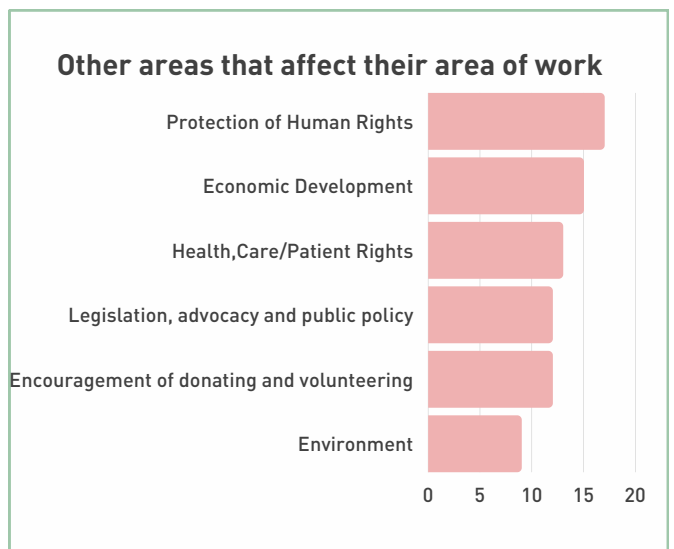
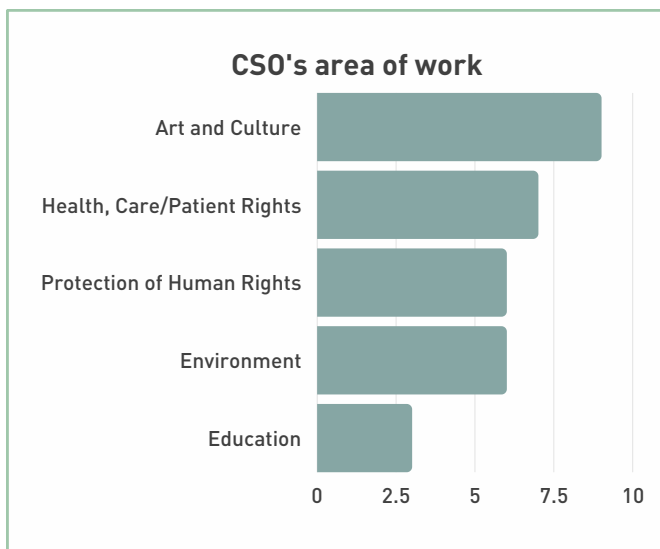
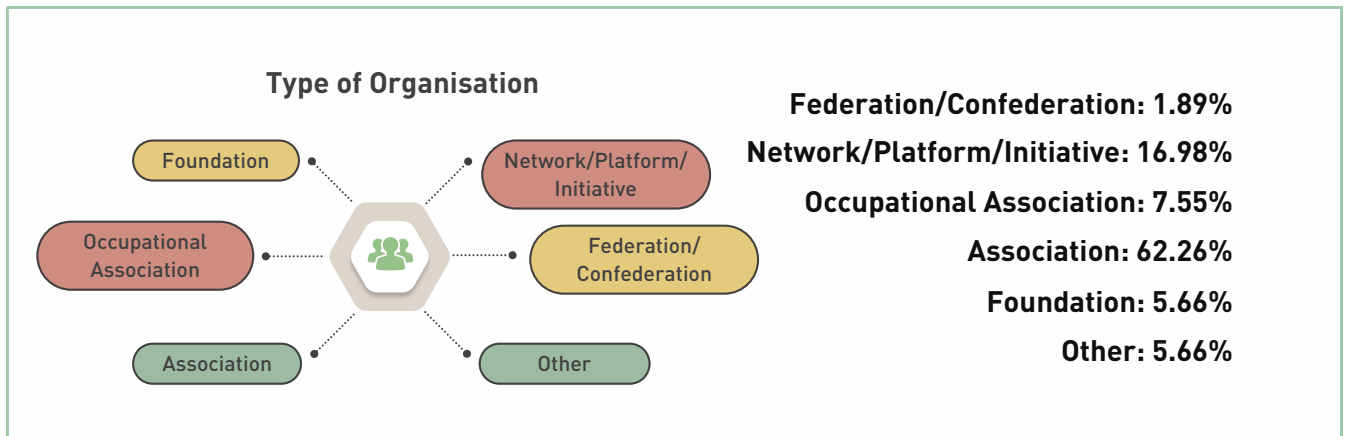
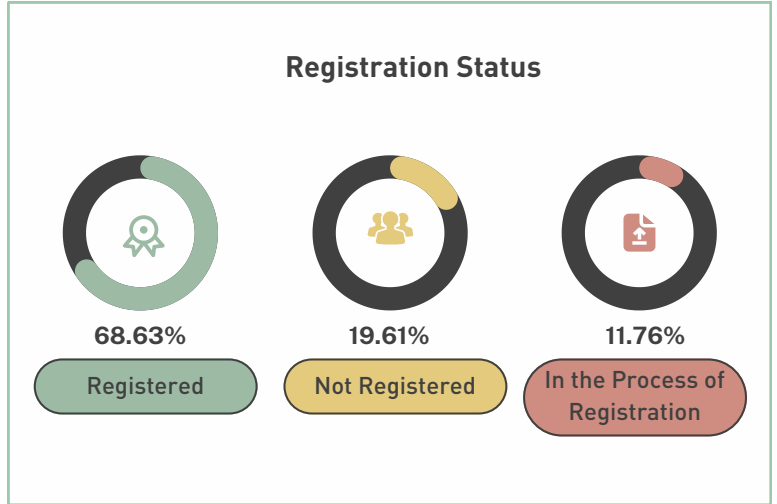
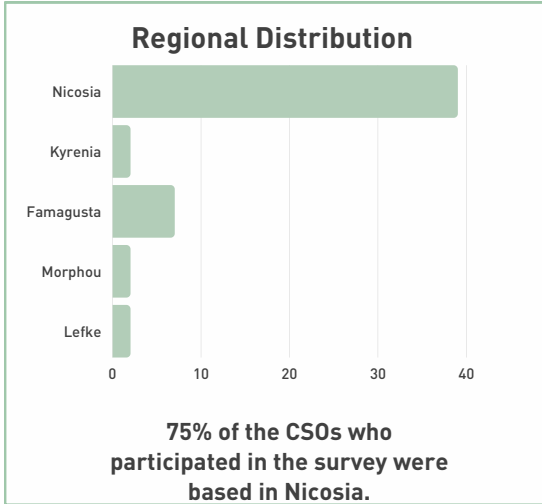


