Turkey
Needs Assessment Report

TACSO

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Civil Society Needs Assessment Report

TACSO 2 TURKEY

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Contents

BACKGROUND

This study was conducted within the context of EC-funded project Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations 2 (TACSO 2) in the IPA Countries (EuropeAid/133642/C/SER/Multi), implemented by a consortium led by SIPU International[1].

The general objective of the project Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organisations 2(TACSO 2) from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Beneficiaries 2is *to strengthen the overall capacities and accountability of CSOs within the IPA beneficiaries and to guarantee the quality of services of CSOs and a sustainable role of CSOs in the democratic process.The main purposes of the project are to:*

- *increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs;*
- *improve the democratic role of CSOs"*[2]*.*

The Updating TACSO Turkey Needs Assessment assignment was conducted to lay down the basis for planning and conducting TACSO 2 activities in Turkey. The aim of the study was to update the previous study conducted in 2011 in scope of TACSO 1.

The study is to provide a comprehensive assessment of civil society in Turkey and the environment that it works in, including its strengths and weaknesses, milestones to date and the challenges it faces to its further development.

METHODOLOGY

A combination of desk research, survey, interviews and focus group discussions were used as methods to gather information for the assignment.

The study conducted within the scope of the study entailed the following tasks:

- reviewand analysis of existing TACSO Needs Assessment Reports(2009 and 2011) and relevant reports & documentation[3] produced by TACSO;
- reviewand analysis of other relevant information, reports and studies available including legal and financial legislation applicable to civil society, reports and studies conducted to assess the enabling environment for civil society in Turkey by CSOs and other institutions, civil society monitoring reports and evaluations, situation analyses, policy documents and Turkey specific academic literature;
- analysis of the survey conducted by TACSO Turkeyincluding the answers of**102 CSOs**;
- analysis of the reports of**four focus group discussions** held within the context of the study:(1) one focus group discussion with Framework Partnership Agreement Projects (FPAs), (2) two focus group discussions with civil society platforms and networks, (3) a focus group discussion with CSOs on Access to Information, (4) one workshop withTACSO 2 Local Advisory Group (LAG)members;
- analysisof the consultation made via **interviews**[4]and two written comments from key stakeholders (CSOs and public institutions);
- incorporation of all the findings of analysis into draft the report.

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[1]http://www.tacso.org/project-org/consortium/?id=24
[2]http://www.tacso.org/doc/FactSheetWeb.pdf
[3]http://www.tacso.org/doc/TR_NA_Report.pdf_2011; http://www.tacso.org/documents/reports/?id=225; http://www.tacso.org/doc/TACSO%20Turkey%20Satisfaction%20Survey%20Report.pdf; http://www.tacso.org/doc/QAS_TR_report.pdf
[4]Interviews were conducted with YADA Foundation, Human Rights Joint Platform (IHOP), Human Rights in Mental Health Association (Rusihak), Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), Civil Society Development Center Association (STGM).

The report is composed of three sections: Section one provides an analysis of the civil society environment, including the legal framework governing CSOs and their work, the current donor opportunities and other sources of civil society funding, the government mechanisms for cooperation with and support of civil society, the policy framework determining government-civil society relations and public perceptions and support for civil society and its activities.

Section two gives an overview of the main features of civil society: the types of organisations, their key organisational characteristics, the types of activity they carry out, their main sectorial interests, and their geographical distribution. CSOs are assessed according to their technical, organisational and institutional capacities, including human resources and technical skills, strategic strengths, analytical capabilities, external relations with other actors including other CSOs, government and the community, and material and financial stability and resilience.

Section three summarises the keymilestones, achievements,major shortfalls and challenges to overcome for a vibrant, active and efficient civil society. This last section also sums up the most important institutional and organisational capacity needs of civil society in the country and identifies key strategic issues for the implementation of TACSO 2 project.

1. THE CIVIL SOCIETY ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Legal Framework – An analysis of relevant laws and financial regulations

As mentioned in the EC Turkey Progress Report 2012 *"freedom of association legislation is broadly in line with EU standards"*. However, recent civil society monitoring reports reveal that problems still continue both in primary legislation but more importantly due to the secondary legislation presenting a rather limiting interpretation of primary legislation and thus limiting freedom of association.[5] The existing laws are interpreted negatively and further limited by over regulating secondary legislation such as directives, mandates or regulations. Hence, interpretation and implementation of laws continue to challenge the freedom of association in Turkey by increasing bureaucracy burdens, fines and penalties towards CSOs as well as possibility to lead to court cases opened up against them. EC Turkey Progress Report 2013 underlines this finding by stating, "*There were examples of a restrictive interpretation of legislation vis-à-vis associations and civil society organisations. Many associations had to seek court protection to defend their rights. A court case in Van for the closing-down of 10NGOs accused of having helped terrorist organisations and engaged in terrorist propaganda was rejected for lack ofevidence".* [6] Furthermore, extensive bureaucratic procedures continue to be exerted upon civil society organizations, which "*discourage civil society participation*".[7]

1.1.1 Laws on Associations and Foundations

The legal framework that governs civil society organizations in Turkey is quite extensive. The following table[8]from the TÜSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012 provides a list ofmajor laws concerning associations and foundations in Turkey:

[5] TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012, p.9.
[6]EC Turkey Progress Report,2013.
[7]EC Turkey Progress Report,2012.
[8] TÜSEV Sivil Toplum İzleme Raporu 2012, TÜSEV Yayınları, March 2013, p. 11 (unofficial translation), accessible at http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/SivilToplumIzlemeRaporu2012.pdf

Table 1: Legal Framework concerning Associations and Foundations			
Law	Context	Foundations	Associations
Constitution	Article 33-freedom of association	✓	✓
Civil Code	General provisions governing CSOs	✓	✓
Law on Associations	Specific provisions governing associations		✓
Law on Foundations	Specific provisions governing foundations	✓	
Law on Collection of Aid	Laying down provisions for collection of aid activities other than donations and membership fees	✓	✓
Law on Meetings and Demonstrations	All meetings and demonstrations to take place in close or open air except the close-space meetings of associations and foundations that are in line with their statutes	✓	✓
Law on Relations of Associations and Foundations with Public Institutions	Governing relations of CSOs with public institutions	✓	✓
Press Law	Provisions regarding printed materials	✓	✓
Penal Code	Penalty provisions	✓	✓
Law on Misdemeanours	Penalty provisions	✓	✓
Tax Laws	Tax provisions	✓	✓

Freedom of Association

Over the past years, CSOs have been recognized as an indispensable part of democratization process by public organizations and other actors. However, definition of civil society and civil society organizations (CSO) are still absent from the relevant legislation and policy documents. One of the major obstacles to freedom of association in Turkey is that the legal framework only recognizes forms of association and foundation and no other forms of organised civil action are recognized as legal entities. Furthermore, registration is held mandatory by relevant laws and space for informal associational activity is not recognized. Foundations and associations are subject to different legislations and regulated by different public agencies, yet they show great similarity in their functions.

With regards to the constitution, the relevant article (article 33) found to be broadly in line with the international standards and the European Human Rights Convention (EHRC). However, problems and issues exist in other laws mentioned in the table, specifically in the implementation of articles on limitations put forth in the existing laws. In addition, freedom of association is further limited via secondary legislation such as regulations and mandates. The main approach observed in laws on associations and foundations and in their respective regulations is that rather than laying down freedoms and rights as a framework, they provide very detailed regulations that providelimitations, restrictions, penalties, fines,and bureaucratic procedures.

The number of mandatory boards for associations (General Council, Executive Board and the Audit Board) and the minimum number of members foreseen in the Law on Associations (at least 16 in total) required by law are higher than the standards proposed by international bodies.

Concepts such as "general morality", "Turkish family structure", "national security", "public order", which are prevalent in the legal framework do not have concrete definitions and thus are open for interpretations of state officials and the judiciary. Such an undetermined sphere of legislation creates inconsistent and arbitrary interpretation and implementation between different state institutions and even within the same organization. Some state authorities continue to request court cases for closure of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex (LGBTI) CSOs basing their legal thesis on the "general morality" clause[9]. Despite the fact that those cases ended with positive results and the closure demands were declined, and that today there are several LGBTI CSOs active in Turkey as legal entities recognized by the state, inconsistencies still continue[10].

The freedom of association of some groups such as children, "foreigners", individuals with mental disability or disorders, security forces, and public officials are either severely limited or non-existent. "Foreigners" without residency permits in Turkey are not allowed to become neither founding nor regular members of an association.

The Law on Associations lay down 17 types of penalties and fines. A few of the critical penalties laid down in the law are:Association administrators who do not keep the required books[11]or records are charged with a prison sentence of 3 months to 1 year or with a judicial fine; breaching the requirement to use Turkish language in their books, records and official institutions of the Republic of Turkey are charged with an administrative fine of 1000 TRY. Compared to the Law on Associations, the Law on Foundations defines fewer (three) penalties[12] with administrative fine of 500 TRY.The Regulation on Foundations[13] requires foundations to keep fewer books[14] than associations.

When the number of active associations is compared with the number of dissolved/terminated associations,it is clear that maintaining and sustaining an association is quite difficult in Turkey. According to statistics published by the DoA[15], as of January 2014, the number of active associations is 98.862 whereas the number of dissolved/terminated associations are 149.318. This means that 60, 17% of any association founded was either dissolved by itself or terminated by the administration. Unfortunately, statistics are not available regarding the reasons of dissolution or termination.

The framework as laid down in the legal framework regarding the inspections and audit to be conducted by state authorities is quite vague. Despite the existence of Guide on Inspection of Duties and Operations of Associations published by the DoA that aims to establish a standardized frame for the role and duties of the auditors, civil society monitoring reportsreveals that inconsistent implementation continues. This is also due to the fact that the legislation does not openly formulate the criteria and timingfor conducting

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[9]Kaos GL, Lambda İstanbul LGBTT, Siyah-Pembe Üçgen, Gökkuşağı Associations are some of the CSOs that faced court cases opened up by state prosecutors in previous years.

[10] For information regarding one such example was a new association named Youth and Ecology Association (EKOGENÇ) http://www.yuksekovaguncel.com/guncel/van-valiliginden-homofobik-karar-h47748.html

[11]There are seven different types of mandatory books associations to keep: decision book, member registration book, record registration book (which is a book that every outgoing and incoming documents should be registered including printed copies of electronic documents), and three more books related with finances/inventory.

[12]The three penalties defined are: not providing the requested statements, documents or informationtimely; causing of bodies to assemble against the foundation statute; and making false statement.

[13]http://www.vgm.gov.tr/icerik.aspx?Id=20

[14] There are two books (decision book, donation receipt registration book) that are mandatory for foundations other than the three books related with finances/inventory.

[15]http://derbis.dernekler.gov.tr/SSL/istatistik/GenelKurulusBilgi.aspx

an inspection. Furthermore, neither systematic guidance nor effective pre-warning mechanisms exist to comply with the highly bureaucratic legal requirements.

The Law on Collection of Aid providing very detailed regulations and bureaucratic obligations continues to be another major obstacle for CSOs to raise funds and maintain their sustainability. According to this legislation, any CSO that does not have a special permit to collect aid and contributions without prior approvalhas to apply for permission to raise funds by submitting various sorts of information[16] and documentation to the authorities. There are only 20 organisations that have a special permit to collect aid without prior permission[17].The law authorizes the administration, in addition to other authorities, to refuse the application for collecting aid orto decide to which organisation to give the exceeding amount of aid/fund (if and once the organisation collects more than they stated in their application) collected.

Freedom of Assembly

Freedom of Assembly is a critical right for CSOs to carry out their functions in participatory democracy. Regarding laws laying down the freedom of assembly in Turkey, severe obstacles remain. There are several articles in the legal framework (Law on Meetings and Demonstrations, Law on Police Powers and Duties and relevant regulations) which are not in line with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)[18]. Some of the obstacles in the legal framework are: (1) vague provisions like "national security" or "public morals" are open for interpretation of authorities; (2) makes discrimination between citizens of Republic of Turkey and non-citizens by making the meetings and demonstrations to be held by the latter subject to the permission of the Ministry of Interior Affairs. Children are also discriminated since the minimum age requirement sought for organizers is 18; (3) the notification requirement is implemented in a manner that it de-facto becomes a permission from the administration; (4) places and venues allowed for demonstrations are very limited and restrictive and the authority to designate or approve lies with the highest state authority of the district; (5) the law provides the administration with almost unlimited authority for intervention. While the circumstances to declare a meeting or demonstration as illegal are vague and open for interpretation, once it is declared illegal by the present commissioner, Rapid Action Units can be called in to disperse groups; (6) the time frame allowed for meetings and demonstrations is very limited which makes it impossible to hold open-air meetings or demonstrations at night[19].

In addition to laws that are directly related with freedom of association, there are also other laws, such as the Anti-Terror Law or the Law on Misdemeanours, which have indirect effects on associational life. As in many other laws in Turkey, these two laws are also drafted in vague and broad terminology which gives both the administration and the judiciary with extensive discretionary powers over broad and negative interpretations. Such an authority granted to the administration via the laws mentioned, continue to exert pressures over human rights defenders and their organisations. According to TÜSEV Civil Society

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[16]According to Law on Collection of Aid, types of information legally required from applicant includes the total amount of funds the organisation aims to raise, the objective of the fundraising, the names and legal information of a committee responsible for the fundraising activity, time-frame and places of fundraising activity.

[17] According to article 6 of the Law on Collection of Aid, this permit is provided by the Council of Ministers only to the organisations having a public benefit or tax exempt status. http://derbis.dernekler.gov.tr/SSL/istatistik/IzinAlmadanYardimToplamaHakkinaSahipDernekler.aspx

[18] Human Rights Joint Platform indicated controversial clauses to ECHR rulings in Law on Police Powers and Duties and called for revision in 2007: http://www.ihop.org.tr/dosya/yayin/pvsk_rapor_ihop.pdf

[19]Gökçeçiçek Ayata, Ulaş Karan, "Obstacles to Freedoms of Association and Assembly in Turkey", TÜSEV, February 2014, accessible at http://www.siviltoplum-kamu.org/usrfiles/files/MevzuatRaporu_TR.pdf

Monitoring Report 2012 "*it is observed that arrests which occurred in 2011 or 2012 based on the Anti-Terror Law usually target human rights activists living in the Eastern and South eastern cities such as Diyarbakir, Mardin, Siirt, Muş, and Malatya, as well as in the cities of Aegean and Marmara Regions. In some cases, the accusations and criminal charges also targeted the funds granted to CSOs that these activists are affiliated with. Funds allocated by the European Union, or project-based funds provided by an EU member state also have a tendency to be investigated in the scope of the criminal charges brought under the Anti-Terror Law. The fact that such CSOs received international funding is presented as evidence in courts within the scope of the Anti-Terror Law[20]*".

Progress of Reforms regarding Freedom of Association since 2011

Despite the lack of enabling environment for freedom of associationand planned reforms regarding associations and foundations (below) in the Turkey's National Harmonization Programme to the EU Acquis (2007-2013)provided below were relatively insignificant[21]:

Legislation considered beneficial to be enacted in period 2007-2008 (01/10/2007 – 30/09/2008)		
Name of the Legislation to be Amended/Enacted	Stage	Objective / Scope
Law on Foundations	At the GNAT	Enabling foundations to work in an effective, transparent and democratic environment, and making egalitarian arrangements concerning property rights.
Law Amending the Law on Associations, Turkish Civil Law and the Law on the Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Interior	At the GNAT	To prevent legal problems, especially disputes between the association and its members, that may arise due to the articles open to comment of Law No. 5253 on Associations, to carry out the services provided for associations effectively and efficiently, to prevent misuses so as to improve coincidence towards non-governmental organizations, and as it has been stated in the ECHR decisions, as a requirement of the active obligations of the state besides its passive obligations regarding the freedom of organization preparing the legal basis for enabling non-governmental organizations to work effectively and for preventing arbitrary interventions of the state or other persons.
Implementing Regulation Amending theImplementing Regulation of Associations	Technical studies are in progress	"same as above" – it will be enacted after the adoption of the amendment to the Law on Associations mentioned above.
Law on Collection of Aid/Contributions	Technical Studies are in progress	Annulment of Law No:2860 on Collection of Aid/Contributions, which has been in force for 24 years, and introducing a re-arrangement made according to the different conditions of the present day.
Implementing Regulation on Collection of Aid/ Contributions		Making up-to-date arrangements for the collection of contributions. – It will be enacted after the adoption of the law mentioned above.

In addition to Turkey's Programme for Alignment with the Acquis 2007-2013, the government of the Republic of Turkey prepared and publicized the National Programme of

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[20]TÜSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012, TÜSEV publications, March 2013, p. 11
[21] Turkey's Programme for Alignment with the Acquis 2007-2013, Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, p. 291-302, accessible at http://www.abgs.gov.tr/files/Muktesebat_Uyum_Programi/En/Chapter_23.pdf

Turkey for the Adoption of the EU Acquis in 2008[22]. The programme contains several reform measures regarding to freedom of association and freedom of assembly. These were as follows:

"*With the complete redrafting of all basic legislation is a long-term legislative process, many basic laws such as ….. "Law on Foundations", "Law on Associations"…. are renewed in this process. The Government aims at carrying on the works of renewing the basic legislation as a whole in the next term.*[23]"

Despite the above-mentioned reforms committed, following the reform of the Law on Foundations in 2008, the legislation reforms on associations and foundations conducted since then have been relatively insignificant (except the 2011 amendment in the Law on Foundations), and mostly focused on lessening the bureaucratic burdens on CSOs. Since 2011, some minor directives have been published regarding the implementation of the Law on Associations and Law on Foundations. These were as follows:

On January 2013, The Ministry of Internal Affairs published a directive on the Law on Associations easing the bookkeeping procedures for associations. Department of Associations (DoA) launched the Associations Information System (DERBIS) web site in 2013. With this system, DoA aims to collect and combine the data gathered from associations and share all the available information publicly. On April 2013, DoA published the Guide on Inspection of Duties and Operations of Associations with an objective to frame the role and duties of the auditors.Lastly, via some amendments made in 2012, on the Regulation on Associations, associations having an annual gross income above 500.000 TL were held responsible to publish their financial accounts on their web site. Furthermore, the amended regulationallows DoA to publish financial and other information on its web site. With regards to foundations, some minor directives have been published regarding the implementation of the Law on Foundations. These directives paved the way for re-establishment of new Foundations in cases where they were previously dispersed by the Directorate General of Foundations. Furthermore, foundation executives are no longer removed from their offices for getting fined more than two times.

The most significant improvement since 2011 has been the addition of temporary Clause 11 of the Foundations Law no: 5737 via Clause 17 of the 651 Statutory Decrees. This amendment defined the application requirements for the registration of immovable properties, and the conditions for compensation payments of the immovable properties entered in the 1936 declarations of the non-Muslim community foundations. According to EU Progress Report 2013, *"the authorities made significant efforts to implement the 2011 legislation revising the 2008 Law on Foundations. Under the revised legislation, 116 minority community foundations applied for the restitution of a total of 1.560 properties. By August 2013, the Foundations Council had approved the return of 253 properties and the payment of compensation for 18 properties, and decided that 878 applications were not eligible".*With regards to the ineligible applications,Laki Vingas, the elected representative of non-Muslim foundations at the Foundation Council of the Directorate of Foundations, stated in July 2013 that*"rejected applications were mostly due to missing documents and failure to determine the exact location of the property"*[24].

Another important development, although not yet finalized as of January 2014, regarding the legal framework for associations and foundations has been the initiative taken by the

[22] The National Programme of Turkey for the Adoption of the EU Acquis, 2008,accessible at http://www.abgs.gov.tr/files/UlusalProgram/UlusalProgram_2008/En/pdf/ii_politicalcriteria.pdf
[23]Ibid, p. 5.
[24]http://www.taraf.com.tr/haber/azinliklara-yuzde-16-lik-adalet.htm

Department of Associations (DoA) to reform the Law on Collection of Aid. As mentioned above, annulment of this legislation was planned by the government and was included in the Turkey's National Harmonization Programme (2007-2013). The DoA hasconducted a consultation process on a draft Collection of Aid law betweenDecember 2012 and June 2013 via its website. The initial draft published in December 2012, following the first phase of consultation, was revised by DoA and a new draft was published on the web-site on April 2013. While the first draft included amendments only to the Law on Collection of Aid, the second draft, in addition to this Law,also contained a series of amendments to the Law on Associations and the Civil Code, various provisions regarding the establishment of new institutions such as the Civil Society Council, Civil Society Board, and a General Directorate of Civil Society Organizations.Both drafts were announced by DoA via its website and DERBIS system, inviting CSOs to provide written opinions, however, additional measures were not made available for wider consultations with CSOs. Hence, several CSOs initiated a consultation process via holding meetings, announcing and promoting the consultation process among a wider group of CSOs.It was found to be relatively positive that the draft proposed amendments to decrease the number of founding members and board members of associations, easing the membership of foreigners to associations, authorizing Ministry of Interior rather than the Council of Ministers to give public benefit/tax exempt statuses or decreasing the number of issues required to be covered by associations' charters.

However, some of the major criticisms brought by CSOs on the draft(s) were:(1) the draft continues to have the restrictive approach by not annulling the requirement to get permissions for fundraising activities; (2) violating the equality principle by bringing in exemptions onlyto public benefit/tax exempt CSOs and to CSOs aiming to build and perpetuate places of worship; (3) the draft still contains extensive discretionary authority provided to the administration; (4) the registration of a CSO continuing to be mandatory, interventions in the autonomy of associations by bringing in restrictions to personnel expenses, salaries and remunerations; broadening the scope of supervision and introducing new fines maintaining the same repressive and retributory approach.[25]

Last but not least, the draft law contained articles related with the establishment of a General Directorate of Civil Society and a Civil Society Council.The initial critique voiced by CSOs was the fact thatno consultations were held with CSOs before proposing to establish new institutions, specifically when these institutions directly concern civil society. In addition, some other objections were:(1) the formation, duties and authorities of the proposed Council and the Board should be clearly defined in the legislation and should not be left to secondary legislation as done by the draft; (2) there is an inequality in the numbers of CSO representatives and the government representatives for the proposed Council; (3) having one institution handling duties for registration, inspection, fine, guide and cooperate of associations is not in compliance with the international best practices and all duties should not be handled by one organization for preventing conflict of interests; (4) bodies such as the Civil Society Council should not be established under the Ministry of Internal Affairs that is principally responsible for security, safety and public order. In addition, all publicly available opinions provided to the draft, demanded that extensive civil society participation should be sought for each step in preparing such legal documents and that longer time periods should be devoted for consultation. Following the deadline for consultations (17 May 2013), DoA held a small meeting in Ankara (with 10 selected CSOs) on28 May 2013 for further consultation. Finally, in July 2013, a revised third draft was

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[25]TÜSEV Opinions on the Collection of Aid Law Draft, 16 May 2013, Istanbul, accessible at & TACSO Turkey Information and Consultation Meeting: Law on Collection of Aid, 15 May 2013, Ankara, accessible at http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/YardimToplamaKanunuTasarisi_TUSEV_Onerileri_16mayis.pdf

published on DoA website which contained an important improvement in the Law on Collection of Aid as part of the draft, by holding all associations and foundations exempt from getting a permit to raise funds and bringing a regulation on issuing notifications. However, there were no significant changes made on the other parts of the draft.

On December 2, 2013, Government Spokesperson Bülent Arınç, following a Council of Ministers meeting, announced that the Council decided to accept the draft of Collection of Aid Law consisting of 30 articles[26]. In his announcement, he stated that once the signatures are completed, the draft would be brought to the Parliament. The draft published on DoA website on July 2013 consisted of 25 articles whereas the announcement made by Arınç cited a draft with 30 articles. Since there is no way to see the draft approved by the Council of Ministers until it comes to the GNAT, as of January 2014,it is not yet possible to know the amendments made on the draft. However, prior to the adoption of Law in GNAT,the Ministry of Interior Affairs already published two circulars on the issues that were included in the draft law and transferred the authority of the police department to DoA (previously being the only responsible from associations)for recording and keeping the registers of the unions (10/10/2013) and the political parties (03/01/2014).[27]As of March 2014, there are no further developments in the GNAT regarding the draft law.

The National Programme of Turkey for the Adoption of the EU Acquis announced in 2008 included a commitment regarding the freedom of assembly: *"Law on Meetings and Demonstrations will be revised and the effective implementation of the amendments to be made will be ensured.In conformity with the European Convention on Human Rights and related case laws and in line with the implementation of all reforms regarding the freedom of peaceful assembly and demonstration, the capacity of Turkish Police Institution to intervene in the social events will be strengthened in the context of the implementation of measures regarding the use of proportional force by police.The development of civil society and its involvement in the shaping of public policies will be more facilitated. The dialogue, communication and cooperation between Turkish civil society and civil society in the EU member states will be further encouraged"[28]*.

Despite important problems, expectations of various rights-based CSOs for serious reforms and the commitment made on the legal framework regarding freedom of assembly mentioned above, no improvement was made on the relevant laws. One such initiative has been the latest democratisation package announced by Prime Minister Erdoğan on September 30, 2013, which did not put forth significant improvements.Regarding the announced democratisation package, EU Turkey Progress Report 2013 states that *"(Presentation of democratisation package) notably foresees that authorities need to consult stakeholders before making decisions on rallies and demonstrations, extends the time periods within which rallies and demonstrations can be held and gives authority for monitoring and terminating the rallies to an ad hoc body including representatives of demonstrators."*[29] Following the announcement, in December 5, 2013, the government brought the democratisation law package draft[30] to the Parliament. The relevant amendments proposed are as follows: (1) one hour extension of durations allowed for meetings and demonstrations; (2) city governors to decide which places and routes are suitable for demonstrations in a city after consulting to the political parties represented in

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[26]http://www.haberler.com/bakanlar-kurulu-toplantisi-2-5379173-haberi/
[27]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/Mevzuat/genelgeler.aspx
[28] The National Programme of Turkey for the Adoption of the EU Acquis, 2008, accessible at http://www.abgs.gov.tr/files/UlusalProgram/UlusalProgram_2008/En/pdf/ii_politicalcriteria.pdf
[29]EC Turkey Progress Report, 2013.
[30] Draft law package accessible at http://www2.tbmm.gov.tr/d24/1/1-0869.pdf

the Parliament, branches of three unions that have the highest number of members and professional organizations having a public institution character; (3) police commissioner position during demonstrations to be dismissed; instead the organizing committee to be held responsible for the duties of the commissioner. The organizing committee will dissolve the meeting if the gathering deviates from the purpose and becomes unlawful. If the committee fails to do this, the highest authority of the district will make this decision. As ofMarch 2014, the draft has ratified in the GNAT and entered in force.

1.1.2 RegistrationProcesses for CSOs

The relevant laws concerning the registration of associations and foundations are the Civil Code, Law on Associations and Law on Foundations. As mentioned above, registration is mandatory in Turkey for CSOs and the legally recognized forms of CSOs in Turkey are associations and foundations[31]. Although platforms are also recognized by the Law on Associations, platforms cannot be registered as separate legal entities.

According to Article 101 of the Civil Code, it is not allowed in Turkey, by law, to establish foundations supporting a specific race or community members[32]. Hence, freedom of association, in the form of foundations, to support an ethnic or religious group and/or identity is restricted. In addition, according to articles 56 and 101[33], it is not allowed to establish neither associations nor foundations which are against "morality". Morality is a very vague term, which is open for extensive interpretation by the judiciary and the administration. As mentioned above, LGBTI organisations have been facing several court cases opened up to terminate their activities.

Registration of an association being subject to notification is only broadly in line with EU standards and seems to be smoothly implemented by the DoA. However, various bureaucratic requirements are still in place thatcannot be accepted as encouraging for associational activity. The administration requests seven founding members to be able to found a new association. Within 6 months of operation, the association should reach to at least 16 members to be able to fulfil the required number of members in the two legally required boards of the association. Minimum number of founding members is not sought for foundations. This is due to the fact that foundations are not defined as member-based organisations in the legal framework. However, foundations need to own assets of a total of minimum 50.000 TRY (approximately 17,500 EUR) to be able to be founded and they need to continue having the necessary assets every year to be able to continue their legal entity.

With regards to who can be the founding membersof an association, there are several discriminatory restrictions. First of all, the law requires the "capacity to act", referring to individuals who are at least 18 years of age. Individuals who do not have the "discernment capability" meaning that individuals with mental disabilities, mental disorders, in state of intoxication or in a similar mental situation cannot become founding members of associations.The requirements are also valid for founding members of foundations. In addition, the legal framework discriminates foreign individuals by requiring a residency permit from foreign founding members of an association. The Law on Foundations further restricts the right of foreigners to become founding members in foundations by requiring condition of legal and actual reciprocity.

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[31]Other forms of CSOs as recognized in other countries such as workers and employers unions, and professional organisations having a public nature such as bar associations, doctors' unions, architects' unions are each governed by seperate individual laws and are not examined in this report.
[32]http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/kanunlar/k4721.html
[33]Ibid.

The Law on Associations classify a specific association type: "Children's Associations". Children between the ages of 15 and 18 can become founding members only in children's associations with the consent of their legal guardians. Children between the ages 13 and 15 cannot become founding members but can become regular members to a children's association with the consent of their legal guardians. Children under 18 years of age cannot become members to an association other than children's associations.TÜSEV's study on Freedom of Association states that*"The provisions in the Law on Associations related with children do not seem to be coherent with Article 15 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[34]."*

Another set of legal provisions in the relevant legal framework also restricts the rights of members of military and security forces at different levels. Furthermore, the legal framework refers to their respective institutional laws for the provisions related with the freedom of association of other civil servants and accordingly, various laws of public institutions restrict this right at varying degrees.

The necessary information and documentation that is required to found an association are quite comprehensive and for many groups are difficult to comply with. One such requirement is the address of the association to be provided at the founding stage.The first obstacle lies with a provision which requires the approval of all flat proprietors of the building in which the headquarters is situated at if the building is a residential building. In addition, the DoA publicized a legal opinion on its website stating that an association cannot share the same address/premises with another legal or private entity.[35] This means that each association should either own its residence or rent one just by itself. Considering the financial capacities of the majority of associations in Turkey, such a requirement is a very important obstacle to the freedom of association.

Last, but not least, the legal framework is highly restrictive towards foreign CSOs. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is authorized to grant a permit for a foreign CSO to establish a branch or a representation in Turkey.The difficulties and restrictions brought against the freedom of association of foreign CSOs were also highlighted in the EC Turkey Progress Report: "*a German political association was refused the right to establishment in Turkey. A court case is continuing regarding the rejection of establishment of an UK based charity organisation as an association. International NGOs providing relief to the Syrian refugees and displaced were investigated. A number were closed down by the authorities[36]*".

The total number of foreign CSOs that received the permit to found associations, branches or representations in Turkey is only 102. While only four CSOs were given permission in 2012,the number has increased to 27 in 2013[37]. At least 19 of the CSOs that received the permit in 2013 were relief and emergency organisations indicating to the fact that the relatively high numbers of permits provided in 2013 were due to the Syrian refugee crisis.The distribution of the countries of foreign CSOs provided permit to found representations or branches in Turkey are presented below:

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[34] Gökçeçiçek Ayata, Ulaş Karan, "Obstacles to Freedoms of Association and Assembly in Turkey", TÜSEV, February 2014, accessible at http://www.siviltoplum-kamu.org/usrfiles/files/MevzuatRaporu_TR.pdf
[35] Dernek Adresleri (29/04/2013) at http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/Mevzuat/hukuki-gorusler.aspx
[36] EC Turkey Progress Report 2013
[37] http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/media/templates/dernekler/images/folder/6IzinVerilenlerListesi.xls

Countries of the Foreign CSOs Established in Turkey
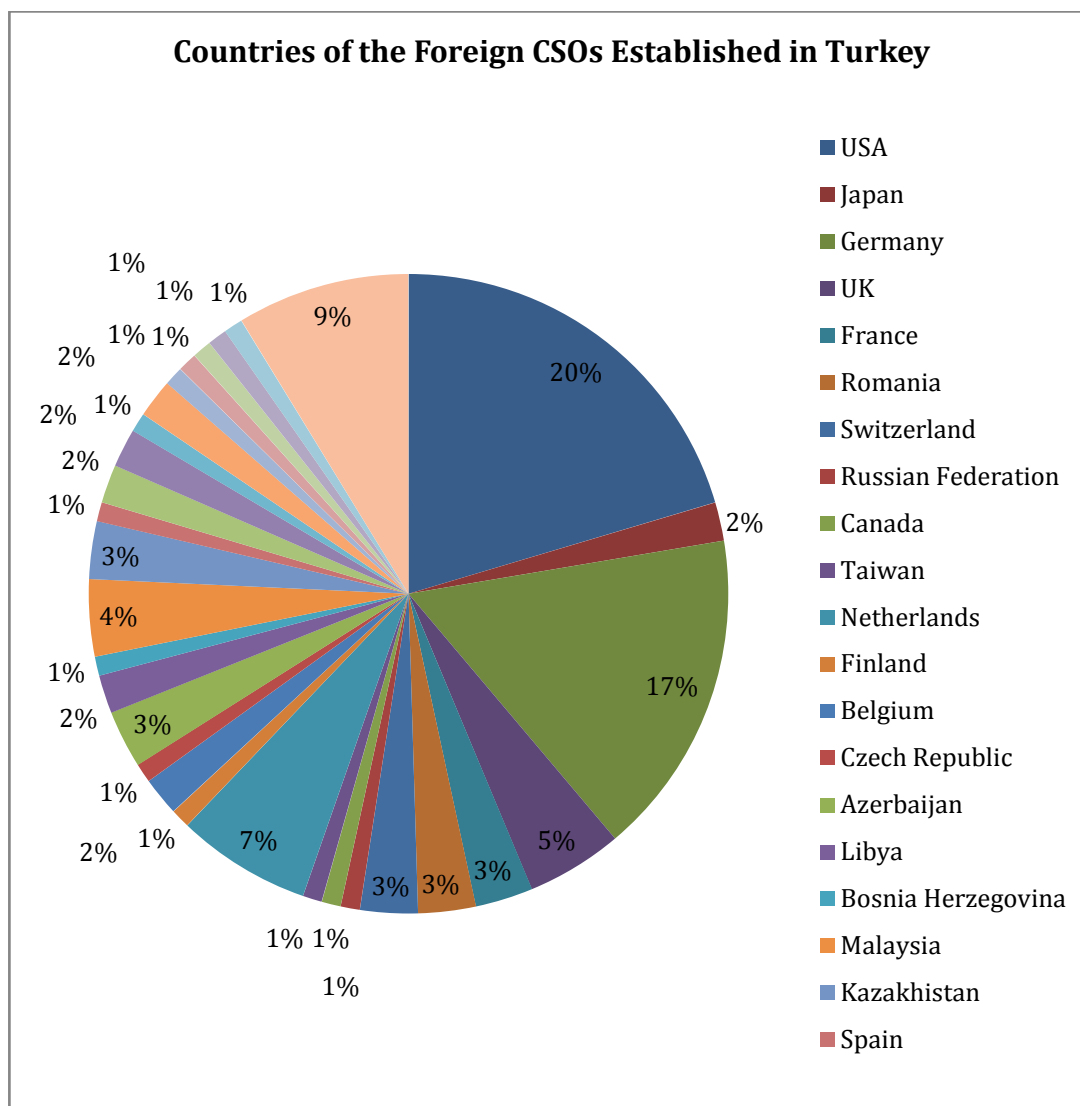
15,69% of these foreign CSOs established their branches in Turkey, 67,65% of them established representations, 3,92% of them received permission to carry out direct activities in Turkey, 4,90% of them received permission to become a member in an exponent institution and another 4,90% to establish an exponent institution, 0,98% (only one CSO) of them received permission to found an association, and lastly, 1,96% of CSOs cooperated with other institutions in Turkey.There are public and semi-public institutions as well as university representations among the 102 CSOs that received the highly difficult permission.

