

PERCEPTIONS OF TURKISH CYPRIOT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TOWARDS CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY



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European Union.





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The Civic Space is a Technical Assistance Project funded by the European Union (EU) under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

The aims of Civic Space Project are:

- Increase and improve the capacities and actions of Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations (CSOs)
- Increase collaboration and improve joint actions between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot CSOs
- Strengthen CSO's role and civic engagement in the Turkish Cypriot community
- Foster cooperation, support and exchange of best practices between Turkish Cypriot CSOs and CSOs of the EU Member States as well as with EU-wide CSOs and CSOs networks.

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Table of Contents

1. Methodology	1
2. Executive Summary	2
3. Findings	4
3.1. Characteristics and capacity of civil society organisations	4
3.2. Management capacity	10
3.3. Financial capacity	15
3.4. Networking capacity	18
3.5. Planning capacity	21
3.6. Communication activities	22
3.7. Trainings	27
3.8. Impact of Turkish Cypriot CSOs	30
3.9. Structures and mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions	34
3.10. Cooperation with Greek Cypriot CSOs	46
3.11. Cooperation with business and media	51

Table of Figures

Figure 3.1: Year of establishment of the organisations	4
Figure 3.2: Number of paid employees within the organisation	5
Figure 3.3: Number of paid full time employees within the organisation	6
Figure 3.4: Number of volunteers in the organisation	7
Figure 3.5: Problems existing with regards to volunteerism	8
Figure 3.6: Activities done for attracting new members and volunteers	9
Figure 3.7: Legal status of the organisation	10
Figure 3.8: Type of organisation	11
Figure 3.9: Management and governance in CSOs	12
Figure 3.10: Workplaces of CSOs	13
Figure 3.11: Sufficiency of workplaces	14
Figure 3.12: CSOs' 2015 budget	15
Figure 3.13: Income sources of the organisation	16
Figure 3.14: Knowledge about the funding sources	17
Figure 3.15: Membership in networks/platforms	18
Figure 3.16: Reasons for cooperating with other CSOs	19
Figure 3.17: Problems encountered when interacting with other CSOs	20
Figure 3.18: Methods used during activity planning	21
Figure 3.19: Existence of a strategic communication plan	22
Figure 3.20: Communication activities	23
Figure 3.21: Satisfaction with the CSOs' communication activities	24
Figure 3.22: Communication channels used	25
Figure 3.23: Engaging with target groups	26
Figure 3.24: Trainings attended	27
Figure 3.25: Training needs	28
Figure 3.26: Efficiency of their advocacy activities	29
Figure 3.27: Impact on society	30
Figure 3.28: Significance of issues related to the northern part of Cyprus	31
Figure 3.29: Impact of civil society organisations on related issues	32
Figure 3.30: Importance of characteristics of a civil society organisation	33
Figure 3.31: Main problems of the organisation	34
Figure 3.32: Inspection by a "public authority"	35
Figure 3.33: Problems with "law" related to their sector of activities	36

Table of Figures

Figure 3.34: Penalties	37
Figure 3.35: Most important issues to be done by the "administration" in its policy towards CSOs	38
Figure 3.36: Satisfaction with the level of inclusion in policy making and implementation	39
Figure 3.37: Participation in activities	40
Figure 3.38: Perceptions about public sector-CSO cooperation	41
Figure 3.39: Receiving funds from the "Turkish Cypriot administration"	42
Figure 3.40: CSOs' public sources of funding	43
Figure 3.41: Organisations found successful	44
Figure 3.42: Reasons for success	45
Figure 3.43: Opinions on cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs	46
Figure 3.44: Conducting activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs	47
Figure 3.45: Willingness to conduct activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs	48
Figure 3.46: Type of activities that can be conducted with Greek Cypriot CSOs	49
Figure 3.47: Importance of areas for cooperation between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs	50
Figure 3.48: Support provided to civil society by the Turkish Cypriot business sector	51
Figure 3.49: Main reasons for the Turkish Cypriot business sector not to support CSOs	52
Figure 3.50: Most important things to be done to improve business sector and civil society collaboration	53
Figure 3.51: Media visibility of the Turkish Cypriot CSOs	54
Figure 3.52: The main reasons for the lack of visibility of the Turkish Cypriot civil society in the media	55
Figure 3.53: Most important things to be done for a more effective collaboration between civil society organisations and the media sector	56

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

The survey about the perceptions of Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations towards civil society capacity has been commissioned to Infakto RW, an Istanbul based independent research company by the Civic Space.

The questionnaire of the survey has been prepared during April and May 2016 by Infakto RW team with the support of the Civic Space project team. The questionnaire has been designed to collect data from participating CSOs on the following topics:

Interviewed organisations were selected from a list provided by Civic Space based on the "ministry of interior", the foundations "administration" and Civic Space databases. The total number of organisations that have been interviewed was 240, which were assembled together to constitute a representativeness of the civil society sector in the northern part of Cyprus. The interviewees include associations, unions, sports clubs and foundations from different sectors.

- Capacity of the CSOs: human resources, management capacity, financial capacity, networking capacity, planning capacity
- Communication activities
- Experience of the CSOs on their field
- Trainings they participated in and needs for further trainings
- Societal impact of the Turkish Cypriot CSOs
- Cooperation between CSOs and the public institutions
- Cooperation with the Greek Cypriot CSOs
- Cooperation with Business and Media

After the approval of the questionnaire in English, it has been translated to Turkish.

Face to face interviews were conducted in the northern part of Cyprus between July 1st and August 26th, 2016.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

The main findings are presented below under each survey category:

Capacity of the CSOs

- Roughly half of the organisations have started to operate since 2000. Most organisations (about 80%) do not have paid employees. More than half (60%) has a maximum number of 20 volunteers in the organisation. Almost half of the respondents do not see any problem with volunteerism; yet, lack of interest from potential volunteers and lack of traditions on volunteering are listed as the most frequent problems encountered.
- Most of the organisations describe themselves as "CSO", "community-based organisation", "not-for-profit", or "self-help group".
- While 25% of the responding CSOs were established in 1980 or before, 63% of the associations are founded after 2000.
- 38% of the organisations do not own the place they work in, but they do not pay rent either, whereas 21% of them do not have an office. Only half of the organisations that do have an office evaluate the physical capacity of their offices as "sufficient".
- When it comes to their 2015 budget, about 36% of the organisations preferred not to respond. Yet, membership fees, donations from members and other individuals are listed as the main income sources by a significant number of organisations. A majority also does not know about funding opportunities provided by "the administration" or "municipalities".

- The main reason for collaborating with other CSOs seems to be advocating for a common cause; however, in the process of interaction, lack of finances to maintain the partnership appears to be the most frequent problem encountered.

Communication activities & engagement with target groups

- The vast majority of the organisations conduct their own communication activities and only 5% have a staff/representative responsible for communication. Most of them state that they have a strategic communication plan. 85% of the respondents indicated "face to face communication" as their preferred choice of medium.
- For engaging with their target groups, organisations mostly use social media, trainings and compiling data or information. On the opposite, website or blog usage as well as policy advocacy (providing comments for policy documents, newsletter submission to the decision-makers, organising policy seminars) are only used by a few organisations.

Training participation and needs

- The respondent CSOs took part mostly in "working with volunteers" trainings followed by "CSO management" and "communication" trainings. Participation in specific issue based trainings such as "conflict resolution" had lower response rates compared to trainings focusing on project management. When asked about their training needs, the responses were also similar with most preferred topics being: "working with volunteers", "communication", "transparency and

accountability", "project implementation", and "fundraising".

Societal impact of Turkish Cypriot CSOs

- The responding CSOs think that the majority of the issues are equally significant and important, the top listed ones being: "education" (92%), "social services" (92%), "safety and security" (92%), "gender equality" (91%) or "health" (91%). The "re-unification of Cyprus" is evaluated as being relatively less critical (68%).
- CSOs believe that their impact on "gender equality" (77%), "social services" (76%), "education" (75%), "culture and arts" (73%), "safety and security" (73%) and "animal protection" (73%) is slightly more positive than on other issues. Their positive impact on "fight against human trafficking" (63%), "fight against corruption" (63%) and "accountability and good governance" (57%) were scored lower. The only issue on which less than half of the CSOs perceive to have a positive impact is the "re-unification of Cyprus" (40%).

Cooperation between the "administration" and CSOs

- Among the main problems indicated by respondents, the lack of funding sources takes the lead. 63% of the respondents suggest that they did not receive any funding from the "Turkish Cypriot administration". However, when asked what the "administration" should do in priority in its policy towards CSOs, the top answer is not about funding but about a need for "specialized structures within the administration for cooperation with CSOs". 57% of the CSOs feel like some organisations are excluded from process of participation and cooperation with the "administrator" and 54% state "there is no clear contact person in the "administration" for regular contact and dialogue".
- More than half of the ones that are funded by the "administration" state that they received funding from either the "president's office" or a "municipality".

Cooperation with the Greek Cypriot CSOs

- 63% of the respondents' view on cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs is negative. Besides, nearly 90% of them have not conducted and 68% are not willing to conduct

activities in cooperation with Greek Cypriot CSOs.

- Those who are willing to conduct activities in collaboration with Greek Cypriot CSOs prefer competitive activities like tournaments or sports contests and secondly cultural/social/art events.

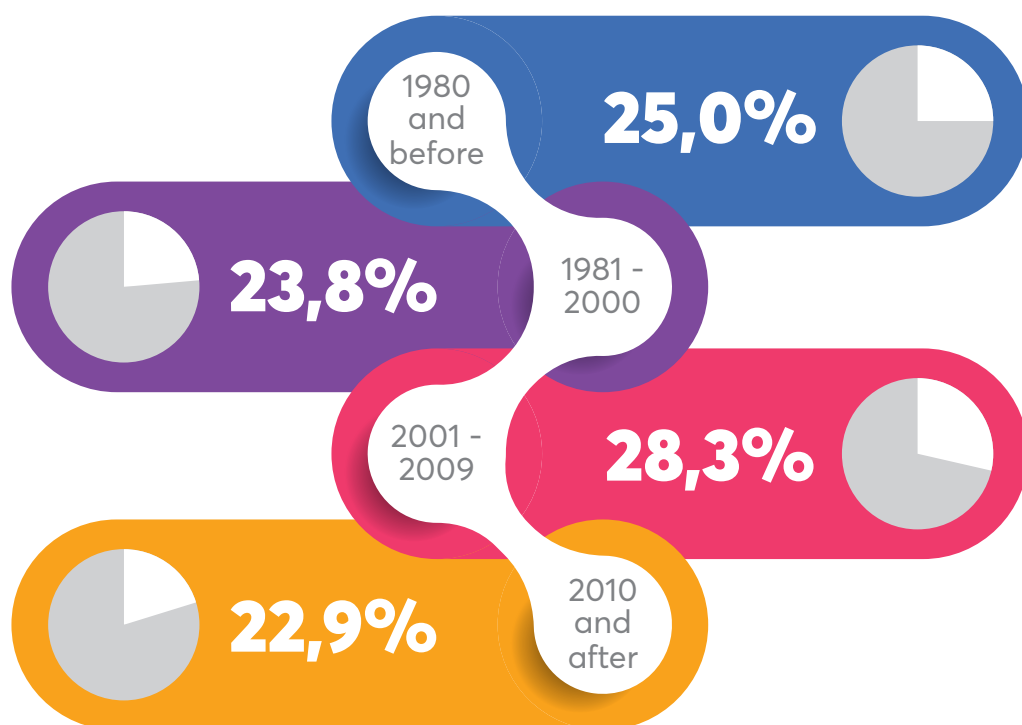
Cooperation with the business sector and media

- More than half of the respondents consider support provided by the Turkish Cypriot business sector insufficient. They first point out the lack of interest of the business sector in CSOs' endeavours, and then, economic obstacles like recession as reasons for low support.
- Communication between CSOs and the business sector appears as the first point to be improved.
- Improved communication is again presented as a solution to CSOs' lack of visibility in the media. However, the main reason for CSOs' lack of visibility is also explained by the apathy and self-orientation of the media outlets.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

3.1. Characteristics and capacity of civil society organisations

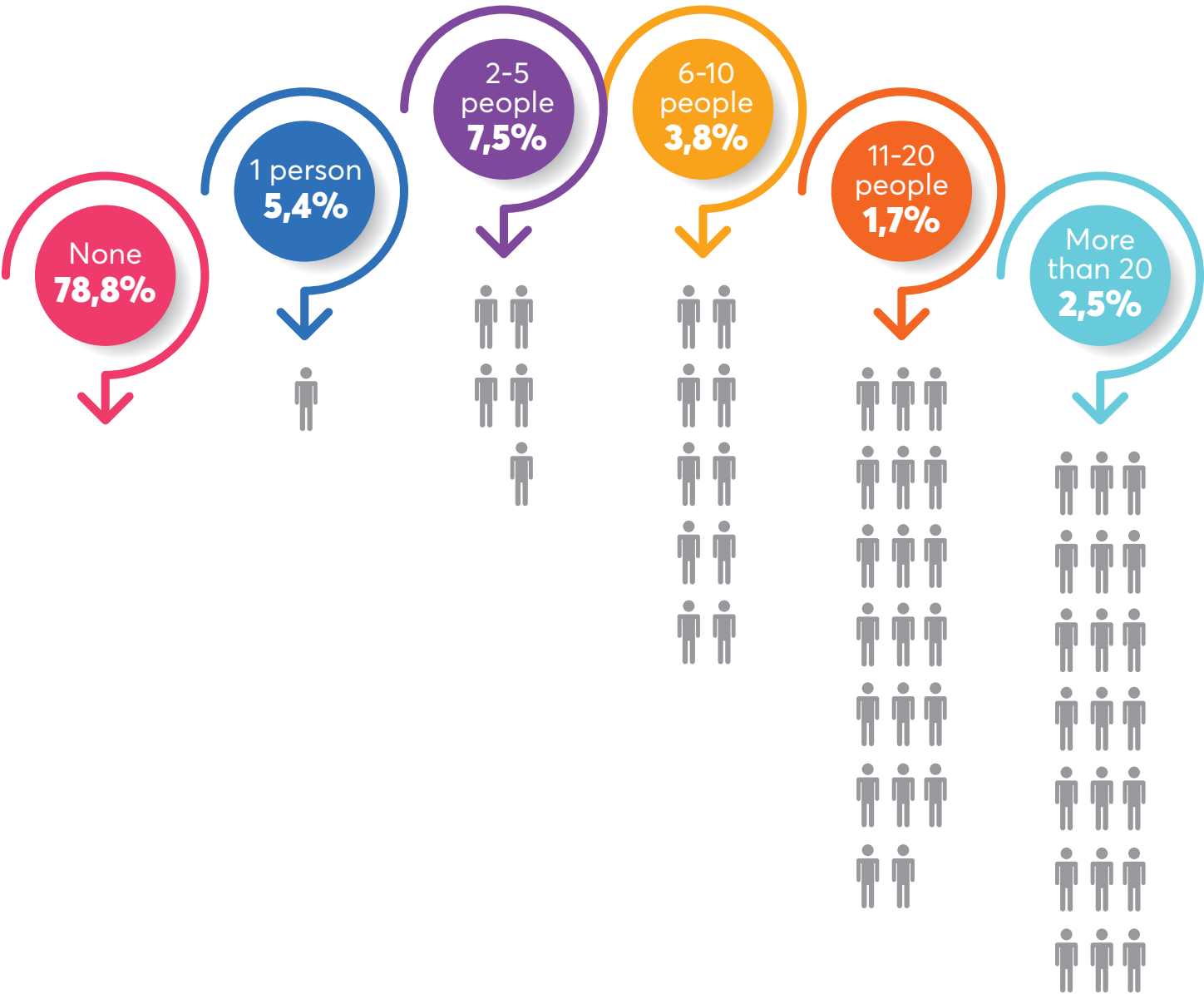
Figure 3.1:
Year of establishment of the organisation



Of the 240 civil society organisations that participated in the survey, 25% were established in 1980 or before. The percentage of civil society organisations that have been founded between 1981 and 1990 is 24%, while it is 28% for 2000-2009. 23% of the civil society organisations have been founded since 2010.

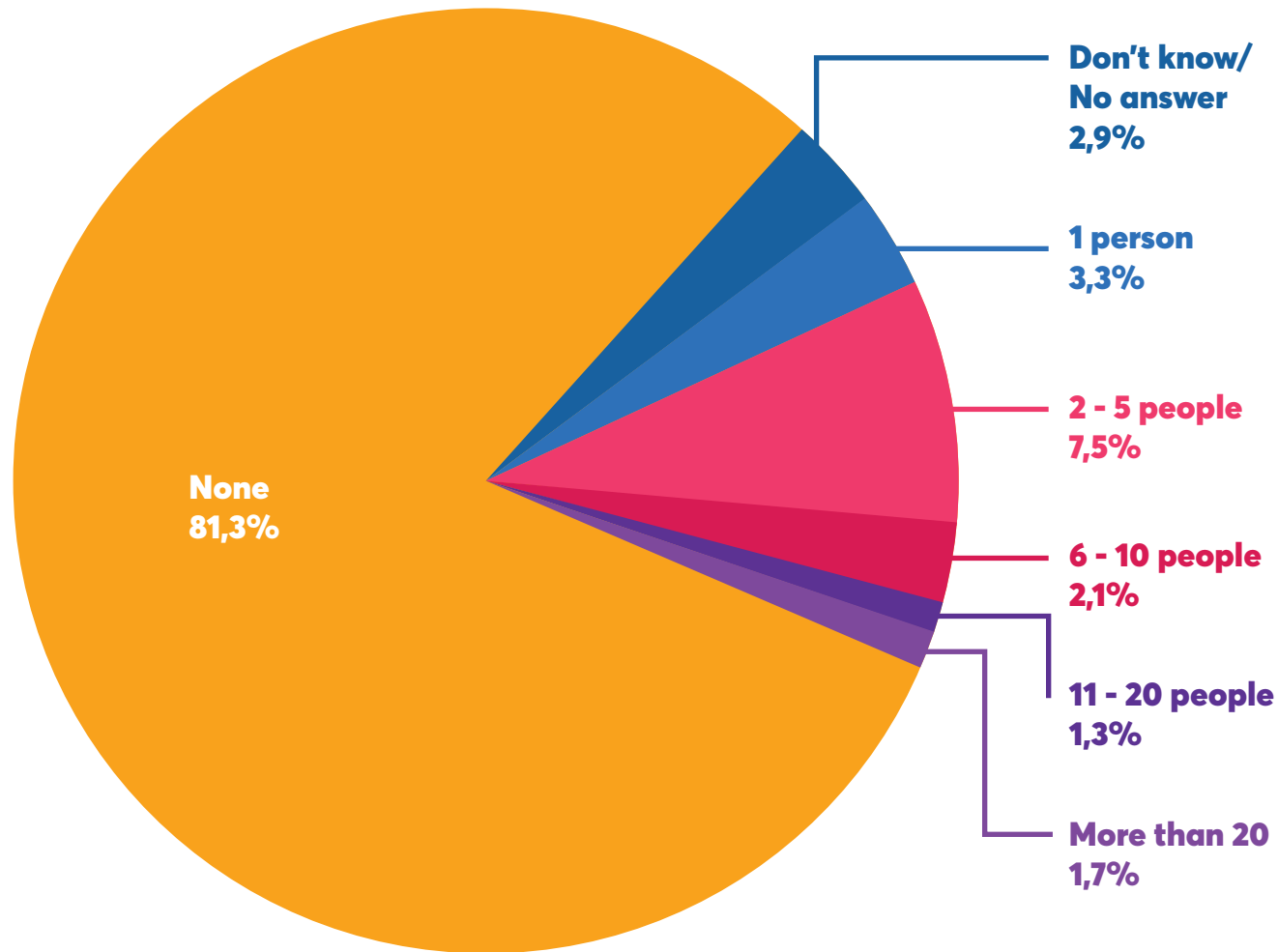
When considering the legal status of the organisation, 53% of the federation/confederations are established in or before 1980 while many associations are established later (63% of the associations are founded after 2000).

Figure 3.2:
Number of paid employees within the organisation



Almost 80% of the surveyed CSOs do not have any paid employees. 13% of the organisations have between 1 and 5 paid employees. The percentage of CSOs having paid employees is higher in federations/confederations (25%), than in associations (15%).

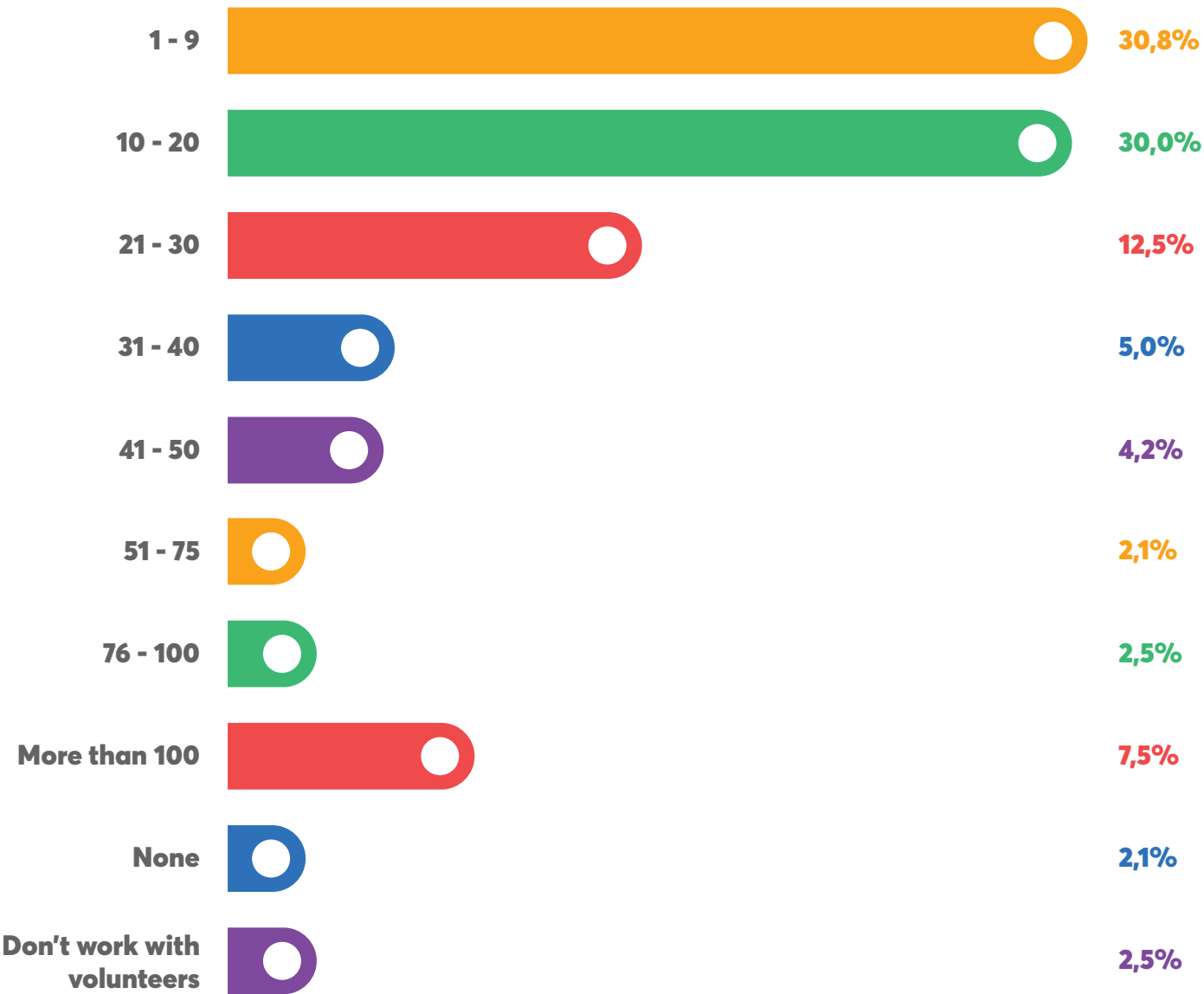
Figure 3.3:
Number of paid full time employees within the organisation



Respondents are asked to state the number of paid full-time employees working in their organisation. 81% stated to have none, while 11% of the organisations have between 1 and 5 full-time paid employees. The percentage of having paid full-time employees is higher in federations/ confederations (17%) than in associations (11%).