Civil Society Situation Analysis - 2022

General Information:

The survey on civil society organisations (CSOs) in Northern part of Cyprus was carried out by the Civil Society Initiative, with the support of Civic Space, between 7th March 2022 and 4th April 2022. A sum of 53 CSOs participated in the online survey.



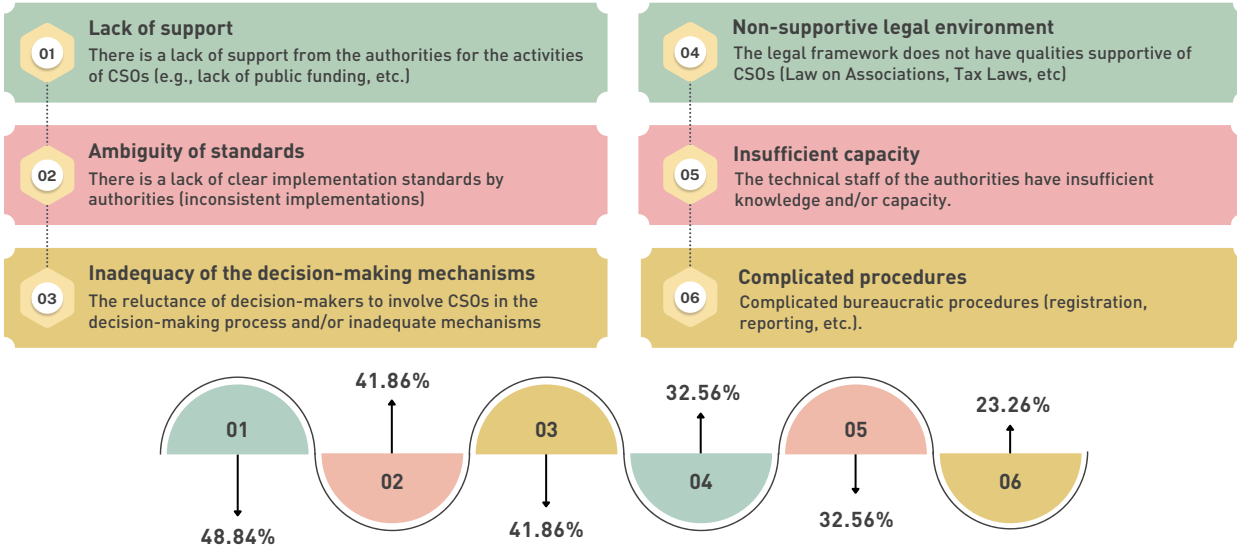
Sivil Toplum İnisiyatifi
Civil Society Initiative