1.1.3 Public Institutions relevant to Civil Society

1.1.3.1 Public Institutions Directly Related with Associations and Foundations

Just like the situation in Turkey regarding the legal framework for CSOs, the institutional set-up is also complex and scattered without efficient coordination among public institutions. The major public institutions directly related with different aspects of the civil society enabling environment are as follows:

The Department of Associations (DoA): DoA is a department operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and has the following duties[38]:

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[38]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/en/Organization/Our-duties.aspx

- Monitoring, recording and archiving establishment procedures, works and operations of associations; monitoring and carrying out works and procedures regarding assigning generation numbers to associations and unions or erasing these numbers,
- Carrying out works and procedures (of associations) (1)which are subject to permission, (2) regarding losing legal personality, dissolution and prohibition of activities, (3) regarding aids in kind and cash that associations receive from abroad, (4) regarding charity collecting activities, (5) to annul the activities of associations in line with relevant legislation until a court order is issued,
- Collecting and evaluating denouncements and inspection requests about associations and unions; ensuring that CSO auditors inspect all administrative offices belonging to associations and unions, any sort of additional buildings as well as their accounts and operations when necessary.

Last, as mentioned above, the DoA started to be responsible for the tasks previously given to the Department of Security regarding unions and political parties.

The General Directorate of Foundations (DGoF): The DGoF is a legal entity operating under Prime Ministry with the following tasks and responsibilities[39]:

- To supervise the new foundations founded under the Civil Code in terms of conformity to deed of foundation; to inspect authority controls whether rules of deed of foundations are implemented or not or whether real estates of foundation are conducted and used in accordance with allocated purpose or not;to audit annexed (mülhak), community, artisans' and new foundations;
- To fulfil and carry out charitable, social, cultural and economic terms and services set out in the charters of fused (mazbut) foundations or, where there is no charter, in its *firman*, deed or title of privilege that substitutes the charter;to exploit and invest funds and goods of the Directorate General and the fused (mazbut) foundations and to invest them in those investments that bring higher yields; to establish companies, to participate in already-active companies and to decide on any capital increases of these companies with the funds of the Directorate General and the fused (mazbut) foundations,
- To carry out training, research, development, cultural and publication activities in issues related to the foundations; to maintain national and international coordination;
- To conserve or restore the cultural assets of foundations located at home or abroad;to make up collections comprising foundations' cultural assets; to establish museums, libraries and cultural centers.[40]

Thedraft of Law on Collection of Aid, mentioned above (under 1.1.1), contains provisions to establish three new institutions regarding civil society: the Directorate General of Civil Society Organisations, Civil Society Committee and Civil Society Council. The provisions in the draft foresee that the three institutions will have the following tasks and structure:

Civil Society Council: The council will have representatives from public and civil society organisations, as a consultative body, to provide comments for identification and development of policies related with civil society activities; maintaining and strengthening coordination and cooperation between public and civil society organisations; increasing efficiency and increasing service quality of civil society organisations; maintaining honesty, transparency and accountability in the sector.

Civil Society Committee: To be working accordingly with the advice and decisions of the Civil Society Council, the duties and tasks identified for the Committee are to provide

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[39]http://www.vgm.gov.tr/sayfa.aspx?Id=90
[40]http://www.vgm.gov.tr/sayfa.aspx?Id=80

opinions on public benefit status requests; using the words subject to permission to be used in the names of associations; aid to be provided to civil society organisations from the budget of the Ministry of Interior Affairs; changes to be made in the legal framework regarding civil society organisations; accreditation of institutions to hold certified training programmes for managers and employees of civil society organisations.

Directorate General of Civil Society Organisations: The draft is annulling The Department of Associations and founding a new institution named Directorate General of Civil Society Organisations (DGoCSO), which will not be responsible only for associations but also for other forms of CSOs. The duties and authorities of the DoA will be transferred to the DGoCSO. The draft law also defines additional duties for the DGoCSO as: (1) To provide guidance in meetings of CSOs upon their request. The fees of the guide to be appointed to the meeting by the Civil Society Unit of the DGoCSO will be paid by the CSO receiving the service and (2) To perform the tasks and procedures given to the Ministry of Internal Affairs by laws regarding foundations, unions, political parties, and higher organisations of foundations and unions.

1.1.3.2 Public Institutions with CSO Departments/Units/Contact Points

In recent yearsseveral public institutions started to establish civil society departments, units or appoint civil society contact persons. These were as follows:

Ministry of EU Affairs Directorate for Civil Society, Communications and Culture (DoCSCC):One of the responsibilities outlined for the Directorate is "*cooperating with the private sector, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and universities and helping with the coordination of their activities[41]*".The Directorate organizes meetings with CSOs with the aim to improve consultation channels with the CSOs regarding the EU accession process. Between 2009 and 2014, the DoCSCC has held five "Dialogue with Civil Society" meetings. The first four meetings held were consultative meetings in the form of broad gatherings of CSOs withoutdifferentiation on thematic or expertise area and thereby were not found to be efficient, as it was also stated in the 2011 TACSO Needs Assessment Report.   As an improvement, the fifth meeting were held thematically and the representatives of different faith groups were invited to discuss their problems in Turkey.

Ministry of Youth and Sports, Department of Civil Society Organisationshas been established in 2013 under the Directorate of Youth Services (DoCSO). DoCSO started to conduct project cycle management trainings towards CSOs working on youth in line with the Strategic Plan adopted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports(2013-2017).

Ministry of Family and Social Policy: The Ministry has opened up 14 Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers in 2012 and 2013 and is continuing to increase the number of such centers. These centers spare a room which is named as "Civil Society Organisations and Vocational Organisations' Office".

Ombudspersons' Institution: As mentioned in the EC Turkey Progress Report 2013,"*Parliament elected Turkey's first Head Ombudsman in November 2012 and subsequently appointed five Ombudsmen. The Ombudsman Institution became operational and began receiving complaints in April 2013...[42]*"The ombudsperson responsible from women, children and people with disabilitiesassigned an expert to the position of CSO Liaison Officer. The fact that this person took the initiative to introduce himself and his position to the CSOs (via e-mail) and that heprovides his contact informationcan be accepted

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[41]http://www.abgs.gov.tr/index.php?p=44387&l=2
[42]EC Turkey Progress Report 2013

as a pro-active communication style that is not common within public institutions in Turkey.

1.1.4 Public Benefit Status

Having entitled to receive the public benefit (for associations) and tax exemption (for foundations) statuses are very difficult and perceived as highly politicized. Council of Ministers has the authority to grant these statuses. As of January 2014, the number of associations having a public benefit status is only 404 (0,41%)[43] and the number of foundations who has tax exemption, as of August 2013, is only 241 (5,09%). These numbers were 410 associations (0,46%) and 237 foundations (5,17%)[44] respectively in the TACSO Turkey Needs Assessment Report 2011. As can easily be seen, both percentages fell down rather than increase since 2011. The situation seems to be more critical for associations, not only because the percentage of associations with public benefit status is not even one percent as a whole but also because both the number and the percentage has fallen rather than increase.

In EC Progress Report 2012, the problem was stated as *"There are numerous complaints of discrimination when applying for public benefit status for associations and in getting permission to raise funds".*Due to the fact thatno improvement was made with regards to the status of public benefit (for associations) and tax exempt (for foundations), a similar criticism was also made in the EC Progress Report 2013 as follows:"*There were complaints of discrimination against associations applying for public benefit status and permission to raise funds".*

1.1.5 Voluntarism

In Turkey, volunteerism is not defined by any legislation or policy document and there is no public institution directly responsible for volunteering. This situation continues to cause an obstacle before the development of volunteerism infrastructure. In 2013, the Social Security Institution fined the Association for Supporting Contemporary Life - an organization with public benefit status- arguing that the volunteers of the organization are employed as "uninsured employees."[45]

Volunteerism in Turkey: Discovering the Role and Contributions of Volunteerism[46] published by United Nations Volunteers Programme in Turkey states that *"there is no healthy and comprehensive formal or informal data on volunteering activities in Turkey and therefore it is not possible to analyse the most popular thematic areas of volunteer work."* According to 2012 data of the GDoF,the numberof volunteers working for 645 foundations in Turkey is 1.007.560 and the number of members (only real persons) is 1.155.359 for 3.456 foundations.[47] Department of Associations do not share any data regarding the number of volunteers. However, according to 2011 data published by DoA, the number of members are 8.852.907.[48][49] Despite the growing numbers, according to World Giving Index 2013, Turkey

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[43]http://derbis.dernekler.gov.tr/SSL/istatistik/KamuYarari.aspx

[44]TACSO Turkey Needs Assessment Report, November 2011, p.7

[45]http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/turkiye/18395/CYDD_ye_bir_kiskac_da_SGK_dan_.html

[46] Volunteerism in Turkey: Discovering the Role and Contributions of Volunteerism, UNV http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/Gonulluluk.pdf

[47] The given number only includes New Foundations (established after Republic) http://www.vgm.gov.tr/db/dosyalar/webicerik205.pdf

[48] Due to lack of information on the number of volunteers, authors used the number of members considering that associations are member-based organizations. However, it is important to note that given numbers do not entail any information about the level of participation by the members. Furthermore, in Turkey it is common to see cases where individuals are members of more than one association.

[49]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernekler-grafik-tablo.aspx

ranks 130th in terms of volunteering time by participation and population among 135 countries.[50]

CSOs benefit from the support of volunteers in various areas such as administrative duties, educational activities, promotional and communication activities, field support, project management and advocacy activities. Due to lack of a common approach and practice, CSOs develop their own volunteering policies in line with their goals and principles.[51] These policies differ between CSOs and in some cases include issues such as working hours, per diems and involvement of volunteers in the decision-making processes of the organization.

With the rise of civic space in Turkey especially after 2000s, volunteerism became a more visible and common practice as well as a highly debated issue in Turkey.[52] To this end, in recent years different actors focusing on various aspects of volunteerism such as role of volunteering, development of volunteering and creating an enabling environment for volunteerism emerged. Bilgi University NGO Training Centre[53] and the Civil Society Development Center[54] are among the organizations that focused on the role of volunteers and volunteer management aspect with several publications. An important initiative established in the area of volunteerism in 2012 was the National Volunteerism Committee. The United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) with the participation of various CSOs and public institutions established the Committee. The Committee is a joint initiative bringing together public, private and the non-profit sectors with an aim to promote volunteerism and to raise awareness on the issue.

Online activism also emerges as a growing trend in Turkey. As seen in the Gezi Park protests, social platforms and social media became important tools for engaging volunteers with CSOs as well as enabling individuals to set-up their own forms of association.[55] Furthermore, online platforms such as Change.org and imza.la that enables citizens to start online petitions and campaigns emerged as important tools.

1.1.6 Tax incentives&Deductibility of Charitable Contributions

As discussed in the EC Turkey Progress Report 2013, "*CSOs' financial environment is characterised by insufficient tax and other incentives for private donations and sponsorship, making many of them dependent on public (often international) project grants*".[56]

CSOs are exempt from profit/income tax on their ordinary fundraising activities, although tax is incurred on all economic activities. Economic enterprises of CSOs are considered as businesses by the Ministry of Finance and hence are subject to pay the same utility rates defined by Corporate Tax Law. This creates a heavy burden on CSOs as they implement economic activities with an aim to create social benefit.

In Turkey, the 5% tax deduction (10% in development priority regions) for the donations of legal entities is only applicable for foundations with tax exemption status and associations with public benefit status.[57] As described in section 1.1.4, only limited numbers of CSOs are

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[50]https://www.cafonline.org/PDF/WorldGivingIndex2013_1374AWEB.pdf
[51]TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012.
[52] Laden Yurttagüler, *Gönüllülük Ve Vatandaşlık Kavramı,*
p.27.http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/Gonulluluk.pdf
[53]http://stk.bilgi.edu.tr/cd/04/
[54]http://panel.stgm.org.tr/vera/app/var/files/g/o/gonulluluk.pdf
[55] Uygar Özesmi, *Gönüllülük Ve Vatandaşlık Kavramı,*
p.97.http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/Gonulluluk.pdf
[56]http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2013/package/tr_rapport_2013.pdf
[57] Bireysel ve Kurumsal Bağışçılar için Yasal ve Vergisel Düzenlemeler Rehberi http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/vergiselkonularrehberi_web_29_08_13.pdf

granted the tax exemption and public benefit status by the Council of Ministers. Considering the hardship of obtaining the status, the advantages are quite limited when compared with the 10% average of the EU member countries.[58] There is no tax deduction mechanism defined for payroll giving. The EC Turkey Progress Report 2013 pointed out to the problems in the legal framework by stating, "*Legislative and bureaucratic obstacles impeding the financial sustainability of civil society organisations persisted*"[59].

1.2 Donors and Funding Opportunities (local and international) Today and as Predicted in the Future

1.2.1 Government & Public Funding

1.2.1.1 Government and Public Funding

As in 2011, the government is not a regular funder of civil society in Turkey, and total government support of CSOs is relatively insignificant. Only a very small number of CSOs receive state resources, usually by means of project partnerships, rather than grant allocations or service contracts. There is not a common approach or procedure adopted by the Ministries towards providing financial support to CSOs. Some Ministries support CSO projects and activities within the terms of legislation, whereas the beneficiary Ministries of the IPA Regional Development Programmes in Turkey (Ministry of Environment and Urbanism, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Industry and Trade) cooperate and provide financial support to CSOs within the scope of grant components.[60] However, other than the grants provided by Ministries within the context of the EU IPA programme, it is important to note that the public funding disbursed in Turkey via Ministries are not coordinated, monitored, systematically evaluated nor reported. Each Ministry decide on their own priorities, the amount of funding to provide and have different systems of grant process.

The results of the Needs Assessment Survey conducted by TACSO with 102 CSOs in 2013, as shown in the following graphic, indicated that the majority of the respondents perceived that the funds provided by public institutions to CSOs are not transparent, just or non-discriminatory.

How Transparent, Just and Non-discriminatory are Public Funds for CSOs?

- 45% Not transparent and just; they're discriminatory
- 40% Transparent to an extent, not just and discriminatory
- 15% Completely transparent, just and not discriminatory

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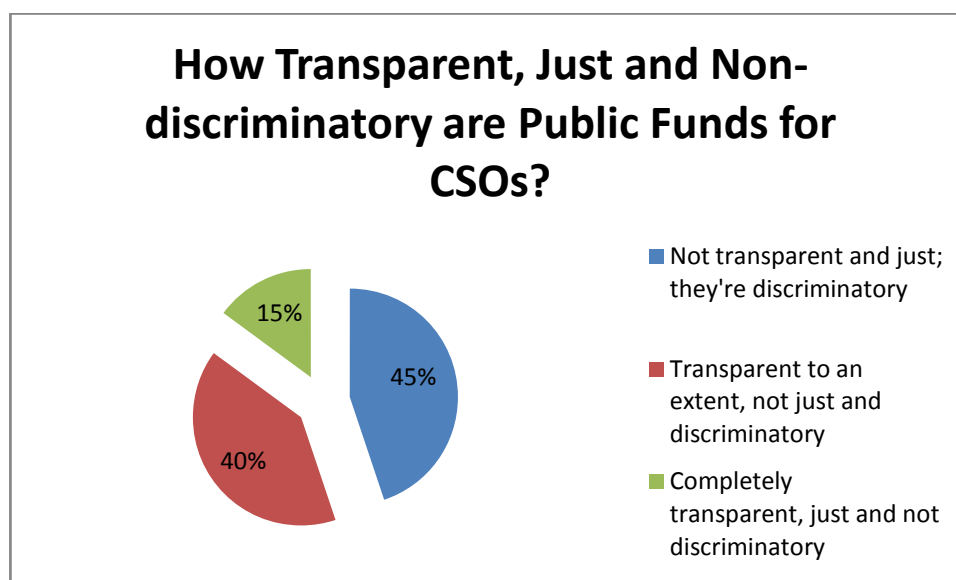
[58] http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/SivilIzlemeENG_15_08_13.pdf
[59] EC Turkey Progress Report, 2013.
[60] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/ipa/turkey_development_en.cfm

Public funding programmes from which CSOs could benefit from, that are relatively systematic and reported are as below:

Ministry of Development Social Support Program: In the context of the SouthEastern Development Program (GAP), a flexible funding mechanism, Social Support Program (SODES) was developed in 2008 in order to meet the social needs and support process of the social cohesion in the region. SODES consists of three components; employment, social inclusion and art, culture and sports. Between 2008 and 2010, a total of 516 CSO projects were funded with a total of 64.686.785 TL.[61]In 2012, the Governorships have submitted 2064 pre-selected projects with a total amount of 270 million TL to the Ministry of Development. Out of those pre-selected 2064 projects, 1620 projects worth of 195.865.810 TL was decided eligible for support. 495 (31% of the supported projects) of the 1620 projects were proposed and implemented by the CSOs and the total amount of financial support allocated for the CSO projects was 66.505.583 TL (34% of the total funds allocated).[62] Although the available data shows that the allocated funds comply with the 25% Rule[63],a greater percentage of the funds were spent by the public institutions.According to a report[64] covering the findings of an extensive consultation held in an EU funded project, there is an important level of distrust among CSOs, towards SODES funds of which 44% were provided to public institutions, 10% to municipalities, 1% to provincial administrations and only 31% to CSOs. The major critiques of CSOs towards SODES Programme are the authority delegated to governors, the un-transparency and the fact that the majority of funds have been transferred to public institutions.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department of Associations (DoA) Project Support for Associations: As of 2010, a special grant programme for associations was established under the MoI to be coordinated by the DoA. In 2012, the Ministry of Interior allocated 10.072.904 TL for 221 projects[65], and in 2013 MoI allocated 10.569.613 TL for 248 projects[66] for projects developed by associations.

Programme priorities for 2013[67] were (1) Enhancing the understanding and awareness on civil society, human rights and democratic consciousness, (2) Public-civil society dialogue,public participation in decision-making mechanisms and active citizenship, (3) Educational and social projects for strengthening the capacities and communication of CSOs, (4) Educational, cultural and social projects towards children, youth, women, people with disabilities and disadvantaged groups, (5) Employment of women, youth and people with disabilities, improving entrepreneurship and innovation, (6) Protection of family and cultural values, (7) Protection of environmental health, physical and mental health of public.

Although such a funding programme is accepted as an important improvement by the civil society, the trust towards the selection and dispersion of the grants seems to be quite low. Various CSO representatives express their critique regarding the non-transparent criteria for selection, the requirement of getting the opinion of governors, the absence of an independent selection and monitoring system.

The fact that DoA conducted a consultation regarding grant programme priorities for 2014

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[61]http://www.kalkinma.gov.tr/sodes/SODES'in_Degerlendirilmesi_Arastirmasi_Raporu.pdf
[62]http://www.sodes.gov.tr/SODES.portal
[63] SODES programme promises that at least %25 of the projects proposed by the Governorships should come from CSOs and occupational organizations established by law.
[64] Relations between Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector: Problems-Expectations, TÜSEV, Aralık 2013, http://www.siviltoplum-kamu.org/usrfiles/files/Ortakliklar_Belgesi.pdf
[65]http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/SivilToplumIzlemeRaporu2012.pdf
[66]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/projeler.aspx
[67]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/ebulten/duyurular/2013-yili-yardim-yapilacak-proje-konulari.aspx

via its web-page[68] was a positive development. However, the number of contributions was limited since no wide-scale outreach and promotion regarding the consultation process was not conducted.

Prime Ministry-Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities – Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Capacity Building and Financial Support Programme: Under the provisions of the "Regulation on Administrative and Financial Support Extended by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities", the Presidency may receive applications for financial assistance from non-profit organizations and agencies active in the same field with the Presidency and extend support to those that it finds appropriate.

As envisaged in the regulation, support by the Presidency may be extended on the basis of direct project support programme developed periodically or as response to calls. Programmes designed are announced in the website of the Presidency and applications received until the deadline specified are evaluated on the basis of the priority areas of the announced programme and eligibility criteria.

The aim of the programme[69] is to encourage partnerships for building organizational and technical capacity in CSOs active in Turkey in such fields as migration, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, adaptation and equal participation so that they can better assist CSOs that are active abroad, Turkish citizens in other countries, related communities and international students having their education in Turkey.

Priority areas are as follows: Strengthening the organizational structure of and building technical capacity in CSOs; enhancing civil participation to political decision making mechanisms; campaigning; developing advocacy and lobbying skills and promoting cooperation and communication networks among CSOs, between CSOs and international organizations and between CSOs and the public sector.

Ministry of Youth and Sports – Programme for Supporting Youth Projects: The program supports universities on their projects on "social inclusion". While university presidencies applying to the Presidency with their projects will have the primary responsibility in implementation, they can still cooperate with civil society organizations, governmental agencies, local governments and industrial zone managements.

1.2.1.2 Semi-Public Funds

Republic of Turkey Ministry of Development continues to provide funding opportunities for CSOs in a variety of social and economic development projects under Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). RDAs are supported by the EU IPA program[70]. Studies have been carried out to ensure that the RDAs assume the role of intermediaries for the use of EU funds in their region. This is crucial for Turkey to ensure that the funds are being allocated and used effectively in accordance with the specific needs of the regions as well as a means of preparation for the EU Cohesion Policy.

As of October 2012, in scope of the Development Agency Management System (KAYS) project which aims to ensure that all operations of the RDAs are conducted electronically brought the transfer of data for direct financial supports, including the project application and evaluation processes, to the electronic environment via Projects and Activities Support Module (PFD). 78 financial support programs worth of 607.000.000 TL have been registered tothe KAYS-PFD Module.

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[68]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/ebulten/duyurular/2014-proje.aspx
[69]http://www.ytb.gov.tr/index.php/mali-destekler.html
[70] http://www.dpt.gov.tr/PortalDesign/PortalControls/WebIcerikGosterim.aspx?Enc=83D5A6FF03C7B4FC D42A540FCFDF1930

1.2.2 EU Pre-Accession Funds

As in 2013, the EU continues to be the most important and biggest international source of funding for CSOs in Turkey.

In the Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework for IPA 2011-2013, the following priorities for IPA support related with the civil society have been identified: Horizontal priorities that will be supported as cross-cutting themes are participation of civil society, participation in EU programmes, a high degree of protection of the environment, mainstreaming of climate change considerations, equal opportunities for men and women, support to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups as well as the development of good neighbourly relations.

In November 2013, following the launch of opening negotiations for Chapter 22 Regional Cooperation with Turkey, European Commission stated that the EU will provide more than 236 million EUR to support Turkey's reform efforts in key areas such as judiciary and fundamental rights, migration and border management, energy, environment and climate change, social development, as well as agriculture and rural development. The funds are made available under the 2013 national program for Turkey under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (Component I: Transition Assistance and Institution Building) that has been adopted by the European Commission.[71]

European Commission also indicated that in the period 2007-2013, over €30 million pre-accession assistance has been provided to enhance amongst others the capacity of national parliamentary assemblies, ombudsman and national audit institutions. In the same period, civil society organisations have been supported by almost €190 million from IPA, as well as by over €35 million from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). EU Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2013-2014 also outlines that the Commission will also continue to support capacity building of civil society, including through the Civil Society Facility, and provide an enhanced role to civil society in the strategic programming of IPA II.

In the context of Commission Implementing Decision of 5.12.2011 adopting the Civil Society Facility (CSF) Programme under the IPA -Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the years 2011 – 2012, EC aims at providing assistance for contributing to anchoring democratic values and structures, human rights and the rule of law, thereby supporting the EU integration process.[72] In 2012, in the context of financial decision on CSF in 2011, country specific programs are introduced as well as multi-beneficiary programs. Turkey country specific program introduced three main components with a total budget of €3.05 Million Euro. In scope of this initiative, EU Delegation to Turkey introduced a creative and innovative program for support of civil society: **Think Civil EU Program.**[73] The Think Civil Program was launched in April 2013.[74] 13 kick off events were organized around Turkey to introduce the Program to CSOs. Think Civil EU program implements flexible and rapid financial supports for actions of CSOs, civil activists and civil initiatives and provides promotional support via its Program webpage and social media accounts. In its 6 months of implementation, Program supported 100 civil actions. In an effort to ease the application process, the Activist Support Program accepts proposals in Turkish, Kurdish and in English.

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[71] http://www.avrupa.info.tr/en/resource/news-archiv/news-single-view/article/renewed-eu-support-to-key-reforms-in-turkey.html

[72] http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial_assistance/ipa/2012/ipa_csf_2011-2012_-_c2011-9081-051211.pdf

[73] http://sivildusun.eu/

[74] http://www.avrupa.info.tr/en/resource/news-archiv/news-single-view/article/speaking-points-for-the-hod.html

Along with Think Civil EU program, Call for Proposals for action grants was launched in April 2013 under **CSF Turkey Think Civil Program**[75]. The specific objective 1 of this Call for Proposals is to contribute to the strengthening of capacities of existing or new national, regional (in the sense of regions within Turkey), local and/or thematic platforms and networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes through their activities. The specific objective 2 of this call for proposal is to strengthen CSOs in order to enhance civic participation at local and national levels through distribution of micro sub-grants (financial support to third parties) to rights-based CSOs.The evaluation for the applications has been concluded and 6 CSO networks were awarded.

In August 2011, European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR) call for proposals was launched with €3 Million budget for Turkey[76]. In December **2012, EIDHR Turkey Grant Scheme** was launched with Call for Proposals with €2 Million budget[77]. EIDHR CfP provide two specific objectives: (1)Strengthening civil society's involvement in the making, implementation and monitoring of human rights policies at local and national levelsand (2) Supporting human rights defenders in their efforts to promote and strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the local level.

After 2011, four programs designed for civil society development&dialogue in different areas were also launched under DIS System:

1.Strengthening Capacity of National and Local CSOs on Combating Violence against Women Grant Scheme[78]
2. Improved Integration of Disabled Persons into Society Grant Scheme[79]
3. Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education Grant Scheme[80]
4. Strengthening Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Turkey- III Grant Programs[81] has been launched on May 20, 2013 with subsections on Dialogue on Political Criteria and Dialogue on Media.
 (CfP),

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[75]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=134367

[76]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1385335064298&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573843&zgeo=35624&aoet=36537&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=131865

[77]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1385335064298&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573843&zgeo=35624&aoet=36537&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=133351

[78]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1385334856603&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573840&zgeo=35624&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=2&aoref=133168

[79]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1385334856603&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573840&zgeo=35624&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=2&aoref=133144

[80]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1385334856603&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573840&zgeo=35624&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=2&aoref=133136

[81]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1385334829926&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573840&zgeo=35624&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=134548

A major civil society project is implemented in Turkey between late 2012 and 2014 by a consortium of **CSOs (STGM, TUSEV, KAGED, YADA, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, and Bilgi University CSO Centre)**. The consortium includes various components including small-grants for public-civil society cooperation initiatives; research, policy development and pilot implementations of public-civil society cooperation mechanisms; civil society capacity building, mapping and support to networks; research on public perceptions towards civil society, strengthening the capacity of young citizens for better civil dialogue and participation and empowerment of civic agencies and CSOs as an active constituent of democratic governance in public policy debate, development and participation in Turkey. This is the largest direct grant provided to a consortium of CSOs in Turkey with a €7.365 million budget.

In 2013 EU Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2013-2014 indicated the launch of IPA II in 2014. Through IPA II, the EU will continue to provide substantial support to the enlargement countries in their preparation for accession, with a comparable level of funds for the period 2014-2020 (€11.7 billion in current prices) as in the current financial framework with a sectorial approach. In scope of CSP, commitment on fundamental areas such as supporting reforms and their sustained implementation in the rule of law area supports to strengthen democratic institutions and good governance as well as socio-economic development is highlighted.[82]

Overall, the scope, the impact and recognition of EU grants and funding support is increasing around Turkey by CSOs, civil activists and civil initiatives.

1.2.3 Other International Donors

TACSO Turkey gathered information on over 100 International and local donors providing various supports to civil society in a handbook entitled "Funding Opportunities in Turkey for CSOs". Although the handbook provides a list of more than 100 donor organizations, the number of international donors active in Turkey is rather limited. More detailed information about some of the best known and most active international donors in Turkey are as follows:

Netherlands: MATRA Assistance Programme

Matra[83] is a bilateral assistance programme of the Netherlands that aims to support social transformation in countries neighbouring the European Union. It focuses on activities that contribute to the further development of an open, pluralist, democratic society, firmly embedded in the rule of law. Within the scope of the programme, twinning with Dutch organisations and with partners from other Matra countries or new member states is possible. Matra works with country specific priority areas. Priority areas for Turkey are: Legislation and law; governance, public order and police; human rights and minorities.

MATRA- CoPROL [84](Cooperation with Pre-accession Countries on the Rule of Law): Matra CoPROL's policy objective is to strengthen the capacity of government institutions in those countries with EU accession prospects to meet the political (Copenhagen) criteria by means of partnerships with Dutch governmental and semi-governmental institutions on negotiation chapters 23 (Judiciary and fundamental rights) and 24 (Justice, freedom and security) of the EU Acquis. In addition to projects by governments, local organizations and political parties[85], small scale grants to a maximum of 15.000EUR over 12 months, is granted for CSO projects in the fields of legislation and law, public administration, public order and police,

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[82]http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2013/package/strategy_paper_2013_en.pdf
[83]http://turkey.nlembassy.org/services/civil-society/matra-decentral-programme
[84]http://turkey.nlembassy.org/services/civil-society/matra-coprol
[85]http://www.government.nl/issues/matra/grant-for-strengthening-democracy-matra-rule-of-law

information and media, human rights/minorities, environment, environmental authorities, labour & social policy, culture, welfare, health care, housing and education.

Human Rights Fund[86]**-** Human rights policy of the Netherlands aims to strengthen human resistance to injustice and repression. The Netherlands focuses in particular on aspects of human rights where freedom, security and prosperity are mutually reinforcing.Special attention is given to five themes in Turkey: Women's rights; LGBT rights; Support to Human Rights Activists; Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility and Freedom of information / Freedom of Belief.

According to a case analysis in TUSEV's Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012, the total amount of funds allocated to CSOs in Turkey in 2012 by General Consulate and Embassy of Netherlands is 1,200,000 Euros.[87]

Sweden: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

SIDA is a government organization under the Swedish Foreign Ministry. Swedish Development Aid follows three thematic priorities: democracy and human rights, environment and climate change and gender equality and women's role. In the strategy document for 2010-2013 for SIDA work in Turkey, it is outlined that the objective of Sweden's development cooperation in Turkey is to strengthen democracy and rights issues that improves the prospects of membership in the European Union. It is indicated that Swedish support will focus on the sector for democracy, human rights and gender equality. For the period 2010–2013, the volume of Swedish development cooperation in Turkey was indicated as approximately 73 million SEK per year through SIDA and approximately 14 million SEK per year through the Consulate-General. The number of contributions is limited and focus on coherent programmes[88].

German Foundations

German Foundations (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Heinrich Böll Stiftung; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, Berghof, Robert Bosh Stiftung) also offer small grants for CSO projects promoting democracy and human rights. They each have their focus themes and tend not to overlap thematic areas that they support.Their financial contributions come from state budget of Germany.

British Embassy

The United Kingdom provides a significant contribution to Turkey's accession process by financing projects in various fields such as freedom of expression, human rights and fight against corruption. Available funding varies yearly, however the British Embassy funds projects to a value of around £1.000.000 - 1,500,000 annually in Turkey through the below mentioned programmes:

- The Bilateral Programme Fund allocates funds for small projects (up to a value of £5.000) that contribute to achieving FCO priorities and Country Business Plan objectives and complement SPF programmes.
- The Reuniting Europe Programme helps deliver the vision of building an effective and globally competitive EU in a secure neighbourhood.
- The Returns and Reintegration Fund aims to reduce the number of foreign national prisoners and failed asylum seekers living in the UK.
- The Prosperity Fund Turkey Programme focuses on promoting sustainable global growth

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[86]http://turkey.nlembassy.org/services/civil-society/human-rights-fund
[87]http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/images/HollandaVakaAnaliziENG.06.11.13.pdf
[88]http://www.sida.se/English/Countries-and-regions/Europe/Turkey-/Our-work-in-Turkey-/

in line with the UK's development objectives on sustainable development.

- The Human Rights and Democracy Programme aims to support governments and civil society to promote and protect human rights.

Other Embassies and Consulate-Generals

British, Finnish, Norwegian, Canadian, American, Japanese, Australian, and Belgium embassies as well their consulate-generals offer small grants and civil society support for CSOs.

1.2.4 Community Support and Business Contributions

According to the TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012, the main financial resources of CSOs are; international donors, local and private funding resources, supports provided from public institutions, as well as membership fees, individual donations, income provided by selling services/products, sponsorship and corporate social responsibility activities of companies and grant programs of foundations. Recent developments in the field of social entrepreneurship that contribute to the financial sustainability of CSOs are also considered as a new and important model.