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations
towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.4:
Number of volunteers in the organisation



Almost all respondents stated that they have volunteers working for their organisation. 31% of the CSOs have between 1 and 9 volunteers; 30% of the CSOs have between 10 and 20 volunteers; 13% of the CSOs have between 21 and 30 volunteers. The percentage of those who have more than 100 volunteers is only 8%.

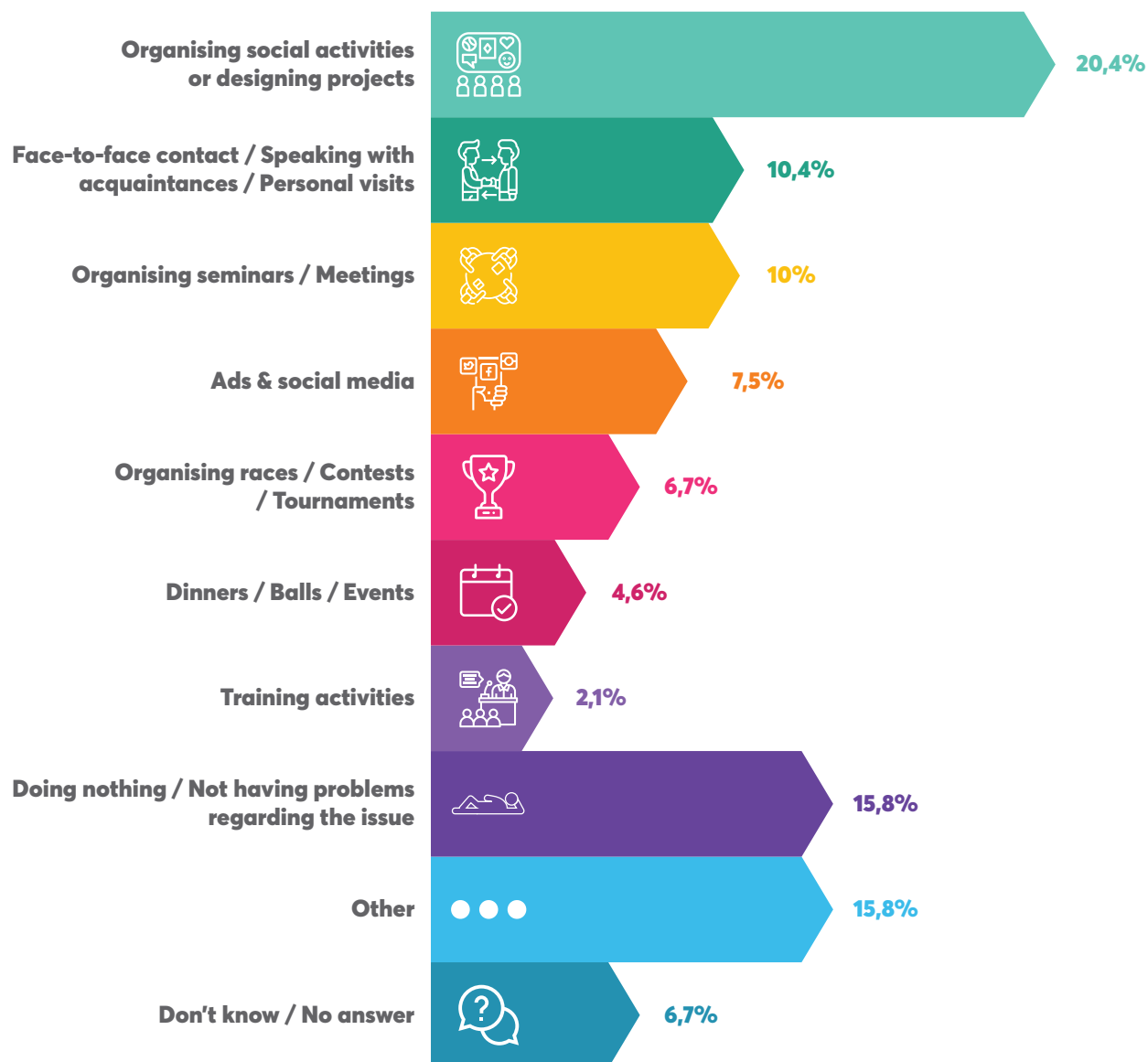
Figure 3.5:
Problems existing with regards to volunteerism



Almost half of the respondents stated that "there are no problems with volunteering". The most frequently mentioned problem (21%) is the "lack of interest from potential volunteers" followed by 18% mentioning the "lack of volunteering culture". The "lack of 'legal framework'" comes third on the list of problems (17%), followed by the "lack of public acceptance of volunteers" (11%). Only 7% of respondents consider the "low level of public awareness" a main reason for the lack of volunteerism.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

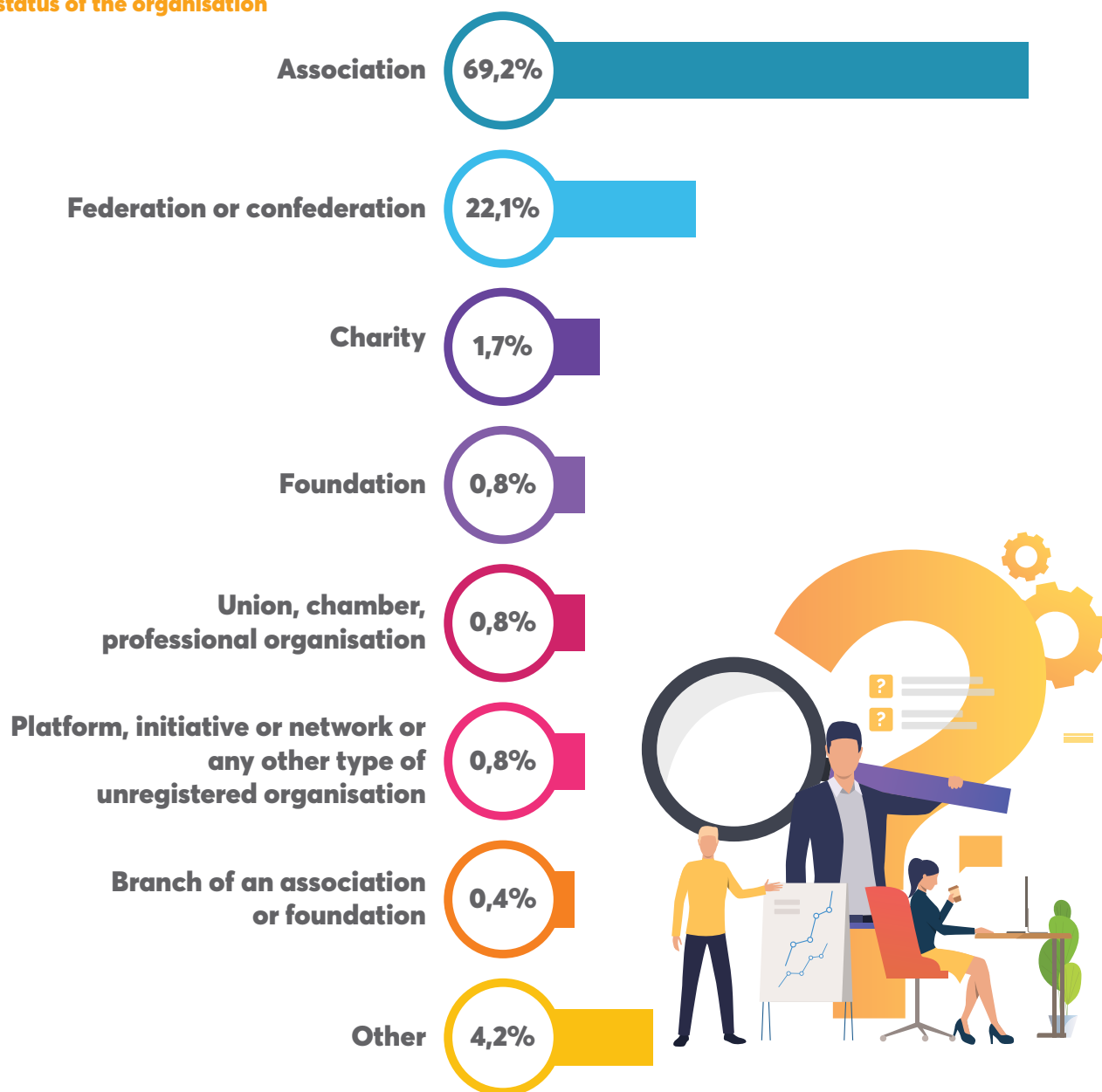
Figure 3.6:
Activities done for attracting new members and volunteers



CSOs are asked in an open-ended question, what they are doing to attract new members or volunteers. "organising social activities or designing projects" is a method used by 20% of the Organisations. "Face to face contact/ target group visits" is mentioned by 10%, "organising outdoor activities such as contests or tournaments" is stated by 7%. 16% of the organisations do not have any activities for attracting new members or volunteers. The "other" category includes among others: "doing economic activities," "not asking for membership fee", "follow the dates of fairs to attend", "giving small gifts to some institutions and organisations".

3.2. Management capacity

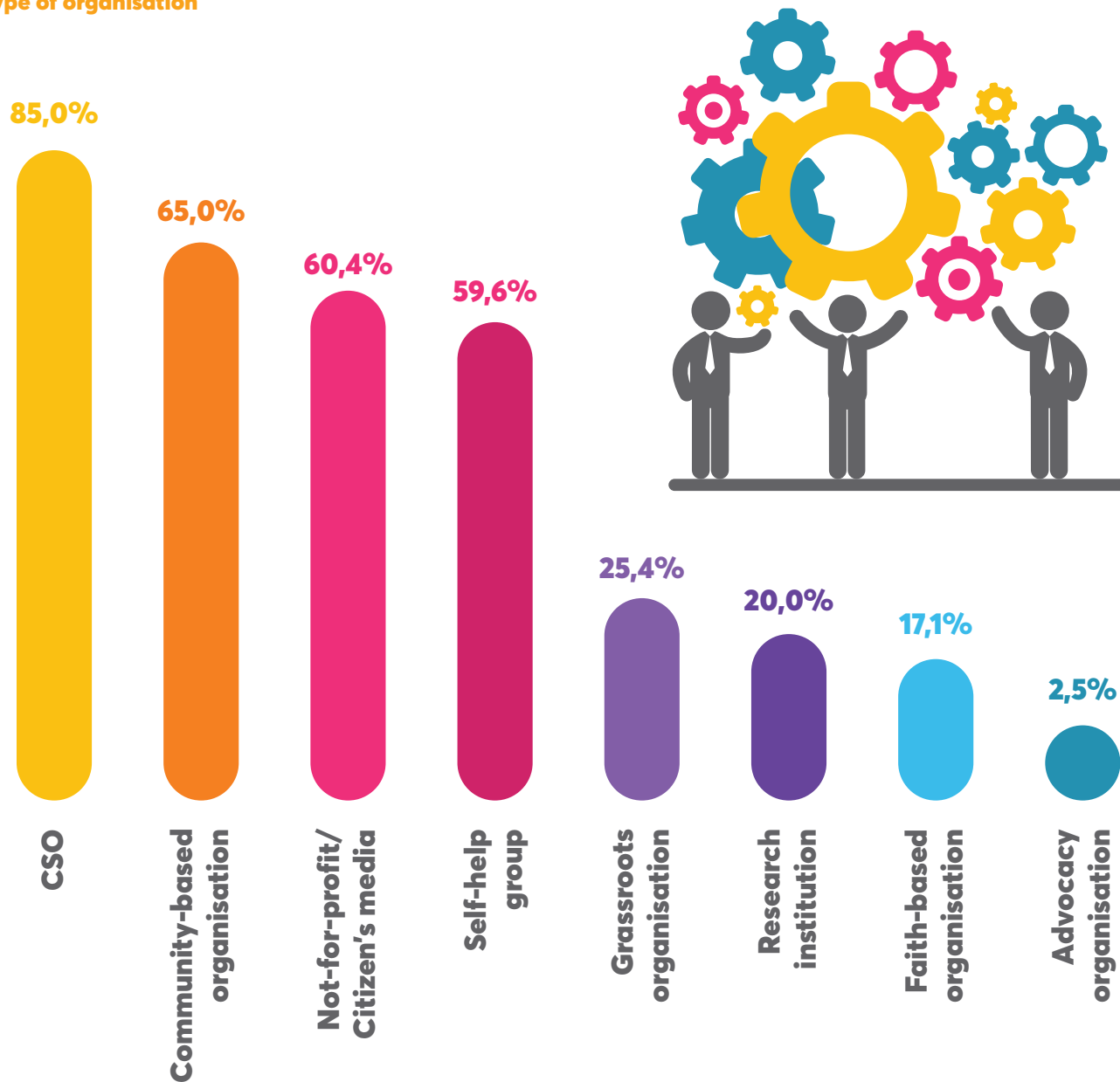
Figure 3.7:
Legal status of the organisation



Organisations are divided in two main categories in terms of their legal status: almost 70% are "associations" and 22% of them are either sport "federations" or "confederations". Only 2% stated their legal status as a "foundation" and 1% as being a "professional organisation".

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations
towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.8:
Type of organisation



A majority of the respondents (85%) described their institution as a "civil society organisation". The percentages of "community based organisation", "not for profit" and "self-help group" are all mentioned by more than 50% of the respondents. "Grassroots organisation", "research institution" and "faith based organisation" are listed by fewer respondents (25%, 20% and 17% respectively).

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations
towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.9:
Management and governance in CSOs

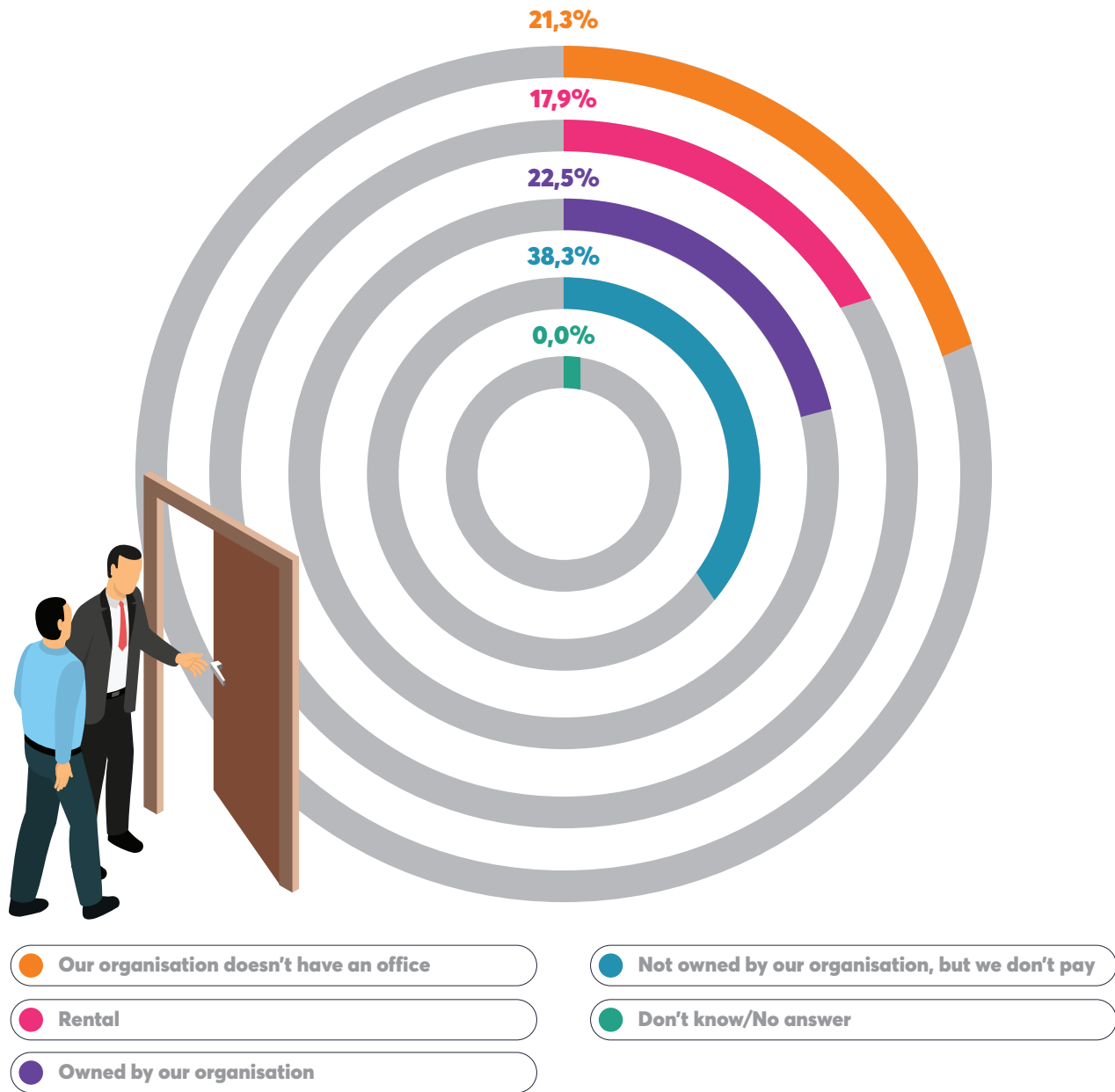


A set of affirmations related to their institution is shared with the representatives of civil society organisations and they are asked to state the degree to which each statement defines their institution on a scale of 1 to 10.

Looking at the mean scores, many respondents define their organisation as one that has clear principles, clear policies and a mission document. Transparency and participatory qualities are highly associated with their institution as well.

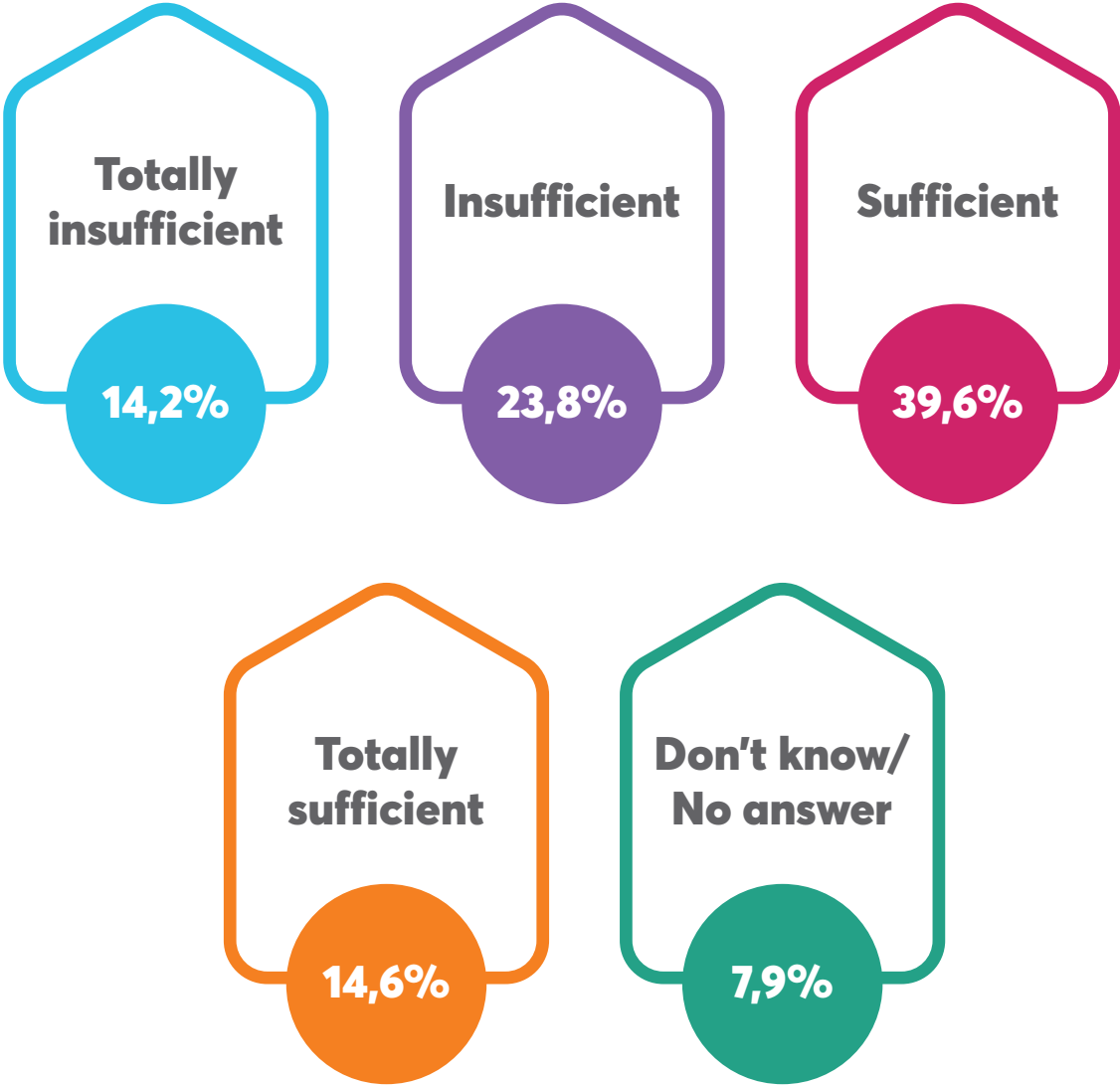
Fewer CSOs mention having a human resources plan or research-based activities.

Figure 3.10:
Workplaces of CSOs



While 21% of the respondents stated that they do not have an office, 23% are owners of their workplace, 18% of them rent their offices and almost 40% of the civil society organisations have an office that they do not have to pay for.

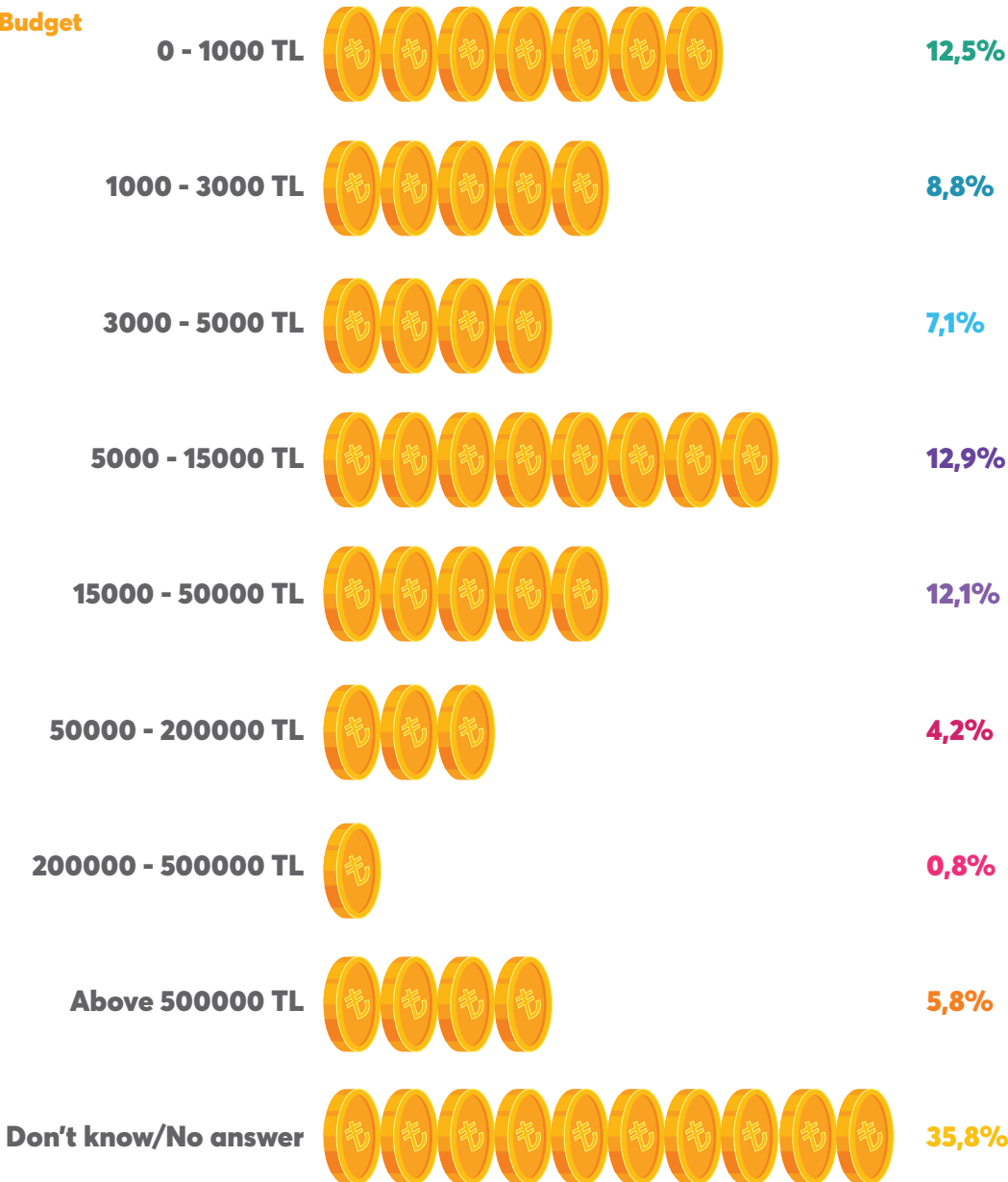
Figure 3.11:
Sufficiency of workplaces



Respondents are asked to evaluate the physical capacity of their offices. While slightly more than half think that it is sufficient for their operations, 38% find their workplace to be insufficient.

