured. (Table 4). This score is in line with the findings of previous studies, and reflects the general attitudes within Ukrainian CSOs. The legal framework for citizen participation in civil society (58,93) is less challenging than tax system (36,94, 38.07), misinterpretations of the laws in effect, and negative treatment of government officials (38,88) and business(27,65) to civil society

Table 4. Indicators of Space Dimension

Sub-Dimension	Value	Indicator	Value
CSO laws	45,98	Regulation	58,93
		Tax 1	36,94
		Tax 2	38,07
general state environment	38,88	Policy Involvement	46,71
		Legislative Access	41,49
		State Recognition	41,31
		General State Attitude	26,13
societal environment	57,07	Social Recognition	40,52
		Public Spiritedness	52,54
		Political pressure	76,38
business environment	27,65	Business Recognition	27,48
		Business Philanthropy	28,57

The key civil society stakeholders rated the space dimension the lowest because of certain discriminative and unclear regulations in laws, as well as a deficiency in the legal protection of CSO against ill practices. The participants of the target group believe that the most urgent need is in amending laws, and not administrative procedures. These amendments should facilitate forming SCOs resource base, namely, eliminate the prohibition to derive fees for SCOs services as well as provide transparent access to public funds. The same attitude was manifested by participants of focus-groups in the latest corruption studies in Ukraine (29% believe that corruption in bad laws vs 9% in administrative procedures). (Miller et al, 1999).

Legal restrictions associated with the freedom of association relate to the allowed purposes of CSOs, their compliance with laws and their minimum membership (3 founders required). These restrictions are not recognized as major impediments for the development of civil society. When compared with the other problems in CSO legislation, they are the least mentioned by survey respondents. Informal associations are permitted by law and are required only to inform the

⁶ Such agencies report to their grant-makers mostly. Local access is limited to reported facts in Annual Reports.

authorities of their existence. Foreign CSO may operate through their representative offices and, as a rule, they have tax-exempted fiscal status as non-residents.

All formal CSOs must register and be approved by the Ukrainian government. Often, CSOs are forced to change or alter their mission and/or scope of activities to avoid being refused registration by government officials or other to avoid facing additional administrative steps in registration. Court claims of CSOs in such cases are usually successful, but they require excessive time, resources and legal assistance, which many CSOs can not afford, especially those in the countryside. Problem in accessing the data from CSO official registers is also grounded in too many impediments related to affordability as the CSO must make copies and excerpts themselves. External audits are obligatory only for non-banking financial institutions (pension funds, credit unions, etc.).

As a rule, registration fees (about \$10.00 -\$20.00 for local and \$500.00 for international) are not an obstacle in obtaining the status of a legal entity. The law prescribes any CSO to have 3 members, so an individual founding act, for example as a private foundation, is actually invalid in Ukraine (the only exception is the establishment of an endowment, introduced in December 2000). Additionally, CSOs often face ill-grounded requirements for re-registration, whenever the relevant laws are amended.

CSO often complain about the political pressure to fulfil the informal instructions given by government agencies and local governments or about the need to restrain from the 'undesirable' activities, as defined by the state. However, this pressure may be qualified rather as administrative, because it is not based on the laws and/or impact of the public policy subjects (political parties, voters groups etc.). In the Ukraine political situation, when parties are distanced from direct executive power, this creates background for corruption and limits the space of civil society interaction with government (26,13 score of general state attitude

Stakeholders and workshop participants have differing expectations and opinions concerning the relationship between civil society, government and business. Many indicated that government and business are not willing to partner with CSOs, and do not treat them as equal social actors. It should be noted that this indicators concerning this relationship scored the lowest of all indicators 27,65 for business and 38,88 for government. The conclusions by a renowned publicist on civil society issues confirm such attitude stating,

Ukrainians complain that it is difficult to identify criteria of grant competition winners selection.

Yet our society failed to provide free space for civic initiatives outside government due to a number of institutional and subjective factors inherent with governments of any level. Lately, the power of top bureaucracy has increased in Ukraine, because of strictly planned nature of public life inherited from the former Soviet system. It is the reason of... unrestricted bureaucracy governance even in the areas of civic life (non-political), where common sense seeks for efficient activities of civic organizations. (Lavrinovych 1999).

The strikingly low level of business philanthropic giving may be explained by additional factors that were seen as strong impediments by participants. These are the deficiency in tax exemptions for CSO and tax deductions for their donors, coupled with overly complicated procedures of state control on these procedures.

The legal status of CSO donors, sponsors and volunteers is ambiguous in Ukrainian laws. CSO liability to report about grants and donations' allocation on their donors requests can be regarded a positive regulation as it will help to increase the transparency in CSO operations, thus decreasing any opportunity for corruption. Volunteer status is not cleared by regulations and in terms of general employment requirements it can be treated by controlling body as that one of employee, which in turn causes responsibility of an employer to ensure timely payment of social security⁷.

Public respect for CSOs and their individual volunteers or donors seems to be higher than the relevant attitudes of Ukrainian government and business (57,07). However, on a whole, it is estimated as low because of the widespread social apathy and outdated interpretation of philanthropy or full ignorance in this matter that still exists in Ukraine.

CSO transactions and the state licensing of some of their activities are subject to general regulations. Providing services for charges, even if the law allows it in the specific fields (education, health care, etc.), is currently a pretext for excluding CSOs from the state register of non-profit organizations and depriving them of tax-exempted status on the basis of tax authorities' decisions. The unclear regulation of the issue of main and secondary types of CSO activity caused exclusion of some well-known NGOs from register only because publishing as a type of activity, which actually is considered as business in Ukraine, was in the by-laws of this organization. At the same time, any organization can make necessary changes in their by-laws, which are coming into force in 5 days, after which any NGO can apply for tax-exempt status.