According to "World Giving Index 2012"[89], 10% of the Turkish population made donations to the CSOs. The same research ranks Turkey 137th out of 146 countries. Whereas in "World Giving Index 2013"[90] Turkey ranked 128th out of 136 countries and the percentage of the population that made donations was 13%. Available data shows that individual donations constitute a small portion of the funds allocated to CSOs.

Online giving and crowdfunding emerges as a new trend in Turkey. Fongogo, C@rma and Biayda are among the organizations that provide online donation opportunities. However, the Law on Collection of Aid constitutes as a great obstacle before these online tools.

TUSEV has been carrying out the Değişim için Bağış[91](Donations for Change)project since 2011 to encourage organized philanthropy, developing a 'mass' giving culture for social good and generate support mechanisms for philanthropy in Turkey. The project is considered an important initiative since it promotes philanthropy by raising awareness and providing tools to encourage individual and corporate giving as well as the grantmaking foundation model in Turkey.

TUSEV's 2012 Civil Society Monitoring Report states that the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and its practices are still in a transitional phase in Turkey. The number of companies implementing CSR projects and sponsorship activities are increasing due to growing expectation from employees and customers. Employee volunteer programs by the companies are considered as another growing trend.

TUSEV's report entitled "Community Investment Programmes of Companies: Innovative Methods, Best Practices and Areas of Development" states that more companies started to partner with CSOs in implementing their CSR activities. However, in many instances companies lack a strategic CSR approach that is based on sound needs analysis reports and social impact evaluation. Furthermore, the research shows that companies continue to support a limited number of professionalized CSOs that mostly focus on education, health and children.

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[89]https://www.cafonline.org/PDF/WorldGivingIndex2012WEB.pdf
[90]https://www.cafonline.org/PDF/WorldGivingIndex2013_1374AWEB.pdf
[91]http://www.degisimicinbagis.org

1.2.4.1 Grantmaking Foundations

Since grantmaking foundations and associations are not included in the legislation concerning civil society organizations, present grant making foundations are legally obliged to be operational at the same time. As of 2013, there are eight foundations[92] in Turkey that engage in grant programmes. While this number may be considered few, the qualified increase in the interest of these foundations in the issue suggests that grant programmes will further expand in the course of time.[93]

As discussed in TUSEV's "Guide for Foundation's Grant Programmes"[94], foundations choose to start grant programmes to (1) increase the autonomy of CSOs and diversity of funding sources, (2) contribute to financial sustainability of CSOs, (3) support initiatives that are considered risky by the private and public sectors and (4) to support local initiatives and CSOs. However, grant making foundations or associations are not included in the Law on Foundations and Law on Associations. This situation is considered as an obstacle before an increase in number of grant making organizations and it prevents present grant making foundations that are legally obliged to be operational and from increasing the amount of their grant programs.[95]

1.2.4.2 Social Enterprises

Social enterprises and social entrepreneurship became a widely discussed issue in Turkey since 2011. Social enterprises are considered as an alternative model contributing to the financial sustainability of CSOs. Some CSOs consider the social enterprise model as a tool to diversify their funding opportunities therefore reducing their dependency on grants and donations.

The legal structure in Turkey relating to social enterprises is still inadequate. There is no legal entity identified as 'non-profit company'. Many social enterprises are established as economic entities or companies of associations/foundations. Other forms are social cooperatives (mostly women'scooperatives and cooperatives founded by disabled people)or companies. However, none of these structures fully suit the functions or methods of social enterprises.[96] Due to these circumstances, most social enterprises in Turkey are the economic enterprises of the existing foundations and associations. There are no special legal or financial regulations identified for the social enterprises. At present, there is no tax exemption for economic enterprises and companies of foundations/associations, cooperatives and non-profit organizations. Tax exemptions/ financial support extended to foundations/associations working for public benefit are also insufficient. Organizations having this status have no exemption in their economic activities and can benefit only from some limited arrangements for encouraging donations. All corporate identities active in the field of social entrepreneurship are subject to tax legislation applicable to regular companies as if they are for-profit enterprises. This hinders the establishment of new social enterprises and improvement of social enterprises that holds the potential to contribute to the financial sustainability of CSOs.

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[92] These eight grantmaking foundations are: Open society Foundation Turkey, Community Volunteers Foundation - Genç Bank Project, WWF-Turkey Türkiye'nin Canı Hibe Programı, Sabancı Foundation – Toplumsal Gelişme Hibe Programı, Coca Cola Hayata Artı Foundation, Vodafone Turkey Foundation, Bolu Donors' Foundation and The Journalists and Writers Foundation Peace Projects.
[93] Civil Society Monitoring Report, TUSEV, 2012,
http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/SivilToplumIzlemeRaporu2012.pdf
[94] http://www.degisimicinbagis.org/usrfiles/vakiflarinhibe_programlariicinrehber.pdf
[95] Civil Society Monitoring Report, TUSEV, 2012,
http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/SivilToplumIzlemeRaporu2012.pdf
[96] For more detailed information:http://www.tusev.org.tr/userfiles/image/sg-yo_eng_web.pdf

Support infrastructures and communication networks for social entrepreneurs are existent in Turkey. Organizations like TUSEV, Ashoka Turkey, Social Innovation Centre etc. plays a significant role in sharing knowledge and raising awareness on this issue. Furthermore, through courses,trainings, certificate programmes and competitions, universities (especially private universities in Istanbul) play a significant role in increasing the recognition of social entrepreneurship among youth.[97] On February 2012, TACSO, TUSEV and British Council organized the International Social Entrepreneurship Conference. The conference brought together 143 social entrepreneurs and supporters of social entrepreneurship from the Western Balkans, Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia and the United Kingdom (UK) and created an important opportunity for the development of social entrepreneurship, particularly social enterprise, in the region.[98] In 2013, Community Volunteers Foundation and ÖzyeğinUniversity started the Social Change Lab[99] project with the financial support of JPMorgan. In the spring 2013 term, Social Change Lab accepted applications by CSOs as well as individual applications.

Despite the numerous support programs, it is possible to say that social entrepreneurship is still in a nascent stage in Turkey. Some good examples exist but number of these examples is limited. With the increasing number of support programs such as trainings, competitions, workshops and emerging funding opportunities, it is expected that the number of social enterprises and interest from CSOs will grow in the near future.

1.3Government Mechanisms for Civil Society – Government Cooperation, Institutional Capacity to Engage Civil Societyand the Policy Framework

With regards to dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions, as stated in EC Progress Report 2013, "*civil society is still not widely considered by those traditionally involved in politics as a legitimate stakeholder in democracy*". There are still no concrete government structures or other institutional mechanisms in Turkey to facilitate regular contact and coordination with civil society. Despite the expectations voiced by CSOs and standards provided by international good practices, there is also no overarching legal framework defining the possible forms, principles and methods that cooperation between the government and civil society might take, as well as the broad roles and responsibilities both sectors should fulfil vis-à-vis each other. In a similar way, the central government has not developed a policy or a strategic approach to its relations with CSOs and to its possible role in supporting the strengthening of civil society.

An extensive project financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey, the Ministry of EU Affairs being the beneficiary, has been implemented since 2012 by STGM, TUSEV and YADA consortium. Within the context of this project, an extensive CSO consultation in Turkey has been conducted to assess civil society-public sector relations. The consultation conducted involved more than 300 representatives from at least 200 CSOs from 12 cities, as well as universitiesand public institutions. The report summarizing the findings of this consultation process highlights the expectation of CSOs for a legal framework to address the relations between CSOs and public institutions which should *be in accordance with international standards on pluralism, inclusiveness, independence, non-partisanship, equality,*

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[97] For the list of organizations supporting social entrepreneurs please see
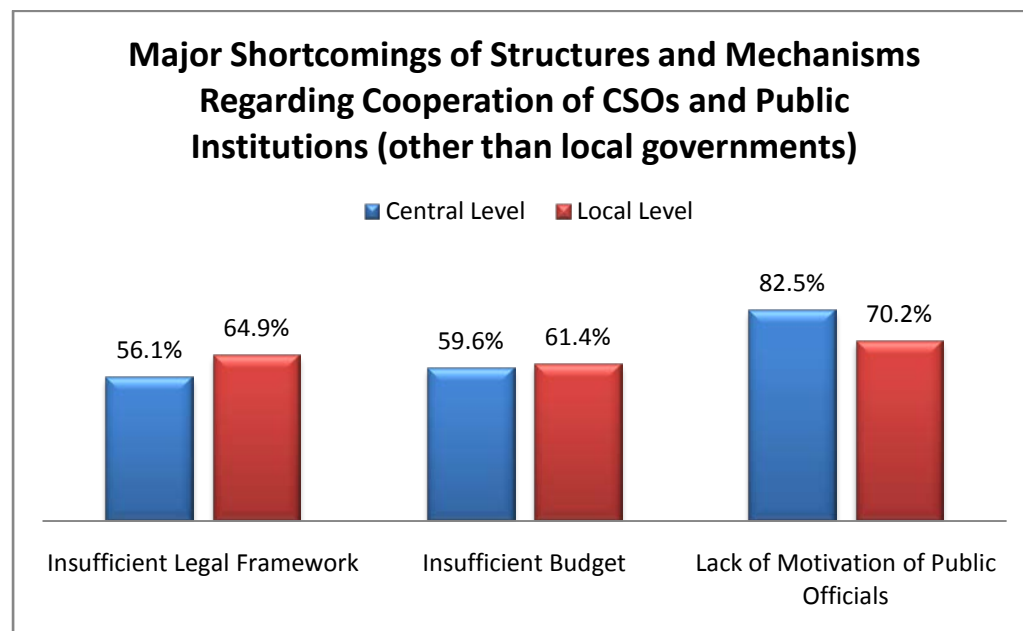http://www.sosyalgirisim.org/userfiles/document/Social%20Entrepreneurship%20Meeting%20January%202016.pdf
[98]http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/ISEC_Conference_Report.pdf
[99]http://sosyaldegisimlab.com/

transparency, accountability and accessibility and take into consideration international (or European Commission) criteria on anti-discrimination[100].

The report also summarizes the problems experienced by CSOs in their relations with public institutions. One problem mentioned was that the public institutions collaborate with CSOs only when they want to share information, need expertise or want to make an impression on the public. However, the relation was expressed as one-sided since the public institutions do not respond to the demands of cooperation from CSOs at the same rate. The fact that the relations between CSOs and public sector are based on individual relations and not institutionalized was presented as another problem by the CSOs. The consultation results show that once and if a dialogue is established between CSOs and public institutions, due to the lack of legal and institutional framework governing the relations and an institutional memory, processes are affected negatively with the change of the correspondent. Last, but not least, CSOs stated that public institutions are not standing at equal distance to all CSOs and are being selective in their relations with CSOs. Rights-based organizations stated that they are generally excluded from consultation or collaboration processes. This problem was mentioned in the consultation report as *"Public institutions do not regard CSOs as natural and equal parties to policy-making processes. This negative perception reduces the chances of CSOs to invoke their legal rights (however limited) to engage and converse with public institutions in various policy areas. As a result, most CSOs remain excluded from public institutions' decision-making process. Consultative processes include only those CSOs that have similar policy positions with the government/public institutions and hence are considered illegitimate and not pluralistic"[101].*

Similarly, TACSO Needs Assessment Survey respondents indicated that the major reason for the lack of efficient dialogue and cooperation between the public sector and CSOs is lack of motivation of public officials both at central level (82, 5%) and at local level (70, 2%).

Major Shortcomings of Structures and Mechanisms Regarding Cooperation of CSOs and Public Institutions (other than local governments)

■ Central Level   ■ Local Level

	Central Level	Local Level
Insufficient Legal Framework	56.1%	64.9%
Insufficient Budget	59.6%	61.4%
Lack of Motivation of Public Officials	82.5%	70.2%

Another important challenge regarding CSOs-public sector relations is the low level of awareness and experience of public servants regarding the important role of CSOs in

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[100] Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.
[101] Ibid.

democracies. A research study conducted by Yaşama Dair Vakıf (YADA Foundation) within the context of the same project[102] mentioned above with more than 120 central level decision-makers from 21 Ministries present important findings regarding the approach and understanding of public servants towards civil society. The study revealed that the central-level administrators have a general notion of civil society which is broadly in line with standards, they have considerable contacts and experience with CSOs and that CSOs participation in the work and decisions of public institutions has become a norm.[103] 66% of the administrators interviewed within the context of the research by YADA were members of a CSO. Furthermore, 32% of these members were founding members of an organisation. However, when the types of CSOs that they are members at were analysed, the study revealed that 43,4% of their membership were in vocational/professional, 15,8% in socializing (e.g. alumni, friendship) organisations and 14,5% in hometown associations. Thereby, it can be argued that the central-level administrators' perceptions and approaches towards CSOs, to a great extent, are based on their individual experience and close encounters with vocational/professional, socializing and hometown organisations.

The reputation grade of CSOs among the interviewees was 6,1 over 10. The reputation grades provided by public servants with post-graduate degrees and new generation of civil servants are higher than the average[104]. Some of the notable critiques of the central-level public administrators towards CSOs mentioned in the research were (1) they have political motivations and not scientific/analytic, (2) their approach is not towards negotiation but confrontation, (3) their communication and language is excluding and harsh based on prejudices, (4) they are only criticising (even the works towards public benefit) and not proposing solutions, and (5) they advocate from away (via media) but not seek for dialogue with public institutions[105].

Last, but not least, the YADA Foundation research revealed that the central-level public administrators believe that there are some challenges within the public institutions and within CSOs hindering cooperation with CSOs. The factors[106] outlined by the YADA Foundation research were provided below in the following table:

Public Institutions	Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
Working with CSOs are neither defined nor included in the work plan of the public servants. Thereby relations when and if are established are based on individual initiatives and not institutionalized.	CSOs are alienated from the society, not representing public needs and values and their constituency bases are not strong.
The harsh hierarchical structure of the public sector and the bureaucracy are hindering improved relations with the CSOs. Decisions and hence dialogue with CSOs are made only at higher levels in the bureaucracy. Furthermore, the legal framework is not supportive for the cooperation.	The skills and power of CSOs in agenda-setting, knowledge generating and influencing public opinion are found to be weak. They are also found to be weak in making themselves known by the society.
Public institutions are lack of strategies, plans	CSOs lack of qualified human resources since

[102]Strengthening Civil Society Development and Civil Society-Public Sector Dialogue in Turkey Project financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey and implemented by STGM, TUSEV and YADA.

[103]Civil Society Perceptions and Approaches of Administrators of Public Institutions (Kamu Kurumu Yöneticilerinin Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları Algı ve Yaklaşımları), YADA, December 2013.

[104]Ibid.

[105]Ibid.

[106]Ibid.

and information regarding cooperation with CSOs. They do not know with which CSO they can work with, on which portion of their operations they could work and how they can establish dialogue. Knowledge and information among ministries and public institutions regarding their cooperation and dialogue with CSOs are not reported or shared with others.	those individuals do not prefer to work with them. Furthermore, interviewees stated that individuals in management of CSOs (specifically of unions and vocational/professional organisations) use their positions to gain personal, political or ethnic benefits.
Public institutions do not have specific units/points for CSO relations. The interviewed administrators communicated a need to have such units that can be first contact point for CSOs.	Competition between CSOs and between larger/powerful CSOs and smaller/weaker CSOs are very strong and this competition is not allowing the latter to develop. Internal competitions within CSOs are also found to be hindering trustworthiness.

It is important to note that the consultation process conducted by TUSEV with the CSOs revealed that the participating CSOs believe that the majority of public servants *"do not have a basic knowledge of human rights and rights based thinking and hence do not take the necessary precautions to protect the rights to secrecy and confidentiality, for instance, in cases concerning women's and children's rights"*[107] .

The civil society participation in Turkey is assessed below following the participation levels of civil participation in the political decision making process defined in the "Code ofGood Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process" adopted by the International NGOs Conference of the Council of Europe[108].

Information Provision

The Code of Good Practice mentioned abovestates that*"access to information is the basis for all subsequent steps in the involvement of NGOs in the political decision-making process"*

The Law on Access to Information adapted in 2003 requires public institutions to respond to access to information requests of citizens or legal entities in 15 working days.However, there are cases that "*public institutions submit their responses with significant delays or refrain from responding all together. Additionally, the official responses given either include irrelevant and insufficient information or point to the lack of relevant data and a need for the public body concerned to carry out further inquiries[109]".*

A focus group consultation was conducted by TACSO and STGM on January 2014 to discuss the problems and needs of CSOs regarding access to information. CSOs complained that they have been encountering various problems while accessing to information. A summary of major problems mentioned during the consultation (See Annex I for meeting report) were as follows:

- There is no standard approach or implementation for appeals to access to information among different public institutions, or even within the same institution.

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[107]Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.

[108] The levels are defined as Information, Consultation, Dialogue and Partnership in the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process, INGOs of the CoE, accessible at http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/Source/Code_English_final.pdf

[109]Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.

- The collecting, analysing, archiving and publicising of data are not coordinated and not efficient. The data provided may not be found reliable as mostly the methodology and approach is not provided. In addition, the information and data provided is mostly not user friendly, segregated or formulated as appropriate.
- There is no effectively functioning performance monitoring and compensation mechanism to appeals on responses of public institutions. "Right to Information Evaluation Council" mostly confirms the responses of public institutions.
- There are several limitations in the Law to provision of information; if the requested information necessitates additional research, if it is accepted as a "state secret", if its' provision would harm "national security" or "economic benefits of the country", or if it is "only related with the internal applications and does not concern public"[110],the public institution does not have to disclose the information.
- CSOs claimed that they were not able to receive relevant information to their information requests. They were not sure that their questions and terminology were comprehended rightly by the public institutions since they did not receive the information that they surely know that the relevant institution has.

Despite all these problems, CSOs also mentioned some positive examples. One such good example was the Ministry of EU Affairs, which has provided a comprehensive answer to a request for information in such a short time of 15 minutes. Another institution sited as a good example was the Armed Forces[111] that provide up-to-date information on its web-site regarding their daily operations and border security. One CSO requested a thermal power plant contract in 2005 from the Ministry for Energy and Natural Resources. They were able to receive the mentioned contract and have been using it for various court cases they filed. However, it was commonly accepted that the majority of good example cases were due to the initiative of public servants who are responsible for the provision of information.

In addition to the Right to Information Law, there are also other problems regarding access to information in Turkey. As mentioned in the EC Progress Report 2013, "*Website bans of disproportionate scope and duration continued. The Telecommunications Communication Presidency (TİB) has not published statistics on banned sites since May 2009. An independent website that monitors banned sites stated in September that more than 32 000 sites were not accessible in Turkey. The Law on the Internet, which limits freedom of expression and restricts citizens' right of access to information, needs to be revised in line with European standards*[112]. However, despite the general expectations also by CSOs to improve the Law on the Internet, a Law[113] was proposed in January 2014 and accepted in the Parliament on 6 February 2014, containing several amendments that further increase the arbitrary limitation authority of the administration. Alternative Informatics Association and 5 other CSOs working on Informatics and Internet started a campaign against the draft providing that the regulation proposed is not in line with ECHR rulings, is undermining separation of powers and *"makes it easier to restrict the freedom of speech, controlling and surveillance on the internet by establishing monopoly"*.[114]

Consultation

The legal framework is not supportive for consultation to occur in the form that is expected by the CSOs. With regards to consultation on draft laws, the relevant legislation is the

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[110]http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2003/10/20031024.htm#1

[111]http://www.tsk.tr

[112]EC Turkey Progress Report, 2013.

[113]http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/kanunlar/k6518.html

[114]http://www.alternatifbilisim.org/wiki/Internet_Censorship_is_Getting_Deeper and
http://www.alternatifbilisim.org/wiki/Ana_Sayfa

Regulation for Procedures and Guidelines in Preparing Legislation[115] (2006). The article 6 of the regulation states that (1)the Ministries benefit from the opinions of local authorities, universities, unions, vocational organisations with semi-public status and civil society organisations on the drafts; and (2) drafts that are of interest for public opinion might be presented to the public via internet, press or publication prior to submission to the Prime Ministry by the proposing Ministry.The provision does not make it mandatory to receive opinions, or open consultations, leaving the initiative with the public authority. Thereby, diverse, inconsistentand ad-hoc practicesamong Ministries are seen. Most of the draft laws become accessible only when they are brought to the agenda of the GNAT.

Another important problem with the regulation is that according to article 7, the "*CSOs are required to submit their input on the draft legislation within 30 days. If no input has been submitted within 30 days, it is automatically assumed as a sign of support for the draft legislation*"[116].

Regarding consultation of public institutions, EC Turkey Progress Report 2013 states that*"the government did not conduct sufficient consultations with stakeholders on the adoption of key policies and legislation and failed to carry out adequate impact assessments. Examples included the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities, the draft Law on the Court of Accounts, and legislation restricting the advertisement and sale of alcoholic beverages. An exception was the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, which saw extensive consultation".*In addition, the EC Turkey Progress Report 2012 acknowledges that "*the review of the 2009 Judicial Reform Strategy was carried out with the participation of all stakeholders, the Turkish legal community and civil society*".

It might not be wrong to argue that consultation at agenda setting stage is not generally witnessed in Turkey. CSOs, within the context of their own advocacy activities do propose agendas on different topics; however, public authorities do not consult to CSOs on their own initiative at this stage.In Turkey, consultation, if and when occurs, mostly happens at the second stage of decision-making, which is the drafting stage.

Some relatively positive examples for consultation at the drafting stage in recent years were as follows:

- In 2011 and 2012, the Government took the initiative to reform the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey. Within this context, in October 2011, a Commission in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) was establishedand namedas the Constitution Reconciliation Committee. A web-portal[117] was created to accumulate the opinions and suggestions of individuals as well as CSOs. It is also important to note that contrary to other consultation examples, the government promoted the consultation through an active media campaign. As a result, according to a monitoring report, "*the Constitution Reconciliation Committee, between 19 October 2011 and 4 May 2012, have consulted 42 political parties, universities and other organisations; 39 vocational/professional organisations and unions; 79 associations, foundations and platforms in their meetings. In the same period, approximately 64000 individuals have provided opinions via the web-site or e-mail, of which 440 of them were civil society organisations"[118]*. All input provided by individuals or CSOs were transparently published on the web-site until 27 January 2012,

[115] http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/Metin.Aspx?MevzuatKod=3.5.20059986&MevzuatIliski=0&sourceXmlSearch=
[116]TÜSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012.
[117]http://www.yenianayasa.gov.tr
[118]"New Constitution Process Monitoring Report, February 2012-June 2012", TESEV Publications, October 2012; accessible at http://www.tesev.org.tr/assets/publications/file/Anayasaizleme2_08_10_12.pdf

when the Commission decided to keep the process confidential and removed the input on the web-site. Unfortunately, an announcement was made by the Government that the Commission was annulled in December 2013.[119]

- Another consultation regarding the constitution was conducted by the Women-Men Equal Opportunities Commission of the GNAT between January-April 2012.The Commission, with the aim to find answers to the question of "what kind of provisions should be included to maintain gender equalityin the new constitution?" established a sub-committee on November 2011. The Committee have actively required 60 written opinions from CSOs while meeting in person and listening to the suggestions of 15 CSOs and 11 universities as well as related public institutions. In addition, the Commission have drafted a report[120], which contained a list of consulted parties and their suggestions as well as the decisions of the Committee. This report was made available online while directly sent to the consulted parties as a follow-up activity.

- One other recent example of consultation was the one led by the Department of Associations (DoA) of the Ministry for Internal Affairs, as explained under section 1.1.1. Secondly, DoA in December 2013, conducted another online consultation to identify the priorities for the MoI Associations Grant Programme of 2014.

- One other important consultation held in recent years in Turkey was the one conducted by the Ministry for Development (MoD) while drafting the 10th National Development Plan in 2012 and 2013. A circular[121] by the Prime Minister, published on 5 June 2012, mentioned that as an important element of participatory approach, specialized working commissions would be founded under the coordination of the MoD in which the public sector, academic circles, private sector and civil society should be represented. Accordingly, 66 specialized commissions and working groups were established to work on macroeconomics, sectorial and regional issues. The 10th National Development Plan mentions that more than 3000 academicians, public servants, and representatives from the private sector and civil society organisations contributed to the works of these commissions. In the preparation stage, more than 7000 individuals contributions were received both at central and local level. In drafting stage, findings of consultations were used[122].

- Last, but not least, the Ministry for EU Affairs (MoEU) held a consultation process within the context of the preparation for the IPA II country strategy on civil society in 2013 via meetings and written opinions. In addition, the MoEU conducted another consultation during identification of priorities for the EU-Turkey Civil Society Dialogue between April and June 2013. An online survey, in-depth interviews, focus group meetings and a desktop research was conducted within the scope of the consultation. The results were shared by the public in a conference organized in 28 June 2013.

Despite these relatively good examples of consultation processes led by different public institutions, CSOs generally complain that even *"if and when consulted, CSOs complained that they were not able to neither receive feedback nor monitor the following steps. In addition, in many cases, the government (local and central) consults only trade unions and/or business and professional organisations when they claim to have consulted civil*

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[119]http://www.zaman.com.tr/politika_anayasa-uzlasma-komisyonu-dagildi_2169143.html and http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25487998/

[120]http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/komisyon/kefe/docs/komisyon_yay%C4%B1n_no_9.pdf

[121]http://www.mevzuatlar.com/sy/resmigazete/rga/12/06/050612005.htm

[122]http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2013/07/20130706M1-1-1.doc

society.[123]" As an example, as stated in the below graph, 73% of the 29 TACSO Needs Assessment Survey respondents, which were involved in a given consultation process stated that they neither received any feedback nor the results of the consultation was shared with them.

How do you assess the feedback following a consultation?

Necessary feedback provided and consultation results published
3%

Some feedback and consultation results were shared
24%

No feedback received, consultation results did not published
73%
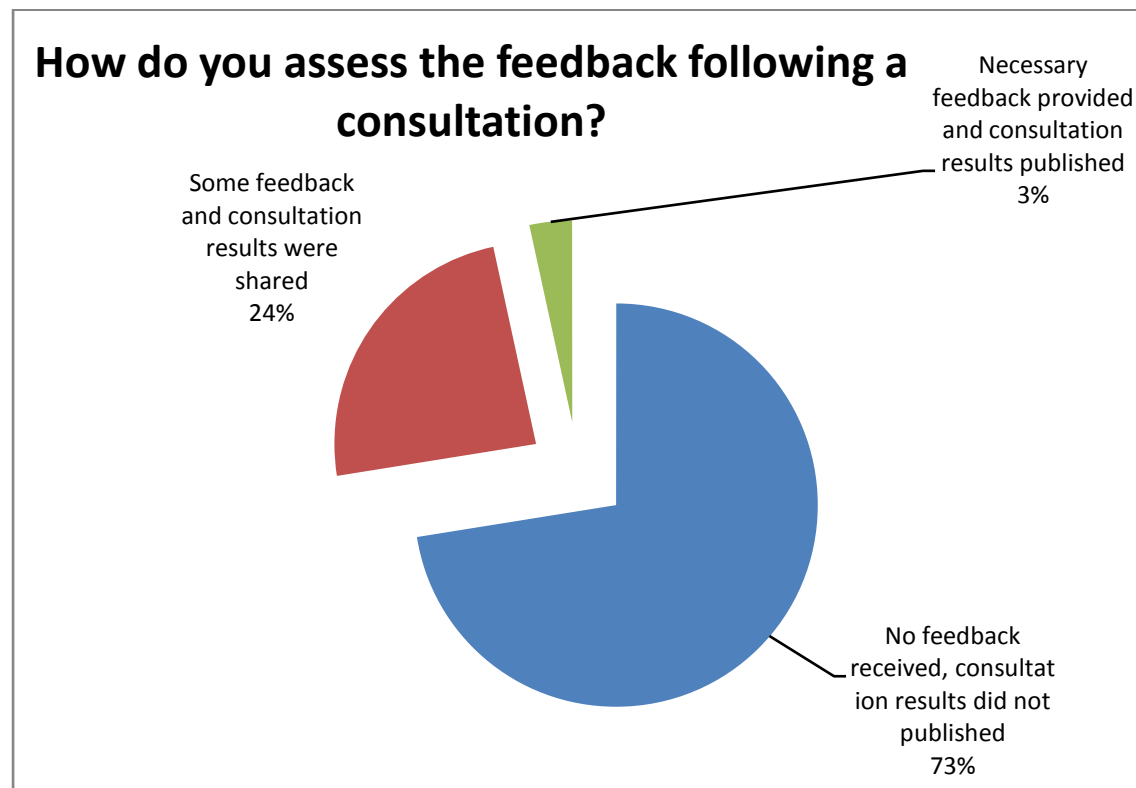
1.3.1 State/Entity-level Cooperation

The participation levels of dialogue and partnership, as defined by the Code of Good Practice for Civil Society Participation in Decision-Making Process[124] is analysed in this section.

Dialogue

One good example, in the form defined in the Code of Good Practice, cited by CSOs regarding dialogue between CSOs and public institutions was the drafting and implementation stages of the Regulation on Monitoring and Inspection of Accessibility[125] (adapted in July 2013) coordinated by the Ministry for Family and Social Policies (MoFSP). The regulation lays down the procedures, rules and responsibilities for the commissions to monitor and inspect accessibility of all buildings providing services open for public and public transportation vehicles. The Commissions to be set up in every city in Turkey willinclude representatives from the CSOs working for persons with disabilitiesand they are responsible to monitor, inspect and report accessibility in the relevant city.

The permanent consultation commissions set up under some Ministries (e.g. Ministry for Education, Ministry for Family and Social Policy) can also be cited as examples for dialogue level participation of CSOs. Last, but not least, the Advisory Boards operate under Regional

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[123]Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.
[124]Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process, INGOs of the CoE, accessible at http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/Source/Code_English_final.pdf
[125]http://www.eyh.gov.tr/tr/24694/5-45-Erisilebilirlik-Izleme-ve-Denetleme-Yonetmeligi

Development Agencies are examples of permanent joint committees in which representatives of business and public sectors as well as CSOs periodically meet to discuss regional development issues and propose suggestions to the agencies.As stated in a report published by TACSO[126], another example of permanent dialogue commissions at local level is the Provincial EU Advisory and Steering Committees (EU PASC). These committees, meeting quarterly, areheaded by the Governor or related Deputy Governor and comprise of district governors, province directors concerned, general secretary to the special provincial administration, general secretary or vice general secretary to the metropolitan municipality, vice mayor in the other municipalities, vice presidents of universities, representatives from chambers of commerce, industry and agrarian as well as one representative from each of the CSOs active in the province.

Partnership

Partnershipis the least common form of relations between CSOs and public institutions in Turkey. One such example was the co-drafting of the Law on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, adapted on March 2012 by women's rights CSOs and the MoFSP.Following a consultation initiated by the Ministry over a draft law, women's organisations founded a platform named "End to Violence Platform" that included more than 200 CSOs. The Platform advocated that the law draft was not acceptable and should be written all anew. After several rounds of negotiations, the Ministry accepted the proposal to co-draft the Law with women's organizations and Ministry staff.The working group drafted the law in Ankara, which was submitted to the Prime Ministry as the regulation requires.However, the Law draft that came out of the Prime Ministry included major amendments and changes in the draft, which was assessed by women's rights CSOs as backlashes.Therefore, although the process of co-drafting can be cited as a good partnership example, the end result was not in line with necessary expectations or principles of participation.
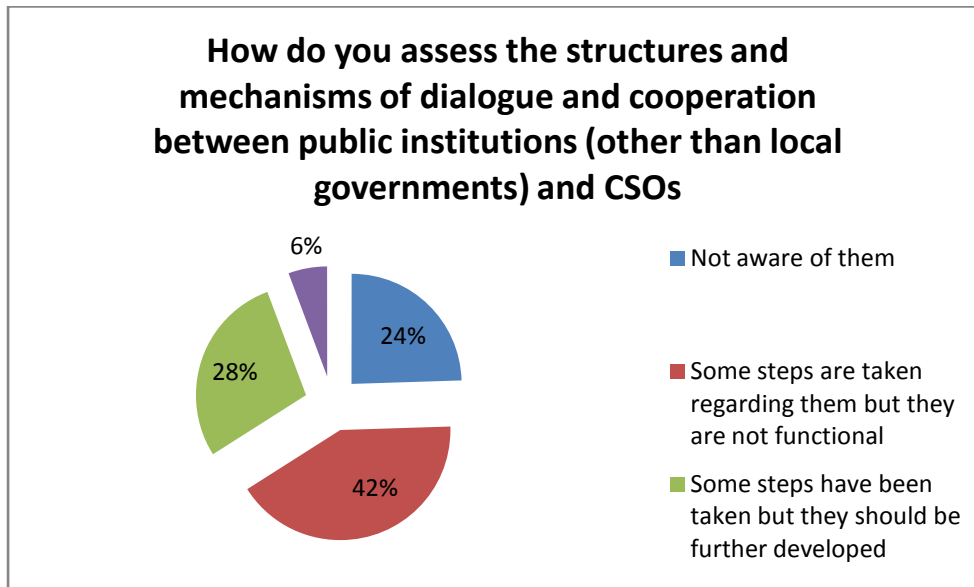
Last, but not least, there is a positive trend among Ministries to furthering their relations with CSOs that can be traced by the inclusion of CSOs as stakeholders in their 5-year strategic plans. An important project[127] was implemented in 2011 and 2012 aimed to strengthen the capacities of public institutions and guidance role of the MoD for better stakeholder participation and citizens' orientation in strategic planning process. Several Ministries[128] have participated in the Project activities. As a result, some Ministries such as the Ministry for Youth and Sports, MoFSP, Ministry for Science, Industry and Technology, Ministry for Health have not only included CSOs as a stakeholder but also identified several aims and cooperation targets with them.

Despite, the above mentioned good examples, the majority of CSOs do not find that the steps that were taken were fruitful. The below graph presents the assessment of the respondents of the TACSO Needs Assessment Survey regarding structures and mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between public institutions and CSOs:

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[126]Keeping up the Momentum: Improving Cooperation Between Public Institutions and Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey, TACSO, 2012, accessible at http://tacso.org/doc/doc_kmomentum.pdf
[127]http://www.tepav.org.tr/tr/proje/s/51
[128]Prime Ministry, Ministry for Health, MoD, Ministry for Customs and Trade, Ministry for National Education, Ministry for Transportation and Ministry for Science, Industry and Technology.