3.3. Financial capacity

Figure 3.12:
CSOs' 2015 Budget

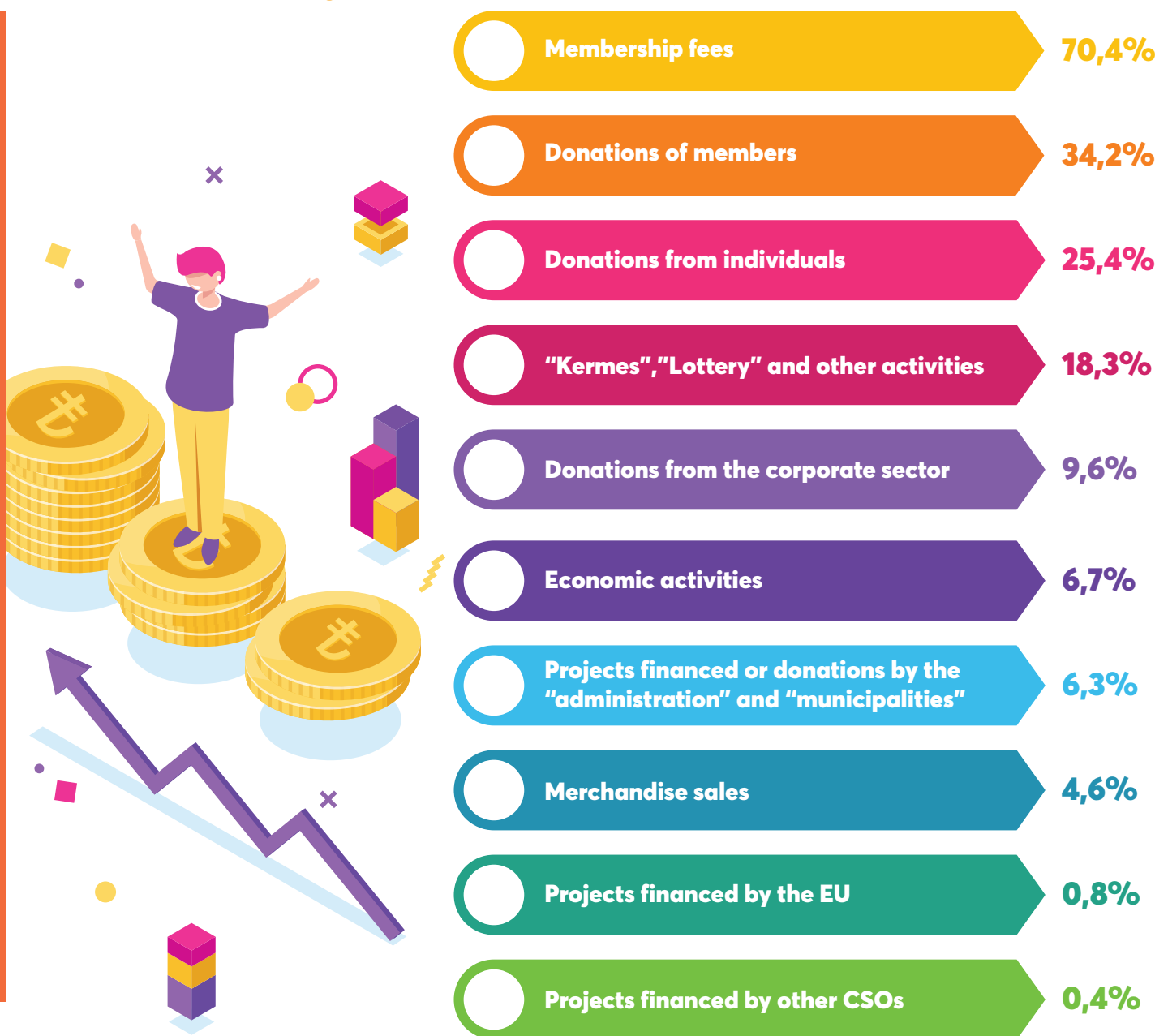


More than half of the civil society organisations included in the survey stated that they had a budget lower than 50.000 TL for 2015. 6% of the CSOs had above 500.000 TL annual budget in 2015. More than one third of the participants either did not have an idea of their 2015 budget or preferred not to answer this question.

1 Euro = 3.0865 Turkish Lira (December 2015 conversion rate taken from InforEuro)

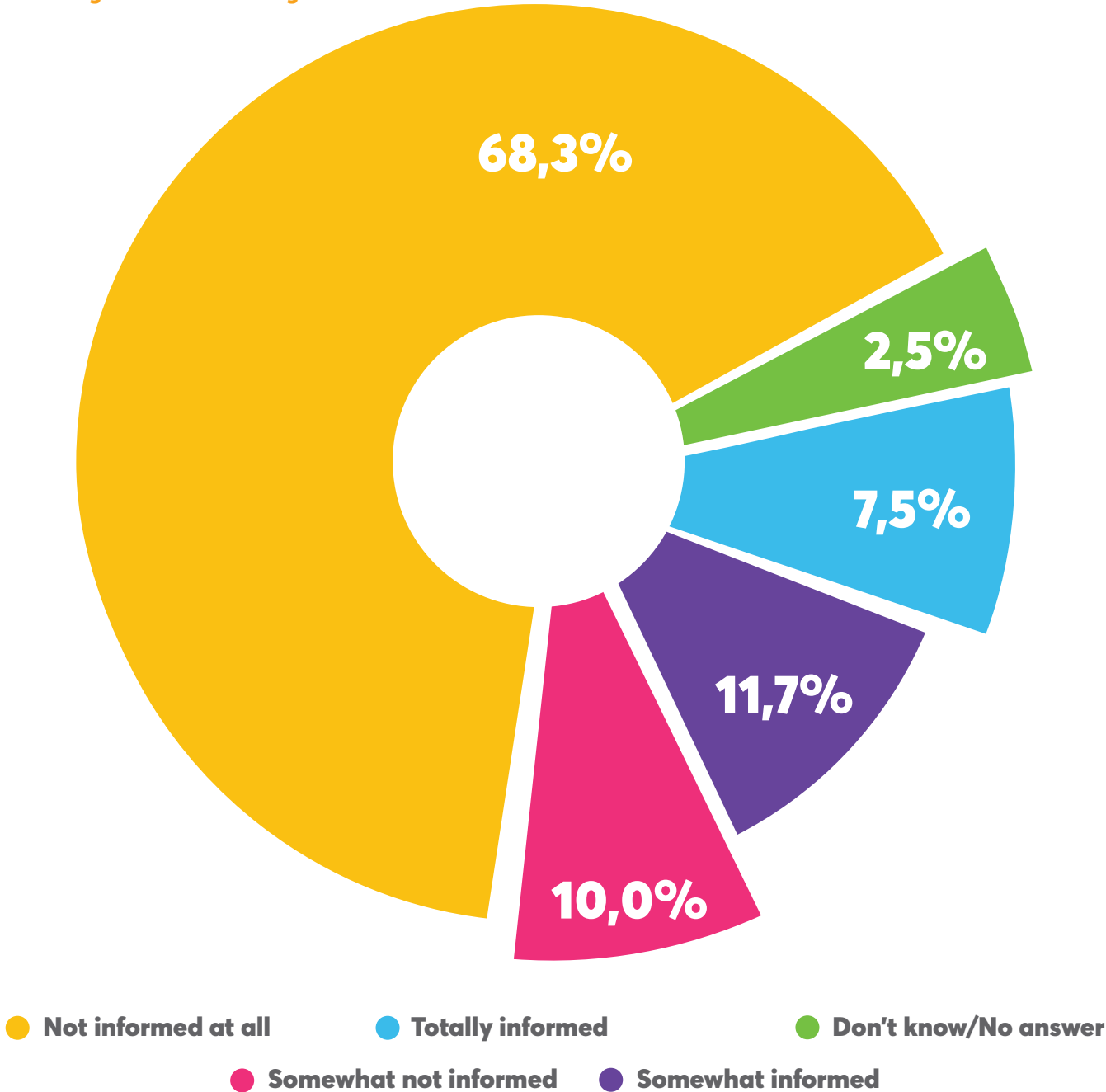
Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.13:
Income sources of the organisation



Respondents are asked to mention the organisation's income sources from a list of income types. "Membership fees" are mentioned by more than 70% of the CSOs, followed by "donations of the members" (34%). "Donations from individuals" (25%) and "kermes or lottery type of activities" (18%) are also listed as sources of income.

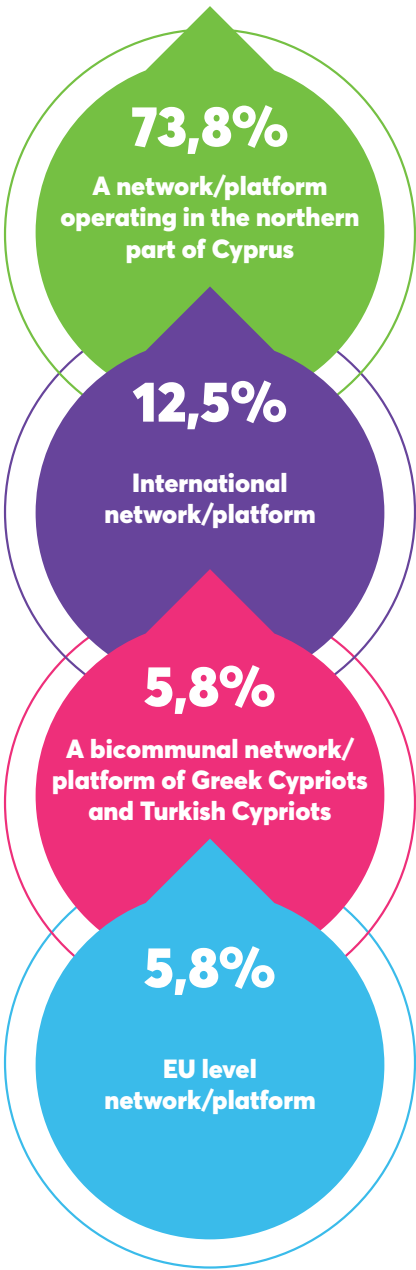
Figure 3.14:
Knowledge about the funding sources



A large majority of participants (68%) are not informed about the funding resources provided by the “administration” or “municipalities”. Only 20% stated to have some degree of knowledge about these funding resources.

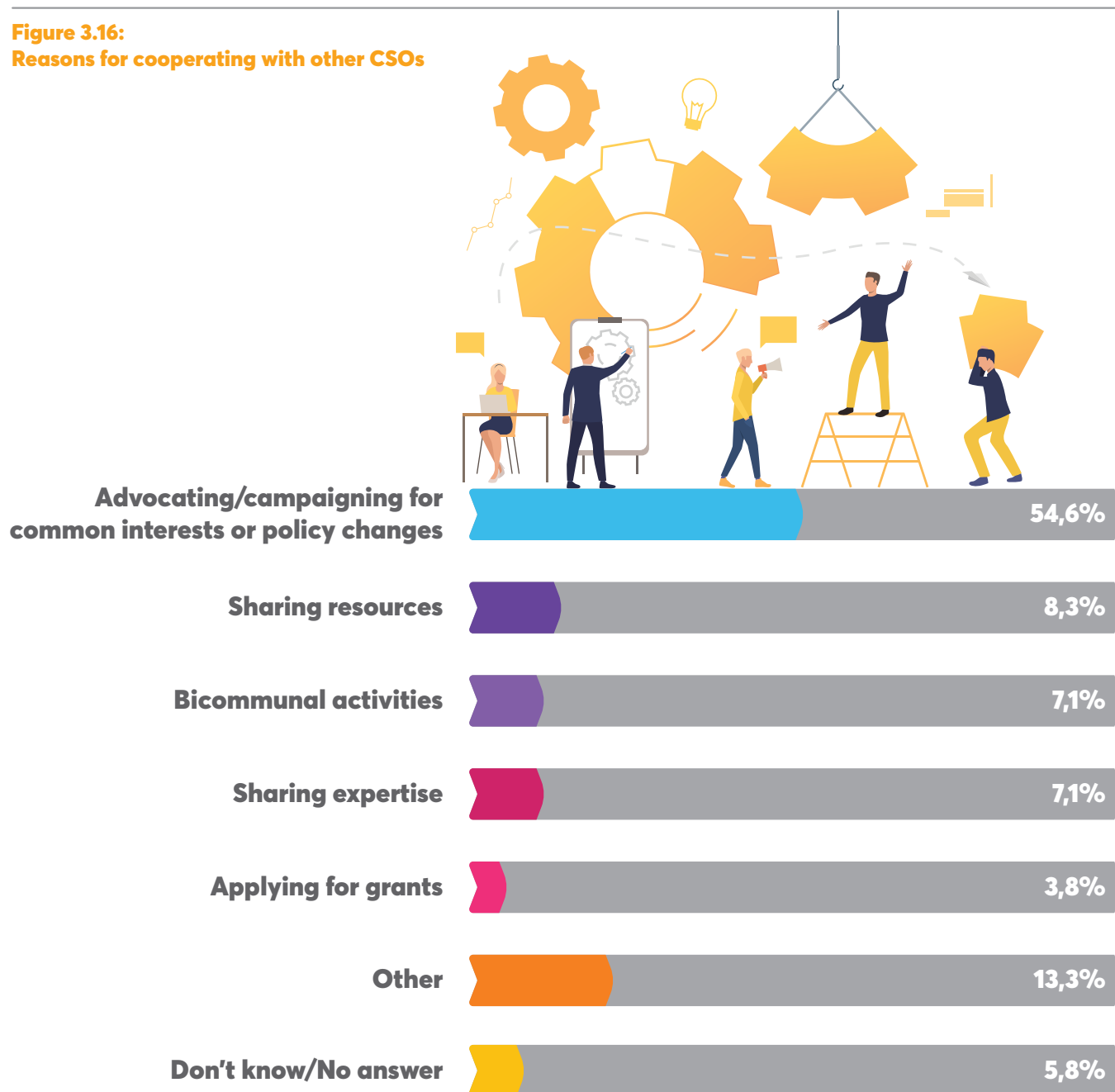
3.4. Networking capacity

Figure 3.15:
Membership in networks/platforms



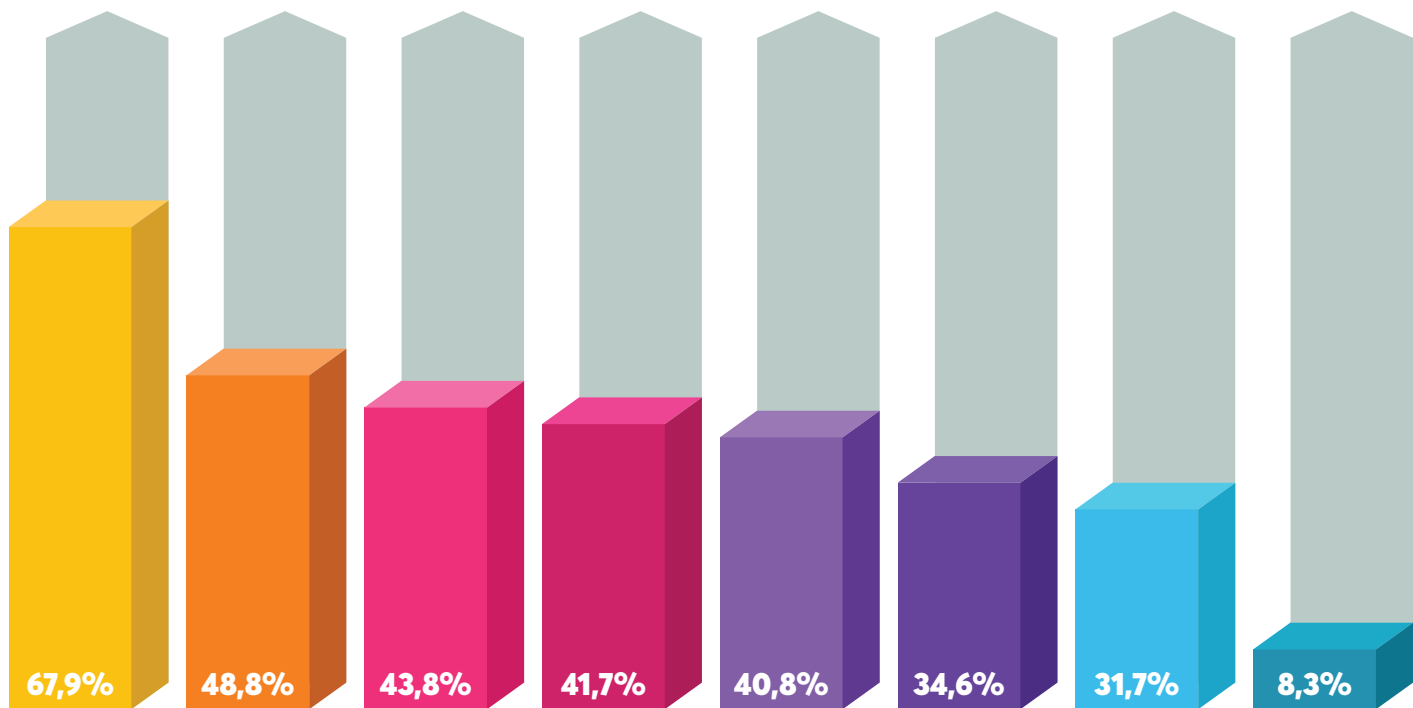
Almost 75% of the respondents stated that their organisation is part of a network or platform operating in the northern part of Cyprus. The percentage of CSOs that are members of an international network is 13%. Being a member of a bi-communal platform of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is mentioned by 6% of the respondents. Almost 6% stated having an EU level network membership.

Figure 3.16:
Reasons for cooperating with other CSOs



Cooperation on issues focusing on advocacy/ campaigns with common objectives is the most mentioned option. Financial cooperation alternatives such as "sharing resources" or "applying for grants" are stated by less than 10% of the respondents. The same is also true for cooperation for "bi-communal activities". The "other" category includes "cooperation for production of certain goods" and "information exchange".

Figure 3.17:
Problems encountered when interacting with other CSOs

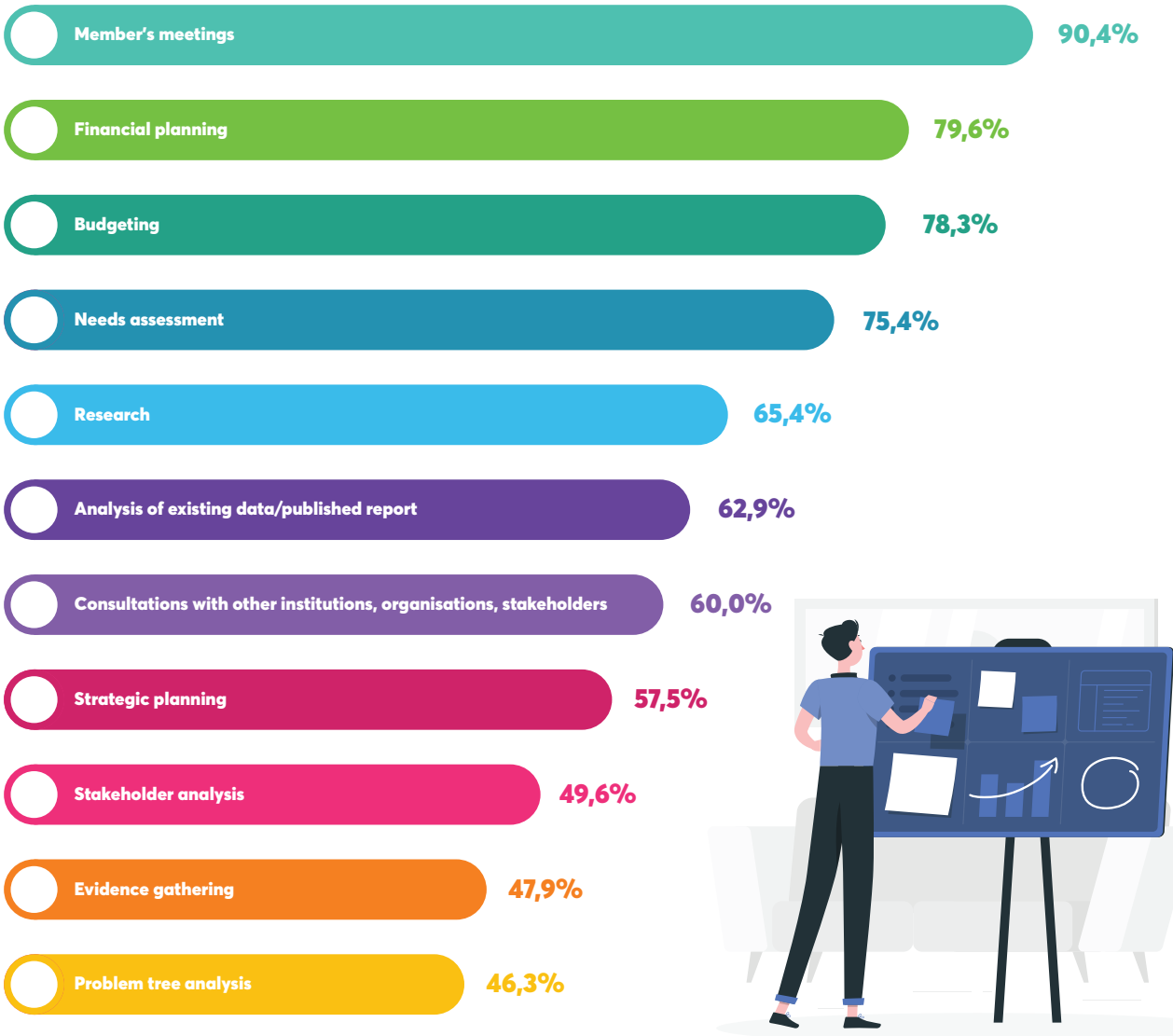


- Lack of finances to maintain the partnership/coalition**
- Lack of human resources for voluntary work**
- Lack of coordination of activities**
- Lack of interest among CSOs to unite or collaborate outside of the projects they implement**
- Lack of common understanding or joint goals**
- No "legal framework"/recognition to operate as a network/coalition**
- Lack of networking opportunities**
- Speaking a different language**

"Lack of finances" is listed as the main potential problem while interacting with other CSOs (70%). "Lack of human capacity" is stated by almost half of the respondents and is followed by "lack of coordination of activities" (44%) and "lack of interest and common understanding or goals" (41%).