Civil Society Situation Analysis - 2022

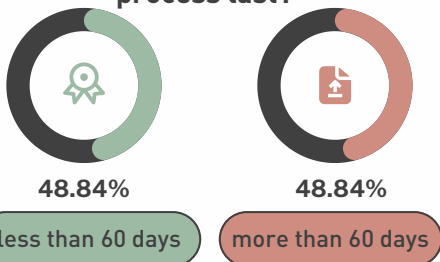
Main Issues:

The following are the problems CSOs who participated in the survey found most important regarding their interactions with administration:



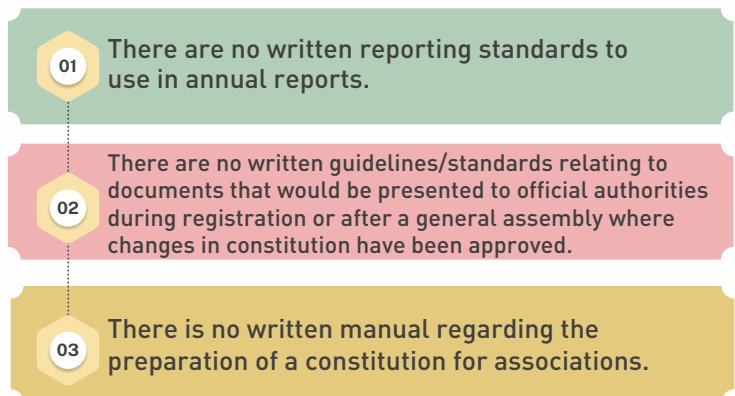
These problems reflect the difficulties experienced by CSOs in the field. More than 40% of survey participants prioritised the perception change of decision makers' regarding the importance of CSOs and their role in society. The necessity of simplifying the requirements regarding the legislation and increasing the knowledge and capacity of the relevant authorities are other prominent problem areas identified. In particular, the problems between the legislation and the practice are revealed during the registration process.

How many days did the registration process last?



The workload and/or the lack of capacity (lack of staff) of official authorities have been the most prominent answer (20.93%).

Problems Relating to the Implementation of the Law on Associations



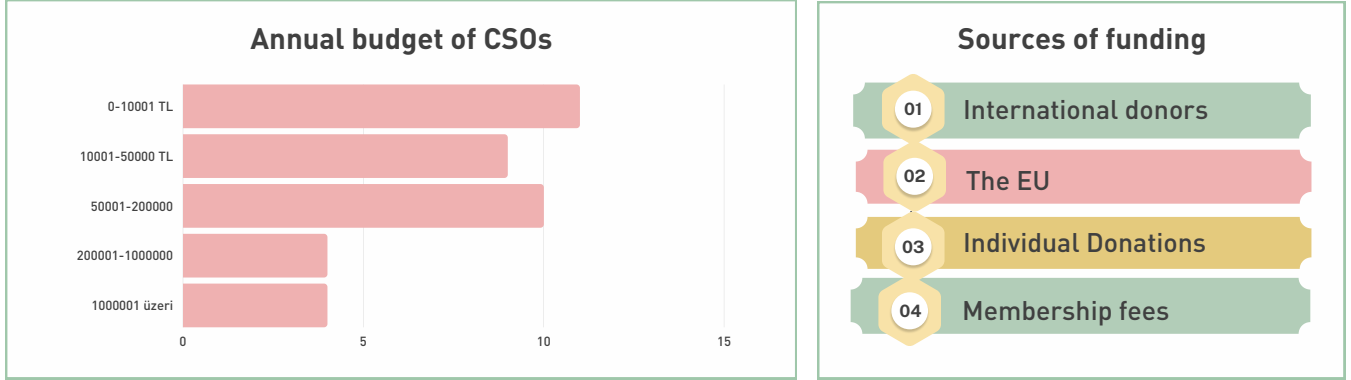
All the above issues show that both CSOs and decision makers need to increase mutual understanding on how to simplify all processes and avoid delays. The tool that will enable this common understanding stands out as a guide/guideline regarding the basic requirements of CSOs and what they have to submit to the competent authorities. The said guide/guideline will serve to ensure the timely and correct implementation of the legislation, and will make the process more sustainable for the parties.