How do you assess the structures and mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation between public institutions (other than local governments) and CSOs

- Not aware of them
- Some steps are taken regarding them but they are not functional
- Some steps have been taken but they should be further developed

6%
24%
28%
42%

As can be seen, only 6% of the respondents stated that they are benefitting from such structures and mechanisms, where 24% of them were not even aware of them and 42% did not find them functional.

Planned Reforms

As of September 2011, Turkey became a participating country to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) making several commitments regarding transparency, accountability and participation. National action plan of Turkey[129] presented to OGP secretariat mentions three main objectives: (1) information sharing with the public, (2) active participation of citizens, NGOs and private sector and (3) increasing public awareness and five commitments: (1) setting up a web portal (http://www.transparency.gov.tr) to serve as a tool to receive feedback from citizens regarding draft laws and bills, as well as all issues related to the implementation of these regulations; (2) Holding an Advisory Platform for Transparency in Public and Openness, with the broad participation of representatives of public sector, non-governmental organizations and private sector; (3) Measuring the suitability and effectiveness of the existing measures and policies through conducting surveys in order to determine the perception of citizens and the business world and sharing results with the public; (4) To make public expenditure data more user-friendly for the public at large through web a portal (http://www.spending.gov.tr); (5) Engaging citizens and other concerned parties in the preparation of policy instruments such as laws, regulations and notifications which are on the agenda of the government via a web portal (http://www.regulation.gov.tr) and initiation of blogs. However, no notable steps were taken towards the implementation of the Action Plan. The situation was also noted by the OGP administration and Turkey has been among the three countries that will not be receiving Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) progress reports due to the fact that there was not sufficient activity related to OGP to produce a report[130].

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[129]Accessible at
http://www.opengovpartnership.org/file/956/download?token=raljLlMEkkOQd44dv70w3r3PDJKJYDTCnATlmHQV04k
[130]http://www.opengovpartnership.org/blog/ogp/2014/02/12/three-cohort-2-countries-will-not-receive-irm-reports

The 10th National Development Plan [131] states the need for creating an enabling environment for a strong, viable, pluralist and sustainable civil society sector that is able to participate in the decision making processes and contribute to the overall social and economic development in Turkey. To this end, the Development Plan stresses the need for legal and institutional changes in legislation related with civil society while it also mentions the need for a comprehensive policy on civil society including a framework that will define the scope of public-CSO cooperation and public funding. Lastly, the 10th National Development Plan mentions the need for developing the institutional capacity and sustainability of CSOs with a specific focus on increasing their transparency and accountability.

1.3.2 Municipal-level Cooperation

Compared to the relations of CSOs at central level public institutions, CSOs state that they *"work more effectively and closely with municipalities as opposed to governorships. Municipalities are more eager to offer in-kind support to CSOs, often in the form of free travel, meeting rooms, and assistance with announcing CSO activities to larger audiences[132]"*. Yet, the cooperation level at local level is not at a stage that is in line with European or international good practices. The Cooperation between Local Self-Governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey Report published by TACSOalso highlights this situation by stating that"*Despite reforms during the last decade, there remains a strong culture of hierarchical public administration and a dominance of representative democracy, which tends to overshadow participatory processes. Additionally, civil society is not well organised in many parts and sectors of the country, thus cooperation between CSOs and local government continues to be underdeveloped[133]".*

One important medium for participation at local level is the Citizens' Assemblies (City Councils) that are mandatory bodies in each municipality in Turkey. According to the article 76 of the Municipality Law[134], "*the urban council shall comprise representatives of public-law professional organizations, trade unions, universities, the civil society organizations concerned, political parties….The municipality shall provide assistance and support in order to ensure that the council's activities are conducted effectively and efficiently. Opinions formed within the urban council shall be placed on the agenda of the municipal council and discussed at its first meeting."* Thereby, local governments are obliged to set up, support and work together with such councils. According to the MoI, 400 out of 2915 municipalities (of about 14%) have established such assemblies.The major critiques towards these Councils are (1) the CSOs that sit in the City Councils and or other commissions lack voting rights, (2) they are viewed as consultants or experts and their impact on the overall decisions and planning are very limited, (3) in many cases, the councils are headed by the mayors or by public servants of the Municipality and in some cases the majority of the council members are selected from among the public servants. Such criticisms underline the fact that these important mediums of civil participation are not utilized to full extent and there are still

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[131]http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2013/07/20130706M1-1-1.doc
[132]Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.
[133]Progress Report, Since the Bečići Conference February, 2011 - Cooperation Between Local Self-Governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey, TACSO, January 2013.
[134]http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/Metin.Aspx?MevzuatKod=1.5.5393&MevzuatIliski=0&sourceXmlSearch=…

obstacles to efficient participation. Despite these critiques, the CSOscontinue to *"highlight the agenda setting role of these commissions and councils as still positive[135]"*.

Another important opportunity for CSOs to participate in decision-making is the obligation vested onto the municipalities to prepare strategic plans. Just like the Strategic Plans of Ministries, the ones drafted by Municipalities haveprovided an opportunity for the Citizens' Assemblies to work actively with the participation of CSOs[136]. Strategic planning is seen "*not only as a tool for better fiscal management, but italso creates further opportunities for public participation… '[the] Strategic plan shall be prepared inconsultation with universities (if any) and professional chambers together with the relevant civilsociety organisations, and shall take effect following adoption at the municipal council[137].*"

A review conducted by an expert for TACSO[138] on national mechanisms of cooperation between local self-governments and CSOs in Turkey presents some good examples regarding the Citizens' (City) Assemblies in Turkey. These were as follows:

- The City Council of Nilufer Municipality, setting up a special committee that became the prior decision making mechanism regarding all the issues (e.g. distribution of social aid) of neighbourhood area.
- The strategic plan including targets and performance criteria was firstly developed and accepted by the City Council of Yalova Municipality to be presented to the elected Municipal Council only later.
- The Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality presented the annual budget to the City Council to have their consent on the investments over 7 million dollars before the approval of Metropolitan Council.
- In Bursa, the Mayor of metropolitan city accepting the demands of the City Council that refused the idea proposed by the municipality of building a shopping mall, and asked instead to keep the area as a green space.
- In Antalya, the setting up an experts committee by the Municipality and the City Council to investigate good examples of sewerage in Mediterranean cities. Based on the committee report, although highly expensive, the demand of the City Council was accepted to include a waste management plant.

CSOs at different consultation activities, mention other forms of collaboration experiences with municipalities at local level. Two examples of such collaboration are the Antalya Film Festival and the BeyoğluRehabilitation Centre for Street Children in İstanbul. In both examples, municipalities provided funding to these projects implemented by CSOs[139]. However, the relevant article of the Municipality Law that gives responsibility to municipalities to assist and support CSOs, limits the beneficiaries of this support to those with special status:Associations with public benefit status and foundations with tax exempt status. In addition, in 2012, an amendment was made on article 75 of the Municipality Law, which aimed to have possibility to further hamper cooperation between CSOs and municipalities. The comparison of the previous and the amended article is presented below:

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[135]Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.
[136]Ibid.
[137]Progress Report, Since the Bečići Conference February, 2011 - Cooperation Between Local Self-Governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey, TACSO, January 2013.
[138] Unpublished progress review conducted by expert Fikret Toksöz for TACSO Turkey in scope of update for regional report "Cooperationbetween Local Self-Governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey". Findings were included in Since the Bečići Conference February, 2011 - Cooperation between Local Self-Governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey, TACSO, January 2013.
[139] Ibid.

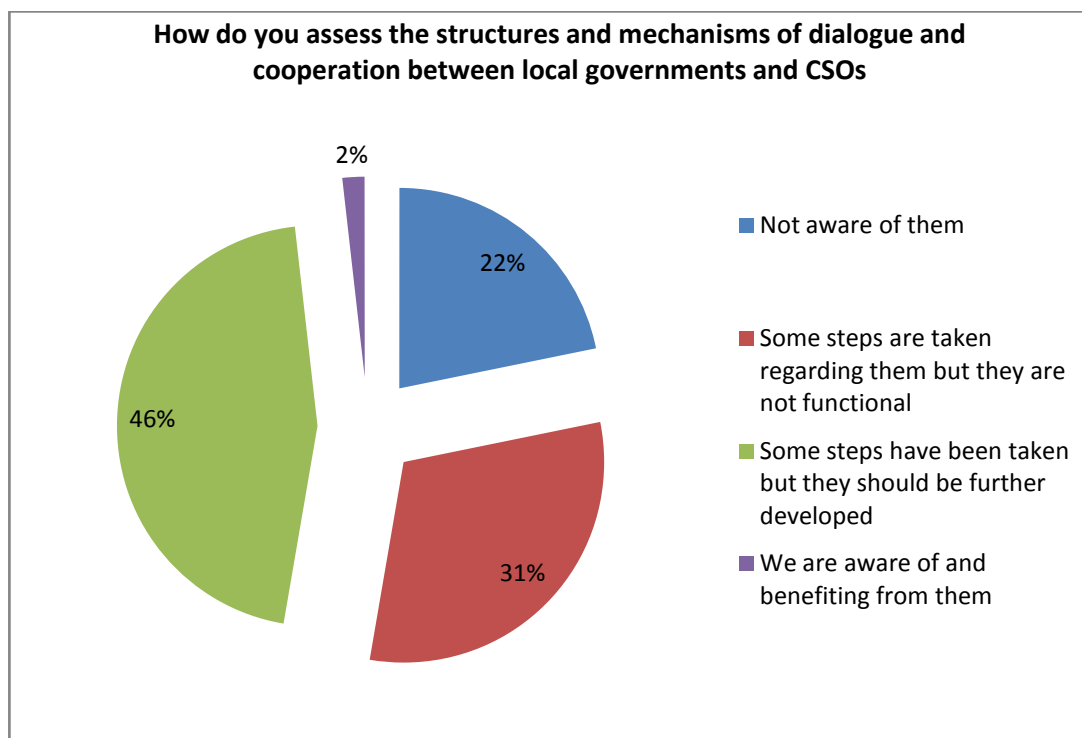| Previous Article 75	Amended Article 75
Municipality, can execute service projects in partnership with vocational/professional organisations having a public institution nature, associations working for public benefit, disability-related associations and foundations, foundations provided a tax benefit status by the Council of Ministers and with vocational chambers governed by the Guilds and Small Artisans Law (507) on topics that fall in its duties and responsibilities in line with agreements made and upon the decision of the Municipal Assembly.	Municipality can execute service projects in partnership with vocational/professional organisations having a public institution nature, associations working for public benefit, foundations provided tax exemption by the Council of Ministers and with vocational chambers governed by the Guilds and Artisans Organisations Law (5362). For service projects to be executed in partnership with other associations and foundations, it is necessary to get the permission of the highest administrative authority of the district.

TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012 based on an expert opinion states that the new article contains neither a clarification regarding the types and nature of service activities to be supported nor the criteria for permission. In such a context, this revision is increasing the discretionary power of the central government and accordingly decreasing the freedom of association[140].

Last, but not least, CSOs cite the experience they had with the implementation of Local Equality Action Plans (LEAPs) as successful cooperation examples. The LEAPs programme aims to build mechanisms within local governments to mainstream gender equality into local policies and governance. It foresees setting up of coordination committees consisting of governorship, municipality, related public institutions, women's rights CSOs, universities and other relevant CSOs. As of 2014, 15 cities in Turkey have signed protocols to implement LEAP in their city. Women's rights CSOs mention that the LEAP development processesand the establishment of Women's Councils under Citizen's Assemblies have been instrumental in facilitating cooperation and dialogue between public bodies and women's organizations[141].

The below graph presents the assessment of the respondents of the TACSO Needs Assessment Survey regarding structures and mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between local governments and CSOs:

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[140]TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report,2012.
[141]Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.

How do you assess the structures and mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation between local governments and CSOs

- ■ Not aware of them
- ■ Some steps are taken regarding them but they are not functional
- ■ Some steps have been taken but they should be further developed
- ■ We are aware of and benefiting from them

When the percentages between the survey responses to the central level and local level participation mechanisms are compared, it can be stated that responding CSOs thought that the participation mechanisms and structures are found to be less functional but relatively more steps have been takenat local level. However, lesser percentage of the respondents seemed to benefit from the local level structures and mechanisms than the central level.

1.5 Public Perceptions and Support for Civil Society and its Segments

The level of public trust towards CSOs remains low in Turkey. Although there is an increase in the number of young people interested in civil society, weak voluntarism culture at the local and national level and a lack of active volunteer support remain as a challenge. Taking into consideration the population of Turkey, the percentage of volunteers and members (mentioned under section 1.1.5) is below 15%. This percentage is much lower than not only from European countries but also from various other countries such as India[142].The table below provided in a report drafted by the DoA in 2013[143] cites the comparison of the level of civil society organization membershipin Turkey with six other countries:

Country	Association, Charity, CSO Number	Population	Number of individuals per CSO
Germany (associations)	580.298	80.327.900	138
USA (CSOs)	1.580.436	312.638.863	198
Croatia (CSOs)	47.496	4.489.409	95
England (Charity)	163.163	56.075.912	344
Canada (CSOs)	165.000	33.476.688	203

[142]It is estimated that there are more than 3.300.000 CSOs in India in 2009.
[143]International Civil Society Report, Department of Associations, Ministry for Internal Affairs, July 2013.

Hungary (CSOs)	70.000	9.976.062	143
Turkey (associations)	96.459	75.627.384	784

It is important to note that registration is not mandatory (as it is in Turkey) for the six countries mentioned in the table above. Thereby, the state does not know the number of unregistered CSOs. It can easily be argued that the participation to civil society activities in the six countries mentioned above is much higher than is laid down in the table above. As can be seen, the number of CSOs and membership is still well below these countries, as well as others not covered in the report.
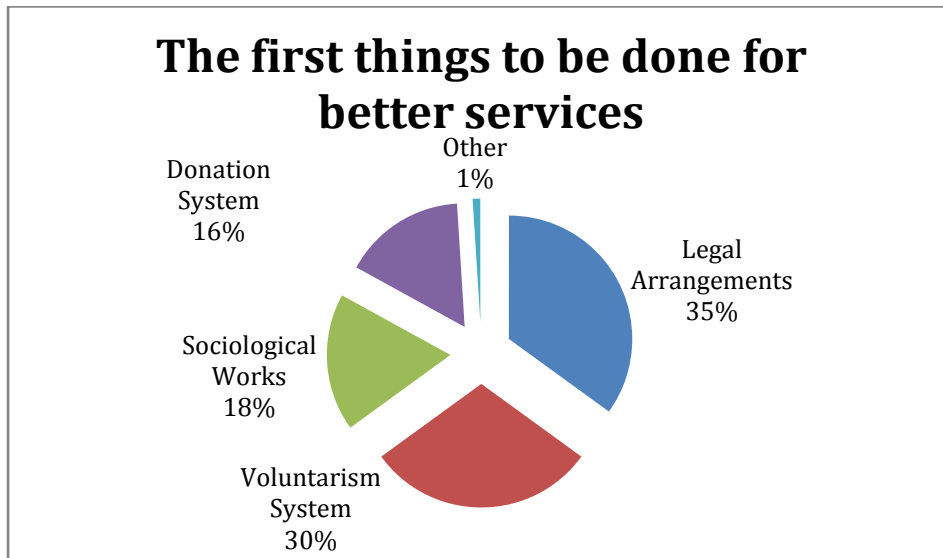
Only a few research and studies assessing and analysing the low level of public participation in Turkey is available. One such study was the CSI Study cited in the TACSO Needs Assessment Report of 2011: *"According to CSI 2010 study, low levels of membership, volunteering, political activism and community engagement reveal that a majority of Turkish citizens remain rather disconnected from the civil society movement. Percentages of citizens that are active members of social and political organisations are 4,5% and 5,3% respectively. The participation is even lower where volunteeringis concerned: only 2,5% of citizens volunteer for social organisations, followed by a slightly higher rate of political volunteering at 4,2% (WVS, 1999 and 2007).*

It is beyond the scope of this report to analyse all factors affecting this low levels of public participation and support to civil society. However, one hindering factor was mentioned by CSOs during consultations.According to such a report, "*public institutions and government representatives can and do speak or act against CSOs, leading to the tainting of CSOs' credibility and capacity. For instance, the leaders of some rights based CSOs are repeatedly prosecuted against and hence citizens become more reluctant to exercise their freedom of association for fear of prosecution. Government officials' abusive comments targeting LGBTs and people with disabilities discourage these groups from exercising their freedom of association*"[144].

A small-scale survey named "Civil Society Organisations Perception Survey"[145]was conducted online in 2013 by a companywith 504 individuals. According to the report published in November 2013, 75% of respondents find CSOs activities as insufficient while only 20% finds them as sufficient. One interesting finding of the survey is that the respondents identified legal arrangements as the most important improvement to be made for better services.
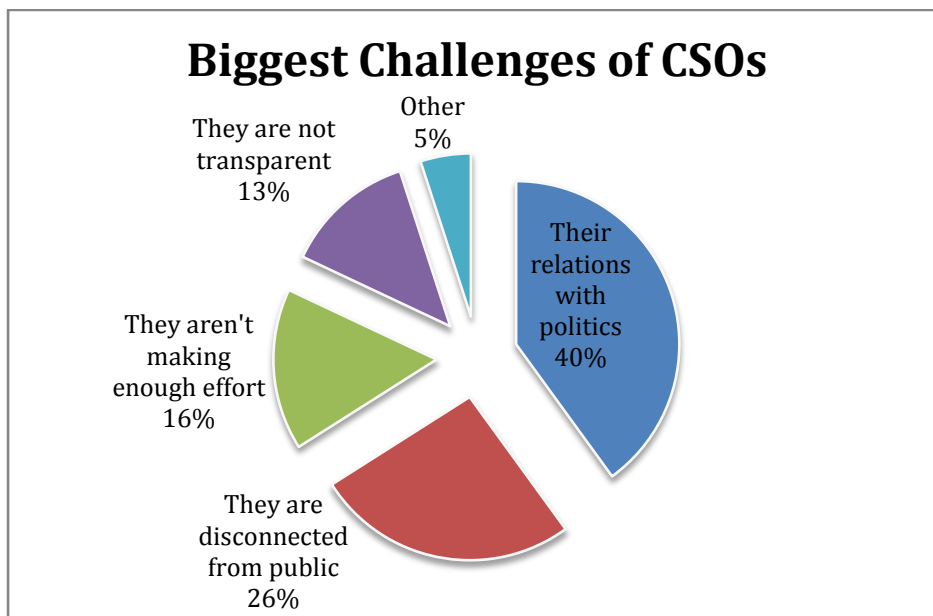
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[144] Civil Society Organisations and Public Sector Relations: Problems and Expectations, The Results of the Consultation Meetings and an Evaluation Report, Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), December 2013.
[145]http://cdn.dorinsight.com/dorinsight/newsletter004/STK_V4.pdf

The first things to be done for better services

Other
1%

Donation System
16%

Legal Arrangements
35%

Sociological Works
18%

Voluntarism System
30%

Source DORInsight, November 2013

When asked to identify the biggest challenge of CSOs, 40% of the respondents pointed to their relations with politics. The following graph presented the answers provided to this question:
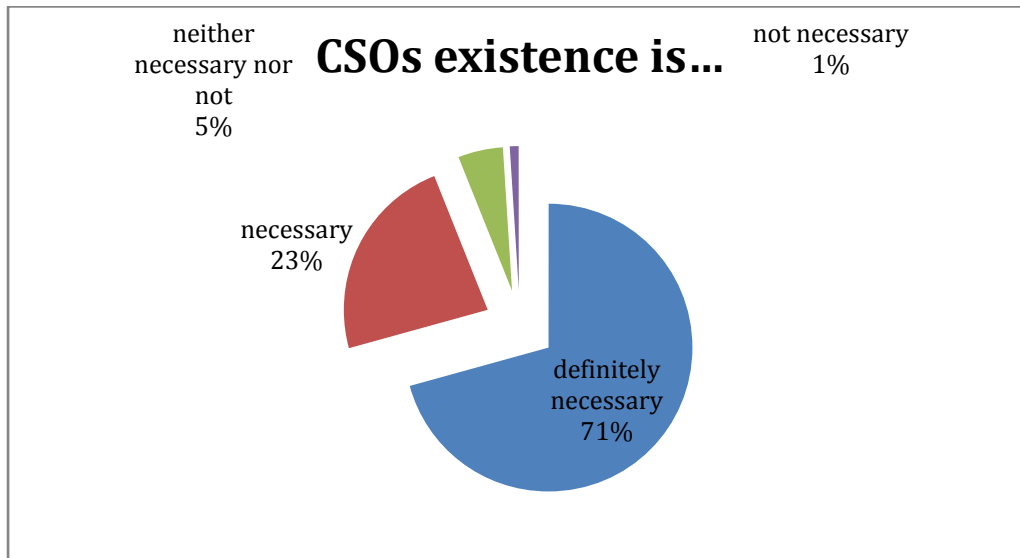
Biggest Challenges of CSOs

Other
5%

They are not transparent
13%

They aren't making enough effort
16%

Their relations with politics
40%

They are disconnected from public
26%

Source DORInsight, November 2013

89% of the respondents to the survey[146] stated that they are not members to any CSO, while 86% claimed that they would take the activities of the CSOs into consideration when preferring a CSO. Their trust towards CSOs seem to be at average with 59% of the respondents stating that they trust CSOs while an important 41% stating that they do not trust CSOs. In addition, 71% of the respondents found CSOs as non-transparent.

When asked if they find it important for CSOs to exist, the majority of respondents replied positively. The following graph presents their answers to this question:

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[146]Ibid.

CSOs existence is...

- not necessary 1%
- neither necessary nor not 5%
- necessary 23%
- definitely necessary 71%

Source DORInsight, November 2013

Despite the low public trust and support,the Gezi Park events occurred in May-June 2013 in Turkey was accepted as a sign of increasing active citizenship by many institutions. For example, the EU Turkey Progress Report 2013 stated that*"there is a growing and active civil society in Turkey. The Gezi Park protests in Istanbul and related protests across Turkey from May-June reflected the emergence of vibrant andactive citizenry"*.Ministry of Interior's Gezi report stated, *"2.5 million people from 79 provinces of Turkey participated in the Gezi events. Bingol and Bayburt were the only cities without any protests.*"[147] According to KONDA's "Gezi Park Research: Who are they, why they are there and what they want?"[148] 55,6% of participants stated that Gezi was the first protest that they ever participated. However, it is still too early to argue that the increase in the level of participation to protests will also increase CSO engagement. The KONDA research shows that *"79% of the respondents stated that they have no affiliation with a political party or a CSO (initiative, association, foundation and platform)."* TheGezi experience and the results of surveys such as the one mentioned above, paved the way for an ongoing discussion on forms of association, active participation, the inefficiency of available CSO structures and outreach methods.

1.6 Civil Society and Media

It can easily be claimed that media in Turkey, generally are not civil society friendly. According to TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012, "*in the written media, the CSOs have appeared mostly as news (46%) and short news (26%). In columns, on the other hand, CSOs have appeared at a ratio of 22%. The ratio of appearance of the CSOs in the news analysis and editorials is 3%[149]"*. Some other important findings of the relevant section of the report are presented below:

• The news about CSOs working at national level represents 83% of the coverage on CSOs. Coverage of CSOs working at regional level constitutes4,6% of total CSO news, while CSOs active at local level can find only 3,9% of coverage. News coverage regarding international CSOs and their activities are scanned to be at 8,3% of CSOs coverage.

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[147]http://www.radikal.com.tr/turkiye/gezi_eylemlerinin_bilancosu_aciklandi-1138770
[148] The research was done on June 6-7 2013 with participation of 4441 people from Gezi Park http://t24.com.tr/files/GeziPark%C4%B1Final.pdf
[149]TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012.

• The first three types of CSOs finding coverage in mainstream printed media are(1) advocacy CSOs, (2) social contribution programs of corporations and family foundations, and (3) news on vocational/professional organizations.

• Some vital CSO activity areas such as environment, human rights, women's rights, children's rights are very poorly covered by the mainstream printed media in Turkey. Some other topicsabout CSOs such as accommodation, poverty migration/refugees, and voluntarism could find coverage only very rarely.

One important challenge for CSOs in reaching a critical level of media coverage is the highly polarised nature of the Turkish media. Although this was a continuing problem in the last decade, the polarisation and the discussions for media integrity was intensified in 2013. This harsh polarisation made it more difficult for CSOs to find coverage.

With the Gezi Park events, the interventions of the Supreme Board of Radio and Television (RTÜK) over radio and TV channels have increased. EC Turkey Progress Report 2013 mentions the fact that *"In June, RTÜK issued warnings to a number of television stations which had transmitted live coverage of the Gezi Park protests on the basis that they were violating the principle of objective broadcasting and fined them for inciting violence. All stations concerned appealed to the courts and the cases are ongoing."*[150]In addition to the mainstream broadcasting, internet has also been under pressure. According to the report "Situation of Internet in Turkey 2013 Report" of the Alternative Informatics Association, "*Access to approximately 5000 domain names within six months since April 2013, were blocked based on Law 5651.*[151]*"*

Last, but not least, according to reports of several organisations[152], various journalists, reporters, anchor-persons, producers and employees working at different media companies have either been fired from their jobs or resigned due to political pressures.Some of these individuals have found jobs in other mainstream media institutions and others have started to continue reporting via internet (e.g. blogs, internet journalism sites, social media).

Despite all these challenges, two important developments in the media scene have been happening. One of these is the increasing role of social media not only for socializing but also for exchanges of news, information and reporting. *"Social media became a crucial alternative for organizations that have difficulties in ensuring visibility in the mainstream media, in terms of moulding public opinion, and addressing target audiences*[153]*"*Facebook and Twitter users in Turkey are reportedly increasing and already exceeded some European countries[154]. Accordingly, the CSOs accounts and pages on Facebook and accounts on Twitter have increased with communication staff of CSOs concentrating more on social media. Both the number of internet news media and citizens' journalism initiatives and the followers of such mediums have increased in Turkey, specifically after Gezi events. However, as the power of social media increased, specifically with the Gezi events, critiques and attempts of control from public authorities also increased. This was also highlighted by the EC Turkey Progress Report*"on several occasions, high-level officials criticised the social media as a threat to society. A number of citizens were put in police custody, albeit*

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[150]EC Turkey Progress Report, 2013.

[151]http://www.alternatifbilisim.org/wiki/T%C3%BCrkiye'de_%C4%B0nternet'in_2013_Durumu

[152]http://bianet.org/bianet/ifade-ozgurlugu/152740-yeni-duzenlemeler-surekli-mucadele; http://www.bianet.org/bianet/medya/148636-gezi-direnisinde-59-gazeteci-isten-cikarildi-istifaya-zorlandi; http://www.tgc.org.tr/duyuru.asp?did=600; http://www.tgc.org.tr/duyuru.asp?did=589; http://www.samanyoluhaber.com/medya/Isten-cikarilan-gazeteciler-dernek-kurdu/1040197/; http://avrupasurgunleri.com/medyada-gezi-parki-direnisi-sonrasi-isten-atilanlar-listesi/

[153]TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012.

[154]http://techcrunch.com/2013/12/29/facebook-international-user-growth/&http://blog.monitera.com/search/label/Twitter%20T%C3%BCrkiye%20Profili

subsequently released, for posting Twitter messages about the Gezi Park protests"[155]. A recent amendment made on the relevant legislation[156] in February 2014, was seen by many CSOs, activists and academics as an attempt to further control and censor the internet.

Another relatively positive development cited in a report published by TACSO is the *"evidence of an increased capacity and willingness of local mediato cover issues relating to CSO cooperation with local authorities.*[157]*"* Indeed, according to the report, CSOs are using local media for their advocacy activities and to promote the mechanisms facilitating citizen's engagement in and participationto decision-making processes.

The respondents to TACSO Needs Assessment Survey identified the following skills to be strengthened in order to increase their visibility:
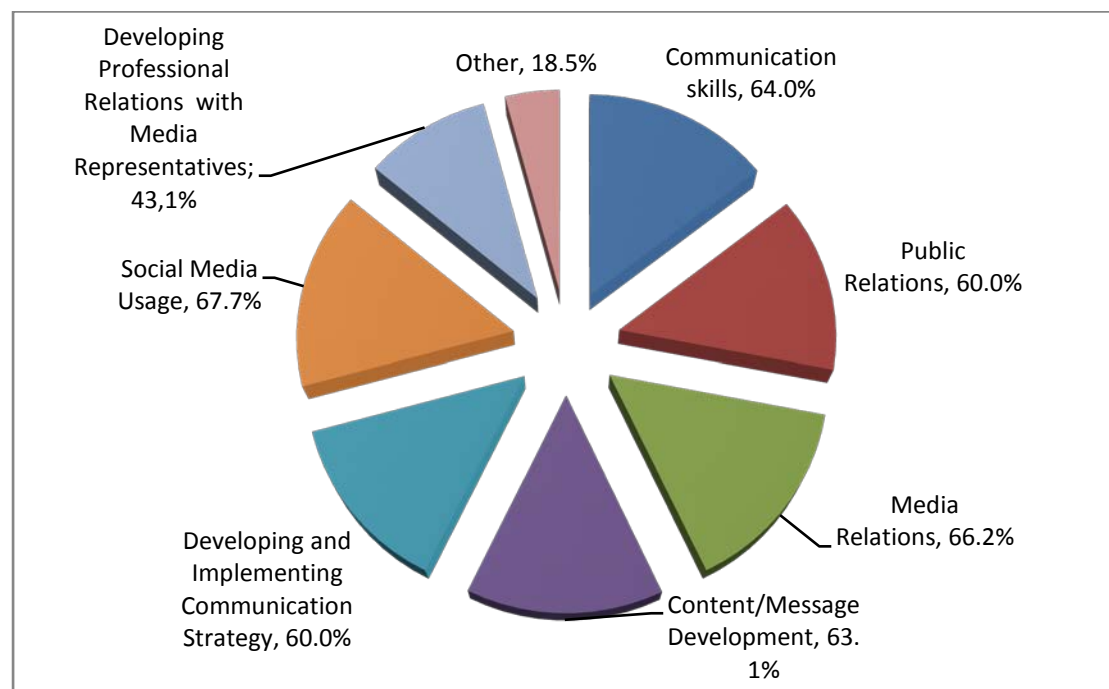
2. ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITIES OF CSOs

2.1 Overview of the Civil Society Community in Turkey

2.1.1 Types of Organisations, Size and Presence on the Ground & Types of Activity (e.g. service delivery, advocacy, self-help etc.) and Sector of Operation

As mentioned in the section 1.1 of the report, "definition of 'civil society' and 'civil society organization' are still absent in the relevant legislation and policy documents."[158] In Turkey, the only legal entities recognized for CSOs are associations and foundations. However, other

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[155]EC Turkey Progress Report, 2013.

[156] For the law http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/kanunlar/k6518.html& for some critiques http://www.gazetecilercemiyeti.org.tr/page.php?news=331, http://www.radikal.com.tr/turkiye/sinir_tanimayan_gazetecilerden_internet_yasasi_tepkisi-1174495, http://t24.com.tr/yazi/internette-sansurun-daralan-kiskaci/8257

[157]Progress Report, Since the Bečići Conference February, 2011 - Cooperation Between Local Self-Governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey, TACSO, January 2013.

[158]TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012.

models of association such as initiatives, platforms etc. continue to be important actors in the civic space. Despite their growing role, since these models of association are not recognized as separate legal entities, it is not possible to find any data regarding their size and capacity.

Foundations and associationsare subject to different legislations and they are regulated by different public agencies. Along with their administrative duties and guidance role, Department of Associations and General Directorate Foundations are the two public authorities responsible from collecting CSO data and keeping the statistics. Despite some recent attempts to openly share general statistics on associations and foundations, CSO statistics are still not integrated to the official statistical programme kept by the Turkish Statistical Institute. Associations and foundations are obliged by law to provide up to date data in their annual notifications to DoA and GDoF. However, the quantity and quality of the information and statistics publicly shared by these public authorities in their website is not sufficient.