3.5. Planning capacity

Figure 3.18:
Methods used during activity planning



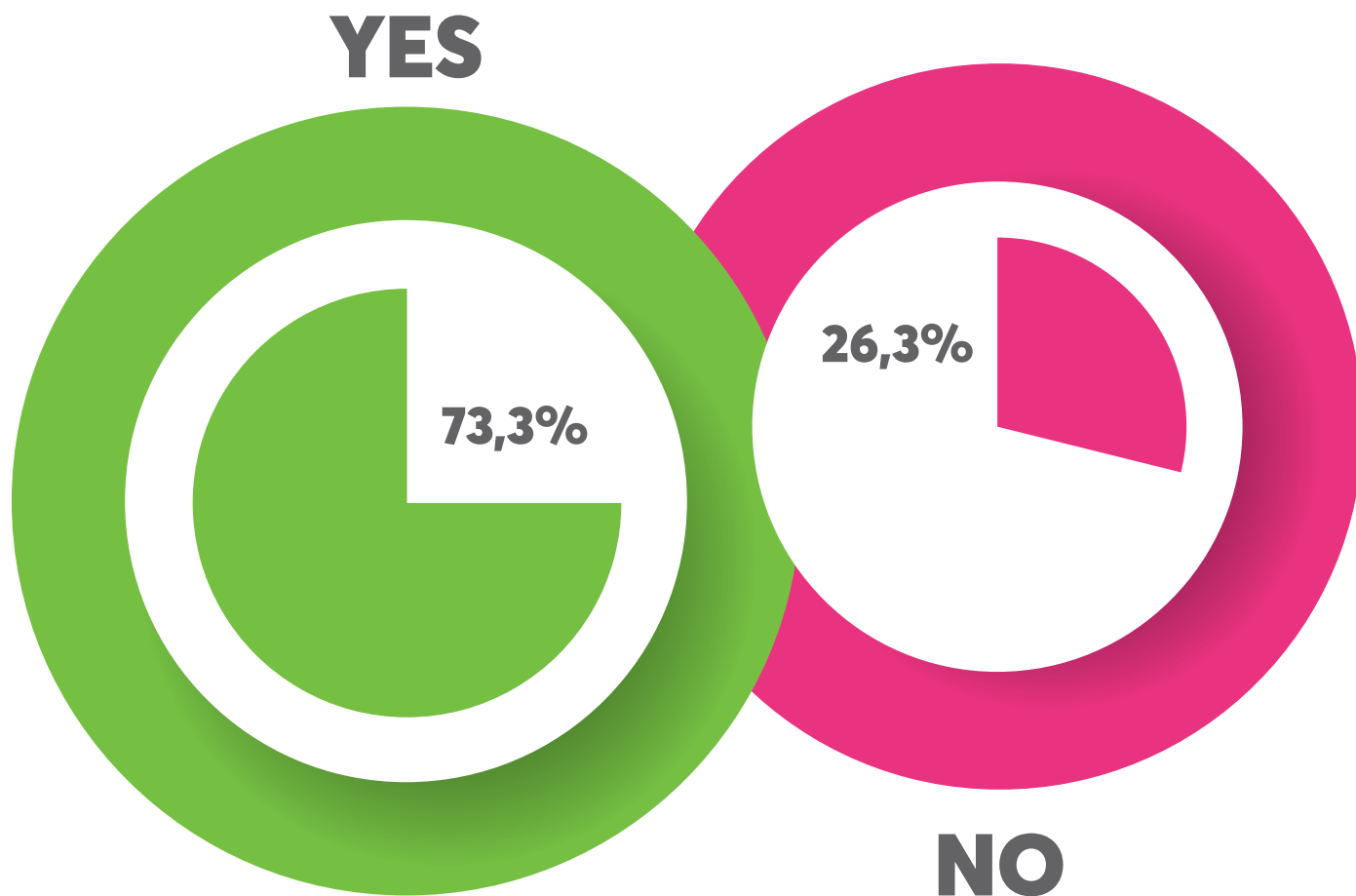
"Members' meetings" seem to be the most common method used by civil society organisations in the activity planning stage (90%); "financial planning", "budgeting" and "needs assessment" activities are also done by many during this process (more than 75%).

"Research", "analysis" and "consultation with other institutions, organisations and stakeholders" are implemented by 60% to 65% of the CSOs.

"Strategic planning" is used by 58% of the organisations.

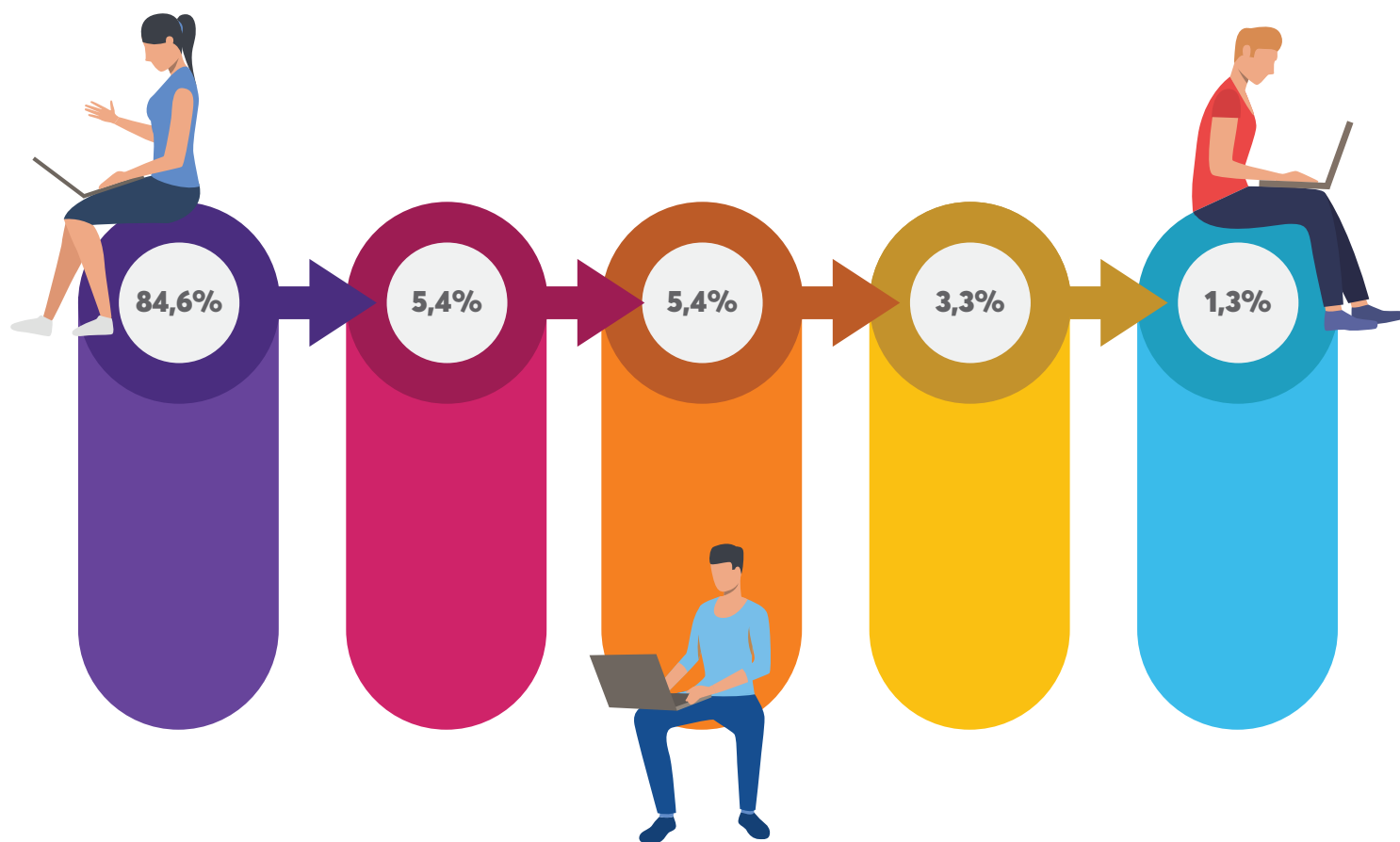
3.6. Communication activities

Figure 3.19:
Existence of a strategic communication plan



Respondents are asked whether their organisation has a strategic communication plan or not. Almost three out of four respondents stated that their CSO has a communication plan for executing their communication activities.

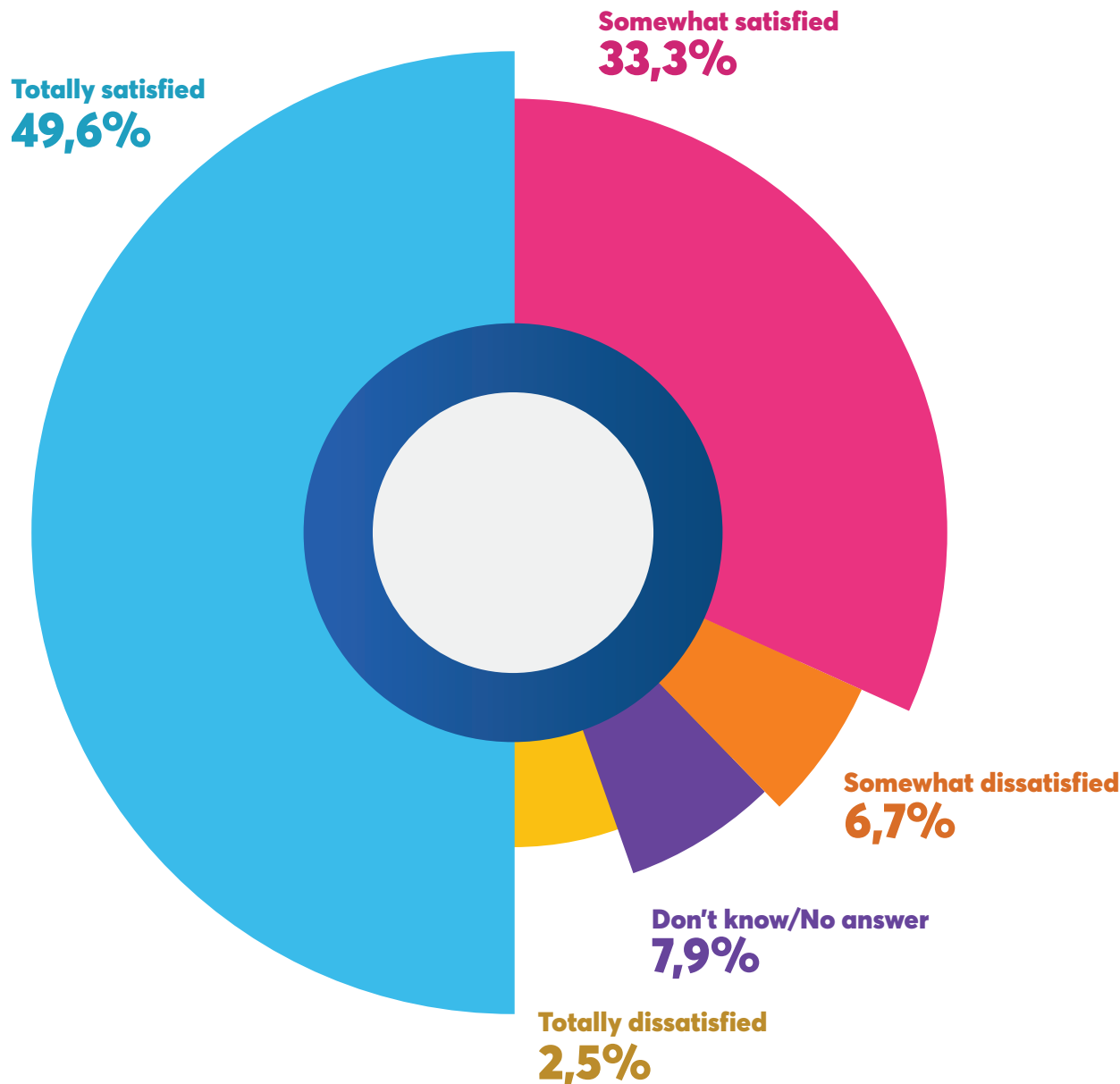
Figure 3.20:
Communication activities



- We are conducting our own communication activities
- We have one staff/representative responsible for communication
- We have an in-house communication department
- We are working with a professional communication agency when we need
- Don't know/No answer

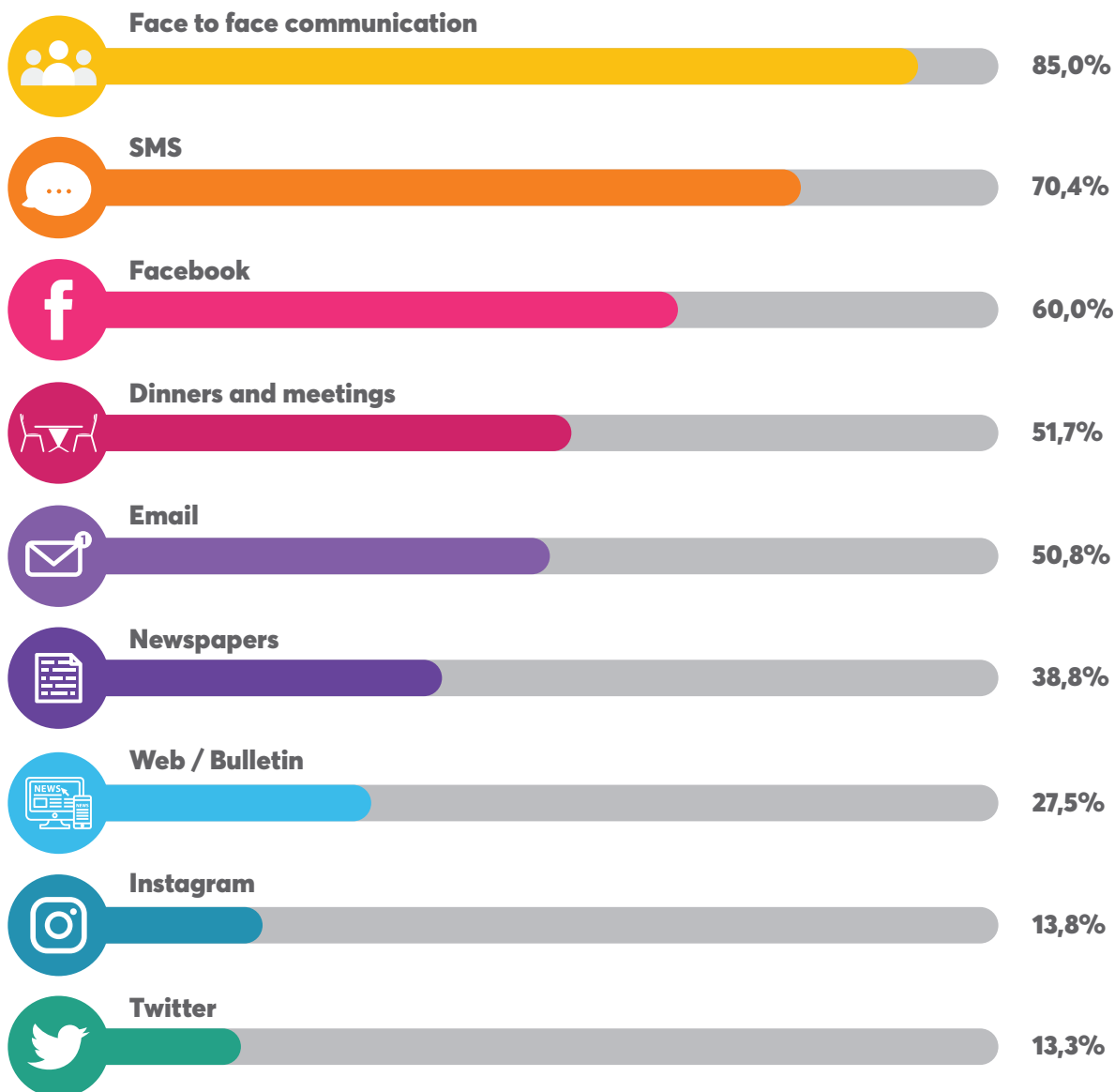
More than 80% of the respondents conduct their communication activities through their own means. Only 5% stated that they have an in-house department for communication activities and another 5% that they have a staff/representative responsible for communication. The percentage of CSOs that consult a communication agency when they need to is 3%.

Figure 3.21:
Satisfaction with the CSOs' communication activities



More than 80% are satisfied with their own communication activities (totally satisfied and somewhat satisfied). Only 7% stated that they are somewhat dissatisfied and 3% are totally dissatisfied with their performance in communication activities.

Figure 3.22:
Communication channels used



"Face to face communication" appears to be the top choice of communication for organisations.

70% of the respondents use SMS texting as a method. While 60% stated their Facebook activities; "Instagram" and "Twitter" usage are not common (just under 14%). Half of the respondents use emailing and 40% use newspaper as communication means.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.23:
Engaging with target groups

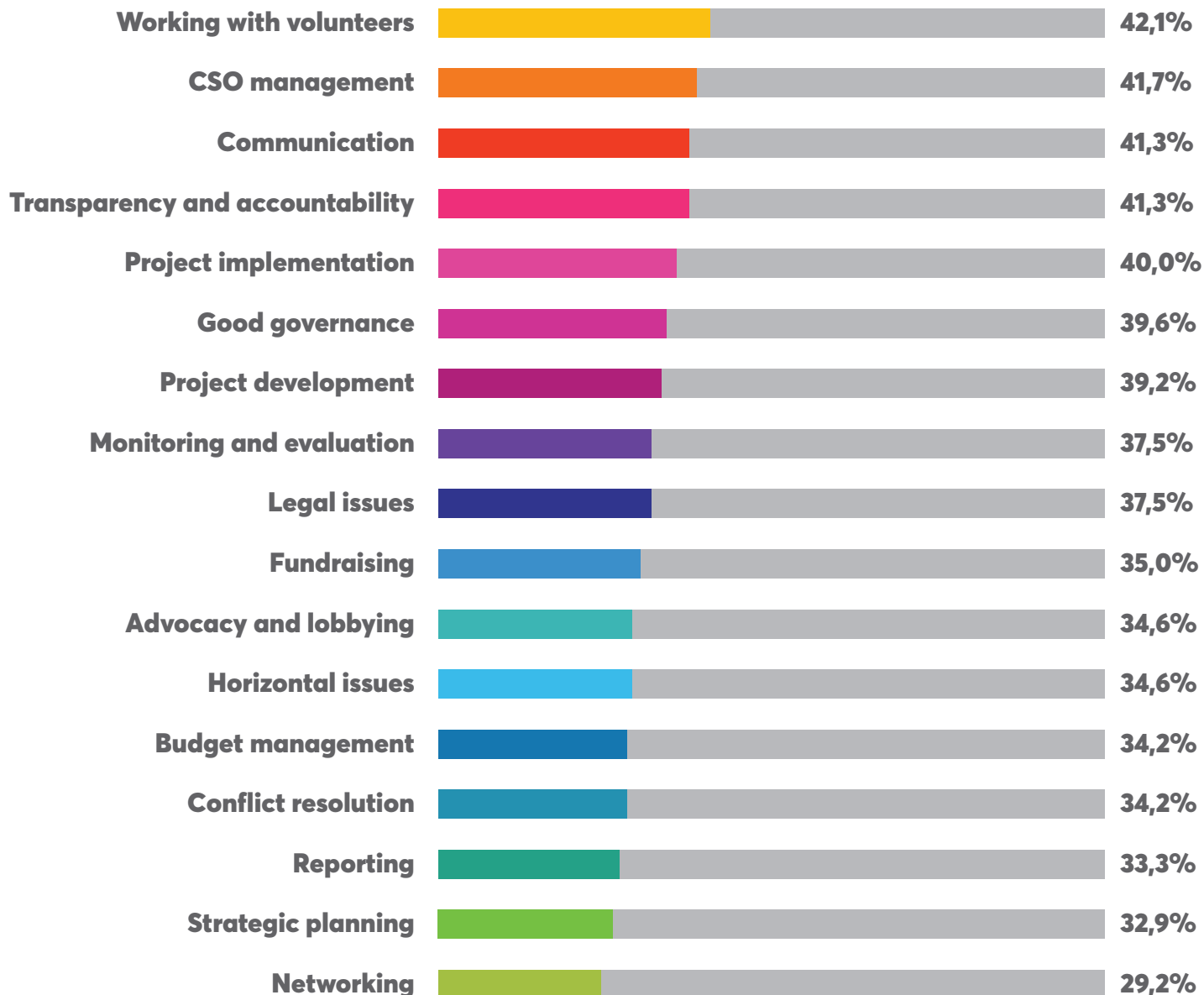


For engaging with their target groups, the most common activities are social media sharing, trainings and compiling data or information. Each three activities were mentioned by around 55% of the respondents.

Website usage or blog usage is lower, as well as submitting articles to the media or organising policy seminars.

3.7. Trainings

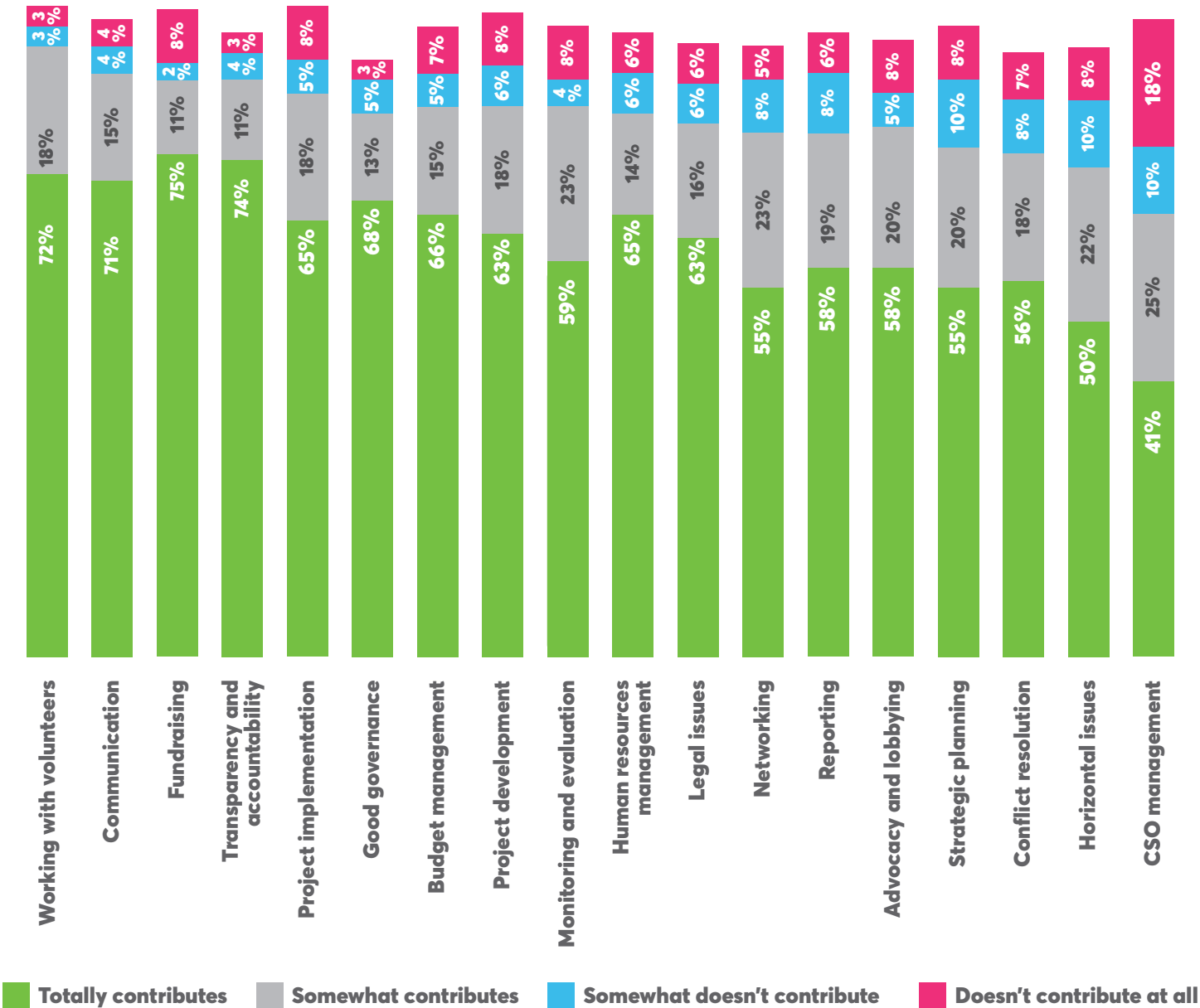
Figure 3.24:
Trainings attended



A list was shared with the respondents and they were requested to mention the trainings attended by their organisation. "Working with volunteers" is the most mentioned training activity followed by "CSO management", "communication" and "transparency and accountability" trainings. Participation in specific issue-based trainings such as "conflict resolution" had lower response rates than trainings focusing on project implementation.

