THE CSO METER:
ASSESSING THE CIVIL SOCIETY ENVIRONMENT IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

What is the CSO Meter?
The CSO Meter supports regular and consistent monitoring of the environment in which civil society organizations (CSOs) operate in the Eastern Partnership countries. It consists of a set of standards and indicators in 10 different areas to measure both law and practice. It is based on international standards and best practices.

How can you use the CSO Meter?
With the CSO Meter and its country and regional reports, you can:
• Compare findings under each area year by year and track progress or regression.
• Compare achievements or obstacles in one country to those in another.
• Propose evidence-based solutions for advocacy and policy-making and organize debates on challenges and proposed recommendations.
• Prepare infographics or other promotional materials.
• Assess proposed legislation affecting the environment for CSOs.
• Develop more detailed thematic reports based on the information collected.

How was the CSO Meter developed?
The CSO Meter was developed through a highly consultative and collaborative process, supported by the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL). It was co-drafted by a core group of local experts and consulted in 3 rounds with more than 807 CSOs across the region. As such, the CSO Meter is a result of a true local effort and covers issues that local partners identified as relevant for their country contexts.

What is next?
The CSO Meter will be tested during 2019. Local partners are preparing country reports on the civil society environment in each of the Eastern Partnership countries. Their findings will feed into a regional report that ECNL will develop to capture regional trends. We will then evaluate the CSO Meter’s practical implementation and adjust it to ensure that no important issue or concern is missed.