According to data provided by the Department of Associations, there are approximately 98.990 associations active in Turkey as of January 2014[159]whereas the number of New Foundations provided by the General Directorate of Foundations is 4.766.[160]

2.1.1.1 Geographical Distribution of Associations and New Foundations in Turkey

Despite the uneven distribution, civil society organizations are active in all of Turkey's provinces. There is a marked concentration of CSOs in the urban areas. According to data provided by the Department of Associations, 34,9% of associations are established in Marmara region. Central Anatolia (18,6%) and Aegean (14%) regions are among the regions with highest association numbers.[161] To this end, the largest numbers of associations exist in İstanbul (19.771), Ankara (9.475) and İzmir (5.521).[162] Foundations also show a similar concentration. According to data provided by GDoF, 38% of the foundations is located in Marmara region (1.808 foundations), 26% is located in Central Anatolia (1.245 foundations) and 10% located in Aegean region (485 foundations).[163]

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[159]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/January 24,2014.
[160] New Foundations are established after the Republican period. There are 279 old foundations and 166 religious-minority foundations and one artisan foundation established during the Ottoman period.
[161] Department of Associations, January 26 2014.
http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernekler-grafik-tablo.aspx
[162] Department of Associations, January 26 2014. http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/IllereGoreIstatistik.aspx
[163]General Directorate of Foundations. January, 26 2014.
http://www.vgm.gov.tr/db/dosyalar/webicerik265.pdf

Geographical Distribution of Associations in Turkey

5% 5%
5%
10%
12%
35%
14% 19%

- ■ Marmara
- ■ Central Anatolia
- ■ Aegean
- ■ Black Sea
- ■ Mediterranian
- ■ East Anatolia
- ■ South East Anatolia
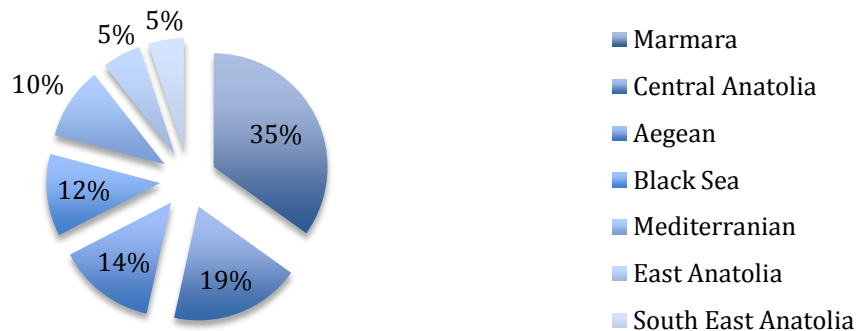
Source: DoA, September 2013

Geographical Distribution of New Foundations

7% 5%
10%
4%
38%
26%
10%

- ■ Mediterranien Region
- ■ Eastern Anatlioa
- ■ Aegean region
- ■ South East Anatolia
- ■ Central Anatolia
- ■ Black Sea Region
- ■ Marmara Region
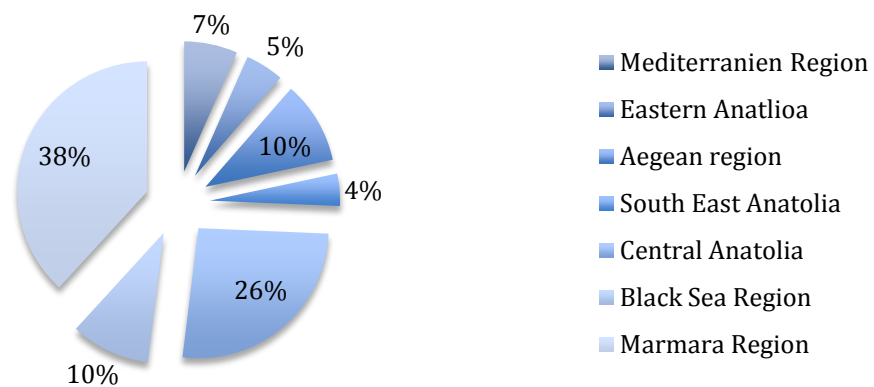
Source: DG Foundations, 2013

The graphics on geographical distribution of associations and new foundations show that, number of CSOs in eastern, north-eastern, and southern Anatolian regions are relatively low. Difference in concentration can be attributed to different reasons such as level of participation, availability of financial resources and lack of human resources.

2.1.1.2 Types of Activity

The activity types of CSOs differ. According to data provided by the Department of Associations, 17,4% of associations in Turkey are sports associations whereas 17,1% deliver religious services. 16,3% of associations are social solidarity organizations; %12,4 is friendship and social affairs associations and 11,7% of the associations focus on development issues. Associations working on culture, construction and health are 11,6% and the percentage of professional solidarity associations is 10.1%. According to this data, more than 65% of associations in Turkey concentrate on solidarity, social services and service delivery activities. Whereas the number of rights based associations are relatively low.[164]

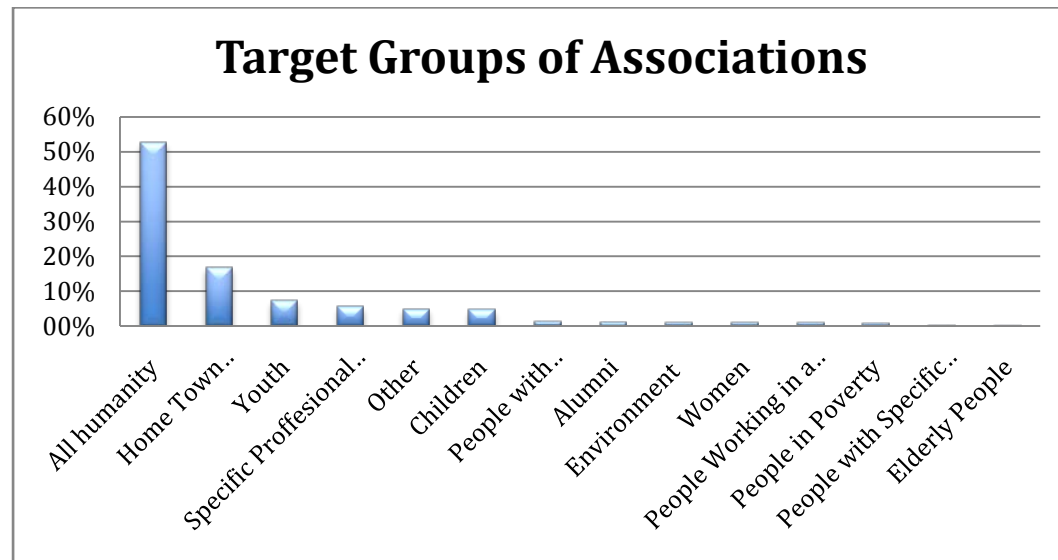[164]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernekler-grafik-tablo.aspx

Foundations show a similar pattern in terms of types of activity. According to 2012 data of the General Directorate of Foundations, more than 13.000 activities reported by Foundations are in the social aid and development (42%) issues. Reported activities on education and culture (42%) are also high. Only %5 of the foundation activities in 2012 focus on rights based areas and environment (GDF, 2012).[165]

In addition to the concentration of their areas of work, types of activity implemented by CSOs also reveal that CSOs work heavily in social areas. The top three CSO activities are organizing social gatherings (66,1%), dinner organizations (63,1%) and meeting celebrities (50,1%).[166]

2.1.1.3 Target Groups

As shown in the following figure derived from the DoA 2013 data, more than 50% of associations in Turkey identify all humanity as their target group.[167] Considering this data was collected from the mandatory annual notifications provided by associations, it is possible to argue that CSOs – especially service delivery and solidarity associations- lack a strategic approach in identifying a specific target group.

Source: DoA, 2013

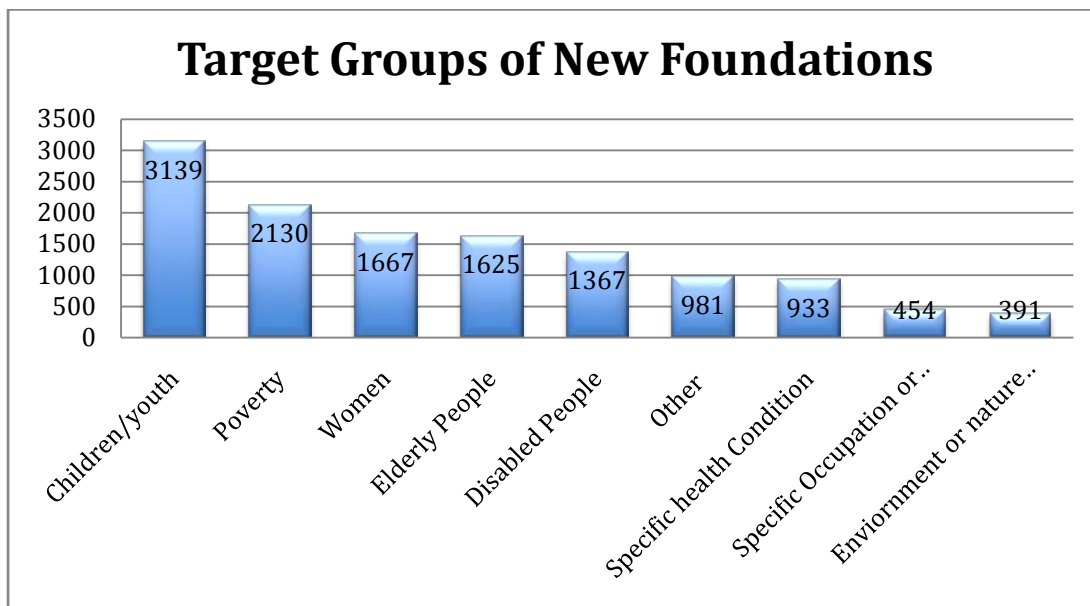[165]http://www.vgm.gov.tr/db/dosyalar/webicerik199.pdf
[166]Türkiye'de Gönüllü Kuruluşlarda Sivil Toplum Kültürü, Nisan 2010, YADA, http://www.yasamadair.org/Adminjkl/1.pdf
[167]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/tr/AnasayfaLinkler/dernekler-grafik-tablo.aspx

Target Groups of New Foundations

Source: DG Foundation, 2012(*A single foundation can have more than one target group*)

Results of the TACSO Needs Assessment Survey display a more diverse picture on the CSO target groups. 89 CSOs among the overall 102 respondents of the survey stated that their target groups include different groups such as women, refugees, children etc.

Target Group of Respondent CSOs
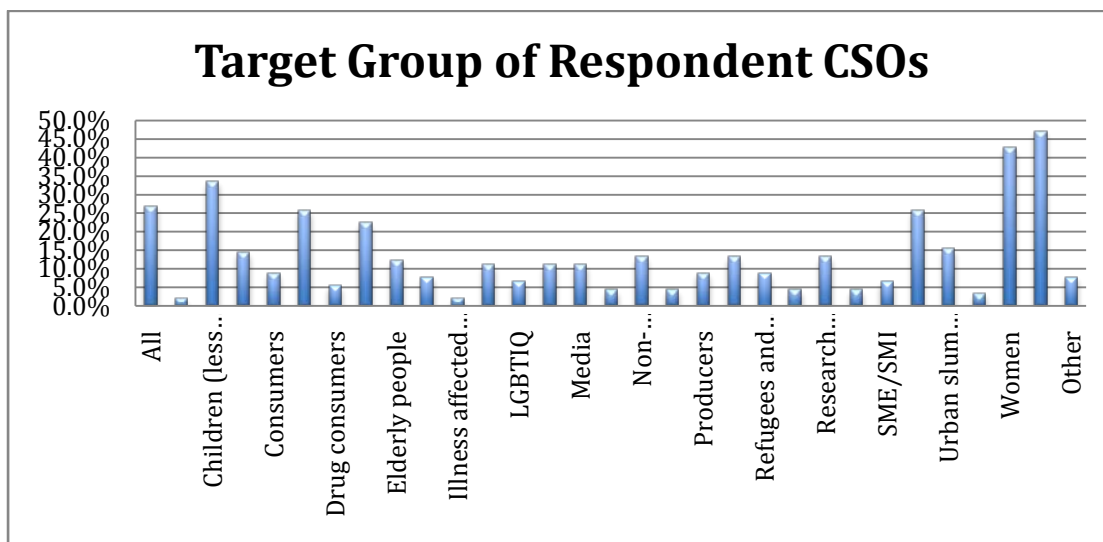
(*A single respondent can have more than one target group*)

The data from 98 respondents indicates that 48% of participating CSOs define youth as their field of operation, while 40% focus on education and training. Humanitarian aid and civil protection (34, 7%); arts and cultural work (31, 6%) are also among the most popular areas of work among the participating CSOs.

Area of Work
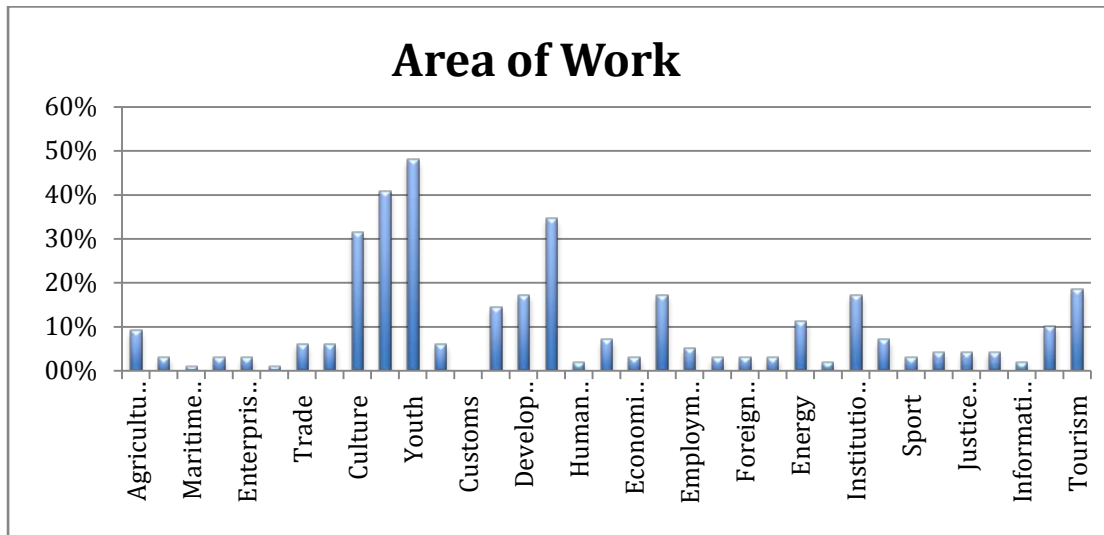
As shown in the chart below, education, solidarity and social aid and advocacy are marked as the highest three functions defined by the 89 respondents that participated in the TACSO Needs Assessment Research survey.

Main Functions of Respondent CSOs

■ Service Provider　　■ Advocacy and Lobbying　■ Campaigning
■ Research　　　　　　■ Solidarity and social aid　■ Education
■ Other

2.2 Human Resources and Technical Skills
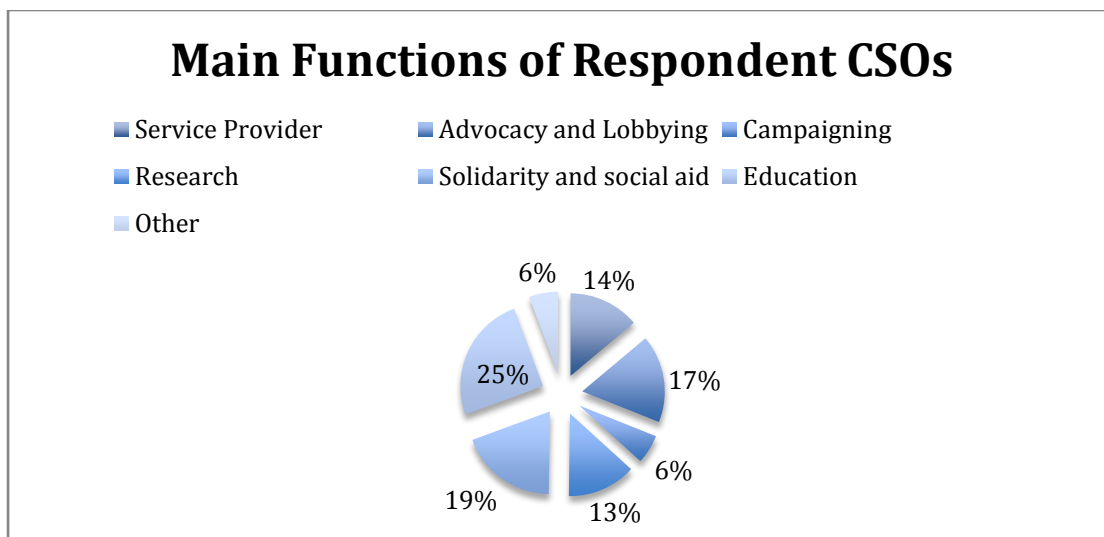
2.2.1 Human Resources

Some findings from the Civil Society in Turkey: At a Turning Point Report[168] regarding the human resources of CSOs in Turkey are as follows:

- 57% of CSOs do not have paid staff, while many organizations' human resources generally consist of 6-20 volunteers.
- The majority of CSOs are not satisfied with their human resources: 71% of those that have volunteers and 85% of those that have paid staff report having insufficient human resources to realize their goals.
- Over half of the paid staff positions (60%) are of an administrative or financial nature, 15% are in areas of expertise and only 8, 5% is professional managers. In addition, the percentage of foundations with paid staff (71, 2%) is much higher than the percentage of

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[168]http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/step_eng_web.pdf

associations (27, 2%).

According to November 2013 data of the General Directorate of Foundations, only 1,831 of 4679 foundations (39, 1%) have paid staff and the total number of employees working for these foundations is 16,008. As mentioned above under section 1.1.5, only 645 (13, 7%) out of 4679 foundations stated that they work with volunteers. The total number of volunteers is 1,007,560. Department of Associations does not publish any data regarding the number of employees and volunteers.

Results of the TACSO Needs Assessment Research survey (2013) indicate that:

- 90 CSOs have less than 2 paid staff,
- 20 CSOs work with more than 50 volunteers,
- 32 CSOs stated that 70% of the organizations' budget is spent on human resources,
- 40 out of 64 CSOs expressed that they have a strategic plan to attract and engage competent staff to their CSOs.

Number of Full Time Staff

More than 10
12%

Up to 10
11%

Between 2 and 5
22%

Less than 2
55%
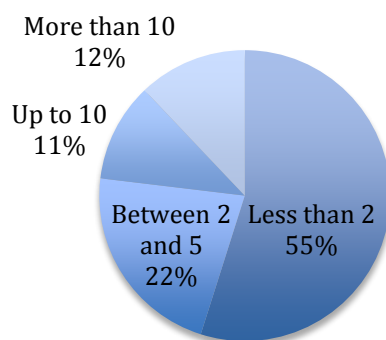
Number of PartTime Staff

More than 10
12%

Up to 10
9%

Between 2 and 5
28%

Less than 2
51%
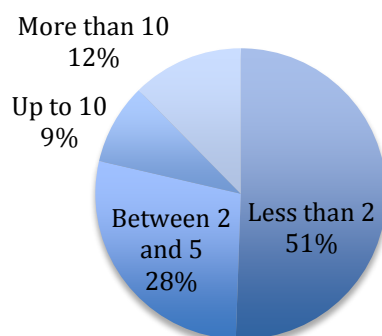
2.2.2 Technological Skills

According to Civil Society in Turkey: At a Turning Point Report, most CSOs appear to have regular access to technological resources such as telephone, computer and the Internet. A detailed look at CSO offices shows that most are equipped with a desktop computer, a DSL Internet connection, television and phone.[169]

The regional distribution of computer ownership by associations shows similarity to overall geographical distribution of associations. According to DoA 2013 statistics, associations in Marmara, Central Anatolia and Aegean regions have the highest rate of computer ownership. While the percentages of associations that own a computer in Eastern and South Eastern Anatolia is only 3-4%.
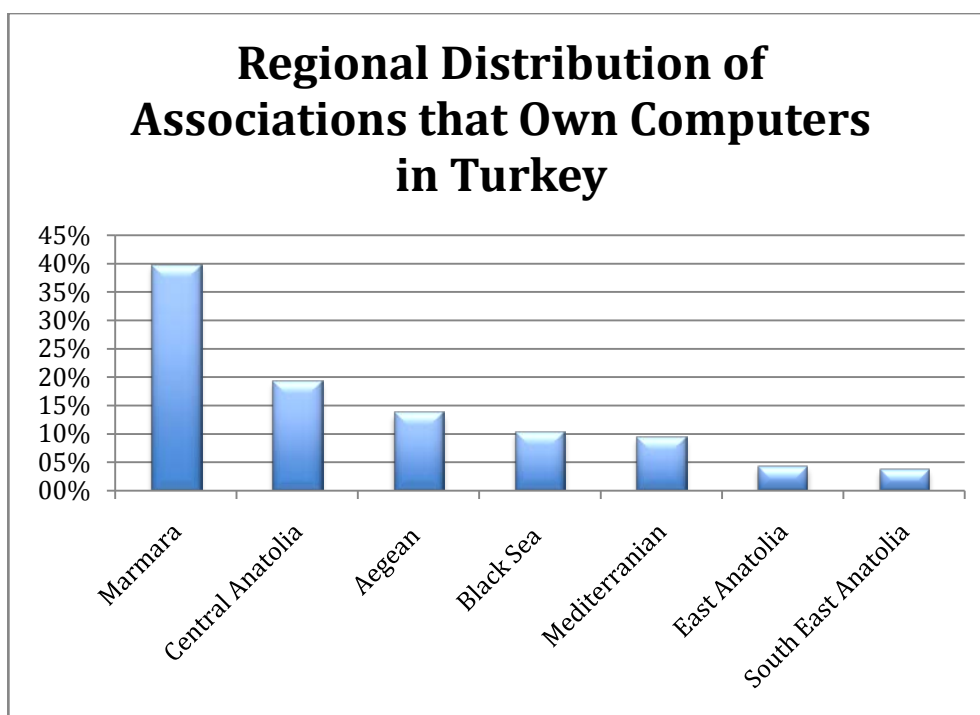
According to DoA statistics from September 2013, 56.456 associations in Turkey are using e-association (DERBIS), as mentioned under section 1.1.1, for their administrative work with public institutions. This is a great increase when compared to 3.866 users in 2006. However, it is important to note that many associations that do not own a computer use internet cafes etc. for online applications and other administrative work.

The following chart presents the rates for the ownership of infrastructure including technological tools by the CSOs that responded to the Needs Assessment Research Survey (2013):

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[169]http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/step_eng_web.pdf

Infrastructure of CSOs

- Office — 21%
- Computer — 22%
- Internet access — 21%
- Landlines — 17%
- Website — 19%
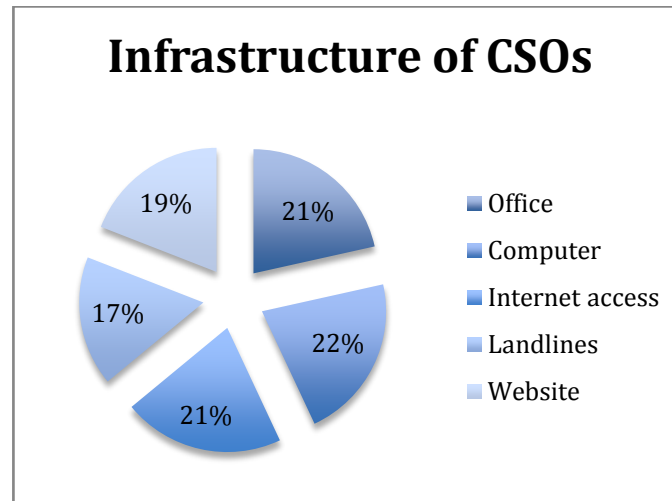
2.2.3 Governance

Civil Society in Turkey: At a Turning Point Report[170] underlines the fact that there is an increasing need for institutionalization and a lack of knowledge and experience on initiating internal governance processes. Same report marks CSO's internal governance and top down decision-making structures as the most problematic areas.

Majority of CSOs are managed on a daily basis, with key decisions (typically restricted to routine operational concerns and project activities) taken by managing boards on a short-term basis. The legal environment creates an obstacle before shared decision-making processes in CSOs. As an example, in November 2013, Van Governorship filed a lawsuit against the newly founded Youth and Ecology Association (EKOGENÇ). "The Van Governorship Provincial Associations Directorate indicated that the following phrase in the association's statute was unacceptable: *'all of the members are responsible from the decisions of the association. Any member can play an active role in the process of changing the decisions and members can participate in decision meetings and make decisions.'* The Van Governorship Provincial Associations stated that*"if this phrase in the statute is not changed; a lawsuit will be filed to dissolve the association."*[171]

Many CSO representatives argue that the governance bodies – i.e. Board of Directors and Assemblies – function poorly and/or provide little in terms of strategic leadership of management and staff. As noted above, in practice many CSOs operate as "one-person organizations". In other words, all leadership, management and administrative capacities are concentrated in one person. Results of the Needs Assessment Research Survey show a slightly different picture. 45% of the 62 respondents of NA survey indicate that both the director and his/her subordinates work together to arrive at a decision, where subordinates have the expertise as well as access to information required to make the decision. Whereas 42% of the respondents state decisions are made in coordination between the director and his/her subordinates, but the director holds the ultimate choice of a course of action.

110 CSOs participated in the survey designed for TACSO Research on Quality Assurance Systems and Good Governance in CSOs Report[172]. These CSOs indicated that they should be accountable to the following groups: (1) employees and volunteers, (2) members, (3) target groups, (4) society, (5) donors and funders and (6) government institutions. However, the

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[170] http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/step_eng_web.pdf

[171] http://lgbtinewsturkey.com/2013/12/16/homophobic-decision-from-van-governorate/#more-787

[172] TACSO Research on Quality Assurance Systems and Good Governance in CSOs Report, TACSO 2013, accessible at http://www.tacso.org/doc/QAS_TR_report.pdf

same organizations defined lack of financial resources, human resources and knowledge as the main obstacles along with limitations in enabling environment before adopting a sectorial approach for self-regulation mechanisms in Turkey.

What is the main obstacle for CSOs to become more transparent, accountable and adopt good governance?

- Legislation applicable to CSOs 8%
- Other 12%
- Insufficient financial and human resources 31%
- No obsticles in place 16%
- There's no accesable road map/system/mechanism 17%
- Lack of technical capacity or guidance 16%
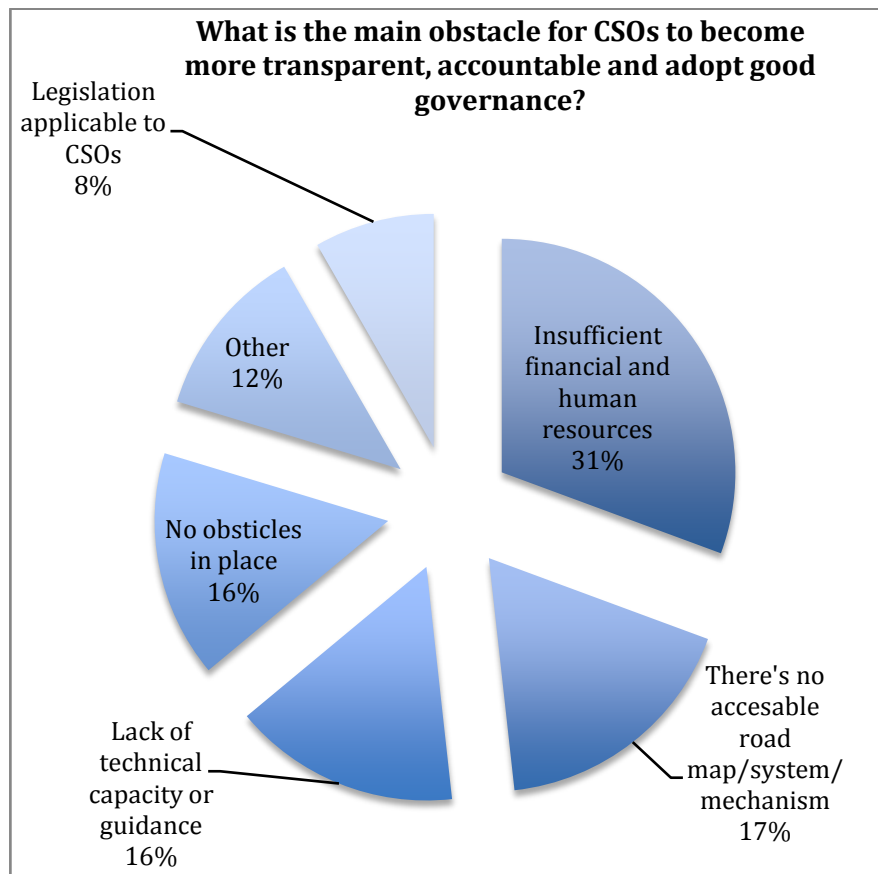
2.3 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Capacities of CSOs

General data on the monitoring and evaluation capacities of CSOs do not exist. However, it is possible to argue that, CSOs in Turkey implement M&E activities on a project basis more often than on institutional basis. When asked about internal monitoring and evaluation practices, 37 of the CSOs that responded to the Needs Assessment Research Survey indicated that they implement monitoring and evaluation practices on a project basis. 24 respondents declared that they implement one on institutional performance. It is observed that CSOs tend to implement such activities as part of their fundraising efforts especially when donor organizations require midterm and/or final reports for the project they fund.

Limited number of organizations has the financial and organizational capacity to hire an independent expert for implementing M&E activities. To this end, it is possible to name only a few examples of CSOs that use methods like social impact analysis which measures the social, economic and environmental impact of a certain project or organization.

2.4 Strategic and Analytical Capacities of CSOs in Turkey

The number of CSOs using strategic planning as a tool to highlight their SWOT analysis define their needs and set their future goals is increasing. However, due to financial constraints and lack of human resources, the strategic planning capacities of CSOs in Turkey are still weak[173].

As indicated in the previous NA studies of TACSO, the low level of analytical capacity continues to pose as a major weakness for CSOs. Since up to date information regarding the analytical capacities do not exist, it is not possible to provide overall information about the analytical capacity and make comparisons with the earlier findings of the TACSO Needs Assessment Report.

Among the 55 CSOs participating in the Needs Assessment Research Survey, 55% declared that they use researches and analyses in defining and implementing their advocacy policies. It is possible to argue that CSOs are not prioritizing or concentrating on increasing their analytical activities. Only 9% of the CSOs that participated in the Needs Assessment Research Survey said that they implement research activities. Only 8% of these organizations disseminate the results of their research activities and publications.

The monitoring projects and reports undertaken by right-based organizations have gained momentum in the 2000s. Today, many rights based organizations have regular and annual monitoring publications. In many cases, CSOs use these monitoring reports as resources and benefit from the finding to their advocacy and lobbying activities.[174]

2.5 Relationships with Other Actors –Networking and Partnerships

According to the STGM's 2005-2010 Impact Assessment Report,it is expectable that the "primary relations" of individuals, their close relationships and friendships play an important role in CSOs' operations in the inception phase of organisations since, by its nature, CSOs are based around activities of volunteer individuals coming together around common aims and problems. However, one shortcoming of CSOs in Turkey is that this mode of engagement, continued into the following phases, delaying the 'institutionalization' of CSOs.As interactions between CSOshave been subject to primary relations between individuals within organisations, they have rather been dependant on certain needs deriving from ad-hoc and immediate problems. Same report argued that in many instances this attitude prevented the development of a cooperation culture between CSOs and that this is visible in the low numbers of networks or umbrella organisations at local, national or international levels.[175]This situation was also highlighted by another report with the following assessment: *"large group of CSOs had only been in contact with a maximum of five organizations in recent months, indicating that large networks and multi-partnerships are not very common in the sector."*[176]

CSO representatives participating in the focus groups and in depth interviews reported that CSOs are becoming more aware on the importance of networking and partnerships and their ability to work together is rapidly developing. The increase in the number and visibility of initiatives and platforms can be used as an example to show this growing trend.

Despite the increasing number of collaborations, the participants of the focus group meetings with networks, initiatives and platforms held within the context of this NA Study,

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[173]TUSEV Civil Society Monitoring Report, 2012.

[174] For a more detailed account on monitoring projects and reports by CSOs please visit http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/SivilIzlemeENG_15_08_13.pdf

[175]http://panel.stgm.org.tr/vera/app/var/files/s/t/stgm.etki.degerlendirme.2005-2010.pdf

[176]http://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/files/step_eng_web.pdf

stated that their relations with other actors in civil society are weak and in many instances they are not accessible by CSOs due to the lack of information. While it is important to encourage and support networks' and platforms' interconnectedness with other civil society actors, the absence of regulations to allow platforms/initiatives to obtain a legal entity continues to limit their institutionalization and fundraising efforts. Focus group meeting participants argued that lack of financial and human resources are important constraints limiting the ability of networks and platforms to communicate and partner with a larger group of CSOs. (See Annex II for focus group meeting report)

From the 32 respondents of the NA survey, 59,4% stated that they have membership in international networks. 65,6% indicated that they are members of regional networks. 78,1% of respondent CSOs mentioned that they are members of national networks whereas the percentage of respondent CSOs that are members of local networks is 53,1%.

Networking and partnering with international organizations also provides important opportunities for CSOs in Turkey. CSO activities at international level mostly focus on participating in meetings/conferences and networks, organizing study visits, implementing project partnerships and hosting international meetings. [177] Yet, the frequency of international communication and collaboration of CSOs continues to vary regionally in relation with their financial and human resources capacity.

2.6 Material and Financial Stability and Resilience &Organisational Sustainability

61, 1% of the 101 CSOs that responded to the Needs AssessmentSurvey stated that their internal fundraising capacity is limited compared to the needs they defined in their institutional strategic plans. When asked about their institutional capacity building needs, 56, 9% of the respondent CSOs indicated a need for developing their fundraising capacity.

50 CSOs responded to the question about their organization's income sources for the previous year. The findings of the survey confirm that EU continues to be the major donor for CSOs in Turkey. Furthermore, 86% of the 58 respondents stated that they benefit from technical assistance and guidance in implementing the EU projects.