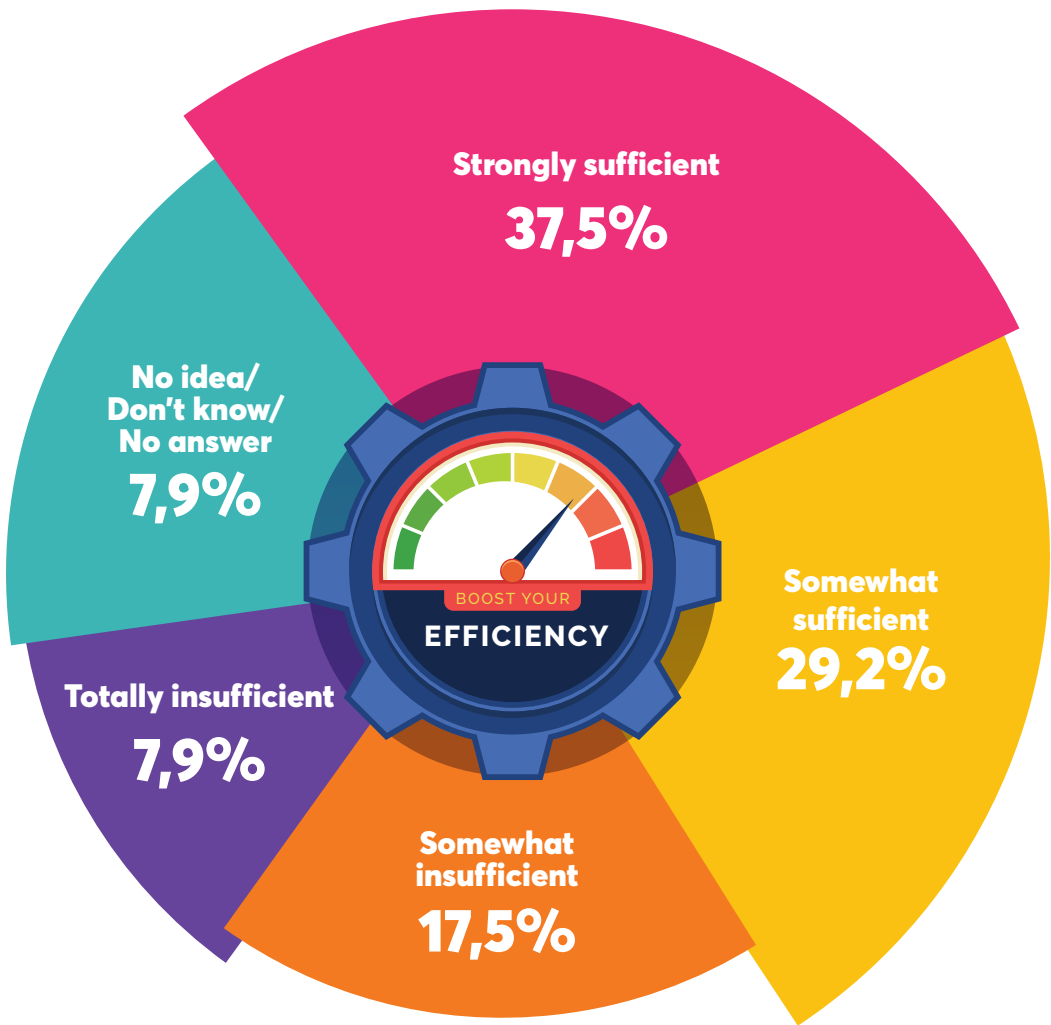
Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.25:
Training needs



Respondents are asked to state the training subjects that would contribute to increasing their organisation's capacities. Training on volunteer management and communication, and project implementation are mentioned as necessary by a large majority of the respondents. The main areas where more knowledge is needed are "working with volunteers", "communication", "transparency and accountability", "project implementation", and "fundraising".

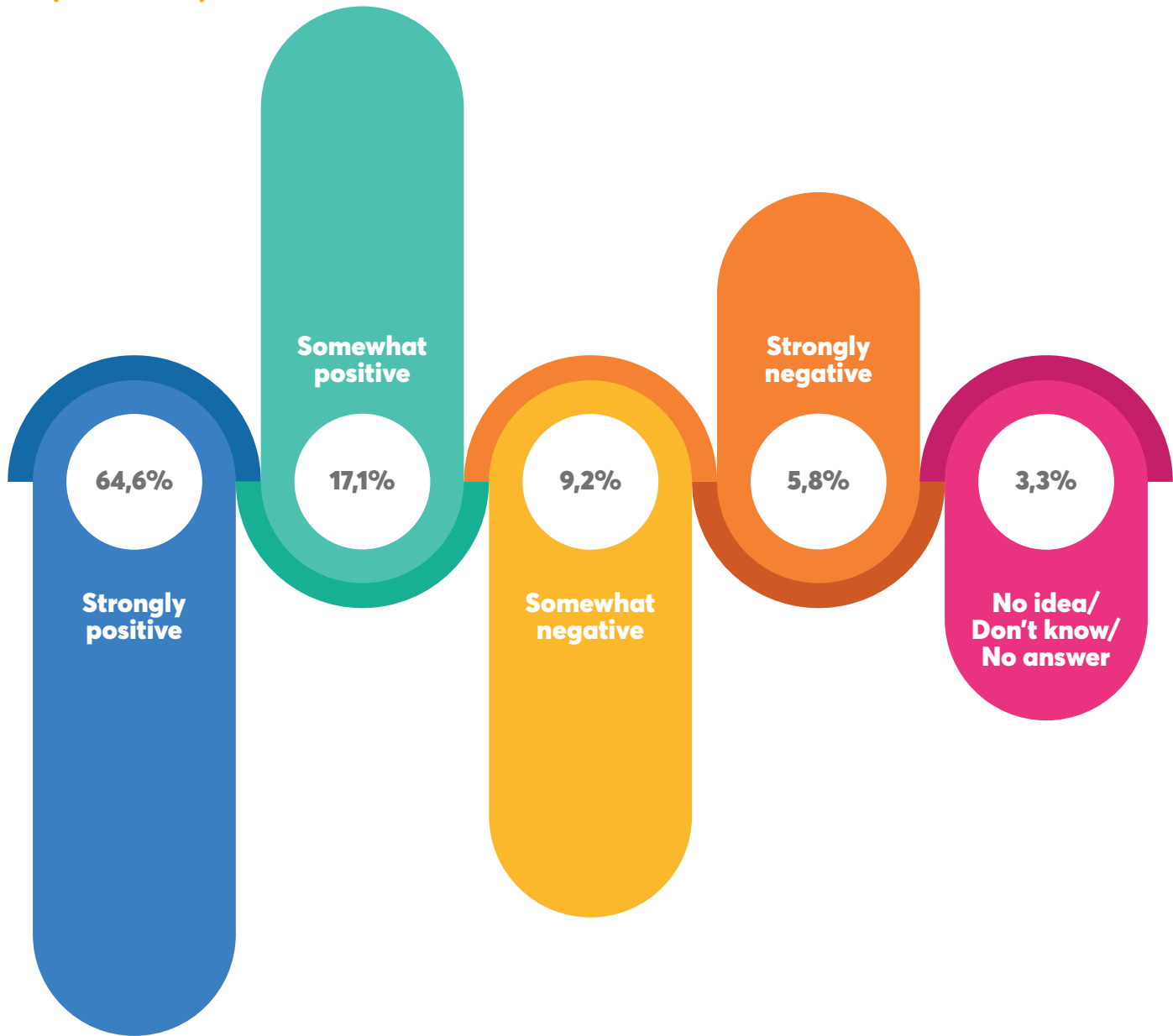
Figure 3.26:
Efficiency of their advocacy activities



In terms of efficiency of the CSOs' advocacy activities, nearly 70% evaluated their organisation positively. Around one quarter of the respondents, perceive their CSO to be either somewhat or totally insufficient in this area.

3.8. Impact of Turkish Cypriot CSOs

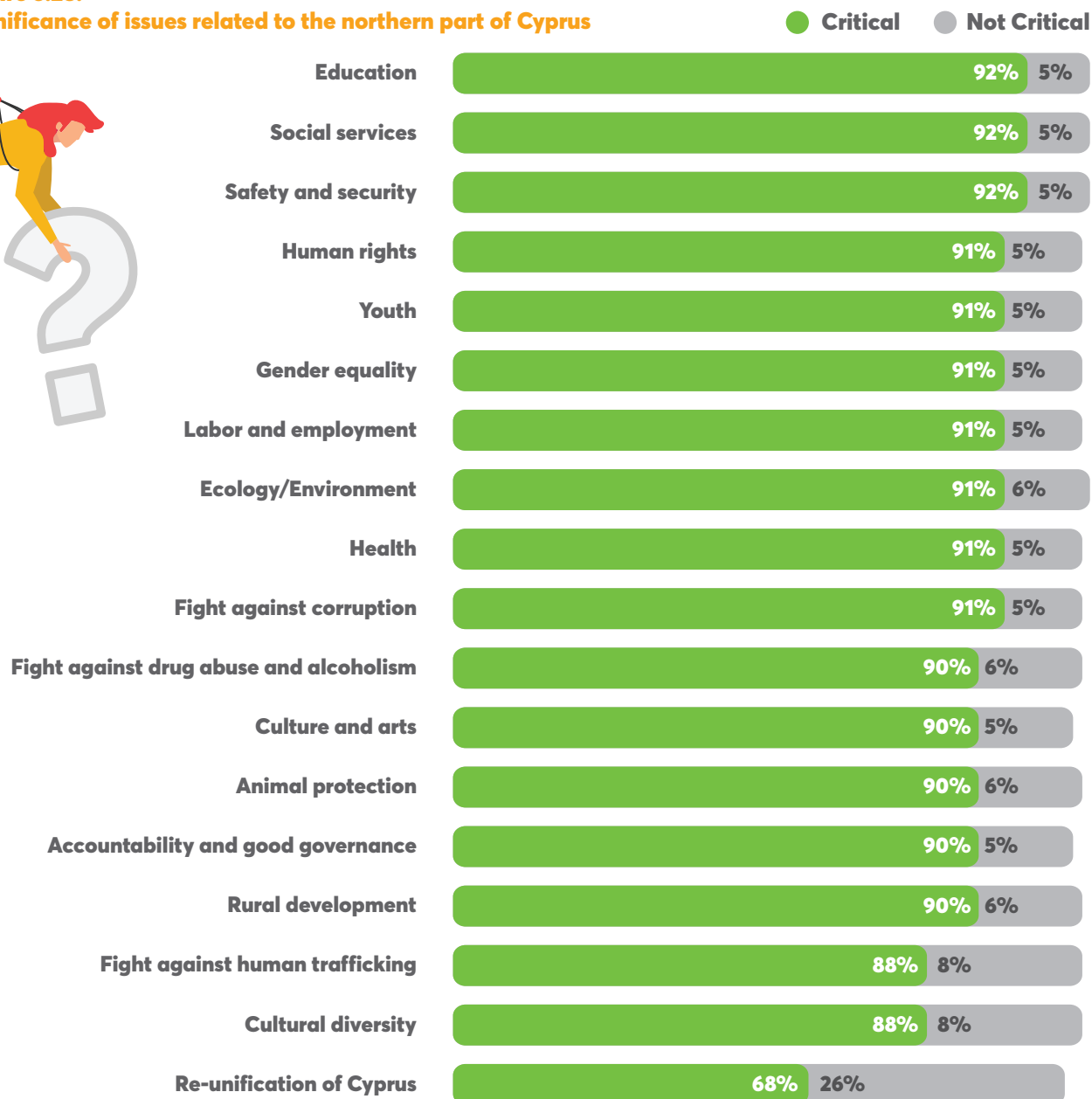
Figure 3.27:
Impact on society



A large majority of the respondents consider the impact of Turkish Cypriot CSOs on society as being positive. 65% believe they have a strongly positive impact while only 15% of the respondents stated that Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations' impact is negative on the society.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

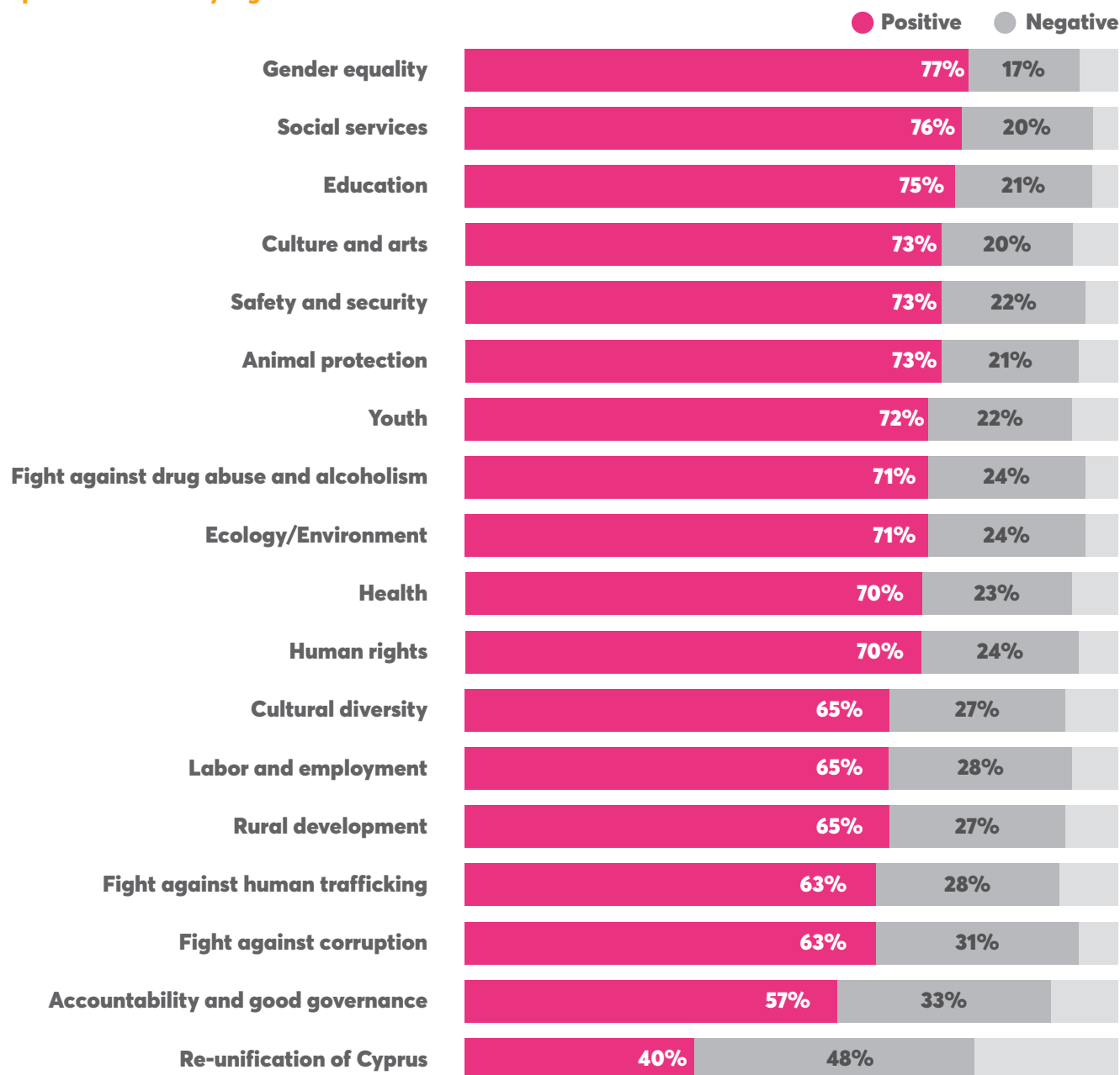
Figure 3.28:
Significance of issues related to the northern part of Cyprus



A list of issues that might be of importance to the northern part of Cyprus was shared with the respondents and they were asked to state whether they perceive it as critical or not. Almost all issues are of similar importance for the respondents. "Education", "social services", "safety and security" as well as "human rights", "youth", "gender equality" are all perceived to be critical areas for the northern part of Cyprus. While all other items are identified as critical issues by 88% or more of the respondents, "re-unification of Cyprus" is perceived as a critical issue by 68%.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.29:
Impact of civil society organisations on related issues



The respondents consider that overall civil society organisations have a positive impact on the list of issues presented in the previous question. "Gender equality", "social services", "education", "culture and arts", "safety and security", "animal protection" and "youth" are the issues with slightly higher positive scores. The impact of CSOs on "accountability and good governance" and on "re-unification of Cyprus" is seen as positive by a lower percentage of the respondents (57% and 40% respectively).

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.30:
Importance of characteristics of a civil society organisation



A list of characteristics was shared with the respondents and they were asked to state their degree of importance for a civil society organisation operating in the northern part of Cyprus. All attributes are found to be "very" or "somewhat" important in defining the characteristics of a civil society organisation. "Transparency", "trust", "sustainability" and "accountability" are seen as highly important for CSOs by more than 93% of the respondents. "International respectability" and "having members from all over Cyprus" are perceived as highly important by almost 79% of the respondents.

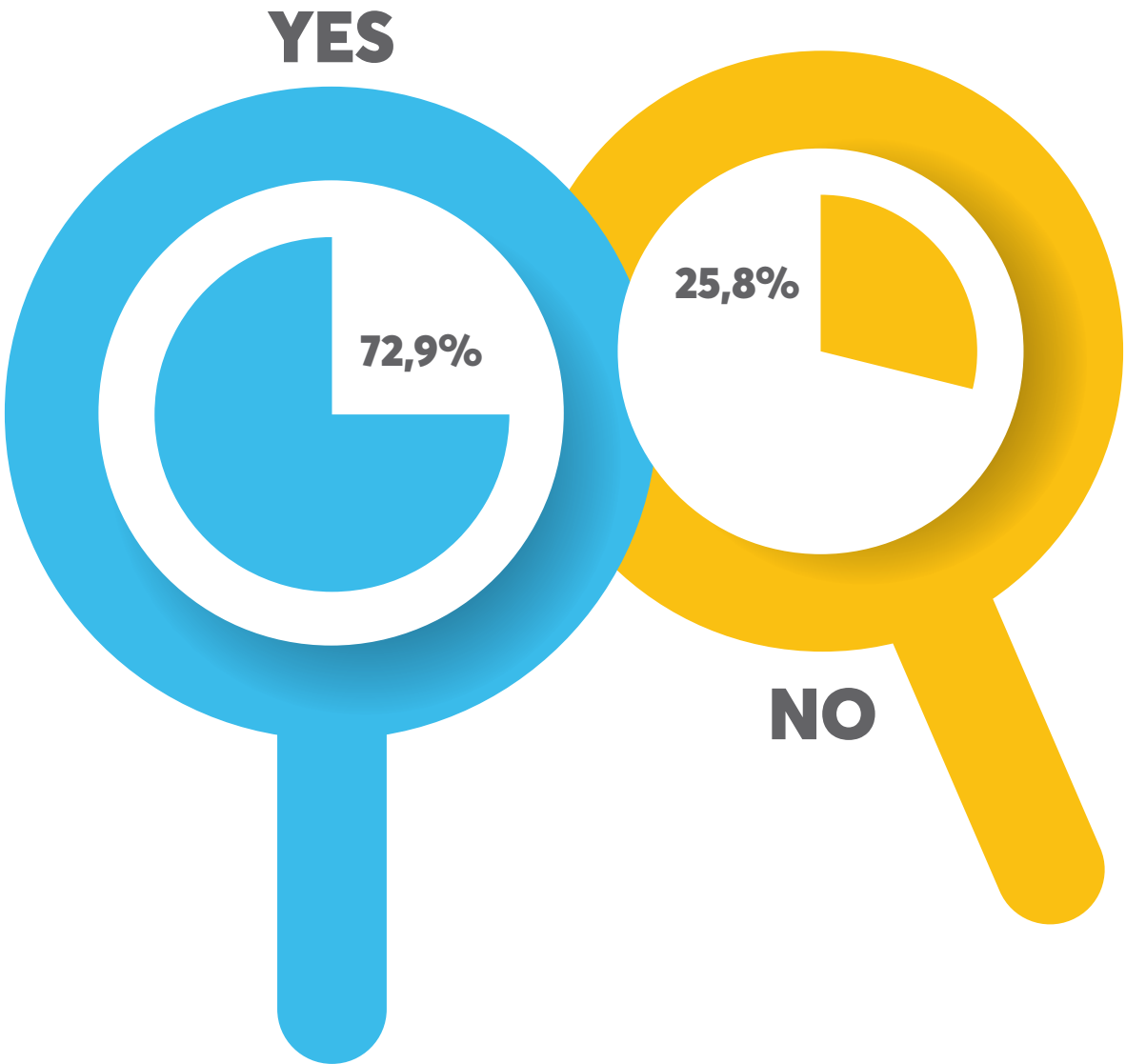
3.9. Structures and mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions

Figure 3.31:
Main problems of the organisation



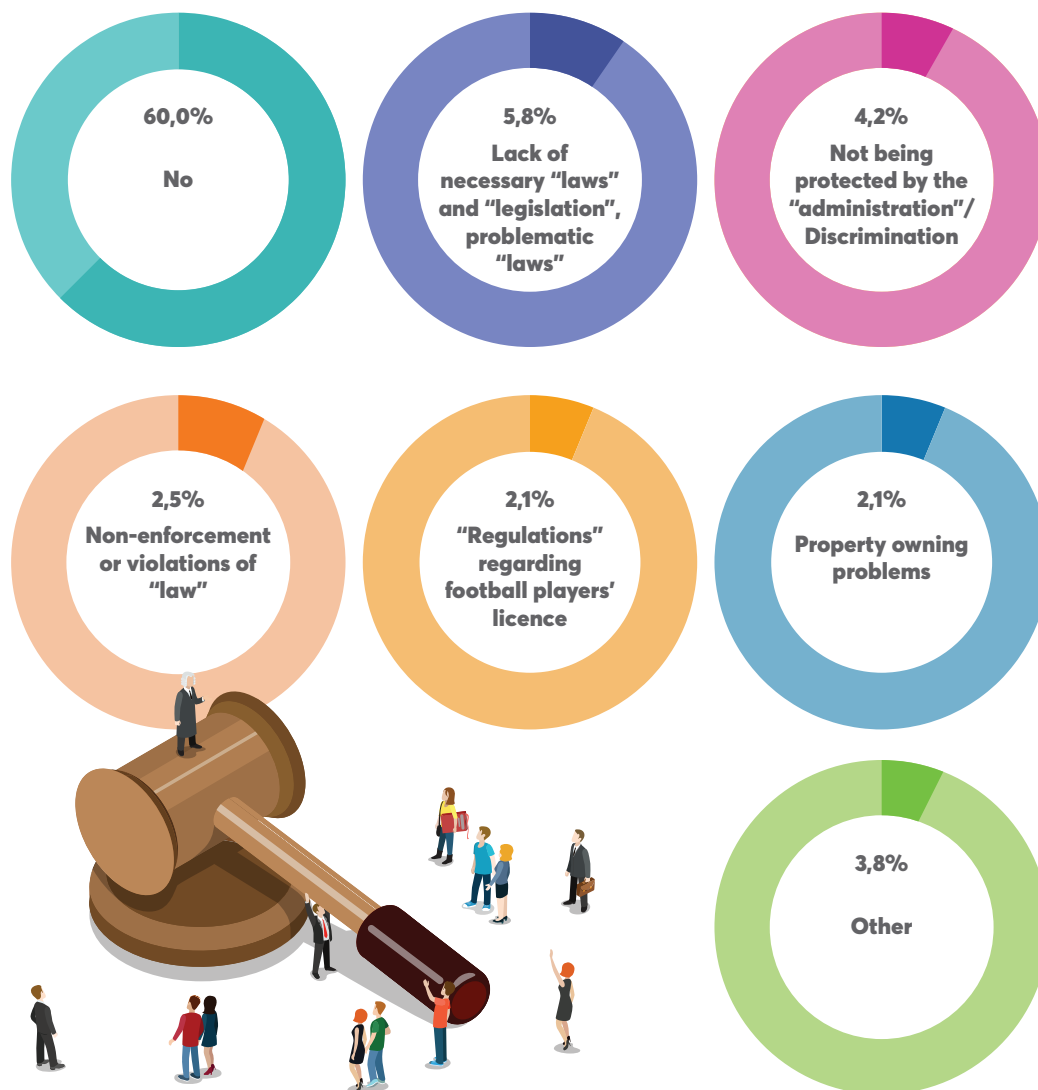
The main problem faced by the civil society organisations is "not having enough funding sources" (59%). Other issues include "lack of members or volunteers" (19%), "non-supportive legal environment for CSOs" or "difficulty in developing partnership/ sponsorship with the business sectors" (both at 15%).