So, the environment of CSO in legal field is ambiguous. The general legal framework for CSO exists, but it lacks cohesion and requires a number of by-laws in order to be implemented somehow efficiently. This situation might be improved after adoption of the new civil code (passed second reading as of March 1, 2001) and the frame act on non-business corporations (passed first reading). The Ukrainian government, as a rule, is not proactive, it does not gather generalized information on NGO conditions and activities, nor develop comprehensive strategy and attitude towards civil society. The government has no specific bodies responsible for keeping contacts with CSO (except churches and trade unions) or advisory bodies with some representatives of CSO. It is one of major obstacles in comprehensive development of a legal framework for civil society.

Values

The values dimension received the highest score of all dimensions with 58.55. However, even with this high score, survey respondents do not indicate that CSOs play an active role in maintaining harmony between different political, cultural, religious and ethnic groups within the society. They do, however, recognize the importance of CSOs in protecting human rights, maintaining gender equality and protecting the environment (Table 5).

Table 5. Indicators of Values Dimension

Sub-Dimension	Value	Indicator	Value
External values	57,15	Tolerance 1	54,85
		Tolerance 2	55,55
		Human Rights 2	73,25
		Gender Equity 2	54,06
		Sustainable Development	62,50
Cultural diversity	60,30	Cultural Diversity 1	65,20
		Cultural Diversity 2	55,91
Internal values	74,22	Gender Equity 1	58,06
		Human Rights 1	80,51
		Internal Democracy 1	79,32
		Internal Democracy 2	76,56
Accountability/Transparency	52,98	Public Accountability	66,03
		Transparency	39,89
		Corruption	48,43

The analysis of existing data sources indicates the low level of tolerance within society toward minorities and other ethnic groups. The same sources show that readiness to protect is very low

⁷ In Ukraine social security of employee is obligatorily covered by employer.

in society. It also has highlighted the dominance of apathy attitudes and the public distrust to any organized activities⁸. (DIF, 2000). Here we may conclude that CSOs capacity in creating harmonious relationships and breaking false stereotypes towards minorities in society, in promoting civilized forms of interaction between citizen and government is very low. One participant of a regional workshop has defined the relations between a citizen and the government by stating, “Authorities are indifferent to civil society development. Citizens shall be aware of their duty to remind any official, that he or she is only a ‘public servant’.”

Cultural diversity in civil society is represented at fairly medium level - 60. On the one hand, it bears out the functioning of numerous cultural and ethnic organizations; on the other hand, it validates their peaceful co-existence, though it says little about their cooperation. Some indicators, such as the cooperation level between the different cultural groups will be useful to provide more detail concerning tolerance level and harmony interaction in a heterogeneous environment. This assumption is based on the regional socio cultural disparities and also well-known contradictions among religious groups in Ukraine (Freedom House, 2000).

The survey has confirmed a relatively advanced level of internal democracy in the civil society sector. However, responses from civil society stakeholders might not be grounded in the reality of internal management of many CSOs, but rather reflect what is the most desirable situation for CSOs. Only a very few Ukrainian CSOs could be praised for the existence of evolved instruments of internal democracy as ethical and legal regulations for their members, employees’ references, which describe internal rules of the organization, as well as rights and responsibilities of its staff and membership. Many members and employees of Ukrainian CSOs prefer to terminate their membership, apply for external arbitration or to register as a new CSO, instead of making the effort to prevent eventual conflict situations caused by internal by-laws dealing with such issues. Usually, it is the internal conflicts that cause the emergence of new twin-organizations that go on to compete for support. This phenomenon could explain decline of the membership in Ukrainian CSOs, while their total number increase.

The vast majority of Ukrainian CSO do involve their members in their activities and their governing bodies are recruited on the basis of elections as the relevant regulations of Ukrainian

⁸ Ukrainians estimate that they lack norms and values that provide social cohesion/integration to the society and state (39%), they feel lack of stability in society (76%), lack of human rights protection (64%). The ethnic conflicts expectation is 48%, and ethnic tolerance is estimated as 24%. Family conflicts are estimated as the highest (41%) as compared to ethnic and civic (4%). Readiness of people to protest unfair government decisions is 4%; 66% respondents answered that they would not be able to change the situation/lobby government decisions with positive results. (DIF, 2000)

legislation require any entity to elect their governing bodies. Unfortunately, we did not have any other data than the stakeholder survey to establish the scores of internal democracy indicators, because no research has been done in this field. The CSO respect for human rights and individual freedoms, and their efforts to keep gender equity in their internal procedures as shown by the survey results are also evidence for a rather high level of internal values of CSO.

The weakest point in civil society's values system is poor CSO transparency and reporting to the public. The survey shows that CSO finance activities are still not transparent and the accepted cases of mismanagement and corruption are quite numerous. We would like to stress the fact that the impact and structure dimension also indirectly confirms the somewhat negative public attitude toward CSOs because of its consequently low level of CSOs public profile and citizen participation in CSOs.

Ukrainian people feel unprotected in most issues that influence their values and mindset in general. Civic conflicts are improbable and expected mainly on family level, which testifies to the overwhelming apathy and low trust to the government and in civil society in general. The hypothesis is proved by the research findings on extortion and bribery in Eastern Europe, which conclude "that people in Ukraine were the passive and guiltless victims of rapacious officials", when involved in the corruptive practices. (Miller et al, 1999). People do not recognize that CSOs promote values. However, representatives of CSOs estimated their inner democracy as high, which is a good sign. Greater CSOs transparency and accountability is required as a prerequisite for better citizens involvement into civil society.

Impact

The impact dimension scores 53.3 out of a possible 100. CSOs received the highest scores concerning their professional development and quality of client-oriented services. The impact of CSO on the national and local government on the other hand received low scores (Table 6).