[177]Ibid.
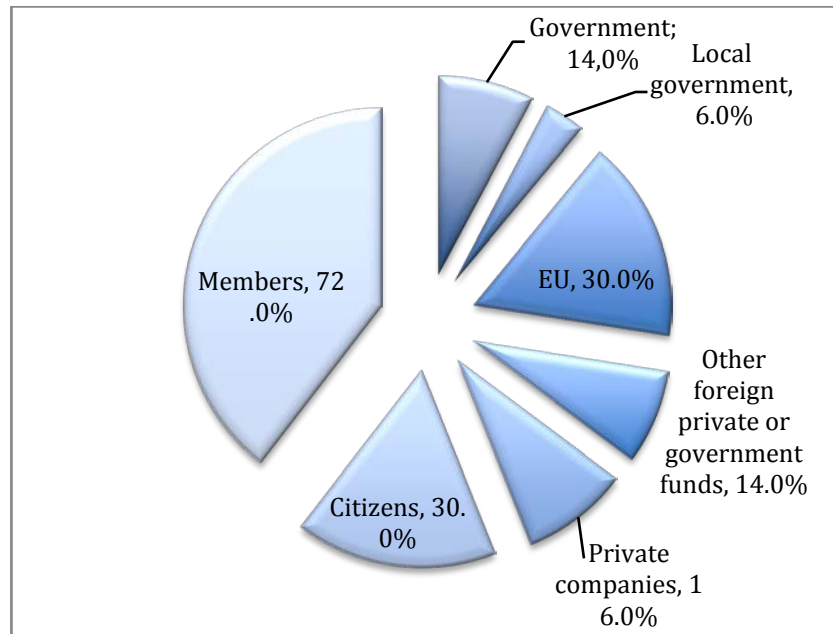
According to Civil Society in Turkey: At a Turning Point Report (TUSEV, 2011), *"organizations carry out their activities with rather minimal finances. Almost half of CSOs (44, 6%) have an annual income below 10,000 TL (5,000 euro) while a significant group (15, 7%) has less than 2,000 TL (1,000 euros) per year. Foundations enjoy much greater annual incomes on average (386,312 TL) than do associations (45,961 TL)."*

FIGURE III.2.4 CSO's ANNUAL INCOMES
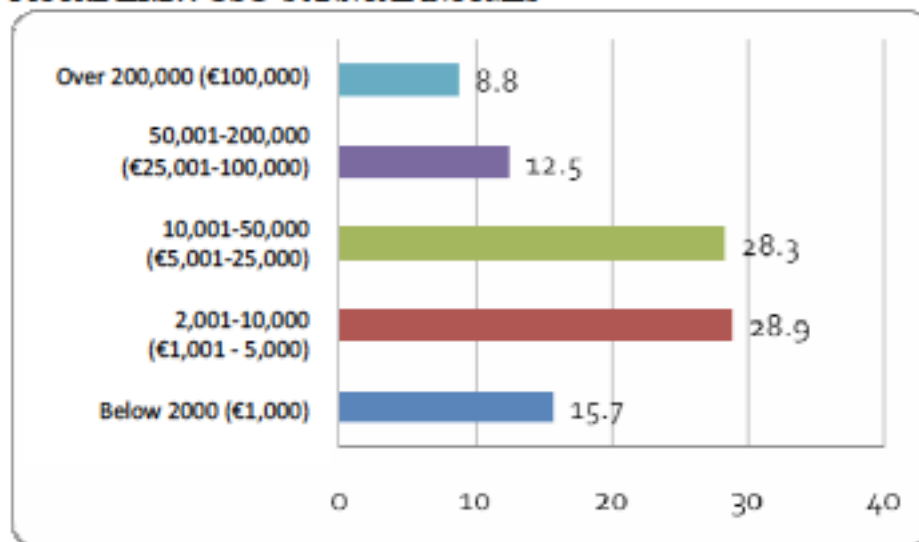
(YADA, 2010)

Results of the Needs Assessment Study present similar findings. More than 70% of CSOs reported that one of their three most important problems is the lack of financial resources.As seen from the chart below, 44% of the 86 respondents of the survey declared that their annual budget is below €5.000. The estimated annual budget for the 18% of the CSOs is between €5.000 and €50.000.

Annual Budget of CSO (Thousand Euro)

Category	Percentage
Unknown	05%
1000+	15%
300 to 1.000	05%
100 to 300	05%
50 to 100	08%
20 to 50	07%
5 to 20	12%
1 to 5	21%
Less than 1	23%
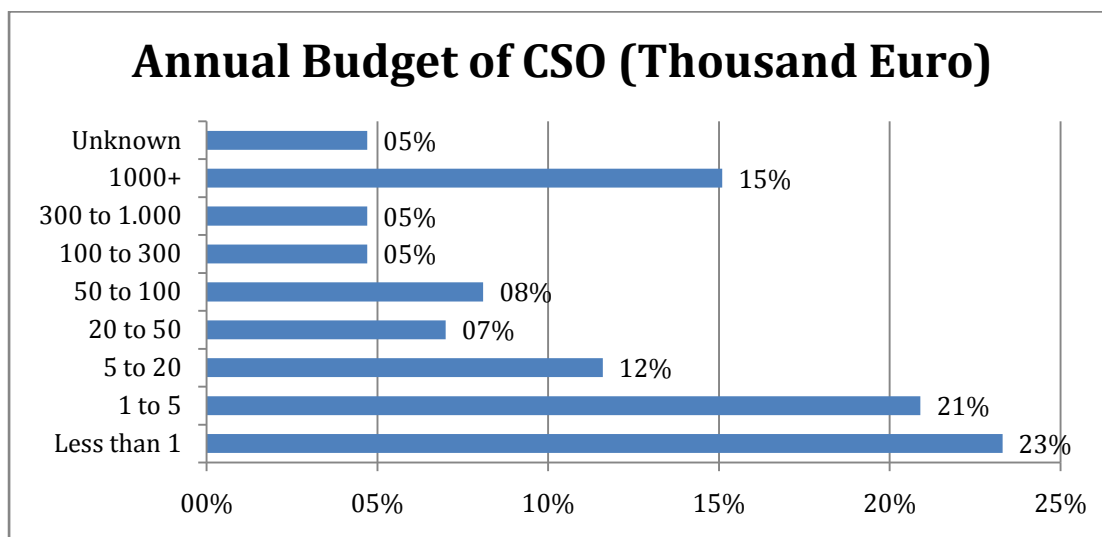
As discussed in the CSI 2011 report, project-oriented fundraising methods are very common among CSOs in Turkey. However, this approach causes grant dependency and endangers the sustainability of these CSOs. Some of the criticisms that were brought up on the focus group meetings of the needs assessment research are as follows:

- The lack of knowledge of fundraising and financial management;
- More institutionalized CSOs tend to receive a bigger portion of the local donations;
- The lack of mechanisms to direct individual and corporate donations to smaller and less visible CSOs;
- The hardship for platforms or joint actions to access financial resources. As platforms and initiatives are not recognized as separate legal entities, they are not able to receive grants and donations. These organizations mostly rely on technical assistance initiatives.

2.7   Constituency Building

In scope of QAS Research carried out by TACSO in 2013, 110 CSOs that responded to the research survey indicated they find themselves successful in terms of connecting with their target groups. 66% of respondents indicated that they found themselves very successful and only 23,8% indicated there is room for improvement. When asked about the tools they use to come together with their target groups, 68% indicated that they rely on project-based activities. Another tool that is commonly (60%) used by the CSOs is social activities.

62% of the 61 CSOs that responded to the Needs Assessment Survey stated that they publish their statues online. Among the 60 CSOs that responded to the related survey questions, 21%publish their annual activity reports and only 2% publish their financial reports online. Responses show that 70% of the participating CSOs do not publish their reports on their websites. The data gathered from the QAS survey (TACSO, 2013) shows a similar pattern. 70% of 110 CSOs that participated in the survey indicated that they don't publish their financial reports online.

A recent amendment in the relevant regulation mentioned under section 1.1.1 aims for bringing transparency and increase accountability of associations. According to this amendment made in 2012, a specific group of associations are held liable to publish their financial accounts on their web site. Furthermore, the amended regulation allows DoA to publish financial and other information on its website.

2.8   Clear Needs of Smaller/ CSOs Based in Provincial Areas

As part of an attempt to present the current state of civil society in the region, the Serhat Development Agency working in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars published the TRA2 Region Civil Society Organizations Profile in February 2013.[178] The research focused on the institutional capacities, area of activities, training and project capacities of CSOs and CSO relations with different actors in the region. The 320 CSOs that participated in the research stated that some of the major problems they face are: (1) financial constraints, (2) indifference of the society, (3) unavailability of support, (4) low participation levels by the members, (5) lack of infrastructure (buildings, office space etc.), (6) bureaucratic constraints, (7) environment and climate, (8) access to qualified human resources, (9) lack of CSO visibility and recognition and (10) lack of dialogue. According to same research, only 5, 3% of the financial resources of CSOs in the region come from project based income and the CSOs lack knowledge and capacity in project proposal writing and management. Lack of infrastructure and "one-person organization" culture were also highlighted as problematic areas. Considering Ağrı (298), Ardahan (155), Iğdır (255) and Kars (278) are among the cities with lowest number of associations,[179] it is possible to argue that similar problems and needs also exist for smaller/out of cities based CSOs.

Information and sources about the needs of smaller or local CSOs are rather limited. To this end, above mentioned study is a valuable and much needed attempt to understand the state of civil society in Turkey. Development agencies working in different regions of Turkey should be encouraged and supported to conduct similar research initiatives.

2.9 EU Partnership Actions in Scope of Civil Society Facility Program

Within the context of the Civil Society Facility 2011-2012 Multi-Beneficiary Programme[180] of the European Commission, 17 grant contracts in the form of Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) have been signed by the EC. The FPA projects are thematic partnership actions developed and implemented by CSOs from IPA and EU countries. The contracts have been signed in December 2013.

Eight of the 17 FPA projects involve implementation in Turkey (See Annex III for a list of FPA Projects implemented in Turkey). In two of these eight projects, the lead partner is from Turkey and in six other projects, CSOs from Turkey take role as partners. A focus group meeting was held within the context of this NA Study to identify the challenges that they have been experiencing (See Annex III for Focus Group Meeting Report). The results were found out to be as follows:

- Implementing projects with several partners from different countries is challenging since the majority of their communication and planning had to be realized via internet and the face-to-face opportunities to discuss issues at more depth were very limited.
- Setting up their internal planning, communication, reporting, and governance structures took longer than expected to solidify partnership of various partners from different countries. Some problems in communication and structural planning still exist. The language differences, differences in legal and operational frameworks in different countries have been presented as major challenges in this respect.
- The consortiums decided to be flexible in selecting topics and priorities to concentrate in every implementing country. This was found to be a necessity since the needs and consequences are different from country to country. However, this in turn, started to

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[178]http://www.serka.gov.tr/store/file/common/55ba930f4b08681a4f8f5ad8b315b743.pdf
[179]http://www.dernekler.gov.tr/IllereGoreIstatistik.aspx
[180] http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial_assistance/ipa/2012/pf_1_csf_multi-beneficiary.pdf

pose other challenges such as the difficulty of comparison, measurement and finding commonalities.

- There seems to be a clear need to improve their communication and dialogue with the EU Delegation. The need to improve communication and exchange of experiences among projects were also mentioned to further support implementation and learning from each other.

- Last, but not least, the CSOs stated that the fact that they do not still know the criteria sought for by the European Commission to extend the FPA projects by additional 2 years (as mentioned as a possibility by the European Commission) have not been helpful. They mentioned that they have not been able to efficiently plan and implement their projects within the light of these criteria.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1   Major Issues regarding Civil Society Environment

Improvements and Positive Developments

- An amendment to the Law on Foundations, adopted in August 2011, has widened the scope of the law by broadly providing for the return of immovable properties of the non-Muslim community foundations.

- Minor improvements in the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations have been made. But various organisations including the Ombudsperson's Institution proposed the Government and the GNAT to reform this piece of Law, specifically following Gezi Park events.

- Some improvements have been made via the secondary legislation to decrease the bureaucratic burden of associations and foundations and towards increasing the accountability of associations.

- Improvements are underway regarding the Law on Collection of Aid. The latest draft published by the DoA proposes that the associations and foundations are exempt from the Law, meaning that they would not need to be liable for a permit or a notification for their fundraising activities. In the same draft package, improvements are also underway to decrease the number of board members for associations from five to three and easing the membership of foreigners to association. However, the process is ongoing and it is possible to know if and when the proposed amendments will be accepted in the GNAT.

- Several ministries and some public institutions have started to appoint civil society contact points or set up special units for sustainable relations and dialogue with CSOs.

- Volunteerism is becoming a more visible and a more common practice. One important development in this regard was the establishment of the National Volunteerism Committee in 2012, as an initiative of the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) bringing together representatives from the public and business sectors as well as CSOs, to promote voluntarism and to raise awareness on the issue.

- Improvements been made in the Development Agency Management System towards a coherent and systematic semi-public project application and evaluation system via electronic means.

- As being the major donor in Turkey for civil society, the EU continues to support civil society with increased budgets, and is planning to increase the amount of funding to

CSOs and to acknowledge civil society development as a sub-sector, while still recognizing the cross-cutting nature of civil society. Furthermore, the "Think Civil Program" funded under the Civil Society Facility, providing flexible and rapid financial support for activists as well as CSOs have been quite instrumental in answering the needs on the ground.

- A consortium project was funded by the EU and the Republic of Turkey, implemented by a group of CSOs, which includes various components to strengthen CSOs' capacities and the enabling environment for civil society-public sector cooperation.

- The percentage of donations made by the population to CSOs has increased 3% between 2012 (10%) and 2013 (13%).

- Online giving and crowdfunding is an emerging new trend in Turkey with several new initiatives providing online donation opportunities. Social enterprises and social entrepreneurship have also been increasingly discussed issue in Turkey.

- Although limited to some areas (e.g. education, health and children), the number of companies implementing corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects, sponsorships and partnerships between the business sector and the civil society has been increasing. In addition, there is a qualified improvement in grantmaking foundations regarding their interest in supporting and engaging grant programmes for CSOs.

- Consultations with CSOs by several ministries in drafting strategic plans and the drafting of the 10th National Development Plan have been important developments. Furthermore, the fact that some Ministries have included specific targets and joint actions with CSOs in their strategic plans could be encouraging for others in the coming years. In addition, the National Development Plan includes several targets and indicators for civil society development and improving participation in policy processes.

- Attempts for implementing consultation processes by some ministries and public institutions have increased and a few positive examples of consultation on laws between public institutions and the CSOs occurred since 2011. Even though the number of meetings is not many and the quality of participation is still questionable, initiatives of joint consultation commissions and monitoring committees started to be founded by some ministries.

- Studies revealed that central-level administrators have a general notion of civil society and have considerable experience with CSOs while CSOs participation in policy processes has started to be accepted as a norm at this level. In addition, new generation of public servants as well as those with post-graduate degrees view CSOs more positively.

- In 2011, Turkey became a participating country to the Open Government Partnership (OGP), proposing some concrete actions towards improving active participation of citizens and CSOs in law making, corruption and transparency.

- The 10th National Development Plan acknowledges the need for creating an enabling environment a strong, viable, pluralist and sustainable civil society and lays down several objectives towards this end.

- A few good examples of municipal level dialogue between and consultation with CSOs have been witnessed, specifically via the Citizens' (City) Councils and the preparation of Strategic Plans. In addition, cities implementing Local Equality Action Plans, as good examples of cooperation, have increased to 15 in 2013.

- A very important milestone regarding civic engagement in Turkey was the Gezi Park events happened in May-June 2013. The protests proved that there is a growing and

active civil society in Turkey, with at least 2.5 million people from 79 out of 81 cities, participating at different levels in the protests.

- The role of social media has been increasing as an alternative media. Citizen journalism initiatives have been increasing in both quantity and quality. Hence for CSOs having difficulties in ensuring visibility in traditional media, social media has become the alternative sphere.

- Local media interest and willingness has been increasing towards CSO activities and their cooperation with local authorities.

Obstacles and Challenges

- The legal framework for associations and foundations continue to be limiting, restrictive and bureaucratic, discouraging rather than encouraging for people in exercising their freedom of association. The legal framework governing CSOs is quite extensive, scattered and necessitates expert support to comprehend. Main approach of relevant laws is towards laying down limitations, restrictions, penalties and fines rather than freedoms and rights. Problems in primary laws are further intensified via secondary legislation.

- Registration is mandatory and only limited with two forms of associational activity: associations and foundations. No other form is recognized as legal entities. In addition, freedom of association of some groups such as children (under 18), individuals with mental disability or disorders, foreigners and public officials are severely limited. It is not allowed to establish foundations that support an ethnic or religious group.

- The legal framework highly limits the activities of foreign CSOs in Turkey. Opening a branch or representation by foreign CSOs is subject to an authorization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoI). MoI provides the permit by receiving the opinion of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is a highly political process with unlimited discretionary powers provided to the administration.

- Fundraising activities are severely limited via the Law on Collection of Aid with heavy authorization requirements, bureaucratic obligations, and high discretionary powers to the administration.

- Legal framework regarding freedom of assembly has severe obstacles and problems in exercising the right. The notification requirement is implemented in a manner that it de-facto becomes authorization/approval for meetings or demonstrations in open air and for some types of activities in close air. The places and timeframes allowed for meetings and demonstration are highly limited. The right to assembly of some groups such as children, foreigners, students, academic staff and public officials are highly limited. Vague provisions (national security, public morals, public order) that have not been defined, increases the arbitrary powers of the administration. Last, but not least, the legal framework provides the administration with almost unlimited authority for intervention. It is also important to note that the authority given to the security forces to record meetings and demonstrations is very problematic[181]. As recently witnessed during

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[181] The EC Progress Report 2013 states that the CSOs "*reported that they faced fines, closure proceedings and administrative obstacles on the basis of a Ministry of Interior circular of November 2012 which provides a legal basis for visual and voice recording of activities by law enforcement officers where there is a threat to public order or evidence of a crime in preparation*"[181]. Furthermore, the latest democratisation package contains an amendment that reinforces the circular. The relevant article in the draft states that "*the voices and images of participants and speakers during demonstrations and meetings might be recorded by the police. The recordings and images cannot be used for other reasons than detection of suspects and incriminatory evidence.*"

Gezi events, court cases were opened up against human rights activists or protestors for breaching the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations. Furthermore, as the EC Turkey Progress Report 2013 states "*anti-terror police raided multiple addresses detaining dozens as part of an investigation into the Gezi Park protests".*According to a report, "*During Gezi Park events, security forces intervened in the meetings and demonstrations that to a great majority were peaceful"*[182]."

- Obstacles to freedom of association and assembly also occur due to interpretations of some laws such as the Anti-Terror Law[183], the Law on Misdemeanours[184] and the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations[185] in a limiting and negative approach[186].

- Like the legal framework, the institutional set-up regarding CSOs is also complex and scattered with no efficient coordination taking place. Public institutions responsible for associations and foundations are two different entities with no strategic planning and holistic perspective. Similarly, although still very low in numbers, there is no coordination and cooperation among units/contact points founded under ministries and other public institutions for relations with CSOs.

- Public benefit and tax exemption statuses are very hard to receive and since they are decided by the Council of Ministers are considered to be highly politicized. Only 0,41% of associations and 5,09% of foundations have been provided these statuses. Even when/if CSOs receive these statuses, the advantages they bring are very limited.

- Voluntarism is not defined in the legal framework and there is no public institution directly responsible for volunteering. Without such an infrastructure, there are examples of CSOs fined for employing "uninsured employees".

- The financial environment for CSOs is problematic in the sense that tax and other incentives are insufficient, economic enterprises of CSOs are considered as businesses and subject for same taxes.

- Government funding is quite inadequate in Turkey. A small percentage of CSOs are able to access and receive state resources. There is no standardized approach and system in government/state funding. Public funding is not coordinated, systematically monitored,evaluated or reported. Furthermore, CSOs complain that the funds provided by public institutions are not transparent, don't have a just distribution, and discriminate some groups of CSOs.

- There are no concrete government structures, institutional mechanisms or overarching legal framework to facilitate civil society-government relations/cooperation. Thereby, relations and cooperation with civil society organisations for public institutions is not mandatory. Lack of policy and mechanisms lead to experiences that revealad-hoc, arbitrary, politicized, exclusive characteras they are based on initiatives of state institutions in the form of consultation without an approach that is built on the concept of indispensable right to participation. Public officials are not generally motivated to establish or facilitate dialogue and cooperation with CSOs. For those who are willing to

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[182] "Gezi Parkı Olayları, İnsan Hakları Hukuku ve Siyasi Söylem Işığında Bir İnceleme", İnsan Hakları Hukuku Çalışmaları, Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, November 2013, p.71.
[183]http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.3713.pdf
[184]http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.5326.pdf
[185]http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/Metin.Aspx?MevzuatKod=1.5.2911&MevzuatIliski=0&sourceXmlSearch=%
[186]This situation was also highlighted by the EC Progress Report 2013 *"NGOs received fines for disobeying orders under the Law on Misdemeanours and reported that they were prevented by the authorities from holding meetings and demonstrations and issuing press statements... There is a tendency to authorise use of force by police when a protest is deemed illegal even when the protest is peaceful."*

do so, the institutional set up and legal framework are not supportive. Furthermore, dialogue with CSOs is not defined in work-plans of public institutions nor officials.

- Severe problems in access to information have been ongoing. There is no standardized approach, coordination in collecting, archiving, and publicising data among institutions, limitations provided by the Law are quite vague and broad and these are commonly used as an excuse by institutions for not providing the information requested.

- In addition, there are other problems regarding access to information in Turkey. Website bans have been increasing and are disproportionate in scope and duration. A website run by a civil initiative on freedom of internet, "Engelli Web" (Disabled Web) provides that by 3 February 2014, 40.482 websites are banned in Turkey[187] where 83, 9% of decisions on bans were made by the administration: The Presidency of Telecommunication (TİB). A recent amendment made on the relevant law further increased the arbitrary limitation and blocking of websites.

- Consultation on draft policy papers or law drafts is not commonly conducted and the legal framework does not make consultation to CSOs mandatory. Hence, consultation at all levels of decision-making in Turkey is done in an ad-hoc and arbitrary manner. In addition, even when CSOs were consulted, they were deprived of information regarding the following steps of the process.

- Being the most important mechanism for local level participation, City Councils (although it is mandatory for each municipality) are still quite few in numbers. There are critiques towards City Councils on the fact that they are not authorised for voting rights in decision making processes, the weak impact of them due to limited number of participating CSOs, and the independency concerns as majority City Councils are chaired by mayors and dominated by them. Regarding the municipal level cooperation between civil society and public sector, an amendment was made in 2012, which increased the discretionary authority of the central administration.

- Level of public trust towards CSOs remains low. Active volunteer support continues to be one of the major challenges for civil society in Turkey. The number of members of associations and foundations are lower than EU countries. Prosecutions against some leaders of CSOs as well as some statements and actions of government representatives and institutions negatively affect the credibility of and perceptions towards CSOs. Media support and coverage of CSO activities are quite low. This negative tendency was further intensified in recent years with increased polarization of the media in Turkey. With Gezi events, the interventions of the Supreme Board of Radio and Television (TÜK) over radio and TV channels have increased. Social media has also became a sphere for state intervention, with a number of citizens put in police custody (subsequently released) for posting Twitter messages about Gezi Park protests. Social media was presented as a threat in the statements of the government representatives at several occasions.

3.2 Major Issues regarding the Capacities CSOs'

Improvements and Positive Developments

- The number of associations and foundations in Turkey, although still not sufficient, has been increasing at a more or less steady rate in recent years.

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[187]http://engelliweb.com/ and http://engelliweb.com/istatistikler/

- Number of associations using e-association system for reporting has increased indicating the fact that more CSOs are able to access technological tools in their daily operations.

- Projects concentrating on monitoring and reporting state policies, decisions and implementations have gained momentum. Many rights-based organizations in Turkey publish monitoring reports, which were used by various CSOs as resources for their advocacy and lobbying activities.

- CSOs in Turkey are increasingly becoming aware of the importance of networking and coalition-building. Their ability and capacity to find common ground and joint-action, specifically on ad-hoc issues has also been rapidly developing.

- Online activism is emerging as a growing trend in Turkey, specifically with the Gezi events. Online engagement and participation tools are also increasing in both quantity and quality.

- Steps are started to be taken by the Department of Associations (although no publicly announced consultation with CSOs has been conducted) towards increasing accountability of associations. An amendment was made in 2012 on the relevant regulation.Associations having an annual gross income above 500.000 TL were held responsible to publish their financial accounts on their web site.

- Serhat Development Agency has conducted a comprehensive research on the situation and capacities of CSOs in their region. The research focusing on institutional capacities, areas of activity, training and project capacities, and relations with other actors, have reached out to more than 320 CSOs. Such a research is an important step in answering the need for information on in Turkey regarding civil society capacities.

Obstacles and Challenges

- Statistics and data on CSOs are not integrated into the official statistical system in Turkey. Although CSOs are bound to provide various sorts of data to the relevant state authorities, the data made available by those are insufficient in quality and quantity. No systematic and holistic research or data collection has been made regarding the capacity of CSOs. Study conducted by Serhat Agency, as mentioned above, is an exception and was not duplicated by other agencies. Thereby, it is difficult to assess the capacity of CSOs in Turkey.

- Distribution of CSOs is very uneven in Turkey.Majority of them exists in the metropolitan cities. The number of CSOs in eastern, north-eastern and southern Anatolia regions is relatively low.

- The percentage of rights-based CSOs is very low. Instead, the top three areas that CSOs concentration is high are: (1) sports, (2) religious services, (3) social solidarity. Types of activities also reveal that the majority of CSOs work heavily on social solidarity; the top three activities CSOs conduct being (1) social gatherings, (2) dinner organizations, (3) meeting celebrities.

- Resources (human and financial) are voiced as the major problems of CSOs. The number of members, volunteers, and specifically active volunteers is very low. The majority of the CSOs do not have the means to recruit paid staff. Many CSOs lack lawyers or legal practitioners from the civil society field who would creatively and openly seek for ways to improve the legal framework and thereby supporting advocacy strategies. Financial capacities of CSOs in Turkey and their fundraising capacity are very low. Almost half of associations in Turkey have an annual income below 10.000 TL (€3300). 15, 7% of associations have less than 2000 TL (€645) annual budget.

- Regional distribution in accessing technological tools is also uneven. In eastern and south eastern Anatolia, the percentage of CSOs being able to purchase a computer is very low (around 3-4%).

- Regarding internal governance, it can be said that the majority of CSOs are managed on a daily-basis, with key decisions taken by chairpersons or managing boards. The legal framework intensifies the un-democratic decision-making approach of CSOs by holding individual decision-makers (chairpersons in associations, executive body in foundations) liable for wrongdoings. Generally, many CSOs perform as "one-person" organizations in which all leadership, management and administrative authority is vested in the chairperson.

- Relations with other CSOs mostly depend on individual relations and not maintained at institutional level. Primary relations play central role in networking and collaboration and accordingly relations have been dependant on needs deriving from ad-hoc and immediate problems or needs. This negatively affects the development of a cooperation culture vested at institutional level.

3.3 Priority Areas for TACSO 2

This section analyses possible support services CSOs would need in Turkey in the following years, based on the desktop research findings, focus group meetings (See Annexes I, II and III), LAG workshop (See Annex IV), survey results, and interviews. The needs and expectations expressed below do not represent all needs of CSOs in Turkey. Through analysing other implemented and planned projects and programmes and taking TACSO 2 priorities into consideration, the priority list aims to match the needs and expectations of CSOs in Turkey with regard to TACSO 2 objectives. A detailed list of needs and expectations, categorized under TACSO priorities together with activities and tools proposed for each category are provided in Annex V.

3.3.1 Civil Society Environment

3.3.1.1 Legal Framework and Participation in Policy Processes

- There is a clear need to transform the dynamics of dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions. The relations between these two stakeholders should be taken into consideration with a holistic approach that is based on non-hierarchical and egalitarian manner. Public institutions should be accepting civil society as an indispensable stakeholder and should be realizing a legal transformation which would enable CSOs participation in public activities and programmes at all levels.

- CSOs expect that all sorts of activities to reform the legal framework should be in line with international and EU standards. Furthermore, there is also a need for activities and advocacy to ensure that the public institutions act in line with existing duties and responsibilities laid down in existing laws.

- There is a need to support the activitiesto improve theexisting legal framework accordinglywith the international and EU standardsto provide enabling environment for civil society. In addition, there is also a need to increase awareness on what politics, policy and advocacy mean both in the public sector and among the CSOs, specifically at local level as well as civil society's indispensable role for a functioning participatory democracy.

- It is deemed necessary to support actions to monitorCSO participation in decision-making processes and follow the impact of this participation.

- One important topic that CSOs need support is on right to access to information. CSOs expect supportfor the activities to improve access to information and advocate improvement of the approach of public institutions and performance in order to produce, diversify, specify and present information in a continuous and consistent manner.

- The capacity of CSOs should be strengthened in using information and their right to access to information more strategically and tactically in their advocacy efforts. Furthermore, their capacity should also be strengthened in gathering and analysing information systematically. Thereby, they would be able to identify institutions or mechanisms that are not working and pressurize them via systematic information requests. Lastly, it seems important that collaboration among CSOs is indispensable in ensuring coordinated action regarding access to information.There is a need for new and creative methods and tools for access to information and dialogue with public institutions.

3.3.1.2 Donors and Funding Framework

- CSOs expect donors to diversify support tools and mechanisms for CSO actions, and emphasize the need to support existence of right based CSOs with core funding rather than project based/action funding.

- CSOs emphasize importance of the transformation of private sector support for CSOstowards includingrights-based actions and not just for service delivery within the context of social responsibility.

- CSOs expect support from donor institutions for financial sustainability and increased cooperation, and creating strong foundations towards philanthropy.

- CSOs expect that process and impact assessment to be conducted regarding views and opinions received during the IPA 2 consultation processes.

- Civil society, as being a cross-cutting issue for all sectors in the IPA II Country Strategy Paper (CSP), it is important to transform the design of all sector-based interventions and progress indicators to mainstream CSO participation and contribution from the beginning. CSO participation should not be based on quantitative approach, should be timely, effectively implemented and monitored.

- Annual evaluations should be conducted regarding the EU support to civil society in Turkey. Such an evaluation is expected to includeall supports under other IPA 2 sub sectors for the upcoming implementation period.

3.3.1.3 Visibility of Civil Society & Public Perception and Support

- Media interest to CSOs and coverage of the activities CSOs should be increased.

- There is a need to improve literacy of civil society and media in a reciprocal manner.

- There is a need to comprehend and understand media reactions in Turkey. Information is needed to understand the approaches of different media institutions and organs (e.g. national, local, mainstream, internet, and social media) towards civil society and the reasons behind low coverage should be explored.

- Media language is expected to be transformed into a rights-based language. Hate speech commonly used in media should be eliminated with the intervention of CSOs that have

improved capacity for monitoring, revealing and criticizing the language of the media.

- CSOs should be able to efficiently politicise and publicise the knowledge they produce/generate and hence their skills and knowledge to act in this manner should be strengthened.

- It is necessary to enhance the skills ofCSOs on communication, public relations, international relations with networks and effective social media usage.

- CSOS should be prioritizing communication and visibility actions in their specific agenda and planning. Accordingly, the skills, knowledge and capacity of CSOs should be strengthened on strategic communication as a part of their advocacy work.

3.3.2 CSOs' Capacities

The needs and expectations for enhancing the capacity and competency of networks and platforms are as follows:

- There is a strong need to assess the previous information and knowledge accumulated regarding networks, platforms and initiatives in Turkey. This also includes an assessment of previous support provided to civil society by the EU. Furthermore there is an expectation to map CSOs in Turkey in order to assess the situation better and hence plan targeted support actions. It is expected that such a comprehensive work would be important to have the necessary information about networks/platforms/initiatives and to develop relevant instruments for sustainability.

- It seems necessary to create a platform for debate and discussion over concepts and notions regarding networks, partnerships, platforms and initiatives.

- Bringing partners, members, platforms and networks together for experience sharing on best practices and lessons is a clear need for various groups (e.g. networking between FPA projects; relatively stronger and successful platforms with other civil initiatives) at local, national and regional levels.

- Many networks and platforms in Turkey need to strengthen their skills and capacity in monitoring policies and their impact on their respective areas. Furthermore, there is a need for support for enhancing their advocacy via developing strategic advocacy plans.

- Last, but not least, networks and platforms expect support for their institutional development regarding their financial sustainability, institutionalization, internal communication andhuman resources.

The needs and expectations for enhancing the capacity and competency of CSOs are as follows:

- Advocacy, strategic planning and human resources management as well as implementation of campaigns seem to be some major areas that CSOs need support.

- Legal aid and support provided by experts having relations with links and experience in the field is a vital need for many CSOs for their advocacy actions.

- Another important area that needs strengthening for many CSOs seems to be their relations with their constituencies. CSOs need to learn different and new methods in order to strengthen their ties with their members and their constituencies and to effectively mobilize them for action. Furthermore, tools and methods to link local level advocacy with national level are also needed.

- It is important to support networking and joint work of CSOs working on different areas

while strengthening the advocacy capacity of those that already work on cross-cutting issues (e.g. women and disability).

- Supporting dissemination of information on how to benefit from and connect with international mechanisms (e.g. ECoHR, CoE, EC, UN) in advocacy actions is critical.

- There seems to be an increasing need towards enhancing skills of data management. CSOs need to increase their knowledge on tools for data collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination. They specifically expect to learn about new digital tools that are affordable and user-friendly.

- It would be necessary to support internal democracy and ethical conduct among CSOs. Democratic internal governance, rotation in decision-making positions, increased and equal representation of women and youth are some aspects to be promoted, supported and strengthened.

- Skills, knowledge and tools should be accumulated and disseminated regarding rights-based monitoring of the private sector.

Annex I – Focus Group Meeting Report on Access to Information

Focus Group Meeting on Practices Related to the Right to Information

14 January 2014, Ankara

Introduction

The Focus Group Meeting on Practices Related to the Right to Information was organized jointly by TACSO-Turkey and STGM. The specific purpose of the meeting was to create a setting where especially CSOs that exercise their right to information could share their opinions and experience more frequently in relation to the legislation[188] prepared for this right and its corresponding practices.

Participants to the Meeting

There were 16 participants in the Focus Group Meeting on Practices Related to the Right to Information representing 12 CSOs/civil initiatives from different areas of activity including environmental issues, women's rights, LGBT rights, women's employment, rights of refugees and asylum seekers, human rights and animal rights.

Key Features of Discussion

The Focus Group Meeting on Practices Related to the Right to Information proceeded by discussing the views and experiences of participants in different sessions regarding the practices in relation to the right to information.

Issues Related to Legislation

Discussions on legislation on the right to information revealed that there were constraints on exercising this right that derived not only from this particular act but also from some other legislative arrangements.

Participants drew attention to the fact that "the term *state secret* is included in the text of the Law no. 4982 on Right to Information for bases of restriction to exercise right to information". The term "state secret" is used in 32 different legislative acts where a similar term "confidentiality" is used in 60 others. Furthermore, that the term *"national security"* which sets another limitation fo exercising the right to information has been used in legislation related to 26 different ministries and general directorates. Participants complained that the arbitrary nature of implementation derives from the vagueness of some concepts used in legislation. It was stressed that the reasons for restriction, for example on the basis of *"state secret"* are not explicitly defined.

Functionality of the Right to Information for CSOs and Instruments Used

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[188] The Law no 4982 on Right to Information:
http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/Metin.Aspx?MevzuatKod=1.5.4982&sourceXmlSearch=4982&MevzuatIliski=0
and Regulation on Principles and Procedures Related to the Exercise of the Right to Information:
http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/Metin.Aspx?MevzuatKod=3.5.20047189&MevzuatIliski=0&sourceXmlSearch=bilgi%20edinme

Cases and experiences discussed in the meeting show that CSOs may have different purposes in exercising their right to information. These purposes include the following:

- Understanding the state of affairs in specific fields of activity and using information obtained for planning purposes;

- Monitoring in specific fields of activity;

- Using information for purposes of campaigning or advocacy;

- Using information obtained to remind authorities their obligations; and

- Using information to force authorities to adopt a stance or act in a specific issue.