Figure 3.32:
Inspection by a "public authority"



Almost three out of four respondents stated having been inspected by a "public authority".

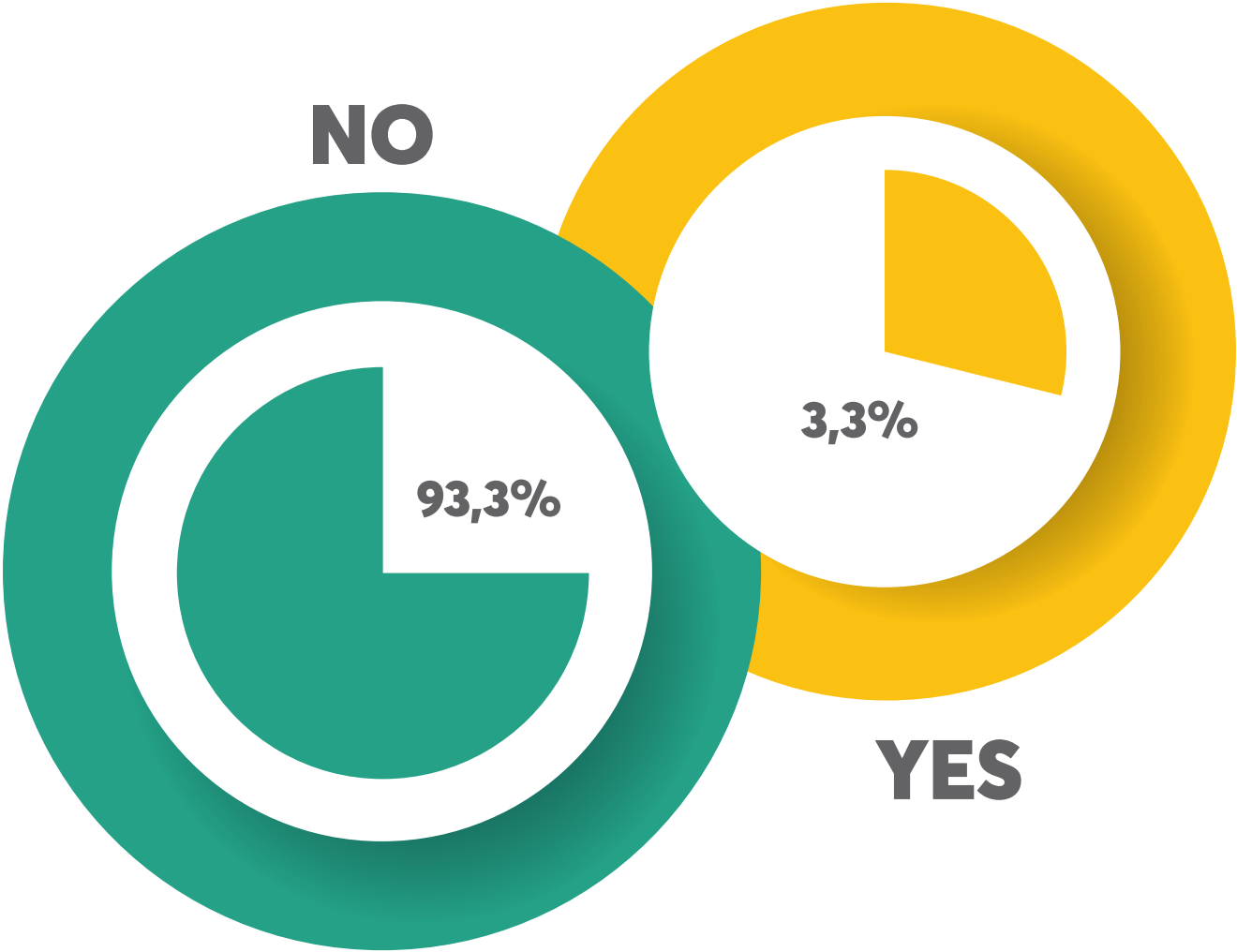
Figure 3.33:
Problems with "law" related to their sector of activities



A large majority of the respondents did not mention any legal problem in their sector of activities. The few respondents who stated having problems mentioned:

- Lack of "legal regulations" on specific topics such as "laws for patients' rights", "eye health and aviation law"; lack of sponsorship regulations.
- Non-enforcement or violation of "law".
- Not being protected by the "administration", being discriminated or excluded.
- "Regulations" regarding football players' licenses.
- Property owning problems.
- Conflict of "laws"; e.g. "fire arms law" and "wildlife protection law".

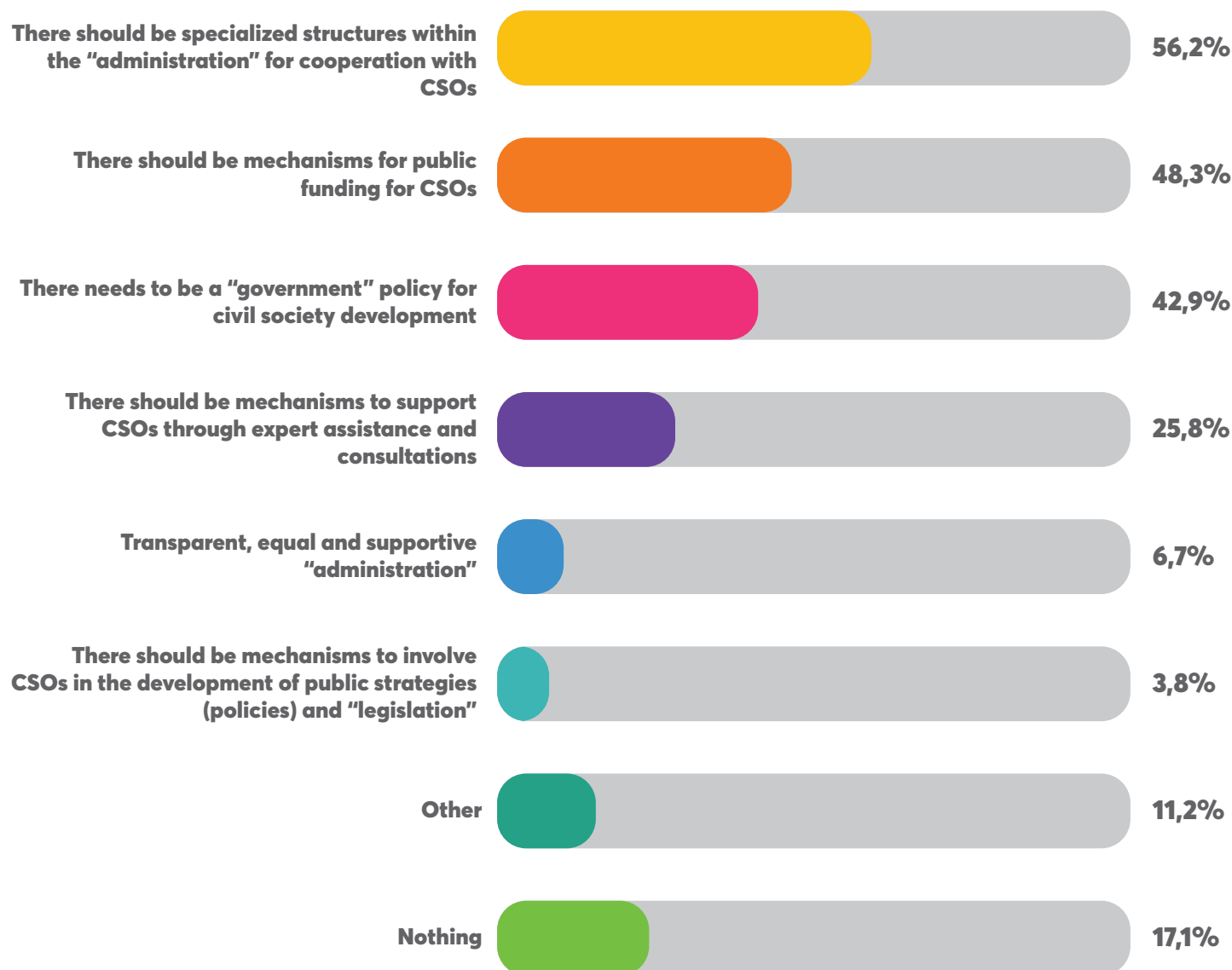
Figure 3.34:
Penalties



Only 3% of the respondents stated that they have received a penalty by a “public authority” in the past.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

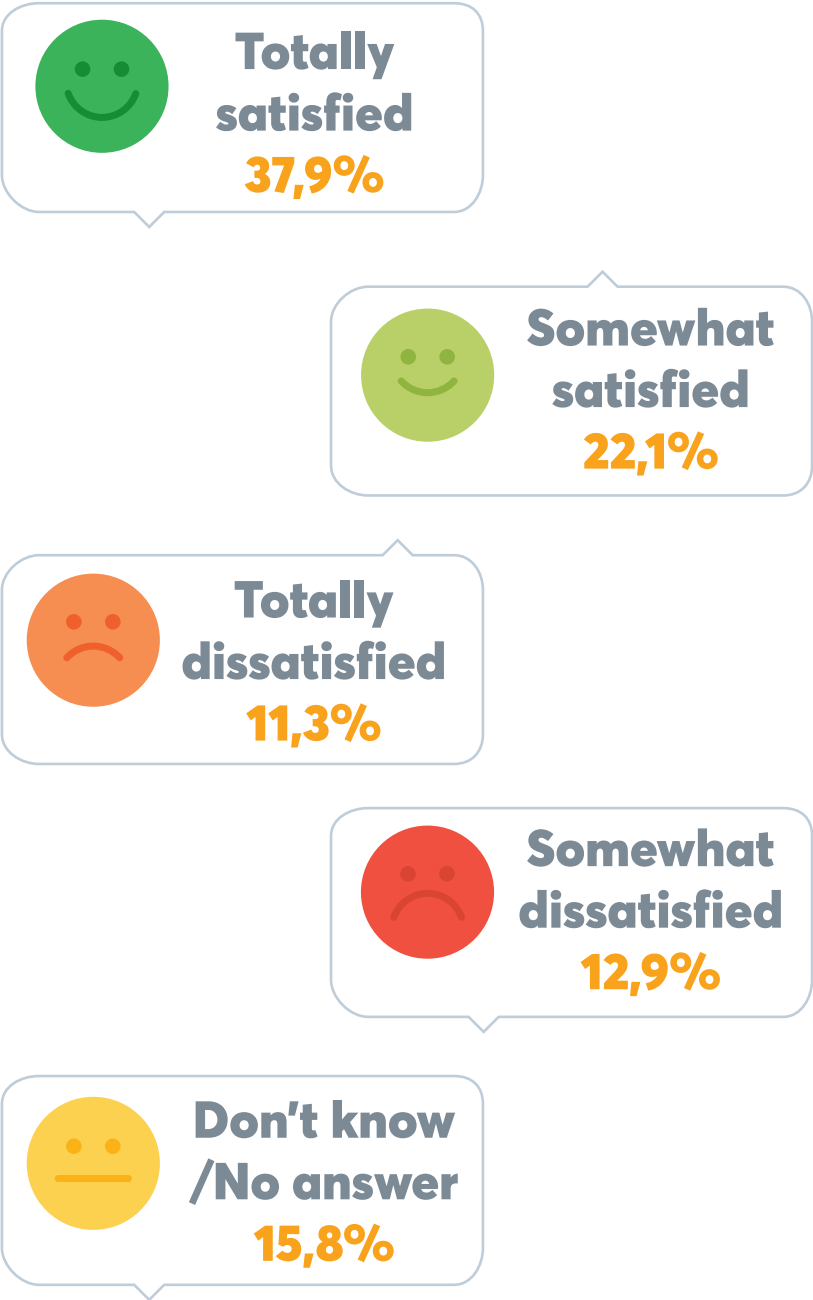
Figure 3.35:
Most important issues to be done by the “administration” in its policy towards CSOs



Respondents are asked to state what should be done by the “administration” in its policy towards CSOs.

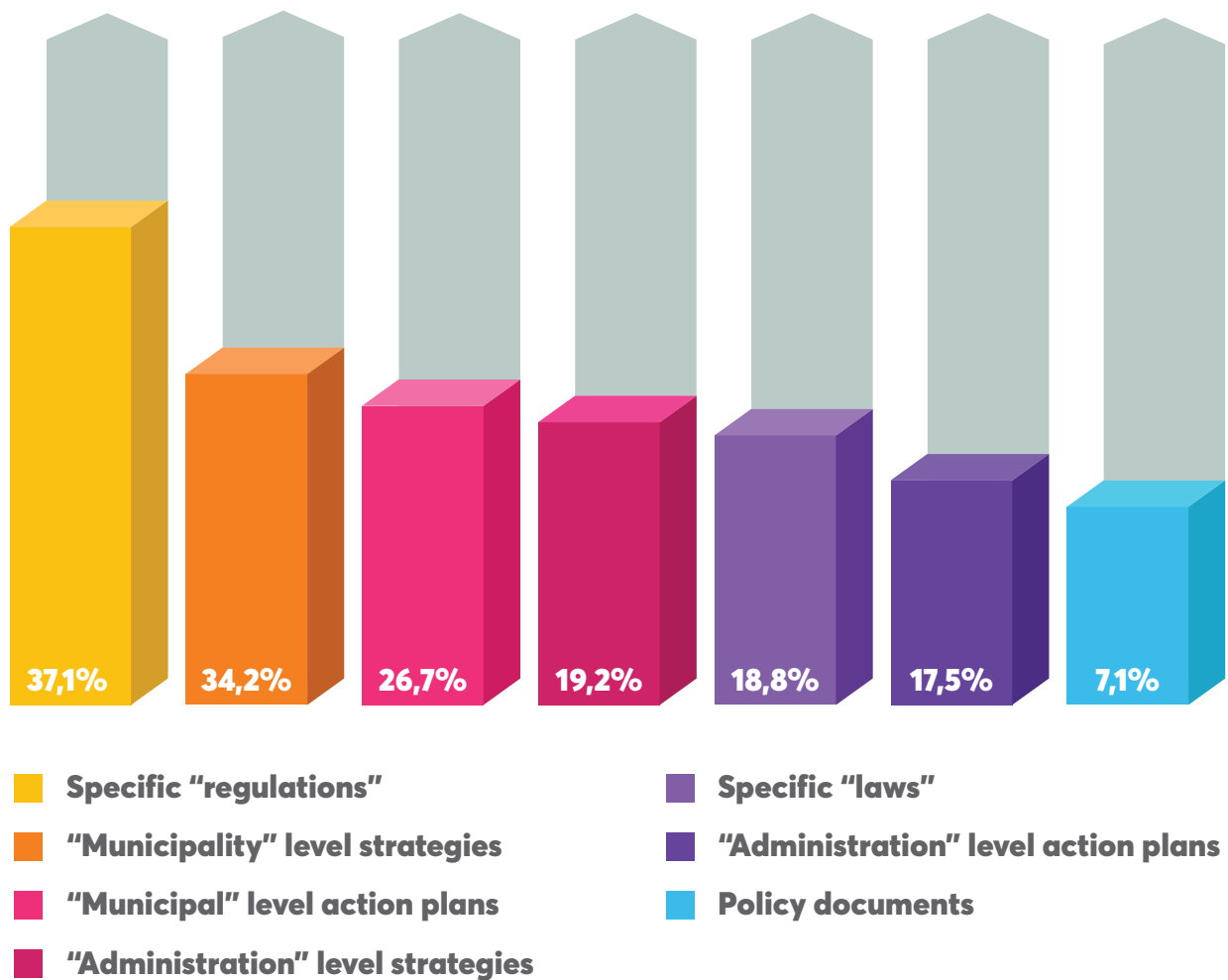
A majority of the respondents (56%) believe there is a need to develop a specialized structure within the “administration” for cooperating with CSOs. Just under half of the respondents also mention the importance of building mechanisms for public funding for CSOs. Some respondents emphasized the necessity of building auditing mechanisms; being transparent and having a more open communication between the CSOs and a supportive “administration”.

Figure 3.36:
Satisfaction with the level of inclusion in policy making and implementation



The satisfaction level for inclusion of CSOs in policymaking is quite high: 60% are either totally or somewhat satisfied. The total percentage of respondents who are dissatisfied is around 25% and 16% did not know or did not answer the question.

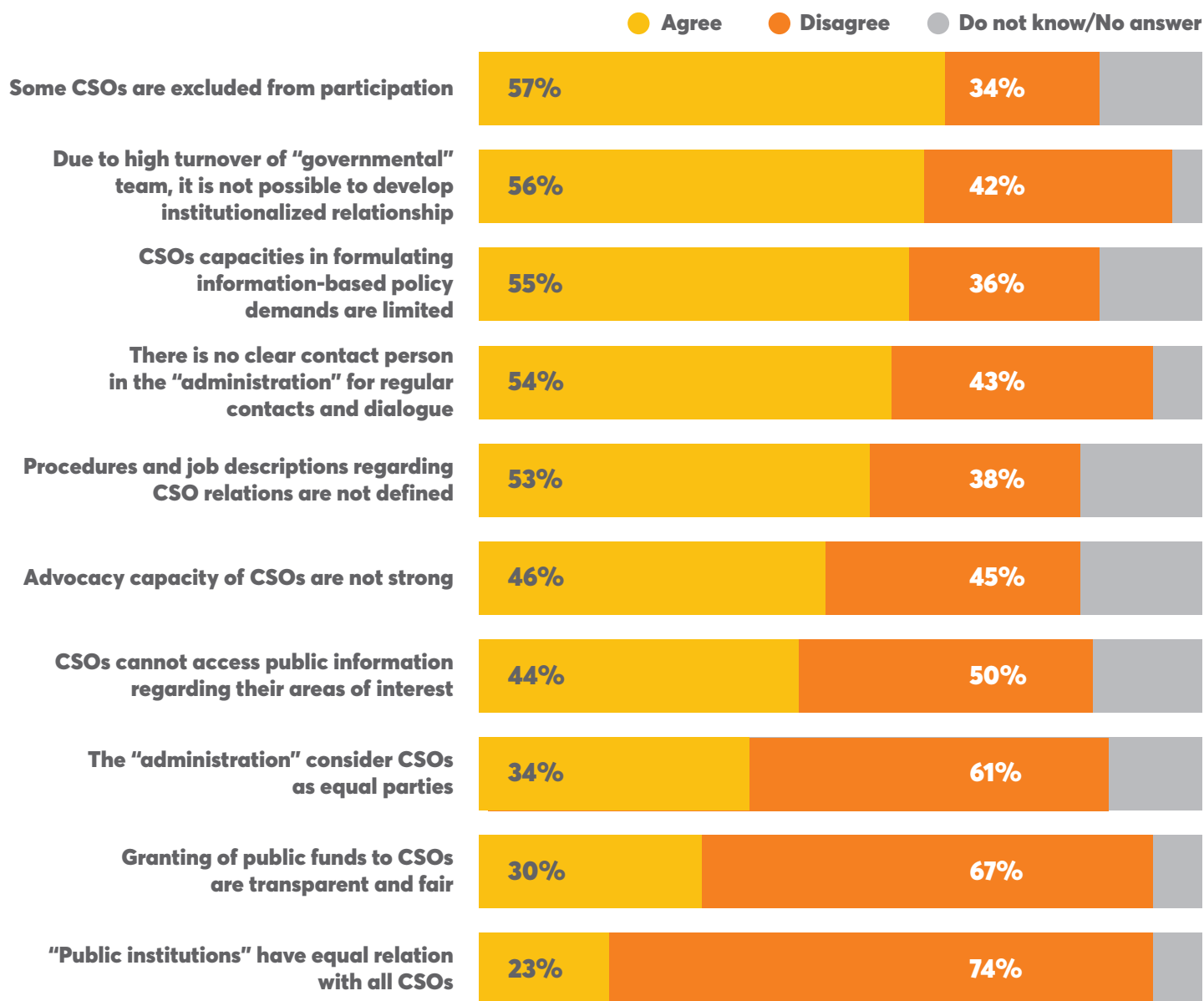
Figure 3.37:
Participation in activities



While a large majority of the respondents considers they are adequately involved in policy making, no more than one third stated to be a participant in any of the specified issues. 37% stated that they took part in the process of "specific regulations" and 34% in "municipality level strategies".