Table 6. Indicators of Impact Dimension

Sub-Dimension	Value	Indicator	Value
Policy impact	39,98	Policy agenda	54,98
		Policy drafting	34,79
		Policy making	35,73

		Policy implementation	33,80
		Policy monitoring	39,53
Public profile	66,17	Media attention	69,50
		Media image	64,93
		Public profile	64,56
Service impact	56,16	Popular support	54,98
		Comparative advantage	66,47
		Conflict resolution	45,77
		Responsiveness	70,40
		Mobilizing marginalized	59,04
		Service impact	70,43
		Public good	53,16

Public Policy

CSO impact on government is generally low and needs much enhancement 39, 98. The public sector supports small social-issues-oriented CSOs like invalid and youth groups (at the very least, it does not prevent the latter's activities), filling gaps in the provision of social services left by the state. On the other hand, the public sector holds a strongly negative attitude toward the efforts of CSOs to operate in the potentially profitable fields of social services like education and health, where government agencies or state-controlled business corporations act.

The cooperation of CSO and public sector in policy-making and implementation has slowly developed over the past two years, but much is left to be done for its sustainability. By in large, CSO may influence policy-making and implementation on the local level, but on the national level, the principal stakeholders in the political processes are influential business and political groups, but not CSOs. Ukrainian CSOs have few umbrella organizations on the national level that are able to make an essential impact on government policy. Procedural infrastructure for civil society impact on government was initiated under the Yushchenko (former Ukrainian prime-minister) administration: in November 2000 and in April 2001 CSOs arranged two public hearings of the government program implementation, while the prime-minister reported about the government activities and their prospects. Think tanks SCOs presented their own expertise on issues in the domain of the Cabinet of Ministers, which were taken by government into implementation. Besides, during that government many SCOs leaders initiated cooperation with government from consulting Ministry of Economy to starting projects jointly with Ministry of Culture.

During the previous months, given the start of Parliament elections campaign, state authorities made efforts to seek for consensus and spoke out in the support of "third sector" development. To some extent, these processes may reflect the actual shift to democracy strengthening in

Ukraine and efforts to keep constructive dialogue between government and civil society. On the other hand, this may testify to the growing impact and significance of CSOs, while mechanisms of cooperation between political sector and civil society are still underdeveloped. The anxious words cited below testify to the very immature political skills of CSOs:

“Unfortunately, ... CSO in Ukraine never got actual instruments to make an impact on government. In several cases, too close ties with political nominees [the article describes the election campaign in late 1999] caused the essential loss of CSO independence.”(Dovbach, Azarov, 2000)

Public Profile

When talking about CSO impact on the media, we can summarize as follows. Firstly, there is a relatively positive image of CSO in the media. However, there is a low level of media and journalists attention to CSO. Finally, we find a remarkable degree of nonprofessionalism between CSO and media. In general, there is a large potential for improvement.

Generally, image of CSO in the media is positive. Nearly 70% of all the publications have a positive tone, a few materials are overtly negative and almost 20% are neutral (SCIS 2000). The most popular activities for highlighting within the broad range of third sector developments are charitable activities, well-publicised presentations of charitable foundations, civil associations and other stakeholders in the sector. Analytical treatments of civil society issues are relatively rare in the media (especially in nation-wide ones). Such materials usually are published in special publications or magazines for CSOs. The cooperation between the media and CSO is constrained based on a somewhat negative treatment of CSO representatives by journalists. It reflects the conclusions of the values dimension on CSO failure to be transparent and accountable:

“...it is very difficult, sometimes even impossible to “pipe” the information that is really interesting and useful for common people. Usually they furnish non-original data, rumours about internal conflicts in CSO...”(Perchikova, 2000)

The level of the public support to CSOs could be qualified as neutral. The principal causes for this mixed picture are (1) the low trust of citizens in CSOs, (2) the rather poor public image of CSOs, (3) the lack of democratic and civic traditions in Ukraine and a consequently low level of public spiritedness, (4) the non-professionalism of many CSO in public relation issues, (5) the

unwillingness of some CSO to cooperate effectively with the public, and (6) deficient transparency of CSO in their public relations.

Despite of an increasing total number of registered CSO, the public participation in civil society declines. Public opinion surveys by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation show that the membership rate in CSOS decreased from 30% in 1991 to 13% in 1996 (DIF, 2000) The nationwide survey by Center for Innovations and Development in 1999 found that only 7,8% of the population called themselves a member of a CSO (in comparison with only 4,6%, who are members of over 90 political parties registered in Ukraine). (IDC, 1999). A high number of 59% of Ukrainians have never taken part in any public activities. As main causes of their unwillingness to participate in CSOs citizens mentioned subjective factors, such as lack of time and motivation and external ones, such as their distrust to CSOs or the absence of CSO worth of cooperation, and lack of information about CSO (Sydorenko, 2000).

Service Impact

The level of CSO professionalism has increased significantly over the last couple of years due to the more active cooperation of CSOs with foreign grant-making organizations and training institutions. However, much is left to be done to use this comparative advantage of CSOs in full scale. The major obstacles are underdeveloped and inefficient models of CSO cooperation with government agencies and business corporations.

Civil society's role in conflict solving in Ukrainian society is negligible. The reasons are: 1) a lack of any nation-wide societal confrontation, which is can be seen as a success for the stability of Ukraine, and (2) ill-organized activities of Ukrainian CSOs. In cases of eventual social conflicts, the civil society's role is restricted to the local level. Lately, there are some positive developments in mobilizing the socially disadvantaged people, particularly by social service-oriented CSO initiated by the disadvantaged people. However, it is not uncommon to set up artificial social services-oriented CSO just to raise funds from international donor organizations. As one participant of the regional workshop remarked:

“Today CSO are made in Ukraine either for seeking grants from donor organizations or to redistribute budget funds: local governments prefer to establish their “own” CSO in the relevant regions”.

The impact of CSOs as a basic measurement of civil society effectiveness in a country and it is controversial in Ukraine: on one hand, civil society organizations increasing their impact through intervening into public policy, increasing their professionalism, genuinely trying to raise their social value, and on the other hand, failures to establish effective partnerships with government, low capacities and public outreach together with remnants of the totalitarian past in society make the former practices of some SCOs piecemeal against total social background.