Experiences conveyed in the meeting shows that participating CSOs have different levels of experience in exercising their right to information effectively and they use different tools and strategies for this purpose. While some CSOs try to exercise this right on the basis of individual applications and requests, others do it via their corporate identities. Attention was drawn to bureaucratic obstacles and formalities that the latter (corporate identity) confronts with.

With regard to applications used for access to information; both application interfaces provided by websites of governmental agencies and direct-formal writings are used. Concerning the difference between applications; there's a critical issue: Since governmental organizations do not provide any record-document on the date of application made via their websites, it becomes difficult to hold these organizations accountable for their legal obligation to respond in due time. When CSOs use official writings by postal services, the date of application can be easily proven. Participants also add that in their applications the counterparts may not understand when terms like "CSO" or "NGO", so applicants use more common terms like "association" or "foundation". They state that it is also important to put questions as clear and as short as possible in different sentences.

Another way of obtaining information used by CSOs is to raise issues with "Parliamentary Questioning"[189] in the Grand National Assembly through Members of Parliament (MPs). Participants added that such initiatives may succeed if the questioning is undertaken by MPs from several political parties represented in the parliament instead of MPs from a single political party.

CSOs experienced in exercising the right to information effectively, state that they apply to more than one governmental agency at the same date and on the same issue, also when appropriate, they also inform related bodies such as the Human Rights Commission as method. Some other CSOs state they pose the same questions to a government authorityon regular basis and in a systematic manner, but the responses they receive from each of them/ for each time may were different. CSOs also note that their attempts to exercise of the right to information at local level may go smoother by using some inter-personal relations.

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[189] A parliamentary question is a way of obtaining information from the Prime Minister or ministers through a motion on certain matters concerning the duties and activities of the government. Questions can be oral or written depending on the required form of reply.

However, they state that in case the information is obtained on the basis of such inter-personal relations, information suppliers do not want this information to be shared with others or declared to the public. According to participating CSOs, in some cases deputies may be asked for their support in efforts to obtain information and, in some other cases, the support of international organizations may be phased-in.

Obstacles Faced in Practice Related to the Right to Information

Discussions revealed that obstacles encountered in exercising the right to information have different dimensions.

The following problem areas are observed in the articulation of requests for information and some of those are related to the capacity and resources of applying CSOs: How questions are formulated; lack of clarity on responsbile party- whether the agency concerned is actually the right agency or unit to put forward questions; depending upon responses received, problems in following the procedure for applying the Higher Board for Information; and availability of means and resources to bring objection law suits when necessary.

There are also problems regarding how CSOs should read uncategorized information provided by government institutons and how they should use such information effectively in their work. CSOs state that even when all other conditions are satisfied, factors related specifically to public administration itself still put barriers to the exercise of the right to information. They stress the fact that they get a different response and face a different attitude in each of their applications for information.

It is stated that public administration has no consistency within itself in terms of producing, recording and presenting data. Even when information is supplied upon request of CSOs; the reliability of this information and data provided is contestable since data collection methods are questionable; data are not categorized and disaggregated properly and are open to manipulation due to gaps in methodology and information. There are also cases where some public files that are shared with applicants cannot be used by CSOs since these files can be opened only through some special software in electronic environments.

In some cases, responses given to requests for information may not be relevant to questions forwarded and doubts arise whether questions have been duly understood or not. Also, terminology used by CSOs and by public administration may differ. In such cases, it is stated that efforts to share common terminology or give additional explanations for clarification proved futile. Attention is drawn to the need for arrangements that would make it obligatory for each unit in public administration to properly record and make public data in its own field.

It is mentioned that the response of public administration may differ with respect to whether information request is made by a real or a corporate person. In the latter, there is some bureaucratic burden involving preparation of files. When application is made as an association as a corporate identity, a "document of authorization" is requested. However, no such document can be issued since it is not an established procedure for associations and hence the decision of the governing body is submitted to overcome the problem.   Since

platforms and civil initiatives have no legally recognized corporate identities, they have no other way but lodging requests individually as real persons.

Responses such as "no information is available on this", "it requires additional research", "this information is private" or "it is confidential" may be given frequently if the request is found somewhat complicated. In some cases, public administration prefers responding: "No information is available on this", if the request concerned is found somewhat complicated.

Some CSOs state that they are discriminated against on the basis of their field of engagement and can obtain no response to their information requests. Even if negative responses given to information requests may also be associated with some technical constraints or problems, these too have their political dimensions and the government prefers not to share information in some issues that it considers as delicate. Some CSOs experienced cases where they could reach some information that had been first denied as "confidential" and they could not understand why it was classified as so. There are also cases where public administration refers applying CSOs to publicly shared activity reports and some websites. But it is mostly the case that such addresses do not contain requested or update information.

In some cases, government agencies respond to requests in writing and in others make telephone calls saying they cannot respond to requests. There are some public administration bodies sharing information on various issues during interviews and meetings, but they do not allow CSOs to use this information in their own work and research. Appeals to the same body may end up with different responses in consecutive years and while a detailed response can be given to a question one year, information on the same issue can be denied next year. When the same request is forwarded simultaneously to two different institutions, one of them may find it improper and refuse to respond while the other supplies information requested. Another point to be mentioned: While government agencies may cooperate and share available information and plans in initial applications of CSOs, this cooperation ceases when it comes to the use of this information by CSOs in their monitoring reports and advocacy campaigns.

In cases where the response to information request is negative or insufficient, the experience of CSOs shows that the Higher Board mostly approves the response given by the public administration bodies when appeal is made to this board. The response of the board may be "the request cannot be met" or direct affirmation of the original response may be given by public bodies. Even when the Higher Board warns public bodies concerned for not replying within due period, this warning is not effective and ultimately the requested information cannot be obtained. It is also stated that any such warning by the Higher Board is not sufficient for bringing a court case for not being responded to a request for information.

During "Parliamentary Questioning" through MPs, there may be responses that information has already been supplied with regard to earlier questions. In such cases, it is difficult to reach that information even if it really exists since it is impossible to search for past content in the website of the Grand National Assembly (GNAT). While more user friendly in many aspects compared to other governmental agencies, it is stated that GNAT website is not

user-friendly in this respect. Also, it was stressed that parliamentary supervision mechanisms do not work effectively as an example provided on the rejection of all 19 inquiry proposals although brought up by different MPs.

During the meeting, it was also interesting to note the how the experiences of CSOs vary in different fields of activity. Representatives of CSOs active in the field of refugees state that authorities cannot give consistent responses to this question: "How many persons are granted refugee status?" Even in such critical issues as public security or public health, the government faces troubles in terms of its capacity in data collection. Coming to the issue of supporting refugees in such fields as sheltering and healthcare, there is a chaotic situation about the respective duties of institutions involved, which makes producing and obtaining information even more difficult. The experience of CSOs working in this field suggests that responses to information requests take too long. Another important issue is that CSOs may learn, only upon their information requests that data are actually collected in some fields where they thought no data collection was taking place. This shows the importance of active approach to the exercise of the right to information on the part of CSOs.

Participants experienced in environmental issues state that they use data obtained from different agencies through the right to information for having them confirmed by other governmental or international organizations or for seeking some additional information. According to these participants, this method indicates that there is effective use of the right to information.

Representatives from CSOs whose activities are related to police stations and detention centres state that official authorities do not systematically collect chronologic and disaggregated data and share them, thus making it difficult to develop policies in these areas. Information supplied by authorities on the number of imprisoned persons with different identities gives figures much below the unofficial estimates and therefore creates doubts about their reliability. Representatives from CSOs in the field of women's rights and gender equality state that at least a part of data related to violence against women and incest in particular should be collected at the stage of police station. However, even when related personnel are trained in such issues, high frequency of rotation of duties and duty places deems such initiatives futile. One case mentioned by participating CSOs suggests that responses to information requests may be in breach of privacy and other rights. It is interesting to note an example provided in this context: In a response given to an application to access information in relation to violation of the rights of children in prisons; the government agency provided full names of children concerned, while they are still under age 18 and it is not appropriate to share the full names. However, in another case that requests information on responsbile officers in relation to a violence act towards animals; names of related officers were kept confidential.

Especially those CSOs working for the rights of LGBT state that they face discrimination in their relations with governmental agencies and in their requests of information. They draw attention to arbitrary practices frequently used against trans-individuals in the context of misdemeanours and that information concerning detention of sex workers can be obtained from police stations only with direct lawyer support. They also mentioned the inconsistencies in practices of related governmental agencies. It was pointed out that

activities in the field of reproductive health carried out jointly with the Ministry of Health may be considered as "offence" by the security if these activities involve trans-individuals. CSO representatives shared that in cases where their access to websites is restricted through filters, they can apply to relevant public authorities and identify the public authority blocking access to these sites.

Good Practices Related to the Right to Information

During the meeting, CSOs also shared their good experiences in practices related to the right to information even if it is limited. It was stated in some cases, processes of inquiry could be started when problem areas were reported and authorities took necessary initiatives to eliminate them. To be more specific, participants reported that there were 2 such good responses and initiatives in about 200 applications. A participant reported that a contract they reached in 2005 upon their application for information was later used in all activities as a reference. The Ministry of European Union and Turkish Armed Forces were cited as institutions giving regular and prompt responses to requests for information. For the Turkish Armed Forces, however, it was also stated that some data appearing regularly at the website of the institution was accessible only for a short period of time and thus CSOs could obtain update information only when they acted quickly enough.

Evaluations and Suggestions

At the end of the meeting, participants expressed the following assessments and suggestions for CSOs to exercise their right to information effectively:

− Besides using the existing legislation and efforts to improve this legislation, there is also need to adopt measures to ensure that governmental agencies properly fulfil their duties and obligations.
− For the use of information as a strategic and tactic instrument, it is important for CSOs to go over possibilities in the context of their right to information.
− There must be efforts to ensure that governmental agencies produce integrated, regular and consistent information.
− Work conducted by civil society in relation to information access must be made more systematic. In this context, it may be useful if each CSO develops its plan to exercise its right to information.
− It will also be useful if a network and mechanism of legal information support is created for the right to information. This initiative may be taken within bar associations. Support can be also given for the organisation of workshops for qualified/innovative lawyers.
− Keeping the draft law on state secrets in agenda and making reference to this agenda in all publications, etc.

– Public administration has to share available information automatically without waiting for any request to this end.
– It is important for CSOs to be insistent on the issue and clearly identify and exert pressure on mechanisms that do not work in ensuring the right to information.
– Further cooperation and coordination among CSOs in the field of the right to information.
– There may be technical workshops for CSOs focusing on such issues as application and objection procedures and processes in relation to the right to information.
– Extension of support to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in collecting data, developing methodologies and analyzing information obtained with their different dimensions.
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ANNEX 1-1 Meeting Agenda

10:00-10:15:	Registration and Introduction of Participants
10:15-10:30:	Objective of the Meeting
10:30-11:00:	Information Building Session: Proposal of a General Framework for Approaching to the Right to Information and Discussion
11:00-11:15:	Coffee Break
11:15-13:00:	Sharing Experiences in Civil Society's Application For Information
13:00-14:00:	Lunch
14:00-15:00:	Sharing Experiences in Civil Society's Application For Information
15:00-16:30:	What Alternative Ways May Be Considered In Obtaining Information?
16:30-17:00:	Evaluation and Debriefing About The Process, Soliciting Suggestions

ANNEX-2 List of Participants

No	CSO	Activity Area
1	Women's Labour and Employment Initiative	Women's Rights
2	Soldier's Rights Initiative	Human Rights
3	Association for Human Rights in Judicial Execution System	Human Rights
4	Chaos GL	LGBT Rights
5	Ecology Collective	Environment
6	Bartın Environment Assembly	Environment
	Freedom to Earth Association	Environment and Animal Rights
8	Human Rights Common Platform	Human Rights
9	Women's Coalition	Women's Rights
10	TÜSEV	Democracy and Civil Society Development
11	Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association	LGBT Rights
12	Refugees and Migrants Solidarity Association	Refugees and Migrants

Annex II – Focus Group Meetings Report with Networks and Platforms

Annex II - Report on Focus Group Meetings with Networks/Platforms/Initiatives

Two meetings were organized in order to receive inputs of CSOs that arerepresenting networks/platforms/ initiatives. First one was held in Ankara on 18 November 2013 and second one was held in İstanbul on 19 November 2013. A total of 18attendees were present in twohalf-daymeetings to discuss civil society related issues, TACSO priority areas and phasing out strategy.

STE and TACSO staff, in line with guiding questions, facilitated the discussions. The questions were focused on 5 different areas: Civil participation to decision making, legal framework, capacity and resource issues, TACSO priority areas, expectations for themes in scope of P2P Program and TACSO Phasing out strategy.

Highlights of Discussions from Focus Group Meetings with Networks/Platforms/ Initiatives

Civil Participation to Decision Makingand Legal Framework for Enabling Environment

- There is no specific strategy, policy, code of conduct or memorandum to ensure CSOs participation to decision making processes:
  − Lack of government strategy on participation of CSOs to decision-making process, and lack of strategy on human rights are the bases for weak performance of participatory democracy. In the areas where a strategy exists, the problems raise due to non-participatory approach that was adopted, e.g. strategy towards gender equality.
  − Regulation on "Procedures and Principals for Development of Laws" does not oblige government to involve civil society in the law making process. An article in the regulation indicates*"in case of absence of response in 30 days to an official inquiry for inputs to a draft would mean confirmation".* This article is very problematic due to issues of timing, capacity and resources.

- Lack of clearly defined principals, procedures and processes regarding CSO consultations and public-CSO cooperation is undermining the effectiveness and efficiency of efforts:

  CSOs are occasionally involved in consultations based on initiatives of individuals in public institutions. As a result, these practices are not sustainable or institutionalized.

  The principals or selection criteria for CSOs that will take part in consultations are not in place, there is lack of equal treatment and equal opportunity, e.g. CSO Facilities in Violence Prevention Centers.

Public civil society cooperation has reached a level where only public can benefit from such cooperation. Approaches based on principals should be developed and these principals and criteria should be determined and agreed togetherwith civil society.

Public and civil society shall be perceived as equal parties when it comes to cooperation. It is not effective to cooperate on action/training/event organization level.

Sub-contracting CSOs for tasks is becoming a common approach.

Even when there are participation or consultation processes, outcomes are not declared and there is no follow up.

Developing good practices in the context of cooperation require long time and sufficient resources. Further, cooperation takes place on issues and in forms that are only acceptable for the government. An example for this is the difference between the processes exercised during Migration Law and Law on a Human Rights Board.

Civil society actively uses the instrument of "parliamentary questioning", but no feedback is received either from initiatives at the parliament level or in participation processes. Apart from parliamentary questioning, civil society makes continuous efforts for participation by developing policy and principle documents, but these are not taken due account of by the government. Civil society cannot influence decisions. Additionally, civil society may be asked for their opinion in consultation processes, but outcomes are not shared even if there is a consultation practice.

Public funding support to civil society are not based on transparent criteria.

- Participation of civil society to decision making is affected by capacity and approaches of public institutions:

  – On the basis of the debate about the legitimacy/representative power of CSOs, the government leaves civil society out.

  – Culture of dialogue and cooperation with civil society is very low in public institutions.

  – Awareness about policies and strategies produced by the civil society is low among public institutions even if it is directly related to same area of intervention.

  – In most cases, public institutions do not have funds/resources to enable their staff to attend CSO events or maintain regular dialogue with them.

  – Only individual applications are allowed to Constitutional Court, Human Rights Board, Ombud Mechanism; the regulation avoids welcoming CSOs.

- Transparency and accountability of governmental conduct and limitations of implementation of regulations on Right to Access to Information is affecting level of CSOs participation to decision making with regard to advocacy and policy development:

  – Access to information: it is not possible to have access to draft laws and regulations.

  – Access to information is very limited. In a lot of cases, it is not possible to access the documents (bills) in the Parliament. Many of the mechanisms & processes for improving access to information do not work.

− Institutional structures are closed to civil monitoring. "Oversight" gives rise to reactions and blocks information sharing. When something "public" becomes the subject of scrutiny, publications are ceased.

− Public institutions do not welcome independent civil monitoring.

− The government sector lacks transparency, CSOs cannot learn about the outcomes of its own investigations; neither do its accountability mechanisms work.

− The government sector does not have its internal supervision mechanisms. Supervision does not take place even to the extent that it is imposed by international conventions and is not shared with other parties e.g. cases of impunity for civil servants.

− Regarding accountability, the government sector does not effectively operate and finalize its internal supervision mechanism. Even in cases where investigations are finalized, outcomes are not shared.

− Personal initiatives for cooperating with CSOs at institutional level proved insufficient; it becomes difficult to access information when relations are carried to institutional level. The public has limited relations with civil society at institutional level and the reason is that it has no policy in this regard. The law on right to information does not work. Still, there are various legal ways to have access to information. By using these ways, it may be possible to accelerate the process and get positive responses to legal objections raised.

− Implementation of regulations for access to information is very limited, in most cases the response for inquires of CSOs from public is not provided due to the fact that requested information "is not available", "is secret level information", "is in scope of national security". The regulations must be improved regarding the implementation problems.

− Level of transparency in public is an issue.

− Public does not collect or serve enough segregated data; e.g. number of individual voters with disabilities.

− There are problems regarding the confidentiality of personal data. Legal framework shall clearly define the standards.

⁜ Restraints in legal framework defining mandate and operation for several mechanisms limits CSOs efforts for using them in scope of advocacy or to create impact on policies in area of fundamental rights

− It is important to review the legal framework with a wider perspective; the limitations and incompatibility is not just about the framework regulating the legal entities of CSOs, but there are also important issues in relation to CSO's area of work.

− Civil society is not aware of a number of international mechanisms; such as UN, OSCE, CoE. Only ECHR is known.

− The impact of international mechanisms are limited, ECHR rulings is not often enough to change the incompatible regulations or implementations (law on peaceful protests, ban on discipline wards during military service).

- In a lot of cases, public institutions do not follow up the decisions by international mechanisms in their area of work, e.g. Ministry of Justice did not follow up on ECHR decision on ban of discipline wards.

- Ombud Mechanism is not an ideal reference for urgent actions; the response process is very long.

- Ombud Mechanism's mandate and authority is very limited.

Capacity and Resources

Absence of regulations to allow platforms/networks/initiatives to obtain legal entity is affectingtheir capacityto create impact:

- Absence of regulations to allow platforms/networks to obtain legal entity limits their institutionalizationand fundraising efforts.

- The regulations regarding freedom of association still obliges the registration and adoption of legal entity of CSOs in order to function. This is limiting the exercise of right to association.

- Platforms and networks cannot benefit from public funding for civil society due to lack of legal entity.

- Establishing a new association is still challenging; there has to be an office; if it is an apartment, it shall be approved by all owners in the building, associations has to pay withholding tax and open bank accounts. There are a lot of autocratic obligations.

- There are also cases that obligeto establish associations before creating networks or platforms due to the absence of any corporate identity and impossibility of raising funds otherwise. Consequently, while the real aim is to create platforms and networks , the result is coming up with establishing a separate association to obtain a legal entity that can be refered as "carrier associations".

- Platforms having no legal framework and corporate identity face difficulties in fundraising."Carrier" associations emerge as in the case of İHOP.

- There is the issue of creating networks within the civil domain in different ways and forms. There are various forms of cooperation including mass organizations, citizens' networks, etc. Perceiving a network as a domain defined only over CSOs further shrinks the civil domain that is already narrow. In some cases ,only temporary partnerships may be in question in networking initiatives.

- Limitations on access to resources and impacts of donor actions is another area creates hardship for networks/platforms/initiatives:

  - Donor coordination is important in terms of similar interventions to networks and individual CSOs.

  - There may be competition for funds between members and networks themselves. A network has to take account of its members in need of capacity building.

  - Project based interventions andtrainings based actions are not useful.

− Designing a project is one of the leading methods that is used in the context of sustainability, but in certain cases the project theme may lose its priority in its field until any project is given start.

− There is a need for planningin order to sustain sustainability of project-based interventions; unless a part of a longer-term strategy and sustenance of project-based networks turns as a burden.

− Secretariats/coordinating bodies of networks should be supportedbeyond making them survive.CSOs lack financial and human resources that they can allocate to networks.

− Networks have different needs depending on their nature, objectives and the form of organization. There is need for flexible forms of support in response to these differing needs.

− The advocacy role of networks vis á vis the public and decision making come to the fore, but networks may be created solely for strengthening their members. Networks may be created for a short-term objective around a campaign and cooperation in a particular area. All should have their own performance expectations depending on their respective objectives. There may be cases when a closed meeting is preffered   for developing a strategy and never reflected in the media.

− In some areas such ashumanitarian aid and disaster situations, the collaboration shall be long term. This brings the need to institutionalize the coordination and secretariat.

− Donors also shall be more supportive and act on ethical bases in relation to expectations of adjustments due to their supports to platforms/ networks. They should not put pressure to change orientation, shift focus of work etc. or intervene with internal affairs of the networks.

− Flexible supports for actions of platforms and networks like EU Programs such as TACSO and Think Civil is very important.

− In some areas, limitations to funding and support is very significant e.g. violence against women. This is not happening only in Turkey but also in Europe (e.g. Wave, Daphne). There's a shift from women to family and recovery of men.

🞣 Absence of information on experiences &mapping of civil networks/platforms/ initiatives in Turkey is a gap:

− In relation to networks, there is no source in Turkey giving updated informationabout what they are doing and how to reach them. Networks are not accessible for many. Even an internet search may fail to reach sufficient information about many networks.

− It is important to share experiences, learning from successes or failures, which are as important as sharing information.

− It is important to ensure that all can use the resources that are generated.

− Project-based platforms should not to be expected to ensure sustainability. Unless a part of a longer-term strategy, project-based platforms remain temporary.

- There are a lot of unsuccessful experiences of platforms and networks. A number of them are initiated by donors in order to provide action/project based funding and these are based on short term action plans and in most cases fail to address the core issues.

- We do not have information on good practices of networks or well-functioning networks. It is crucial to produce information on Networks in Turkey.

♣ Interconnectedness of networks/platform/initiatives in civil society is weak:

- It is very important to encourage networks/platforms to be interconnected with other actors of civil society.

- The relations of platformswith other actors in civil society are also weak.

- The fact that civil society covers a relatively narrow space is also a problem.

- It is important to carry local grassroots organizations up to the national level.

♣ Internal governance issues (relationship with members, decision making, sustainability of coalition) of networks/platforms require continuoussupport for capacity building

- Ties between civil networks and bases of platforms must be strengthened. For rights-based organizations/networks, there may be no need to take support from a specific constituency.

- Regarding the internal procedures of platforms, there are problems with respect to decision-making, transparency and information sharing and there is no effective internal governance.

- Decision making process in the platforms shall include all components and the most effective methods shall be deployed.

- Adoption of an orientation system in secretarial duties brings somewhat equality for all components.However, the secretarial works require resources and most of the CSOs do not have such resources to spare for this andthey even hardly manage resources for survival.

- Adoption of some common values and principles by platforms and their monitoring, sharing and reporting of their own practices constitute an issue in itself.

- CSOs become members of platforms on the perception of being a part of the activities. Only a limited number of organizations can follow recent developments in networks in which they have membership.

- Wide membership platforms need to establish a common understanding, and members shall be able to learn about each other in order to function effectively.

- It is necessary for networks to provide equal participation opportunities to its members.

- Networks must have "common working rules, principles, premises and "strategic plans", if they have a long-term activity perspective.

- Wide networks shall be able to come together more often but it is not possible due to lack of resources.

– Platforms alsoexpress the need to get organized in a flexible and independent manner e.g. ad hoc women's platforms.

♣ Networks/platforms also need support for capacity building in relation to their own mission as members vary in technical competency related to the mission of the coalition:

– There is a weakness on cooperation for advocating children's rights specifically for violence against children.

– Capacity building and dissemination of information shall be provided for searching the common grounds, good practices for decision making, methods for building coalitions in platforms and networks.

– Platform members have different capacities andthey need support in furthering their technical information related to their specific areas.

– "Red lines" of some network/platform members who fail to see rights as a whole may also be problematic in terms of internal working mechanisms. It is important in this context for platforms to lay down common values and principles.

– It is important to have conferences and meetings on rights based issues in order to have impact the agenda. It is also important to exchange experiences (e.g. there is a conference planned on violence against women)

Suggestions for Priority Areas of TACSO 2

TACSO should produce guidebooks, researches and reports to fill the gaps in civil society area:

– There is a need to take a closer look at the experience of civil networks in Turkey. There is a need for a baseline study, needs assessment and mapping.

– It is important to agree upon common concepts in regard to networks and civil partnerships.

– It is important to gatherinformation about networks and develop instruments to ensure this.

– A civil society work archive or documentation may also be useful to capitalize on information accumulating as a result of earlier activities.

– The STGM is preparing a guide on some legal methods of exercising the right to information (they are working on it with two lawyers known for their effective exercise of the right to information). There may be an information-building meeting on the basis of this guide.

– TACSO can support monitoring of public funding to CSOs.

– TACSO can support actions to improve access to information.

– Regarding the capabilityfor data collection, analyses, storage and having meaningful review of data; TACSO can introduce opportunities to exchange

experience and information on tools like open source, database programs, IT issues.

− TACSO can promote internal democracy and ethical conduct among CSOs.

− Organizations must be informed about methods through which they can strengthen their ties with their members and then mobilize them for sustainability. It is also important to engage some organizations with very strong local ties in national issues as well.

➕ TACSO should consider the suggestions below on methodology for implementation:

− TACSO shall adopt short term and flexible strategies.

− TACSO shall continue flexible supports to CSO actions.

− It is critical to keep in mind that sometimes supporting a meeting can be of benefit for a long-term strategy or action.

− Instead of one off supports, it is crucial to provide long term supports forthe actions of CSOs.

− There shall be more creative ways regarding meetings instead ofclassical events like conferences, seminars and trainings with "one person speaking".

− Methods to enable learning from each other shall be adopted.

− The planning for support activities should be made in a participatory manner. Support should have a flexible nature with respect to needs and should not be restricted toa single meeting or a specific campaign.

− When disability is concerned, issues such as accessibility, translation of materials, devices and venues should be considered early at the information sharing stage.

− Networks and organizations of persons with disabilities are in need of even most preliminary trainings. TACSO, on its part, may extend complementary support for responding to specific needs of different groups of persons with disabilities.

➕ TACSO shall continue support to build skills and institutional capacity of networks/platforms/ initiatives:

− Activities bringing together best practices, information sharing and lessons learned are particularly important.

− Development of skills in areas such as internal relations in networks, the media, communication with decision makers, social media etc. should be supported.

− Supports for developing tools should beconsideredfor enabling cooperation with holistic approach and non-hierarchical manner.

− Case based supports to advocacy actions are critical.

− Supporting development of advocacy strategies for networks is important.

− Supporting dissemination of information on how to benefit from international mechanisms in advocacy actions is critical.

- Supports to campaigns are important.

- Monitoring policies and capability of networks for impactassessment is important.

- Right based actions mostly require lawyer supports.

- TACSO can support development of policies and position papers for networks and platforms.

- TACSO can support participatory conduct of platforms and networks including time, funds and human resource supports.

- Media attention is not enough for issues brought up by civil society; they are only interested when a Member of Parliament attends a CSO event.

- TACSO can support dialogue between donors and CSOs.

Theme Suggestions for People to People Program (P2P)

- Peace and reconciliation processes;

- Children's Rights;

- LGBT rights;

- Women's rights, violence against women;

- Hate speech and hate crimes;

- Climate change;

- Poverty;

- Citizenship and citizens' participation;

- Discrimination;

- Independent civil monitoring;

- Media relations;

- Information Technology;

- Shadow reporting;

- Disaster management;

- Transparency and accountability of public policies in relation to OGP;

- Successful implementation of cross-cutting issues (gender& environment& disability);

- Relations with and mobilization of constituencies;

- Access to information, gathering, storing, using and interpreting data.

Suggestions for Phasing Out Strategy of TACSO 2

Regarding the process to design the phasing out strategy:

- Turkey is quite distinct from other Balkan countries; hence there must be different criterias and approaches in terms of both geography and the nature of civil society.

- Decision on the resource center shall be based on long-term consultations with participatory approach.

- An approach shall be adopted in a way to avoid monopoly of information and support.

- The efforts for civil society development since 2002 EU supported Civil Society Development Project shall be assessed in terms of impact.

- There must be wider consultation on source organizations.

- Attention must be paid to resource efficiency, but support must not be limited and means must not be reduced down to a discouraging level.

- Due to the rather fragile environment in Turkey, the governments should not be in decision-making position in the process of selecting.

- TACSO shall take into account below issues in implementation of phasing out strategy:

   Trends for development of civil society shall be taken into account.

   There shall be a solution to support small rural organizations.

   There shall be a solution to support civil actions without requiring a legal entity.

   TACSO shall act in a way to ensure sustainability of its support to local resources.

   TACSO shall ensure continuation ofpositive aspects of its operation in phasing out strategy such as quick response performance, no autocraticburdens, communication in Turkish, flexibility, meeting facilities and easy access.

- An organization assigned to be TACSO's successor asa resource center shall have below qualifications and conducts in its operation:

- The resource organization must absolutely be a CSO, not governmental or profit seeking.

- Organizations from different thematic areas may be selected as resource. But while doing this, it is important to predict possible competition.

- It may be a partnership of organizations rather than a single organization. Rotation of an acting coordinator may be considered.

- It should have expertise in working with civil society and capacity building.

- It should be a rights-based organization and implement such programs, but simultaneously aim at extending services to the whole civil sphere.

- It must localize and deliver expanded support in capacity building.

- It must absolutely work in a participatory manner with advisory boards.

- It must have its standards for transparency and accountability.

- It must havethe idea of getting stronger with its partners.

- It must stand against discrimination.

- It must keep equal distance to all CSOs and have a facilitating role that may occasionally involve the government.

- The resource center must work on Chapters 23 and 24 in the EU alignment process.

- Its indiscriminate support to civil society and neutrality is critical for its adoption by others.

- It must have capacity for programming and then transferring this to civil society; it must be able to develop approaches such as "theory of change" along with usual topics e.g. PCM (project cycle management).

- The cost that the resource center incurs for survival should not exceed the support it extends; operational costs and support must be proportionate.

List of Participants to Focus Group Meetings

	18 November 2013 Ankara		
No	Organization	Representative	Related Network/ Area
1	Capacity Building Association (KAGED)	N. Kıvanç	Refugee Rights Network
2	Capacity Building Association (KAGED)	A. Ergun	Human Rights Joint Platform
3	Association for Monitoring Gender Equality	G. Bayrakceken	Women's Networks
4	National Democratic Institute	M. Salihoglu	Checks and Balances Network
5	Association for Solidarity with Freedom Deprived Juvenile	J.Bay	Ankara Child Rights Network
6	Foundation for Women's Solidarity	P. Kalkan	Women's Networks
7	Turkish Youth Union Association	E. Serbest	Youth & Disability Networks
8	Network For Combatting Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children	Ş. Antakyalıoğlu	Children's Rights Networks

9	Flying Broom	E. Kılınç	Platform for Combatting Child Brides
10	Kaos GL	U. Guner	LGBT Networks
11	STGM	M. Kutkut	Capacity building for Networks
19 November 2013 İstanbul			
12	TUSEV	S. Karaman	Democratization/ Enabling Environment for CS
13	Civil Society Platform for Natural Disasters and Humanitarian Aid	G. Girit	Aid in Disaster Situations
14	Association for Solidarity with IDPs	N. Tuysuz	Internally Displaced People
15	Association for Monitoring Equal Rights	N. Tastan	Disabled Rights
16	Purple Roof	S. Cavusoglu	Women's Platforms
17	Purple Roof	N. Berber	Women's Platforms
18	Initiative for Soldier Rights	Y. Aksakoglu	Human Rights/Soldier Rights

Annex III – Focus Group Meeting Report with Framework Partnership Agreement Projects

Annex III–Report on Focus Group Meeting with Regional Partnerships supported in Scope of FPAs

One focus group meeting was organized in order to receive inputs of CSOs that are implementing Framework Partnership Projects (FPAs) in İstanbul on 19 November 2013. Representatives from five of the seven FPA projects were present in the meeting, during which challenges, problems and lessons learnt regarding FPA implementation, civil society related issues, TACSO priority areas and phasing out strategy were discussed.

STE and TACSO staff, in line with guiding questions, facilitated the discussions. The questions were focused on 5 different areas: Civil participation to decision making, legal framework, capacity and resource issues, TACSO priority areas, expectations for themes in scope of P2P Program and TACSO Phasing out strategy.

Issues on Implementation of Multi Beneficiary IPA Project

There are challenging issues regarding the implementation of PRAG rules and national legislation in a regional project:

Implementation of multi beneficiary IPA projects are challenging due to different legislation applicable in different countries. Establishment of common procedures and implementation standards is a time-consuming process.

It would be very beneficial if comprehensive guidelines were developed for applicable legislation and procedures for every country in scope of FPAs. It would also be beneficial to provide trainings and workshops for FPA beneficiaries at the start of action for management of projects.

Some of the PRAG requirements such as rule of origin are hard to apply and create troubles to project teams to access good quality equipment. Also the rules regarding co-financing do not apply for in kind contributions to projects, which is discouraging for CSOs.

The uncertainty about the extension of the FPAs for additional 2 years, which is based on interim assessment with EC is troublesome: The terms of assessment are not clear for thebases ofextension decision. Uncertainty leads to confusion in planning the future steps for additional 2 years regarding the sustainability of the actions.

The concept of FPA projects brings a new way of governance for networks and coalitions at regional level, which bring challenging coordination issues:

Newly established network and coalitions have to invest more time and effort to reach to a common understanding of partnership.

In some cases, even if the network is established and functioning before being awarded with EC support in scope of FPAs, there can be problems: Foreseen roles and

responsibilities for project partners may not be achieved due to different understanding of project intervention. In some cases, even the partnership functions well, non-participatory approach held during the planning phase, e.g. decisions on budget allocations can cause problems in implementation.

Actions and measures for better establishment and strengthening of partnerships, internal governance and communication and structural issues shall be defined and planned within the projects. The FPAs experience show that partners generally focus on actions and events but not much on structuring the operation and governance which leads to problems in late stages of implementation.