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

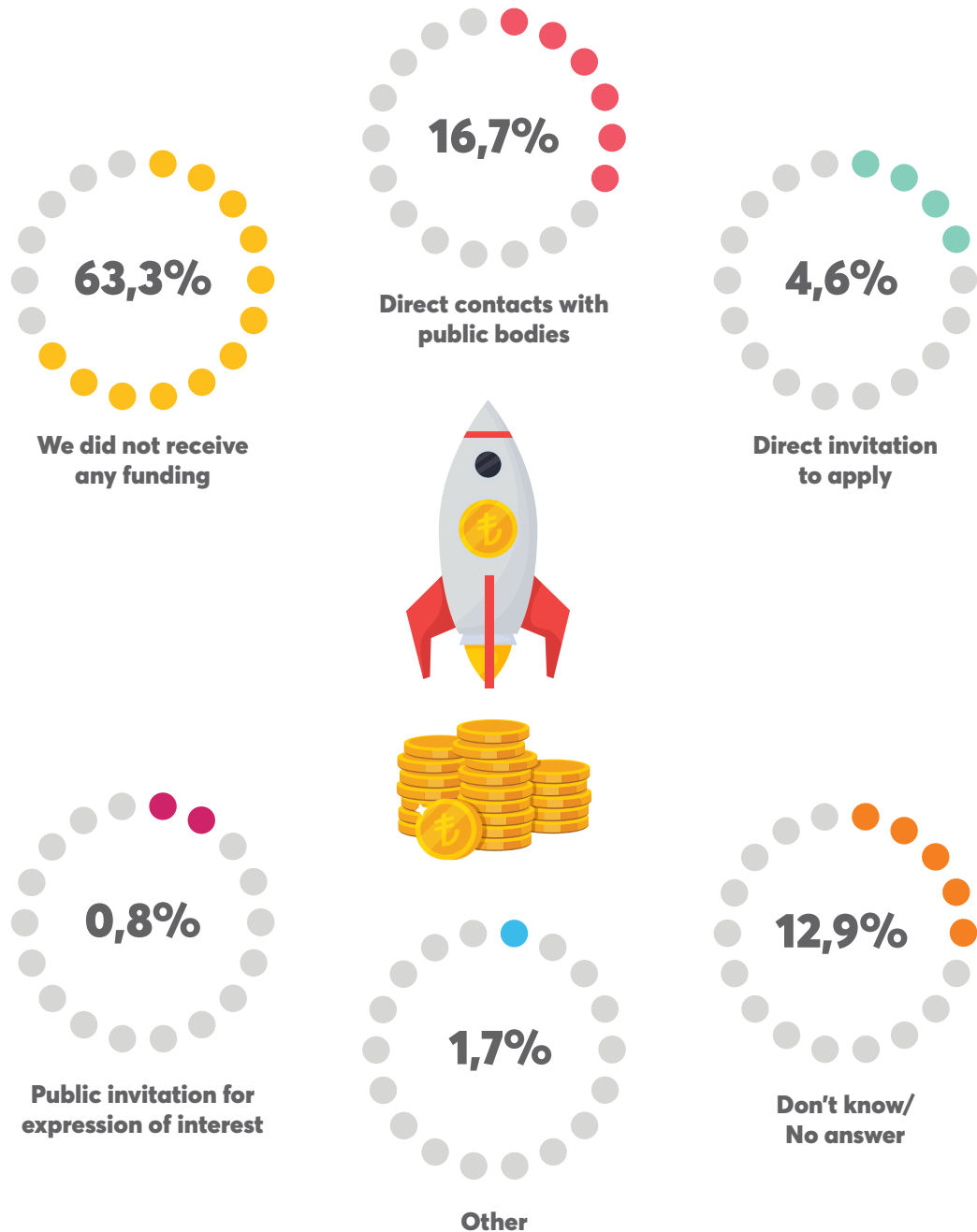
Figure 3.38:
Perceptions about public sector-CSO cooperation



Statements regarding "equality", "transparency" and "fairness" seem to be the main issues related to the dialogue and cooperation between civil society organisations and public agents.

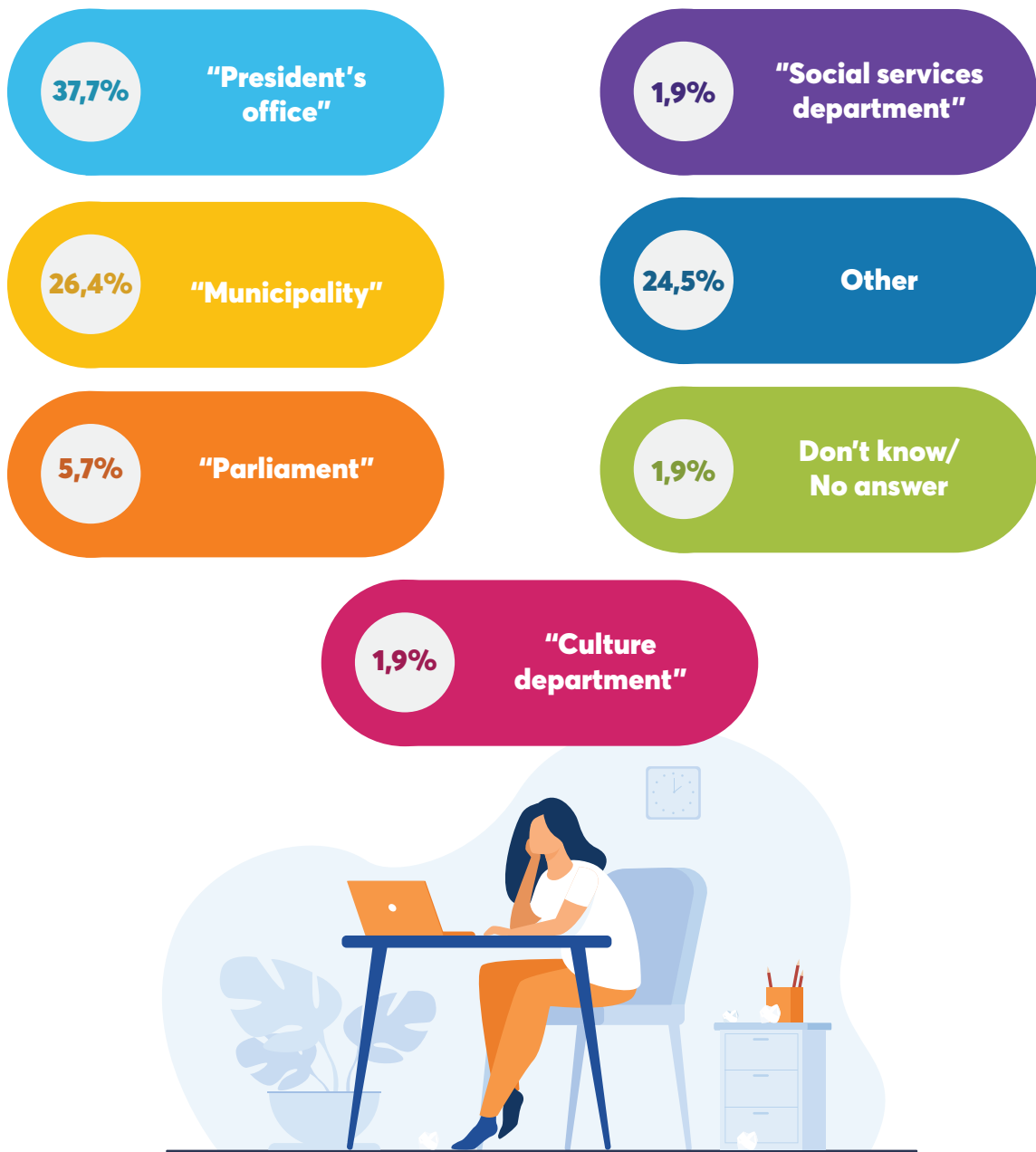
Three out of four respondents do not agree with the statement "public institutions have equal relation with all CSOs". 67% of the respondents disagree that the granting of public funds to CSOs is transparent and fair and 61% do not believe that the "administration" considers CSOs as equal parties.

Figure 3.39:
Receiving funds from the “Turkish Cypriot administration”



While 63% stated that they did not receive any funding from the “Turkish Cypriot administration” within the last two years, 17% mentioned having received funding through direct contact with public bodies and 5% through direct invitation to apply.

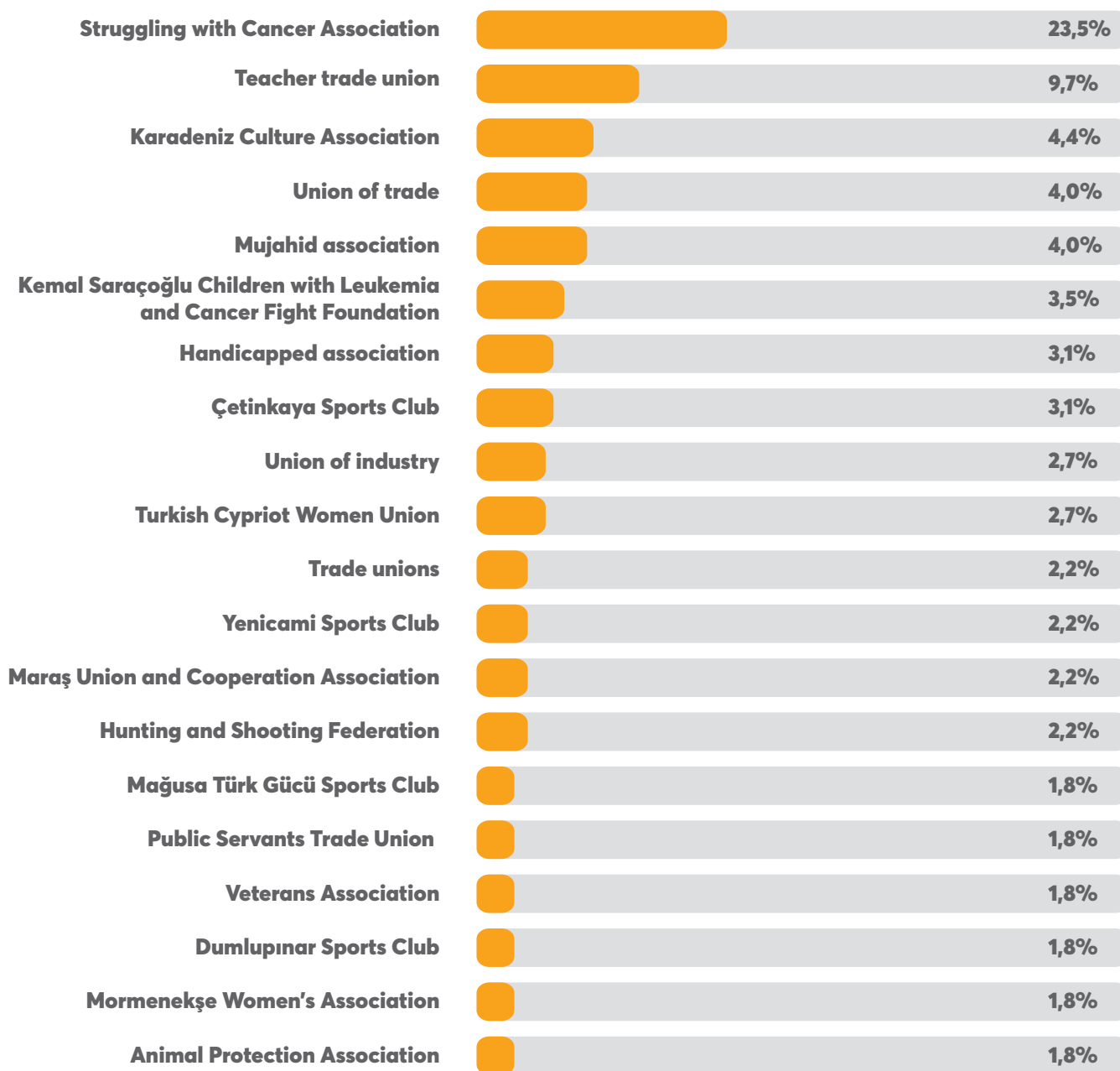
Figure 3.40:
CSOs' public sources of funding



Among those who stated that they had received a funding from "an administration body", 38% stated it came from the "president's office". 26% received their funds from the "municipality", 6% from the "parliament" and 2% from the "culture department". The "other" category includes "football federation", "ministry of agriculture" and "ministry of education".

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

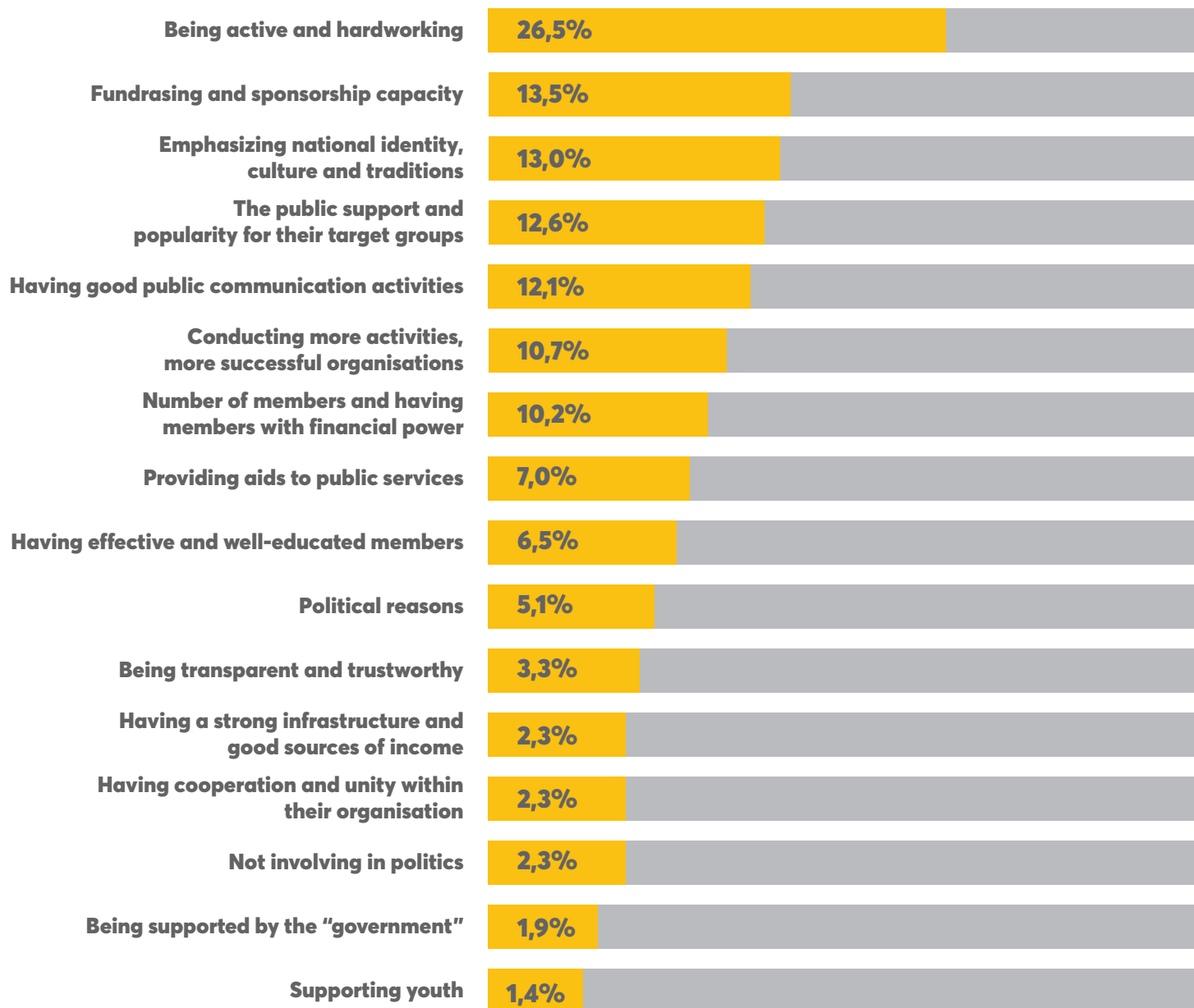
Figure 3.41:
Organisations found successful



Respondents are asked to name the most successful civil society organisations in northern part of Cyprus. The organisations mentioned by the respondents are listed above. Struggling with Cancer Association is by far the successful organisation which is listed by the higher number of respondents.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

Figure 3.42:
Reasons for success

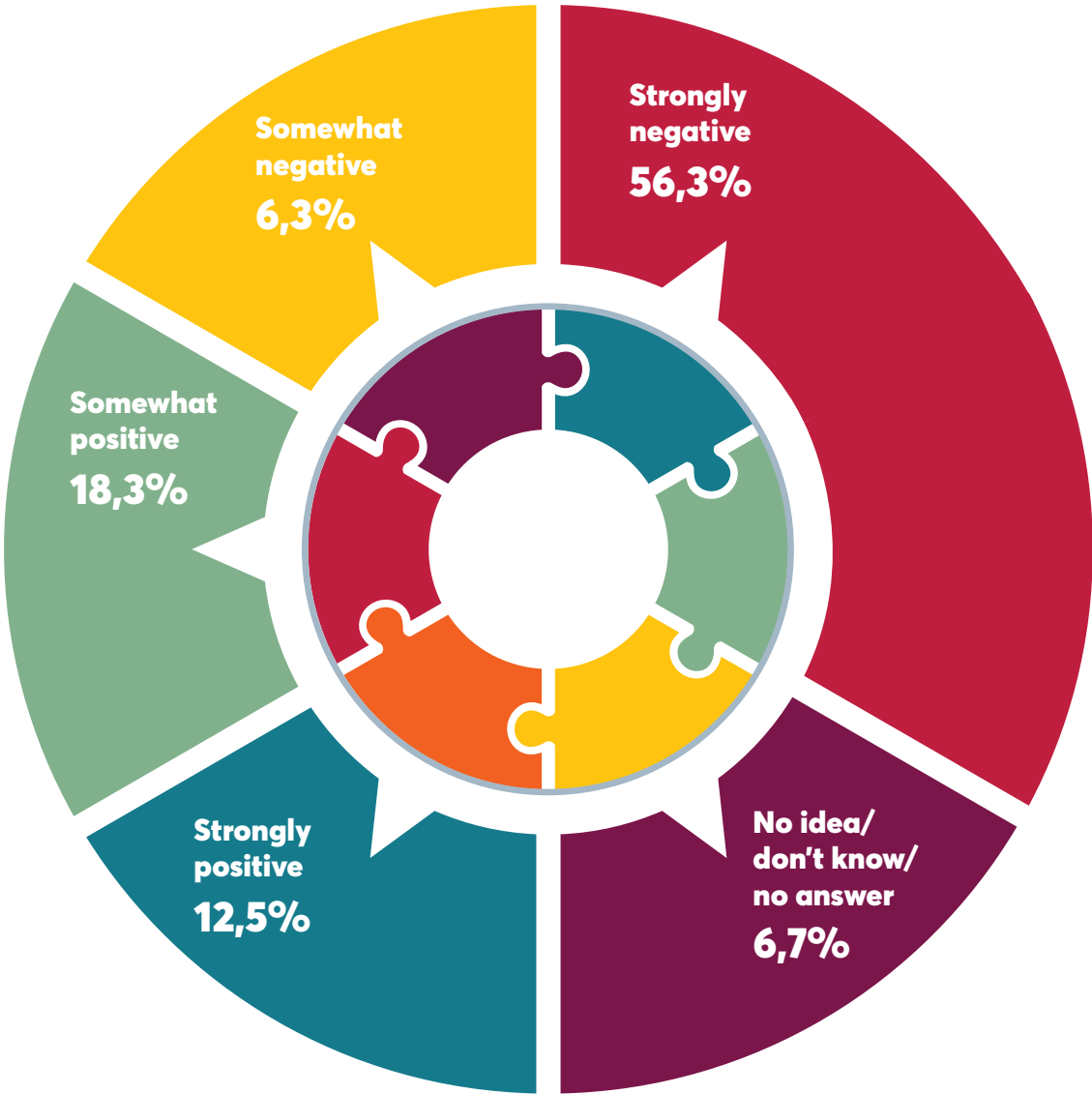


Respondents are asked to explain why the organisations they listed in the previous question are successful.

"Being active and hardworking" is stated by 26,5%. Others stated "fundrasing and sponsorship capacity" (13,5%), "emphasizing national identity, culture and traditions" (13%) or "popularity for the target groups" - e.g. children, cancer patients - (almost 13%), as the believed reasons of success.

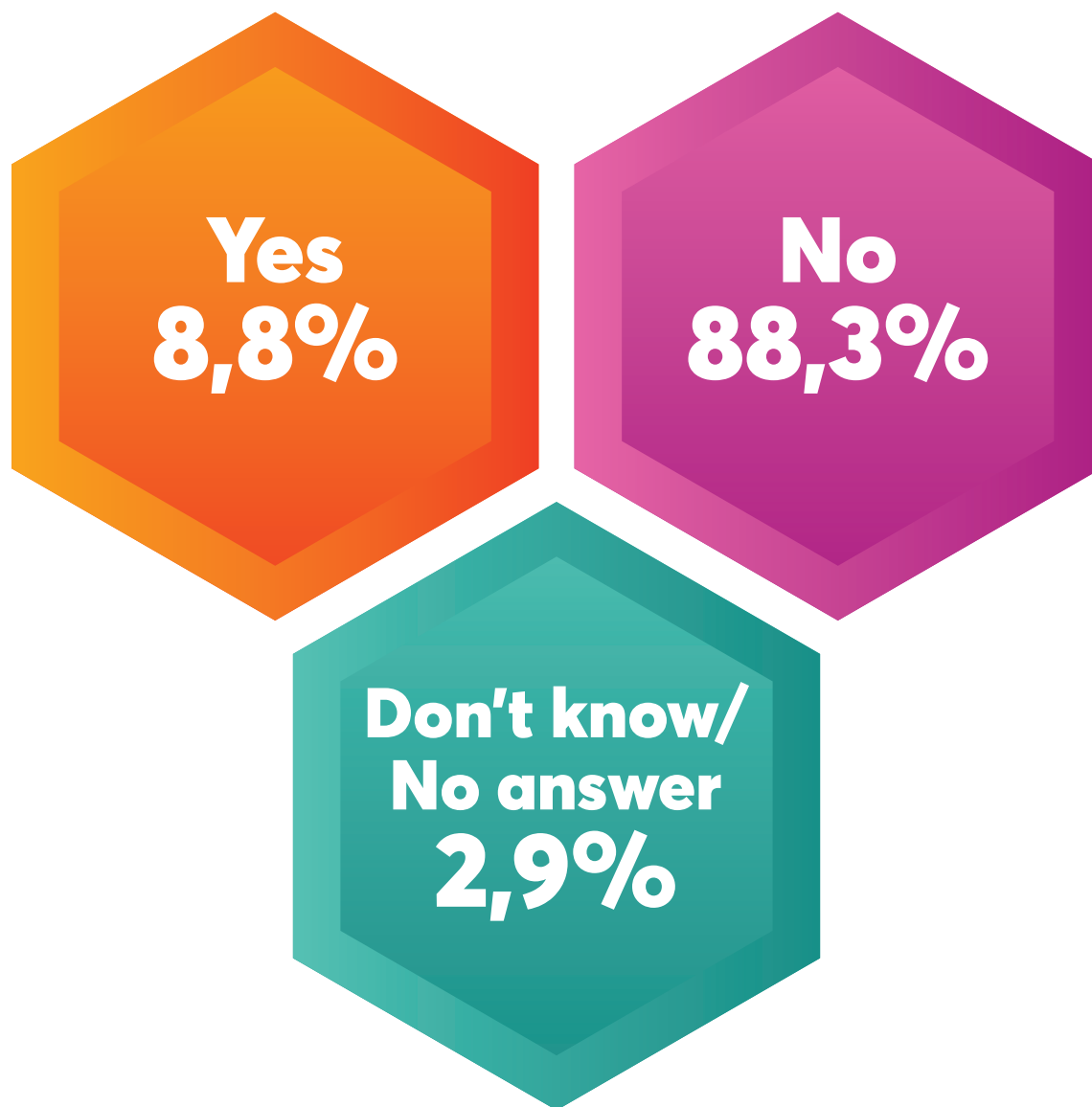
3.10. Cooperation with Greek Cypriot CSOs

Figure 3.43:
Opinions on cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs



More than half of the respondents' view regarding the cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs is strongly negative. Around 30% of the respondents consider the cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs positive. CSOs that have previously conducted activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs are more positive on the cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs (81%) than those who have not (27%).