Main Challenges for Civil Society

Given the findings of the research, the most challenging areas of civil society development in Ukraine are to be found in the following fields:

Participation in Civil Society

Even though CSO are quite numerous and involved in a broad range of activities, public participation in civil society is rather poor.

Low public participation in CSO activities is determined by poor overall support of the public and low public trust in civil society's capacity to meet social needs (Impact), the lack of transparency in CSOs operations for the larger public and poor CSO reporting on these issues (Values), quite complicated administrative procedures for establishing a CSO and deficient tax deductions for private donations (Space), and an over-concentration of CSO supporters in large cities and inadequate density of CSOs throughout the country (Structure).

“Today these institutions of the public cooperation [i.e. NGOs] fail to play an important role in civil society development in Ukraine, though they have to and must take part in the strengthening of pluralism” (Lavrinovych, 1999)

It is uncommon for Ukrainian citizens to affiliate with CSOs in order to solve their common problems and promote for their common interests. The public awareness of the role and importance of civil society is poor, and inhibits CSOs transformation into actual “schools of democracy”, where citizens could acquire democratic values and skills of democratic participation in public life.

Functions and Effectiveness of Civil Society

Ukraine has adopted a quite advanced legal framework for civil society functioning, which secures basic conditions for citizen's associations and allows citizens to exercise their civil rights and freedoms (Space). The public largely supports human rights protection, environmentalism and social services for the disadvantaged people by CSOs, and CSO fulfill these tasks fairly well (Values). CSOs have improved their professionalism in providing services for their clients (Impact). The types of CSO services are quite diversified (Structure).

Unfortunately, it is unjustified to conclude that the principal functions of civil society – influencing government policies in the favour of citizens, advocating to improve the social conditions and meeting the citizens' needs – are fulfilled in full scale. The main causes are

- a lack of civil society coalitions able to secure an effective impact on state policy (Structure),
- an absence of skills in coalition building within the CSO sector as well as between CSO and government and businesses (Impact),
- limited opportunities for cooperation with government agencies (Space) and
- deficiencies in CSO transparency reflecting their a vulnerability to external interventions (Values).

Consequently, at the moment Ukrainian civil society makes little impact on government in terms of civil rights protection, solving social problems and improvement of social well-being.

Resources of civil society

The research has shown that an insufficient resource base of civil society in Ukraine inhibits its sustainable development. The human resources available, in form of paid employees as well as volunteers, as the most important resource for civil society are in critical shortage in Ukrainian CSOs (Structure). Operating expenditures of CSO are less than 1% of Ukrainian GNP. The sustainability of CSOs now is recognized as a principal precondition for civil society's development as a whole. CSO access to major fund sources – government, private philanthropic giving, and foreign financing – is restricted due to lack of skills in social partnership building and general governance pattern in Ukraine (Impact). Participants of the National workshop shared this assumption, and several individuals noted that

“CSOs receive funds from the government, however, procedures of distribution and a small circle of recipients rather constrain the formation of resource base of civil society”.

A sustainable resource base for civil society has to highly depend on indigenous funding. Business philanthropic giving and business attitudes to civil society are of strikingly low scores (Space). Concurrently, the survey shows that CSO financing from private donations is the second most important source, after government subsidies (Structure). CSO revenues are limited with a fairly low quality of their public benefit services (Impact), and strong suspicions of the public with regard to mismanagement and corruption in CSO governance (Values). So, civil society is in a vicious circle: they lack capacity to solve the crucial social problems because of their restricted resources; and the poor achievement of these functions causes public mistrust of CSO capacity and consequently, make CSO an unattractive recipient of social investment from state budget and private sector.

The Face of Civil Society

The larger public does not regard civil society as the favourable environment for the implementation of civic initiatives: 66% of Ukrainians do not believe in the positive results of civil society's advocacy activities on government (DIF, 2000). Though public attitudes towards civil society received a fairly medium score (52,54), Ukrainian citizens have a certain potential of civic initiative. Unfortunately, this potential is levelled by the lack of public tolerance and trust to social institutions (DIF, 2000).

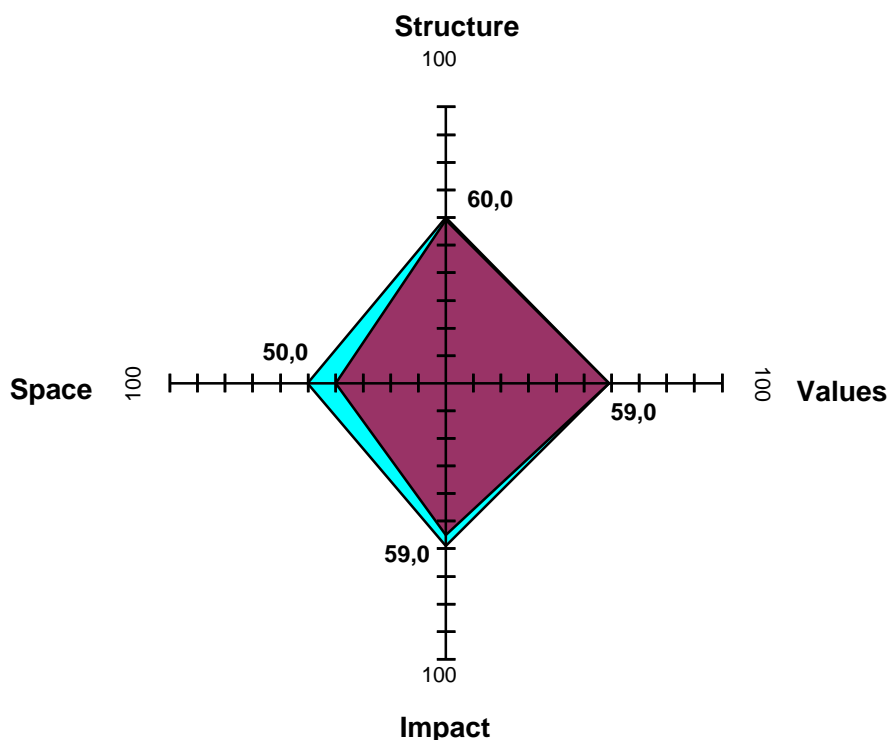
As for the Structure dimension, we found a fairly high level of cultural diversity in civil society and a diverse range of CSO activities. Concurrently, the public respect for CSO roles focuses mostly on human rights protection, social services and environmentalism (CID, 1999).