Another issue to be tackled regarding the internal governance and communication of coalitions is the engagement of associates. In most of the cases, FPA partners are involved in the implementation of actions and in communications.However, when associates do not have direct roles regarding the actions, they are generally left out of implementation and communication.

Some FPA projects with partners from Balkan countries can benefit from close cultural environments and absence of language barriers; However, Turkish partners experience hardship in this regard.

FPAs bring flexibility for partners to focus on the most important aspect of the problem that project aims to tackle in the respective countries. However, varying focuses on the problem for each country brings a challenge to mark the progress in a common framework for project intervention.

In some cases, FPA partners benefit from deploying effective software for internal governance and communication such as "basecamp". It is also beneficial for lead organization and partners to develop internal guidelines for implementation of project that defines procedures and rules for using resources, reporting, communication etc. It is also beneficial to extend gatherings of project partners for project events to include partnership meetings to discuss implementation issues.

- Communication and visibility of the Multibeneficiary projects are designed for regional level and that brings challenges for reaching out to national/local level stakeholders:

Project websites need to be in English and this creates hardship for projects to be promoted at national levels. The project documents are in several languages, the necessity of resources for translation of all project documents is also challenging. The experience of FPAs indicates the need to adopt a translation strategy at the design phase of the projects.

It is important for FPAs to benefit from technical support for visibility and outreach in individual countries.

It is found useful to have national social media accounts in respective languages for the FPA projects; it enhances reach out to national/local stakeholders.

- Different levels of enabling environment for civil society brings different performances for success to reach project goals in implementation countries:

Some actions rely on good functioning of laws and regulations for right to access information, however, the success rates for partners' efforts to gather data changes in every country.

For Turkey, FPA partners are not able to access relevant information that are necessary for the project actions due to poor implementation regulations on access to information, absence of good quality, segregated statistics and shared data.

Lack of coordination between public institutions and absence of binding secondary legislation to ensure quality responses for inquire on access to information bring inconsistency in implementation.

In some cases, projects have obstacles to implement the full intervention in some project countries due to limitations in legal framework; e.g. providing legal advice on non-profit bases is banned in Turkey, only individuals registered to Bar Associations as lawyers can provide legal advice.

Suggestions for TACSO Priorities, P2P Program and Phasing Out Strategy

- TACSO may provide the following supports for the issues mentioned below for FPAs in Turkey:
- TACSO can provide technical assistance & expert support and organize workshops for further building of national level communication and visibility of the projects.

- TACSO may create platforms for bringing FPA partners together for experience sharing and sharing good conducts.

- TACSO offices in Western Balkans and Turkey can produce a guideline for implementing multi-beneficiary EU projects in terms of applicable laws, regulations and processes for each country.

- TACSO can support FPAs by producing guidebooks and resources to introduce IT solutions to enhance partnership building, internal governance and communication.

- In scope of P2P Program, suggestions were provided as below:
- TACSO can support actions for improving enabling environment for civil society related to FPAs such as improving implementation of legal framework on right to access information.

- TACSO can provide support to creation of platforms to introduce and share best practices to include cross cutting issues in projects (gender, disability and environment).

- TACSO can provide support to creation of platforms to introduce and share best practices on how to benefit from international and EU mechanisms for advocacy actions.

- TACSO can adopt an approach that is flexible enough to respond to changing needs of civil society at national level.

- In terms of phasing out strategy for TACSO and selection of resource centers, the following issues were highlighted during the discussions:

- Some of the functions of TACSO is also carried outby different actors in Turkey: STGM provides help desk for CSOs, capacity building supports are provided by STGM and Bilgi University, supports to civil activists are provided via Think Civil EU Program, researches and reports are produced by TUSEV, STGM, Bilgi University and supports for improving interconnectedness of civil society and right based approach is provided by IHOP, STGM and Think Civil EU Program.

- The characteristics of TACSO that comes forward and that shall be sustained are: Flexibility, team members that are experienced in field, accessible approach, lack of bureaucratic burdens, ability of providing meeting facilities for CSOs, neutrality and ensuring sustainable technical assistance.

- The resource organization that will be selected shall not be a public institution. There can also be a coalition of resource centers however it shall not be a crowded one.

- Some opinions pointed out that TACSO shall be maintained in the form of a project implemented by a small team andguided with a larger Advisory Group in Turkey.

List of Participants attented to the Focus Group Meeting

19 November 2013 İstanbul			
No	**Organization**	**Name**	**Related Network/ Area**
1	Helsinki Citizens Assembly	K. Ciftcioglu	Human rights
2	TUSEV	S. Dereci	Democratization/ Enabling Environment for CS
3	Friends of Cuisine Association	B. Gezeroglu	Access to Food, Food Security, Food Culture
4	STGM	T. Bahadır	Democratization/ Enabling Environment for CS
5	TEMA Foundation	D. Kutluay	Environmental Platforms
6	European Delegation to Turkey	E. Canalioglu	-

List of FPA Projects Implemented in Turkey

Name of Project	Objectives	Partners
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for All	1. To build awareness and capacity in partnership/network of employer organizations (EOs) in Balkan region regarding CSR in order to improve their participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue (as well as their influence on public sector reform process) at national and international levels; 2. To create awareness and build capacity in the network of employer organizations in the region to guide enterprises for their positive impacts on society and to integrate social, environmental, ethical, human rights and consumer concerns into their business operations and core strategy.	**The Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK)- project leader,** The International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Croatian Employers' Association (CEA), Business Confederation of Macedonia (BCM), Montenegrin Employers Federation (MEF), National Council of Small and Medium Sized Private Enterprises in Romania (CNIPMMR)
Triple A for Citizens - Access to information, Advice & Active help	The project foresees in: 1. mapping the existing provision of citizens information and advice services and producing a feasibility study; 2. launching 10 pilot projects to demonstrate the value of advice services to citizens and policy makers alike; 3. building a regional partnership based on twinning with other EU countries and a wider alliance of CSOs interested in citizens' advice	European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) (Belgium), National Foundation for Civil Society Development (Croatia), Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI) (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Civil Rights Program in Kosovo (CRP/K), Law Centres Federation (LCF) (UK), Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM) (Serbia), National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB Romania), National Association of Citizens Information Services (NACIS) (Ireland), **Association of Civil Society Development Centre (STGM) (Turkey)**

ENV.net Development of the ENV.net in West Balkan and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration	Greater commitment and capacity of the ENV.net to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes in the environment sector through analysis, monitoring and advocacy	Fondazione punto.sud (Italy) Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Albania Environment Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, Serbia European Environmental Bureau, Belgium Advocacy Training and Resource Center, Kosova **The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA), Turkey**
PERSON Partnership to Ensure Reform of Supports in Other Nations	1. To enhance the participation of civil society in legislative and policy reform on legal capacity to ensure domestic implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 2. To bring together like-minded civil society organisations in Balkan states to support people with disabilities to exercise their rights on an equal basis with others. Specific objective: To increase competencies of CSOs on both regional and national levels to strategically advocate and monitor reforms affecting persons with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities.	The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (National University of Ireland Mental Disability Rights Initiative (MDRI-S), Serbia SUMERO - Union of Association for Assisting People With Intellectual Disability of Federation, Bosnia & Herzegovina The Shine – Association for Social Affirmation of People with Psychosocial Disabilities, Croatia ISDY (Institute of Sustainability and Development of Youth), Kosovo **The Initiative for Human Rights in Mental Health (RUSIHAK), Turkey**
Civil society for good governance & anti-corruption in SEE capacity building for monitoring, advocacy and awareness raising	(i) Building an anti-corruption and good governance coalition of likeminded CSOs in Southeast Europe based on a joint strategy and agreed action agenda; (ii) Enhancing CSOs capacity, knowledge and commitment to provide analysis, monitoring and advocacy on policy, measures and reforms related to good governance and anti-corruption and to boost CSO cooperation and understanding	Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria **Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation, Turkey** House of Europe (HoE), Albania Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN), Bosnia and Herzegovina INSTITUTI RIINVEST, Kosovo Ohrid Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs, Macedonia

		Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), Macedonia
	beyond regional and national levels; (iii) Promoting the state-civil society dialogue and improve the environment for civil activism at regional and national level; (iv) Contributing to an enhanced cross-country public/civic support and participation for good governance and anti-corruption measures; (v) Helping the CSOs themselves to improve their legitimacy, transparency and accountability.	Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (CLDS), Serbia
		Institute Alternative, Montenegro
		Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro
		Partnership for Social Development (PSD), Croatia
		Forum of Civic Action FORCA Pozega, Serbia
		"Syri i Vizionit", Kosovo
		Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' Skopje (IDSCS), Macedonia
ESSEDRA **Environmentally Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Rural Areas**	To strengthen the capacities of the CSO's to provide analysis, strategic advocacy and monitoring of relevant policies related to the food system and the rural development; To participate in the public debate on sustainable rural development in the Balkans and Turkey and influence policy and decision making process; To promote better linkages between viable rural communities functioning and resilient local food system, sustainable use of the land and biodiversity conservation; To raise awareness among Balkans and Turkish citizens on the influence of public policies on their daily lives and on how they can effectively influence the policy formulation and implementation processes.	SLOW FOOD, Italy European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism Ltd., UK Slou Fud Bitola, Macedonia Association of Slow Food Convivia in Bulgaria Udruženje Mladih za promociju tradicionalnih proizvoda "Okusi Hercegovinu" Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania, Romania **MUTFAK DOSTLARI DERNEGI - MDD (FOKA), Turkey** VULLNETARIZMI NDERKOMBETAR PER ZHVILLIM NE SHQIPERI, VIS ALBANIA Association "Natura Balkanika, Serbia Udruga Kinookus, Croatia
Cross-border citizens' network for peace, inter-communal	Strengthening sustainable transnational civic networks as empowered actors for peace, reconciliation & human security at local, country & regional	**Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Turkey** **SeConS – Development Initiative Group, Serbia** **Association for Democratic Prosperity**

reconciliation & human security	levels to stimulate & enhance socio-political & legal transformation in the process of EU integration in the Balkans & Turkey.	**– Zid, Montenegro** **Institute for Regional and International Studies, Bulgaria** **Centre for Research, Documentation and Publication (CRDP), Kosovo** **Youth Resource Centre Tuzla, Bosnia & Herzegovina**
Balkan Civil Society Acquis **Strengthening the Advocacy and Monitoring Potential and Capacities of CSOs**	1. Strengthen foundations for monitoring and advocacy on issues related to enabling environment and sustainability of civil society at regional and country level; 2. Strengthen structures for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) integration and participation in European Union (EU) policy and accession processes at European and country level.	Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), Macedonia European Network of National Civil Society Associations, Belgium European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL), Hungary CNVOS - Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs, Slovenia Opportunities Associates Romania (OAR), Romania **Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), Turkey** Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), Albania Center for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations (CRNVO), Montenegro Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), Macedonia Foundation "Spirit of Love" Diakonia Agapes, Albania Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF), Kosovo Association Humanitarian Organization VESTA, Bosnia & Herzegovina Civil Society Promotion Center (CSPC), Bosnia & Herzegovina Association for promotion of human rights and media freedoms "CENZURA PLUS", Croatia Civic Initiatives, Serbia Partners Albania, Center for Change and

	Conflict Management, Albania
	Albanian Civil Society Foundation, Albania
	Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO), Serbia

Annex IV – TACSO Local Advisory Group (LAG) Workshop Report

ANNEX - IV: LAG Discussions & Suggestions for TACSO 2 Work Plan

Overall Views about TACSO Project
With respect to overall integrity of the TACSO Project, the term "support to strengthening" may be used instead of "capacity building" except when necessary. For "vulnerable", the Turkish word "hassas" may be used instead of "kırılgan" in TACSO tests.
TACSO should make its language "Turkish" to the extent possible.
Under TACSO Project, a dual system was adopted in Turkey just for budgetary reasons. There will be 4 LAG (Local Advisory Group) meetings once a year in the context of TACSO activities in Turkey. There will also be a wide meeting on annual basis participated by all members (core and deputy). In every 3 months following this wide meeting, there will be 3 LAG meetings where the attendance of full members only would be supported under the project. In these "narrower" LAG meetings, alternate members may attend on their own means. The purpose of this kind of organization is to evaluate the overall direction of the project together with a wider group of CSOs at least once a year and to ensure that duties and responsibilities given to TACSO regional guides and LAG are fulfilled in narrower meetings as envisaged for all countries. Nevertheless, the target is to enable alternate members to attend each LAG meeting. Preliminary information and report each meeting will be shared with all full and alternate members. The TACSO TA (Technical Assistance)team will investigate whether there can be a method for ensuring the participation of alternate members to LAG meetings considering budget constraintswhich are otherwise kept narrow in terms of participation on the basis of the principle of equal opportunities.
Charged with tasks such as monitoring project activities, ensuring the compliance of envisaged project activities with the needs of civil society and giving necessary directions, the LAG is actually responsible for steering the project. Details of this can be found in TACSO's regional LAG guides. The TACSO LAG meets 4 times a year; in one with all (core and deputy members) members and in 3 with its core members. Since the TACSO project is a service contract, it's monitoring and evaluation as well as impact assessment are all undertaken by the EU as it is the case with all other kinds of support extended by the European Commission.

As a technical support project, it is critical that TACSO project proceeds in coordination with EU supported initiatives geared to supporting the development of civil society in Turkey. While the TACSO project introduces it's facilitating and complementing activities for civil society, there is need to ensure the effective operation of LAG and develop additional mechanisms.

In designing support to networks, the main principle and content may be decided upon by forming a working group from LAG members in order not to give way to any conflict of interest.

Communication and social media workshops organized jointly by TACSO and STGM present a coverage by building overall information and introducing sources on communication and basically focus on social media skills. However, it may be suggested for LAG to consider the need to exclusively design communication workshops for local CSOs and include in its activity plan support in this area.

In designing TACSO support, creating and implementing content, the form of support may be shaped by soliciting the contribution of LAG members relating to measures and criteria to be adopted in this regard.

In designing TACSO support, creating and implementing content in supporting different groups of CSOs, the form of support may be shaped by soliciting the contribution of LAG members relating to measures and criteria to be adopted in this regard.

In designing TACSO supports, it is suggested to adopt an approach focusingon mutual learning in each activity and set up working groups from among LAG members in determining content and method for each of different forms of support.

The approach adopted at this stage in relation to training of trainers envisaged under the TACSO work plan is to conduct these trainings in a way thatdirectly strengthens the institutional capacity of CSOs. This may take the form of organizing trainings for experts who, in their respective fields, provide capacity building support to CSOs. It is important, however, to organize these trainings together with a working group so as not to give way to any conflict of interest among related LAG members with respect to participation criteria, content and methodology.

While designing TACSO activities, some measures may be considered to ensure that all actors in the field of activity concerned can benefit from these activities.

Suggestion: For TACSO to establish more effective communication with CSOs that are active in the areaof disabilities,it may be considered to set up a working group within LAG concentrating on this issue.

Measures are envisaged at national and regional level for effective use of TACSO website, weekly electronic letter, quarterly newsletters and social media accounts. Besides, activities will be shared, to the extent possible through internet in order to reach more and more CSO representatives.
A support facility regarding this suggestion is already designed in TACSO's work plan.
Given that LAG membership is quite large according to regional guides, it may be considered to invite representatives from the private sector as guest participants in relevant issues if found appropriate by LAG. LAG may include this issue in its agenda for more detailed discussion.
In the context of this suggestion, support of government representatives from among LAG members may be asked for, in addition to TACSO communication means, to disseminate information concerning P2P (People to People Program) activities.
In designing TACSO support, creating and implementing content, the form of support may be shaped by soliciting the contribution of LAG members relating to measures and criteria to be adopted in this regard.

Activities Suggested for the TACSO Project
Component: Improving the Visibility of Civil Society
Both civil society and the media should be improved in their mutual literacy.
Ensuring that CSOs active in the field of media and communication include visibility and promotion in their agenda.
Strengthening communication among CSOs.
Supporting CSOs and groups engaged in media monitoring and considering the ways of making this work more effective.
TACSO may use "How to do it" video so as to cover different areas (i.e. blogger and wordpress).
Workshops for building communication and social media skills in local CSOs: these workshops may be organized with respect to thematic areas.
In addition to CSO workshops for communication, strengthening ties with local governments to support CSO visibility (i.e. through events likefestivals).
CSOsneed to have their own media.
Practice oriented media training on specific issues.
Using public spots to enhance the visibility of CSOs.
There is need for a preliminary work on hate speech and also a strategy to reach the media must be determined in a workshop.
Supporting efforts to mobilize some sections (columnists, news agencies etc.) having affinity with CSO activities.
Preparing a "civil society guide" for the members of the media.
Contacts with managers of popular websites (i.e. Ekşi Sözlük-Sour times)
Support to more effective and efficient use of existing tools (websites, Facebook etc.).

News by vulnerable groups is important in mainstreaming and thus must be supported.
Having CSOs follow and report to the national and local media and conducting training on this issue.
Situation analysis on the media at different levels.
CSOs should be in touch with the media not only on the basis of specific activities but as a continuous process.
CSOs criticizing and deciphering the language of the media.
Bringing together and analysing past studies and researches on the media-civil society.
Strengthening ties between media CSOs or CSOs established by media workers (i.e. Association of Parliament Reporters, Association of Social Media Experts, Union of Journalists etc.) and other CSOs.
Efforts and activities geared to altering the perception of society regarding CSOs.
Conducting a situation analysis to explore reasons why the media does not contribute to the visibility of CSOs (This analysis should include, at national and local level, internet and citizen reporting and reporting on rights) and developing an action plan with the media, CSOs and funding agencies in line with the outcomes of this analysis.
Component: Building Capacity in Civil Society
There is need for information building about legislative framework applicable to CSOs.
There is shortage of information on how CSOs would take part in processes/It is critical that CSOs can take part in legislative processes in their respective fields of interest/CSO participation to decision making processes and monitoring the impact of this participation are both important.
It is important to strengthen advocacy skills of organizations active in cross-cutting areas; there is need for needs assessment.
There must be support to organizations working on cross-cutting issues (i.e. disabled women) and to strengthen the relations between these areas and issues.

There must be a mapping of "who is doing what" in civil society.
Specific support actions must be designed for areas such as rotation in management, democratic management, sharing of information by CSOs and impact of rotation on democracy in organizations.
Impact assessment by CSOs themselves must be conducted at regional level and with technical support.
Need to improve financial sustainability and transparency.
CSOs need to share more information with a wider audience.
Need to have platforms of partnership among CSOs.
There is need to support organizations in areas suchas accessing data for needs analysis and analysing available data (i.e. open sources, digital data, programmes for analysis etc.).
Developing a guide for fields of expertise, activities and reports of CSOs that they produce in order to support cooperation and networking.
Information about government's relief work inside and outside the country.
Supporting civil society for internal dialogue through a rights-based approach/Supporting dialogue within civil society to give it a common ground based on rights.
CSO skills in monitoring governmental agencies must be improved.
There is need to provide spaceto discuss the corporate identity of platforms.
Weaknesses in the fields of strategic plan development and human resources management should be improved.
Conducting impact assessment and sharing experience in relation to the theory of change.
Representation-Advocacy should be included in capacity development actions as topics.
Needs analysis – research for information building should be supported.

There is need for innovative new methods and tools in access to information to communicate with the target groups and maintaining consultation with the public sector.
Local CSOs cannot reach funds. Can TACSO act as facilitator in this regard?
Supporting long-term rotations to encourage mutual learning for CSOs taking part in the People to People Programme.
Building capacity in grassroots organization in organisational issues and representation.
Making sure that CSOs benefit from developments in the fields of entrepreneurship and motivation.
More effective use of TACSO-CSODatabase by national/local CSOs as well.
The webinar method may be used to spread information.
Activities bringing together civil society and public actors.
Support to institutional capacity building, vision-mission definition and development of short-medium-long term strategic plans during the training of trainers.
Definition of and support to voluntary participation and creating a supportive legislative framework.
Mechanisms for obtaining information may be suggested and improved.
Instruments may be developed to ensure financial transparency.
Instead of 3 days long trainings for trainers, there may be longer-term and interactive training programmes with exchange of experiences that can be traceable in electronic environments.
Support to right to information and participation.
Strengthening regional capacities and institutionalizing existing relations.
Building awareness in public and among CSOs on policy line and advocacy so as to build capacity in local CSOs for advocacy activities.

Component: Strengthening Supportive Environments for Civil Society and Inter-Sectorial Dialogue
In the context of campaigning and advocacy work, organization of workshops where CSOs can share their good and bad experiences (particularly at public-civil society level).
Improving the relations of CSOs with local governments.
In addition to improving dialogue and cooperation between CSO actors, it is important to makethese more visible.
Good examples of cooperation between sectors may be reported and shared; good examples of TED talks may be used.
Good examples of public-private-CSO joint activities may be collected in books.
Dialogue between CSOs and private sector (panel discussions, workshops, etc.) should be improved.
Rights of peoplewith disabilities and accessibility issues may be included in activities under multi-beneficiary people to people programme.
There may be activities on financial sustainability, further cooperation with donors and encouraging strong foundations to philanthropy.
Setting up a separate board of stakeholders within LAGencompassing CSOs, public, the media and private sector and recruiting representatives from private sector.
There is need to share good examples of financially strong CSOs. This is also related to the development of a legislative framework.
It may be contributory if TACSO LAGs in different countries get together.
There must be information sharing in civil society related contacts and partnerships/developing and strengthening cooperation between regional and national level organizations and networks.
TACSO may conduct activities bringing together donors and CSOs.
A multi-country P2P activity on the rights of persons with disabilities and enabling environmental conditions.

A P2P activity on hate speech
Bringing CSOs in contact with citizens together for 3-4 days at regional/local level.
There may be a meeting addressing the issue of coordination with governmental agencies.
Sharing local experiences in combating discriminationand promoting the participation of CSOs working on disability and environment
Under P2P again, the impact of urban transformation on vulnerable groups and methods of intervention may be discussed.
Component: Supporting EU Civil Society Instrument
Preraring annual report of CSF (Civil Society Facility) activities in Turkey.
Preparing a report on civil society participation to IPA sub-sectors.
Including civil society in all sectors and setting up working groups (for the EUMinistry).
Process and impact assessment on views solicited regarding EU IPA II issues.
EU support must be assessed on annual basis.
An overall evaluation of support extended in the context of IPA sub-sectors.
CSOs should not be the only participant to the CSP(country strategy paper). For example, there may be preliminary work with civil society organisations and transportation sector representatives for developing progress indicators.
It is important to share information about civil society contribution to different sectors in CSP (country strategy paper).
It would be better in terms of visibility if there are annual reports related to the 4th component.

Annex V – Needs, Expectations, Actions and Tools Proposed for TACSO 2

ANNEX V – Priorities for TACSO 2

4.1 Increasing Visibility of CSOs and Their Contribution to the Society

4.1.1 Needs & Expectations

- Media interest to and coverage of CSOs' activities should be increased since media attention has been low.
- There is a need to improve literacy of civil society and media in reciprocity.
- There is a need to comprehend and understand media reactions in Turkey. Information is needed to understand the approaches of different media institutions and organs (e.g. national, local, mainstream, internet andsocial media) towards civil society and the reasons behind low coverage.
- Media language is expected to be transformed into a rights-based language. Hate speech that is commonly used in media should be eliminated with the intervention of CSOs having improved capacity for monitoring, revealing and criticizing the language of the media.
- CSOs should be able to efficiently politicise and publicise the knowledge that they produce/generate and hence their capacities to act in this manner should be improved.It is necessary to enhance skillsof CSOs on communication, public relations, international relations with networks and effective social media usage.
- CSOS should be prioritizing communication and visibility actions in their specific agenda and planning. Accordingly, the skills, knowledge and capacity of CSOs should be strengthened on strategic communication as a part of their advocacy work.

4.1.2 Activities & Tools

TACSO can provide technical assistance, expert support and organize workshops for further strengthening communication and visibility of CSO activities. A list of possible activities and tools are provided below:

Studies:

- Supporting or conducting a situation analysis on media to understand the reasons of low coverage of CSO activities in media. The analysis should cover national and local level media,internet and citizens' media and rights reporting. Based on the analysis findings, a participatory planning workshop could be conducted to propose media outreach strategies.

Expert & Technical Support

- Providing experts and expertise on strategizing communication, visibility and outreach activities of CSOs.
- Supporting of CSOs working onmedia monitoring and, activities could be conducted to enhance their work towards more effective monitoring and dissemination of results.

Visibility Support:

- Supporting the participation of media representatives in CSOs' activities.
- The activities of CSOscould be promoted and their visibility could be increased via TACSO web-site, e-newsletter and other news releases. The newsletters could be sent to a larger group of media representatives.

Workshops:

- Conducting workshops on hate speech to make a situation analysis and identifying a media outreach strategy.
- Workshops could be conducted to improve media-CSOs dialogue with the participation of both groups (on topics such as advocacy on fundamental rights and strengthening/empowering of sensitive groups).
- Workshops could be conducted (specifically for local CSOs) to strengthen their social media skills and infrastructure.

Resources & Tools:

- Producing some resources such as "How to" videos on easily accessible, effective and sustainable media tools (e.g. blogs, twitter) and further disseminating TACSO media guide.

People to People Topics

- CSOs-media relations to share experiences, best-practices and lessons learnt.

4.2 Enhancing Capacity and Competency of CSOs, Networks, Platforms, Initiatives at Different Levels

4.2.1 Needs & Expectations

Needs and Expectations of Networks and Platforms

- There is a strong need to assess previous information and knowledge accumulated on networks, platforms and initiatives in Turkey. This also includes an assessment of previous support provided to civil society by the EU. Furthermore, there is an expectation to map CSOs in Turkey in order tobetter assess the situation and hence plan targeted support actions. It is expected that such a comprehensive work would be important to have the necessary information about networks/platforms/initiatives and to develop relevant instruments for sustainability.
- It seems necessary to create a space for debate and discussion over concepts and notions regarding networks, partnerships, platforms and initiatives.
- Bringing together partners, members, platforms and networks together for experience sharing on best practices and lessons learnt is a clear need of various groups (e.g. networking between FPA projects and relatively stronger and successful platforms with others) at local, national and regional levels.
- Many networks and platforms in Turkey need to strengthen their skills and capacity in monitoring policies and their impact on their respective areas. Furthermore, support is

expected in enhancing their advocacy via developing strategic advocacy plans.

- Last, but not least, networks and platforms expect support regarding their institutional development on financial sustainability, institutionalization, internal communication and human resources.

Needs and Expectations of CSOs

- Advocacy, strategic planning and human resources management as well as implementation of campaigns seem to be some major areas that CSOs continue to need support.

- Many CSOs lack lawyers or legal practitioners from the civil society field who would creatively and openly seek for ways to improve the legal framework and thereby supporting advocacy strategies.

- Another important area that needs strengthening for many CSOs seems to be their relations with their constituencies. CSOs need to learn different and new methods to strengthen their ties with their members and their constituencies and to effectively mobilize them for action. Furthermore, tools and methods to link local level advocacy with national level are also required.

- It is important to support networking and joint work of CSOs working on different areas while strengthening the advocacy capacity of those that already work on cross-cutting issues (e.g. women and disability).

- Supporting dissemination of information on how to benefit from international mechanisms (e.g. ECoHR, CoE, EC, and UN) in advocacy actions is critical.

- There seems to be an increasing need towards enhancing skills of data management. CSOs need to increase their knowledge on tools for data collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination. They specifically expect to learn about new digital tools that are affordable and user-friendly.

- Lastly, it would be necessary to support internal democracy and ethical conduct among CSOs. Democratic internal governance, rotation in decision-making positions, increased and equal representation of women and youth are some aspects to be promoted, supported and strengthened.

4.2.2 Activities & Tools

Studies:

- Conducting a baseline study, a mapping of networks and platforms in Turkey.
- Gathering an archive/documentation on CSOs works would be very useful.

Expert & Technical Support:

- Creating a pool of lawyers and legal practitioners who have experience with the civil society field and who can support advocacy actions of CSOs working on different areas.
- Supporting the development of policies and position papers of CSOs, networks and platforms.
- Supporting participatory conduct of platforms and networks via funds, human

resources/experts and time supports.

- Continuing case-based support tailored to the need is critically important.

Workshops/Trainings:

- Conducting workshops and meetings forsharing best-practices, information and lessons-learnt (e.g. on advocacy, campaign management).
- Workshops/trainings could be conducted on topics such as grassroots organisation, representativeness, and legitimacy.
- Workshops/trainings on introducing the concepts asadvocacy, politics, and policy and the role of CSOs (specifically at local level).
- Holding workshops/trainings on digital tools such as basecamp, data gathering/analysis/storing programmes, and other open source tools. These could be both in the form of peer-to-peer experience exchange sessions or trainings.
- Developing and implementing longer-term trainings with interactive öethods that enables participation.Also developing trainings electronically should be prefered rather than training programs in rooms lasting for a few days.

Resources & Tools

- Publishing guidebooks on possible IT solutions towards enhancing partnership building, internal governance, communication and advocacy.
- Producing a guidebook covering applicable laws, regulations and processes in countries of WB and TR to enable smooth and effective implementation of EU funded regionally projects (FPAs).

People to People Topics

Some possible topics for People to People activities are provided below:

- Peace and reconciliation processes;
- Children's Rights;
- LGBT rights;
- Women's rights, violence against women, increasing emphasis of family;
- Hate speech and hate crimes;
- Climate change;
- Poverty;
- Successful implementation of cross-cutting issues (gender& environment& disability)
- Discrimination;
- Independent civil monitoring;
- Shadow reporting;
- Disaster management;
- Self-advocacy;
- Urbanisation and its effects on sensitive groups;
- Impact analysis;
- Increasing knowledge on new approaches such as Theory of Change;

- How to benefit from international and EU mechanisms for advocacy actions?;
- Disability and accessibility.

4.3 Strengthening the Enabling Environment for CSOs and Their Cooperation & Dialogue with Decision-makers and other Stakeholders

4.3.1 Needs & Expectations

Enabling Environment

- There is a clear need to transform the dynamics of dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions. The relations between these two stakeholders should be taken into consideration with a holistical approach that is based on non-hierarchical and egalitarian manner. Public institutions should be accepting civil society as an indispensable stakeholder and should be realizing a legal transformation which would enable CSOs participation in public activities and programmes at all levels.
- CSOs expect that all sorts of activities to reform the legal framework should be in line with international and EU standards. Furthermore, due to the fact that even the existing legislation is not implemented, there is also a need for activities and advocacy to ensure that the public institutions act in line with existing duties and responsibilities laid down in existing laws.
- There is a need to support the activities to improve   existing legal framework accodingly with the international and EU standards to provide enabling environment for civil society. In addition, there is also a need to increase awareness on what politics, policy and advocacy mean both in the public sector and among the CSOs, specifically at local level as well as civil society's indispensable role for a functioning participatory democracy.
- It is deemed necessary to support actions to monitor CSO participation in decision-making processes and follow the impact of this participation.
- One important topic that CSOs need support is on right to access to information. CSOs expect that supports are provided to activities toimprove access to information. Also, the activities that   advocatesimprovement of public institutions' capacity in terms of approach to access to information and performance to produce, diversify, specify and present information in a continuous and consistent manner should be supported.
- The capacity of CSOs should be strengthened in using information and their right to access to information more strategically and tactically in their advocacy efforts. Furthermore, their capacity should also be strengthened in gathering and analysing information systematically. Thereby, they would be able to identify institutions or mechanisms that are not working and pressurize them via systematic information requests. Lastly, it seems important that collaboration among CSOs is indispensable in ensuring coordinated action regarding access to information.

Dialogue and Cooperation with Decision-makers & Other Stakeholders

- There is a need for new and creative methods and tools to access to information, dialogue with public institutions, reaching out to target groups and constituencies.
- CSOs expect from the private sector to provide support to rights-based actions within the context of social responsibility projects.

- CSOs expect support from donor institutions for financial sustainability and increased cooperation, and creating strong foundations towards philanthropy.

- Skills, knowledge and tools should be accumulated and disseminated regarding rights-based monitoring of the private sector.

4.3.2 Activities & Tools

Expert & Technical Support

- Creating a pool of lawyers who could support the advocacy actions of CSOsfrom a legal perspective (stakeholders such as bar associations could be mobilized). Workshops and trainings could be provided to the lawyers in the pool regarding civil society, enabling environment, international and EU standards, etc.

- Technical support could be provided for CSOs in developing and implementing a plan for access to information/request for information.

- Supporting actions and projects monitoring public funding to CSOs.

- TACSO LAGs could involve members from all stakeholders (CSOs, public institutions, private sector, media).

Workshops & Trainings

- Conducting workshops and trainings regarding access to information (specifically to strengthen technical capacity).

- Conducting a series of workshops aiming to support dialogue between donors and CSOs.

Resources & Tools

- Gathering best practices and publishing a book regarding cooperation and dialogue between different stakeholders (e.g. public sector and CSOs; private sector and CSOs; among public and private sectors and CSOs). New tools could be utilized such as TED talk videos.

People to People Topics

- Transparency and accountability of public policies in relation to OGP.
- Citizenship and participation ofcitizens.
- Access to information regarding legislations and practices in the EU and advocacy initiatives.
- Digital tools for gathering, storing, using and interpreting data.

Supporting Civil Society Facility (CSF)

4.4.1 Needs & Expectations

- CSOs expect that process and impact assessment should be conducted regarding views and opinions received during the IPA 2 consultation processes.

- Civil society, has been defined as a cross-cutting aspect for all sectors in the IPA II Country Strategy Paper (CSP).It is important to transform the design of all sector-based interventions and progress indicators to mainstream CSO participation and contribution from the beginning. CSO participation should not be based on quantitative approach,

should be timely, effectively implemented and monitored.

- Annual evaluations should be conducted regarding the EU support to civil society in Turkey. Such an evaluation is expected to include all supports under other IPA 2 sub sectors for the upcoming implemention period.

4.4.2 Activities & Tools

- Conducting consultation meetings with CSOs.
- Producing annual reports for this component, updating needs assessment and review work-plan accordingly.
- Creating multi-thematic working groups (per sector in the CSP) to create a plan to integrate and ensure the qualitative and quantitative participation ofCSOs for each sector.

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