Civil Society Situation Analysis - 2022

Funding:

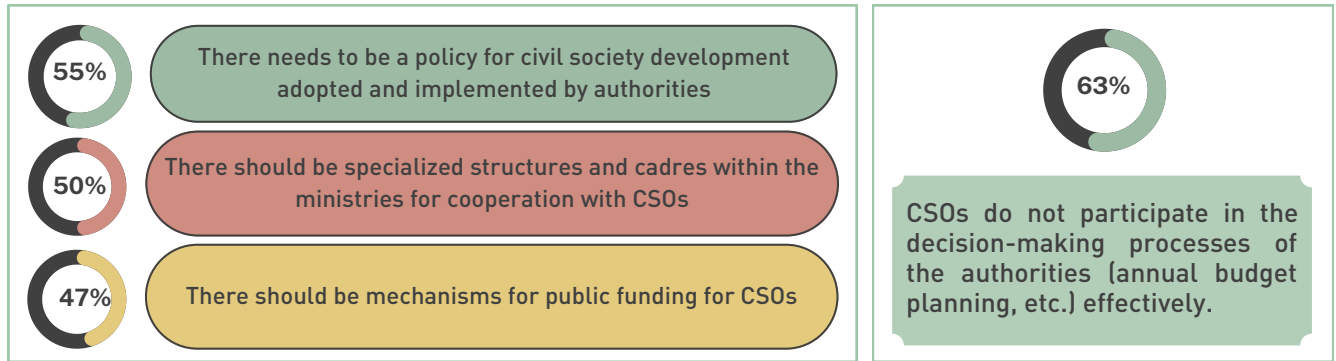
Funding is undoubtedly an important need for CSOs to carry on with their activities. From the size of their annual budget, their ability to access different types of funding to whether they have professional employees or not, funding plays a vital role for CSOs. The results of the survey has also shed light to problems related to funding.



CSOs have also stated 'state/municipal' funding, corporate donations, and economic activities as some of the instruments for their sources of funding. The funding provided by the Turkish Embassy was also stated as one of the instruments for the sources of income of the CSOs. 48.78% of the CSOs emphasised that they organize fundraising activities through digital tools or by organising face-to-face campaigns. Problems encountered during fundraising activities came to the fore as "complex and unnecessary bureaucracy regarding permits" and "internal problems (lack of human resources, lack of expertise and experience, lack of cooperation, wrong decision making, incomplete planning, etc.)".

Participation:

It was emphasised that a "policy for the development of civil society" was needed to be developed by the decision makers. 94% of the respondents stated that committees should be established where all parties will take part in the design and implementation of the policy to be developed for CSOs.



These results once again emphasised how important it is for CSOs to actively participate in decision-making processes. 61% of the CSOs participating in the decision-making processes stated that their efforts yielded positive results. In decision-making processes, the opinion of CSOs by decision makers (52%) arises as a result of the thematic expertise of CSOs. However, only 5% of survey respondents think that the CSOs are sufficiently involved in the policy development processes.

When asked about the three most important steps that the authorities should undertake to improve CSO participation in decision-making, CSOs identified the following:

- 01 Appoint a specific contact person responsible for consultations and communication with CSOs in each authority
- 02 Develop clear standards/guidance for CSO participation in decision-making
- 03 Organize a public discussion with CSOs to discuss how to improve their participation best