The public awareness of CSO role is correlated with civil society's image in the media, which is mixed. However, CSOs are in shortage of professional approaches to co-operating with the media, while the media attention to civil society developments is still low, too (Impact).

Thus, the basic foundations for a positive development of civil society exist in Ukraine, if the existing potential of civic activism of Ukrainians is utilized through raising citizen's awareness about the importance and functions of civil society.

The Prognosis for the future development of civil society

The predicted development of civil society in Ukraine is represented graphically as Diamond of vision of civil society development in Ukraine.



Vision Diamond (blue)

Status Diamond (brown)

This picture has been developed on the basis of the recommendations and foresights of civil society development by the research taskforce and the participants of regional and the national workshops. The recommendations have been structured along the four dimensions of the Diamond tool. The tool creates a graphic vision of civil society's development in Ukraine within the next two to five years. As the challenging areas of civil society require the implementation of a long-term strategy, the prognosis should be seen as a rough estimate.

Recommendations for civil society development in Ukraine

The participants of the workshops and research taskforce of the project jointly developed the following recommendations to improve the conditions of civil society in Ukraine.

Structure

1. Promotion of more equal distribution of CSO density

1.1. Region-oriented approach to the strategy of civil society development (giving up strict general recommendations), based upon thorough studies of the specific situation of civil society

in the different regions, their successes, available resources and practices in the formation of civil society.

1.2. Focusing efforts of umbrella CSO in small towns and district centers as well as in the regions with small number of operating CSO.

1.3. Upgrading quality of intellectual products (researches, proposals, management techniques) through propagation of the most successful CSO in the different regions of Ukraine.

1.4. Upgrading quality of trainings provided by CSO; creative approach to training activities; more training programs on legal issues.

1.5. Differentiated approach of donor organizations to supporting CSO from the different regions.

2. Increasing financial sustainability of CSO

2.1. Diversification of funding sources for CSOs; strategic approach to fundraising.

2.2. Uniform approach of donors to CSO financing; establishing a donors forum.

2.3. Development and implementation of special training programs aimed at the enhancement of CSO cooperation with business and local donors.

2.4. Development and implementation of special educational programs for business aimed at the enhancement of corporate philanthropic giving.

2.5. Promotion of CSO cooperation with government in designing a strategy of redistributing budget funds through CSO; using the experience of neighbouring countries for the elaboration of recommendations to the Ukrainian government.

3. Increasing citizen participation in CSO activities

3.1. Elaboration of a strategy for increasing membership in CSOs, taking into account the geographical and mission differences of CSOs as well as the differentiation in age structure, ethnic culture, and rural/urban conditions.

3.2. Running consultations on how to establish a new CSO, how to manage an operating CSO, and on other functional dimensions of CSOs; these consultations should be easy to grasp by common people.

4. More active participation of CSO in various types of civic initiatives, particularly, grassroots ones, that are legitimate under the laws in effect.

Space

1. Development of sustainable and legitimate institutions of civil society acting as social partners to other agents of social services and/or social investments (government, business and households).

2. Decentralization of providing for social services and social investments as a precondition for securing socio-cultural rights of the minorities and easing the political strains.
3. More simple procedures for CSO legalization and legal protection from interventions in CSO missions and objectives.
4. Establishing appropriate legislative regulations on the tax deductions of individual and corporate contributions, including donations, to providing social services and social investment activities of CSO; it may include specific subsidies from the national or local budgets.
5. Clarifying the legal status and payment provisions for CSO volunteers.
6. Passing regulations on conflict of interests as to CSO members and investors, and the indemnity of CSO losses occurred due to mismanagement.
7. Establishing legislative regulations concerning the procedures for claims against the decisions of CSO governing bodies by CSO members and investors.

Values

1. Enhancement of CSOs role as a main factor of activating civic initiatives and increasing public advocacy on societal issues.
2. Propagation of the positive results of CSO activities among the public.
3. Upgrading the cooperation between different cultural groups and CSOs in the regions (given the cultural differences of the Ukrainian regions).
4. Propagation of practices in designing codes of ethics and broad discussions of democratic governance issues in CSO.
5. Involvement of the larger public in CSO activities through volunteering, participation in specific actions and job seeking.
6. Propagation of practices in publishing annual reports on CSO activities, as well as the involvement of supervisory bodies and committees with membership representing the different sectors of the larger society.
7. Development of recommendations on transparency and a better understanding of the procedures on project applications of CSOs with regards to projects of foreign donor organizations.
8. Enhancement of public conscience of the media representatives as the intermediary link between CSO and the larger society.

Impact

1. The development of effective instruments for CSO cooperation with government through:
 - 1.1. Lobbying for relevant legislation in the legislatures;
 - 1.2. Development of nationwide programs of social partnership constructing.

- 1.3. Promotion of CSO dialogue with government agencies through running meetings, roundtables, discussions and so on.
2. Rising CSO awareness of the existing legal regulations on the eventual cooperation with business and promotion of dialogue between business and civil society.
3. Enhancement of citizens participation in public life and civil society via the development of a nation-wide communicative strategy to promote the dialogue between civil society and the public.
4. Poverty level reduction and increasing of human development index due to focusing social services and social investments on target groups
5. Strengthening social stability (including reduction of crime rate and corruption level).
6. Increasing internal and inter-sectoral organizational capacity of CSOs in order to develop a common policy concerning co-operation with Ukrainian government and donor organizations.
7. Enhancement of CSO professionalism in public relations to strengthen their impact on the media and the public.
8. Focusing activities of umbrella CSO on the more active cooperation with the media to comprise the professional group of journalists capable to highlight CSO activities not only in descriptive way, but also get the necessary analytical skills and knowledge about civil society.