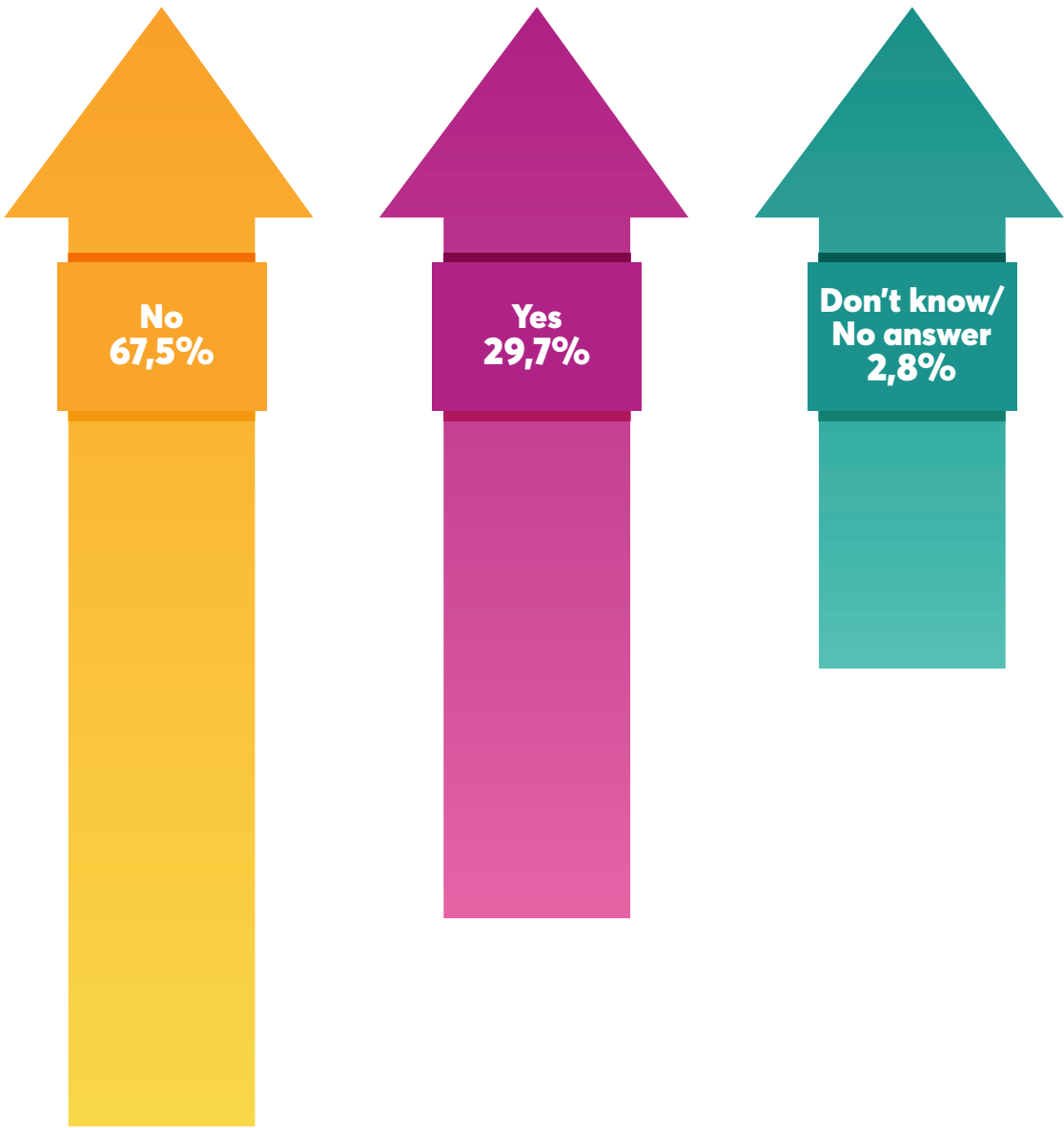
Figure 3.44:
Conducting activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs



Only 9% of the CSOs stated they carried out activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs.

The type of activities conducted are: "conference, seminar or symposium", "tournament/contest", "concerts, exhibitions, festivals and activities in relevant field" and "charity events".

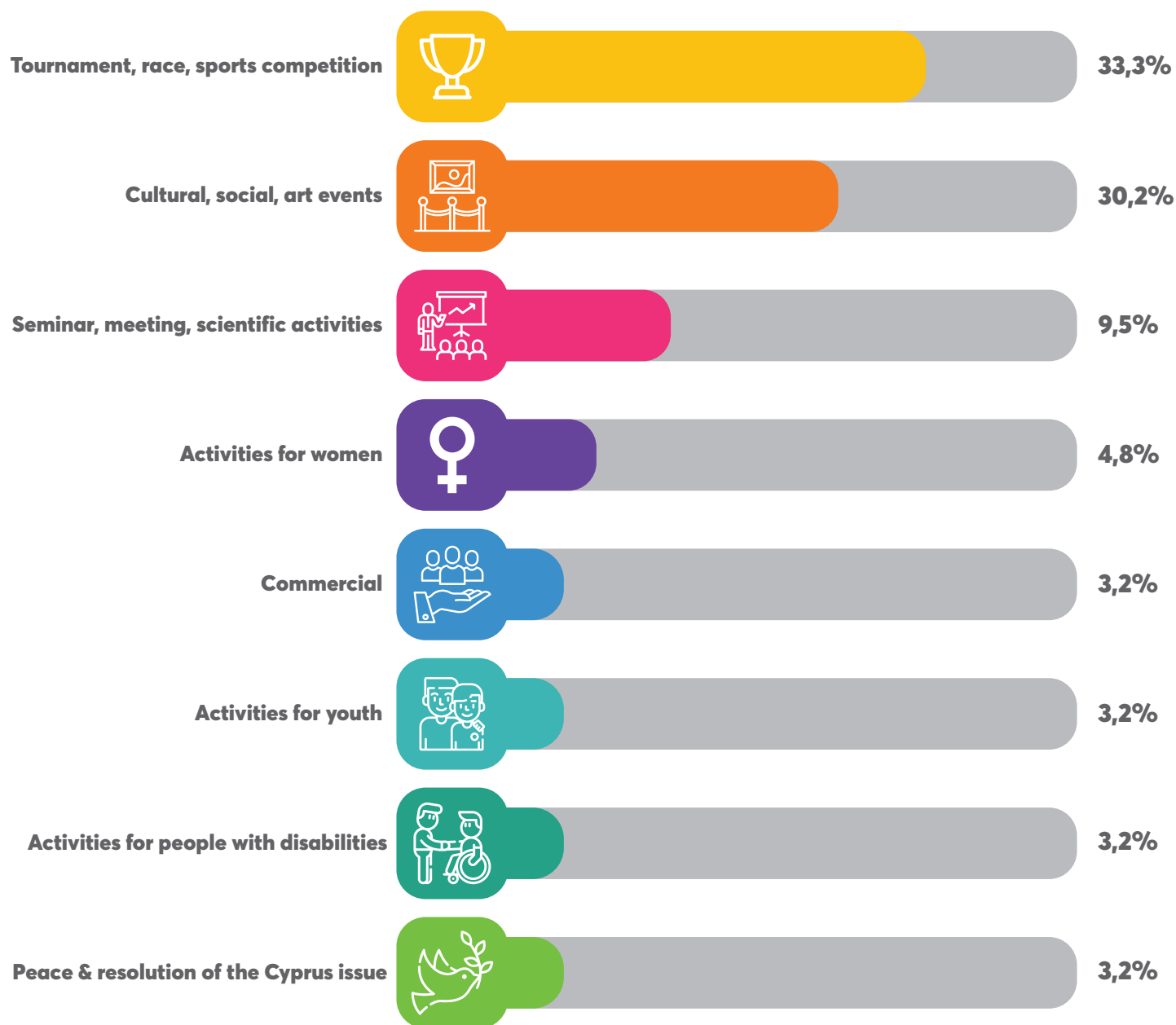
Figure 3.45:
Willingness to conduct activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs



In line with the low level of interaction, 68% of the respondent CSOs declare not being willing to conduct activities with Greek Cypriot CSOs while 30% are willing to do so.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

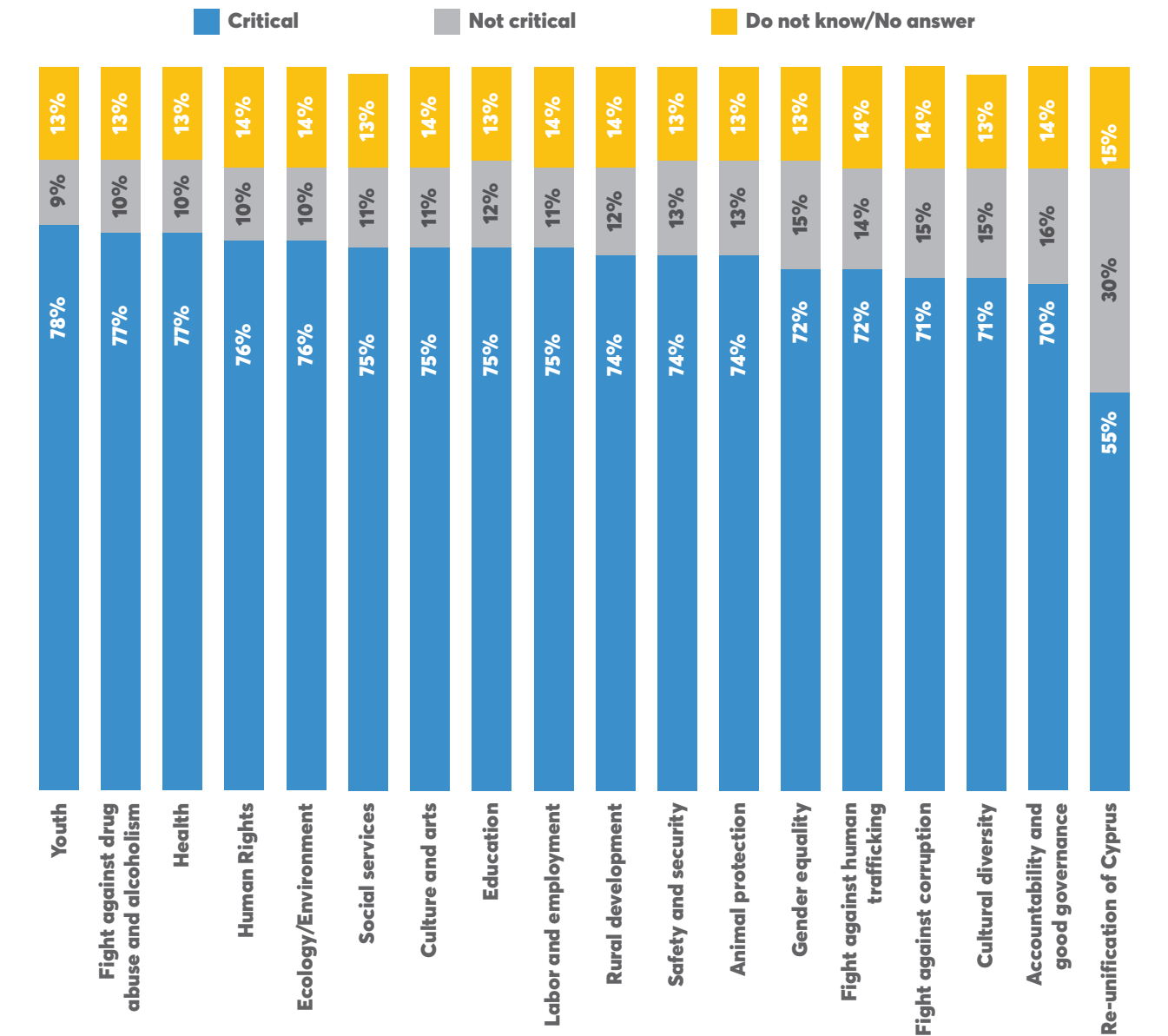
Figure 3.46:
Type of activities that can be conducted with Greek Cypriot CSOs



For those who are willing to conduct common activities with the Greek Cypriot civil organisations, the types of activities that can be conducted are asked. "Tournaments, race or sports competitions", "cultural, social, art events" and "seminars, meetings, scientific activities" are mentioned as well as activities for specific target groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities.

Perceptions of Turkish Cypriot Civil Society Organisations towards Civil Society Capacity

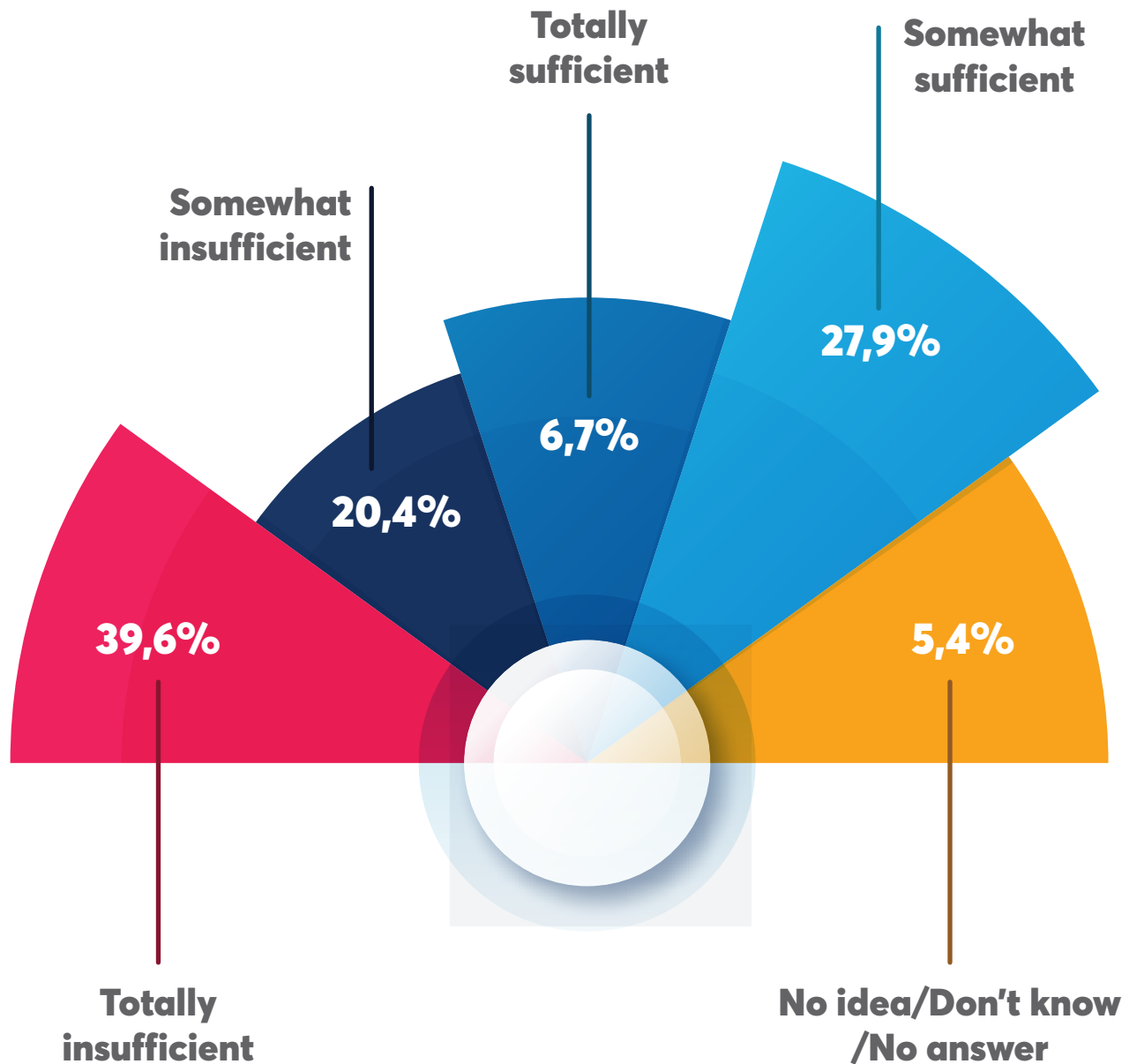
Figure 3.47:
Importance of areas for cooperation between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs



More than half of the respondents consider each proposed areas of cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs important. "Youth", "fight against drug abuse and alcoholism", "health", "human rights" and "ecology" topics are on top of the list (76% and more find they are critical areas of cooperation). All the other areas are found important by 70%-75% of the respondents. "Re-unification of Cyprus" on the other hand is seen as a less critical area of cooperation between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot CSOs by 55% of the respondents only.

3.11. Cooperation with business and media

Figure 3.48:
Support provided to civil society by the Turkish Cypriot business sector



Support received from the Turkish Cypriot business sector is found insufficient by 60% of the representatives of the civil society organisations.

Figure 3.49:
Main reasons for the Turkish Cypriot business sector not to support CSOs



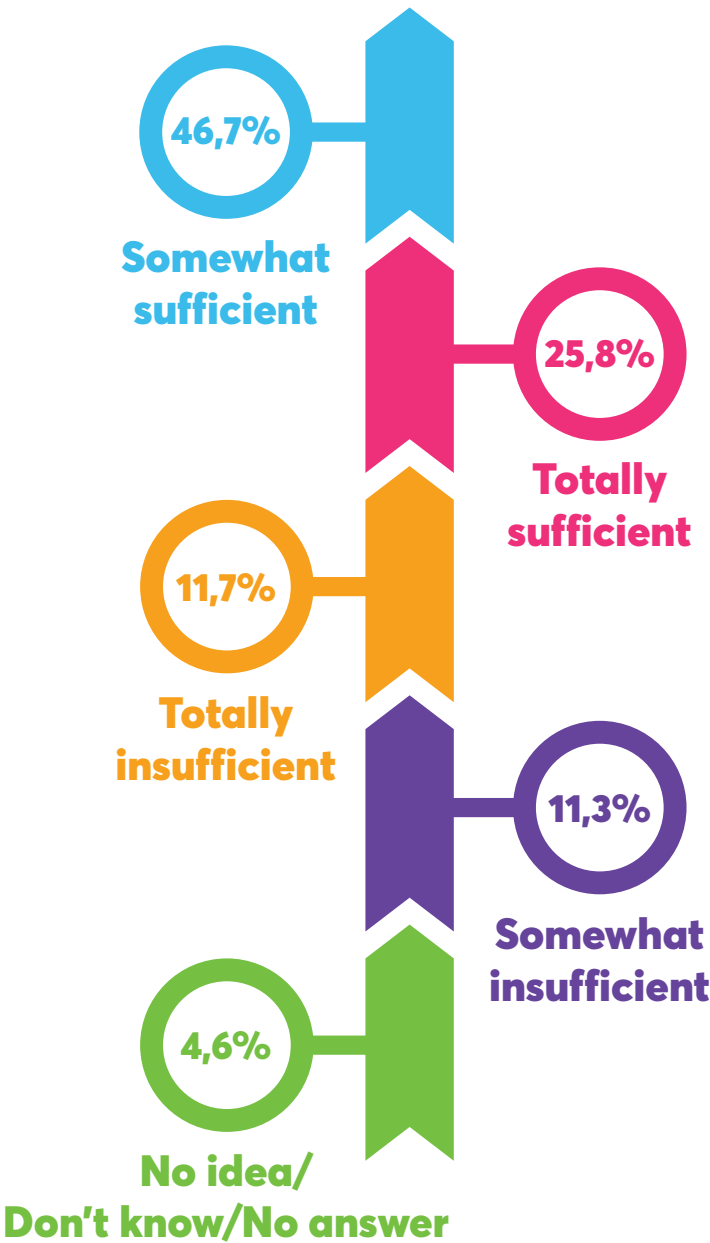
Almost a third of the respondents thinks that the business sector does not support CSOs because it does not see an interest in it or thinks it cannot benefit from it. "Economic reasons", "lack of tax exemption" and "apathy" are also mentioned.

Figure 3.50:
Most important things to be done to improve business sector and civil society collaboration



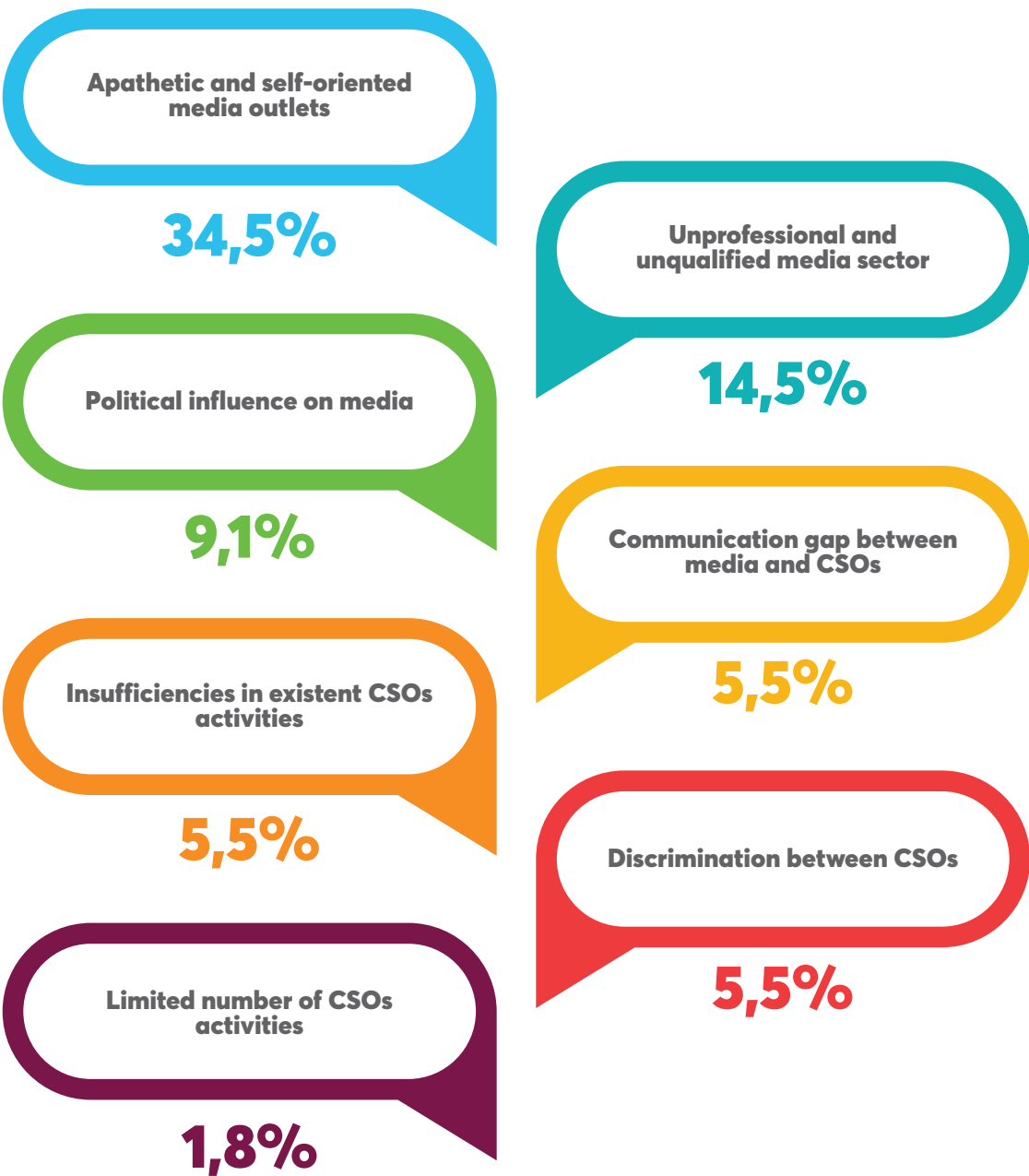
Respondents are asked to state the most important things to be done to improve business sector and civil society collaboration. "Consultation and communication" is seen as an important area of improvement as well as direct contact through organised events such as dinners or meetings. Regulations that would make it easier to collaborate are also mentioned.

Figure 3.51:
Media visibility of the Turkish Cypriot CSOs



A majority of the respondents stated that media visibility of the Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations is sufficient: 47% of the respondents believe it is "somewhat sufficient", and one quarter find it to be "totally sufficient" 23% think there is room for improvement in this area and consider media visibility insufficient.

Figure 3.52:
The main reasons for the lack of visibility of the Turkish Cypriot civil society in the media



The main reason for insufficient media visibility of the Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations listed by respondents is “apathetic and self-oriented media outlets” (34,5%); the second most listed reason is “media sector being unprofessional and unqualified” (14,5%).

Figure 3.53:
**Most important things to be done for a more effective collaboration between civil society
organisations and the media sector**



Respondents are asked to name the most important things that they think can be done for a more effective collaboration between civil society organisations and the media sector. Many stated "increasing the level and frequency of contact" as a way to increase collaboration. Some other respondents stated that the media's approach towards CSOs should change to be more objective, effective and aware of their importance. Some mentioned that civil society organisations' attitude must be more proactive in their relation with the media sector.



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