Part III.

Conclusions

From the research findings, the following aspects of civil society's development in Ukraine evolve as crucial areas:

1. It is uncommon for Ukrainian citizens to affiliate with CSOs to solve their common problems and promote their common interests. The public awareness of the role of CSOs is poor, inhibiting CSOs transformation into actual "schools of democracy" where the citizens can acquire democracy values and skills of democratic participation in the public life.
2. The level of civil society's resources strongly depends on the public's attitude toward civil society, CSOs professional skills in partnership building as well as the adoption of an appropriate public communication strategy.
3. At the moment, Ukrainian civil society has little impact on the government in terms of civil rights protection, solving social problems and improvement of life quality in the society.
4. The basic foundations for a positive development of civil society exist in Ukraine, if the existing potential of civic activism of Ukrainians is utilized through raising citizen's awareness about the importance and functions of civil society.

Recommendations and Strategic Guidelines for Civil Society Development in Ukraine in the Near Future.

It makes no sense to expect to be able to improve all indicators of civil society's development, particularly those dependent on general economic and social environment, because their dynamics are mostly independent of proactive strategies of civil society stakeholders. The improvement of some specific indicators can occur within the next 2-5 years, but changes in these crucial areas require complex strategic activities.

All the recommendations developed within this project concern the sustainable development of civil society, that is feasible, if certain activities are implemented simultaneously on several dimensions. Increasing the total number, actual capacity and potential of civil society organizations in Ukraine is possible provided allowances for and implementation of the following recommendations that concern:

Promotion of a favourable environment in different regions of Ukraine for proactive cooperation of citizens and CSOs for solving the common problems and promotion of their common interests.

This recommendation concerns the involvement of citizens from the remote regions of Ukraine in public life through CSOs. The strategy involves a differentiated approach and studying the cultural, religious, age, geographical and other regional peculiarities of civil society development in the Ukrainian regions. These activities include the revival of centers for CSO support in the regions, differentiated treatment of donors to support CSOs in less advanced regions, development of focused strategies for membership increasing, decentralizing of social and cultural services, promotion of cooperation between the cultural and ethnic groups as well as CSOs in the regions.

Enhancement of a resource base for sustainable development of CSOs, including both material as well as human resources.

The implementation of this recommendation will allow to eliminate one the worst troubles for civil society, namely the limited resources for its sustainable development. At first sight, this problem could be solved by the diversification of CSO income sources. But it also requires apprehensive amendments to laws concerning the legal status of CSOs, their donors, staff and

volunteers, as well as changes in the resource base for CSO, including the legal opportunity to provide services for charge.

Building the effective partnerships between CSOs, government and business.

This dimension is specified as a crucial one, both for strengthening the resource base for CSOs as well as for enhancing skills for partnership building for the public benefit purposes, public advocacy, impact on political processes, democracy development and formation of social economy through the redistribution of philanthropic resources. Significant changes in legal regulations on the procedures of social investing, development of educational programs focused on the techniques of inter-sector partnership, training CSO with regard to transparency and public reporting, implementation of joint projects aimed at solving the urgent social problems.

Increasing CSOs accountability to their clients, partners, volunteers and donors, as well as strengthening internal ethics in CSOs.

Reporting and accountability of CSOs to the public is a precondition of recognizing the important role of civil society by government and the public. The relevant activities include the development of appropriate procedures on internal monitoring, control and reporting in CSOs. A national legal framework should include the regulations specified for the differences in CSO economic activities and services from government and business. Advancing CSO professionalism and ensuring a better quality of servicing their clients may improve the public understanding of the importance of the social tasks fulfilled by CSOs. Resources from the public, government and business will become more available due to CSO improvement in their services quality, which is a necessary precondition for sustainable development of civil society in Ukraine. It is also most important to enhance the image of philanthropists as civil stewards and civil society stakeholders.

Development of an effective communicative strategy by civil society in order to raise the public awareness of the activities and values CSO advocate.

Raising the public awareness on civil society's activities can be achieved through the development of a nation-wide communication strategy. This strategy should be diversified and focus on specific target groups (business, government agencies, the media and so on). One of the important elements of this strategy should be a more active cooperation with the media, raising

the democratic skills of journalists, enhancement of their role in the promotion of civil society ideas among the public. Recommendations include direct participation of CSOs in any types of civic initiatives, CSO initiating a fruitful dialogue with the public, CSO reporting to the communities via the local media, raising the awareness of media representatives about the practical activities of CSOs as well as about the theory of civil society via educational programs.

Incentives for CSO to act as “schools of democracy”, which allow citizens to solve their problems based on lawful and legitimate procedures for policy change.

These recommendations also concern the professional skills of CSOs in fulfilling their principal function, namely advocating and promotion of citizen interests in the public sphere and towards government. It is of vital importance to combine the existing capacity and experience of civil society with the development of advanced techniques and learning to use legal regulations in effect for policy making and public advocacy on behalf of the social groups represented by CSOS. The specific activities should focus on the networking abilities raising, development of CSO cooperation instruments, keeping democratic basics in building and functioning the temporary coalitions of CSO. Consequently, the internal integrity of the sector and its public recognition will be improved.

The Importance of CIVICUS Index on Civil Society Project in Ukraine.

At the moment, almost 25,000 CSOs operate in Ukraine, and they may be specified as faith-based organizations; trade unions; professional and business organizations; grant-making foundations; developmental CSO; CSO active in education, training and research; environmental CSO; advocacy CSO; women’s associations; student and youth associations; health CSO; sport clubs; CSO for social services; ethnic/traditional/ethno-cultural indigenous CSO; culture an art CSO; community-based and informal associations; economic interest CSO; and others. People associate voluntarily in these organizations to solve social problems and jointly advance their common interests. Civil society stakeholders include also private individuals, irrespective of their background participating in CSO by donating their time, money and talents.

During the dramatic social and economic transformations in this country over the last decade, CSOs faced the challenges of acute social problems expressed in poverty increasing and consequent outflow of citizens into self-survival practices (DIF, 2000). Now CSOs badly require

the development of new approaches to enhance their impact on society, government and business as well as efficient strategies for securing social and public welfare.

The research findings of the Index project made it possible to discover and specify only the critical areas of the health, strength and impact of Ukrainian civil society. The recommendations by the project national lead organizations therefore cannot be as detailed as we would like them to be. However, the recommendations can be used as a crucial resource for Ukrainian CSO and donor organizations, government agencies and the public.

The Index was implemented in its pilot phase and is planned to continue for several years. The participants of the project – civil society stakeholders from CSOs, government, business and the media – pointed out its importance and innovative character for Ukrainian society.

We are aware of the crisis of the political, social and economic system in Ukraine. The findings on the relative health of civil society against this background impress heavily with their optimistic attitudes and are a source of certain positive sentiments.

As apathy and distrust to social institutions dominate the public opinion in this country, the optimism induced with the research findings may be used as a crucial institutional factor for the development of civic initiatives.

Previously, no comprehensive research on civil society was conducted in Ukraine. We hope that the CIVICUS Index Project is going to initiate merging the scientific and sustainable approach to the development of civil society institutions, as the project outcomes are to be widely disseminated among CSO, donor organizations, government agencies and the public. We presume the project will have such a high impact as envisioned by one participant of the regional roundtable in Lviv:

“Whatever important are the data obtained due to this project implementation, its greatest value is setting up the works on the indicators defining. We should lay the groundworks, CSO should keep high profile ... Whatever we could do, whatever laws are passed, the reforms fail because the public is not ready for them ... We should choose the complex approach: promote reforms and hand-in-hand raise public awareness of the reforms. This is the strategy of the civil society development.”

What counts is that the project implementation and its outcomes gave impetus to CSO participants to contemplate more deeply about the problems facing civil society, the potential ways to solve them, and how to initiate a constructive discourse.

- **Part 4. Appendix**

Project Accomplishers

National Lead Organizations - *League of the Regional Resource Centers for NGOs (LRRC)* and ***Counterpart Creative Center (CCC)*** have accomplished CIVICUS Index pilot project in Ukraine. Project management and nationally recognized track record of both organizations invested to the success of project. Ability to joint the capacities of two national networks, one of NGOs serving organizations and the other of qualified cadre of people, has brought outstanding product and nation-wide recognition of the project value for the development of civil society in Ukraine.

League of the Regional Resource Centers for NGOs (LRRC) is a network of 16 resource centers for NGOs located all over Ukraine. The mission of the League is to promote empowerment and responsibility of citizens through development of the Third Sector and social partnership strengthening in Ukraine. League was founded as an informal network of NGO support centers in 1998. Activities within the network include information exchange and dissemination, joint projects accomplishment, which involve the activities on interregional, national and international level. Since that time a number of events that include research on regional development of NGOs, fundraising seminars and training programs, public-private partnership projects on civil society development in the regions of Ukraine, etc. were initiated and accomplished. In the current project official representative of the League is the Center for Philanthropy, Kiev, Ukraine.

Counterpart Creative Center (CCC), an affiliate of Counterpart International, is a Ukrainian non-governmental organization registered in 1996. CCC grew out of the Counterpart Service Center initiative (CSC), a USAID-funded project implemented by Counterpart in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus from 1993 to 1996.

CCC is committed to developing civil society and solving educational, social, cultural and scientific problems in Ukraine through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- Information and consulting services
- Trainings and workshops for NGOs, government institutions, and businesses
- Research, surveys and evaluations
- Grant management
- Public outreach/information dissemination

CCC's core capacity is invested in its cadre of 20 trainers who serve both a training and regional representation role. CCC has the capacity to conduct training on more than twenty different institutional development topics, on various levels, according to their clients' needs. This network of trainers, located in Vinnytsya, Uzhghorod, Kharkiv, Berdyansk, Zaproryzhya, Kyiv, Lviv, Donetsk and Odessa, serves a wide range of NGOs, businesses, and local institutions in both rural and urban settings. The trainers are fully trained and supported by CCC to provide effective, responsive, demand-driven and locally appropriate training and consultative technical assistance.

Project Implementation Schedule

September –October 2000 – League of the Regional Resource Centers for NGOs and Counterpart Creative Center initiate conducting Civicus Index pilot project in Ukraine. Two

organizations agreed on partnership constructing during project implementation and shared responsibilities.

November 2000 – The strategy and work plan of project realization was developed. The research team was formed.

December 2000 – Stocktaking of existing data sources and data base creation.

January 2001 – Focus groups on selection of appropriate indicators were conducted in the regions of Ukraine.

February 2001 – Representatives of the National Lead Organizations participated in the Global NLO Workshop in Mainz, Germany to clarify project implementation issues and to discuss next steps.

February – March 2001 – Survey of existing data sources and preparation of the Country report. Focus groups results analysis and preparation to the Data Collection phase by stakeholders survey.

April 2001 – Stakeholders survey realization. 600 questionnaires were distributed in the regions of Ukraine and 350 filled.

May 2001 – Data base created to process survey results. Status Diamond has been developed.

June 2001 – preparing to the agenda-setting workshops 5 regions of Ukraine. Drafting the country report.

July 2001 – Five regional agenda –setting workshops were held in different parts of the country. Country report final draft prepared following the results of the workshops.

Project Implementation Core Issues

National Lead Organizations were challenged to accomplish the task to follow both the international methods described in the toolkit and recommendations of the civil society stakeholders during the CIVICUS Index on Civil Society project implementation in Ukraine.

The methodology of the research was developed by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. It is presented in the major paper “The CIVICUS Civil Society Diamond: Profiling Civil Society” by Helmut K. Anheier, Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics, UK. Methods of project realization were developed by involvement of more than 40 experts internationally and by conducting a number of events in Ukraine.

First, the definition of civil society has become a core discussion point among civil society stakeholders in Ukraine. The research team paid a lot of attention to put the term of civil society out as it was given by the research methods.

The concept of civil society has become more prominent in a variety of social science disciplines, it remains contested in terms of its uses and meanings. In this context, it is important NOT to reify civil society and treat it as an entity or actor *sui generis* with its own agency to act. Civil society as used here is primarily an analytic concept that, while not being synonymous with the term society, nonetheless comprises separate component parts:

- **Institutions**, e.g., the rule of law; institutions are structural patterns that address and regulate specific areas or tasks of society such as political decision-making (institution: democracy), social inclusion (citizenship), reproduction (family) or information and communication needs (media).
- **Organizations**, e.g., civic groups and nongovernmental organizations; civil society organizations or (CSOs) are defined as self-organized groups, based on voluntary participation and characterized by (a) autonomy from the family, market and the state; (b) capacity for collective action to advance their common interests; and (c) agreement to act within civil rules. Networks, as less formal organizations, would also be included under this definition.
- **Individuals**, i.e., citizens and participants in civil society generally, including their values, expectations and activities. (Anheier H, 2000)

Among more than 60 indicators offered by CIVICUS for a basic description of civil society along a number of dimensions, Ukrainian research team has chosen 58 acceptable for local environment. Indicator selection has been accomplished by focus groups, which were held in 13 regions of Ukraine. Focus group participants from civil sector research community, NGOs, business, government and media also reflected on the survey format, procedures, and selection of questions. Stocktaking of existing data sources provided data on available indicators that were reflected in the Overview Report On The Present State Of Ukrainian Civil Society.

Focus groups illuminated regional differences concerning civil society concept in Ukraine. Participants from industrialized Eastern Ukraine approached civil society as a philosophic concept based mostly on values and perceptions of people. Participants from the more traditional western part recognized civil society as an opportunity of political change and empowerment of people. Participants from semi-private and socialist central Ukraine were speaking about social role of CSOs and well-being guarantors. Heterogeneous Southern part of Ukraine has brought the issues of efficiency and outcome of civil society. CSOs from the capital of Ukraine, being experinced in the advocacy and lobbying national change, especially business development

associations, see civil society in changing policies and involving people into protection and promotion of their interests.

An international team of 13 national lead organizations (NLOs) has agreed that not all the indicators are available for civil society profiling. A civil society stakeholders survey has been chosen to facilitate data processing. One of the major issues in the survey preparing was establishment of a list civil society sub-sectors, which should be clear for local respondents and should correlate with the above mentioned definition.

Stakeholders survey was carried out following the recommendations of the ICO, unified for all implementing countries, and using the data of data stocktaking and recommendations of focus groups developed locally. Six hundred questionnaires were distributed among civil society stakeholders sample by personal contact mainly in 25 regions of Ukraine. As a result we received 350 filled questionnaires that were analyzed and laid grounds for the country report of civil society development.

Assessment and Agenda Setting Workshops

In the framework of the Civicus Index Project the implementation team has conducted 5 regional workshops in Ukraine. The idea to have regional workshops instead of one national was to move toward civil society stakeholders in different parts of larger territory of Ukraine and to feel the regional differences in the development of civil society. The idea has come after focus group conducting in the regions of Ukraine: focus groups have shown, on one hand, great interest to the project outcome and involvement from representatives of CSOs, on the other hand, there were differences in approaching the civil society issue between different regions of Ukraine. To enable as many representatives of civil society as possible to participate in the Project five workshops were conducted in Odessa (South) July 9, Zaporizzhia (Central) July 12, Kharkiv (East) July 11, L'viv (West) July 16 and Kyiv (capital) July 16, 2001.

The experiment turned out to be a great success: many participants were grateful for being involved in the first participatory research on civil society in Ukraine, they expressed valuable views enriching the country report; local media has been attracted and published materials on the Project, which are available to local communities; Project research and implementation team has proved their hypothesis on regional differences in civil society development in Ukraine. Namely, the most vivid results of the workshops, which outline the regional differences:

- In Odessa (South) workshop participants were very active in the sense of application of the project results. They were interested in comparative aspect of the Project: eager to learn about civil society development in other countries in comparison with Ukraine.
- In Kharkiv (East) participants concentrated their attention on the intellectual part of the project, in the data veracity, and have stressed very important, even critical problems for civil society development in Ukraine. They agreed that the Project is timely and needed to put civil society issue on the research agenda in Ukraine.
- In Zaporizzhia(Center) the discussion focused on the raising social responsibility of business and social service aspects of CSOs. Again, the Project was recognized as valuable and timely for Ukraine.
- In L'viv (West) the aspects of the civil society impact on the state were discussed and recommended and issue of CSOs public relations were debated. Participants recommended to widen the research and to continue it to have comparative picture on civil society growth.
- In Kyiv (Capital) the discussion focused on the correlation of project data, a lot of stress was put on the people's involvement into civil society, on functional aspects and resource base for CSOs development. The project's value was recognized again and a lot of concrete recommendations were provided for vision and agenda-setting.

All the workshops were similarly organized and conducted according to the agenda provided by ICO jointly by the Counterpart Creative Center and the League of the Regional Resource Centers for NGOs. The results and recommendations are included into the Country Report of the CIVICUS Index on Civil Society in Ukraine. The workshop presenters were representatives of NLO – Svitlana Kuts (LRRC) and Lyuba Palyvoda (CCC), who presented procedures of project realization and research methodology. Research team of Alex Vinnikov, legal advisor of International Center for Non-profit Law, Leo Abramov, vice-president of Kirovograd Center for Creative Initiatives Support, Vasyl Polyiko, president of Western Ukrainian Resource Center for NGO and Svitlana Kuts made presentations on status data and recommendations on their respective dimensions. The workshops were facilitated by trainers - regional members of Counterpart Creative Center. Plenty amount of time was devoted to questions, discussions on assessment and vision building for civil society in Ukraine. Workshops recommendations and results of project are put in the report under 'presentation'.

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