

DIRECT STATE FUNDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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CSDS – Civil Society Development Strategy
CSO – Civil Society Organization
MECR – Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
NEF – National Ecologic Fund
CPA – Central Public Authorities
LPA – Local Public Authorities
VAT – Value Added Tax
MHLSP – Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
CA – Civic Association
CAJPD – Center for Legal Assistance for People with Disabilities
DRO - Diaspora Relations Office
DEH – Diaspora Engagement Hub
MHIF – Mandatory Health Insurance Funds
NHIC – National Health Insurance Company
MTEF – Medium Term Expenditure Framework
PA – Public Authorities

1. Executive Summary

This study was carried out at the request of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law, based in Budapest, Hungary. Its objective was to assess the existing practices of state funding provided to the civil society organizations of the Republic of Moldova. The findings of this study will underpin the recommendations for improving the public policy framework to facilitate the development of Moldovan CSOs.

This study represents an analysis of the direct state funding for CSOs in the form of grants for projects and subsidies, integrating the information provided by central and local public authorities, CSOs, the data processed during a legal framework review of the funding provided by CPAs and LPAs, and a state budget review. The study aimed at the following:

- To analyze the legislation and practices of providing direct state funding for CSOs in the Republic of Moldova;
- To identify the weaknesses of the direct funding mechanism used in Moldova and make proposals for its improvement.

The various research and review methods used in the study enabled a coherent presentation of up-to-date information of public interest and the formulation of relevant conclusions about the substance and ways to proceed in order to help increase CSO financial sustainability and funding from the state budget. An interpretation of the data collected revealed that the main problems affecting the quality of the direct state funding mechanism are of a legal and procedural nature.

The main conclusion of the study is that an improvement of the funding mechanisms is imperative and requires changes in the regulatory (legislative) framework and in its implementation (by establishing clear, coherent and transparent procedures) and, therefore, it involves a joint commitment of the authorities providing funding and of the recipient CSOs.

Methodology

The study is comprehensive in terms of both the analysis of the actors providing funding (PAs) and of funding recipients (CSOs), and of the range of methods used to collect data (a questionnaire, interviews, and secondary data analysis). The study is structured in two levels: the *theoretical level* that describes the existing funding practices and the legal framework that governs them, and the *analytical level* at which the information collected was processed.

For a better understanding of this topic, it was necessary to analyze the most relevant legal documents and the documents regulating the development and implementation of public funding programs for CSO projects. We also made a review of several reports and studies on civil society development, conducted by different organizations during the past five years. A list of the documents reviewed is attached (see Annexes).

For a better understanding of the views of the representatives of the above-mentioned institutions and organizations about the realities of the operation of the state funding system for CSOs, we

developed a questionnaire and sent it to national, regional and local CSOs from which we collected answers and proposals for streamlining the mechanism. We asked CSOs a few questions about the problems in the operation of the current mechanism for CSO funding by state institutions. We also asked respondents' opinions about the elements that should be changed in the above-mentioned mechanism and the actions to be taken to make the mechanism work more efficiently and with a greater impact.

The questionnaire was sent out to 250 organizations/public authority institutions and was completed by 43 of them: 18 national organizations, 15 local organizations, three foundations, one national private institution, two CPA representatives, two LPA representatives, and three initiative groups. The questionnaire is attached (see Annex).

We conducted interviews with civil society leaders and representatives of local and central authorities. The objectives of the interviews was to understand how the system of CSO project funding by state institutions works today at different levels of public administration as well as to identify the difficulties CSOs face during this process. The interviews also aimed to obtain the information that we had not found on the institutions' webpages. They were focused on a description of the processes and procedures specific to each funding practice.

Ten interviews were conducted with CSO representatives who had projects funded by various CPA or LPA programs or who held policy-related dialogues with the authorities. We held other 15 interviews with CPA and LPA representatives who have been responsible or involved in the implementation of funding programs for CSO projects during the past 2 or 3 years. Additional interviews were conducted with CPA representatives who, by the virtue of their job responsibilities, influence or may influence public policy making in this field.

The selection of people for interviews was based on publicly available information about funded organizations and the funding institutions. The list of people interviewed is attached (see Annexes)

The Study's preliminary recommendations were discussed during a focus group meeting organized with CSO representatives at the end of the study, to have them confirm whether the recommendations accurately represented CSOs common view.

2. Forms of Direct State Funding for CSOs

In accordance with the national legislation on the government funding of activities/programs implemented by CSOs, the funding can be divided into two categories:

✚ Direct funding that consists of the financial support allocated directly to a CSO from the central or local public budget, which is shown as a budgetary expenditure for that financial year. In general, the funds provided are redirected through various government institutions (ministries or funds) or from other public sources (local government budgets). Based on the review of the 2017 State Budget Law, we can conclude that these resources in some cases appear as clearly defined budget lines for this purpose (for instance, the support for cultural projects/programs of public associations), while in other cases they are included in the general expenditure line for that area (e.g. the grant amount for youth CSOs is not distinctly set out in the State Budget Law).

✚ Indirect funding that does not involve a direct transfer of money or property. It is a benefit granted to CSOs that allows them to use those assets to fulfil their statutory objectives. Such

support does not appear in the public budget as a direct expense. This type of support also includes tax incentives.

Direct funding is provided for services in the area of competence of the public sector and for CSO programs/projects/activities that fall within the priorities announced by CPA and LPA institutions.

A review of the direct funding provided by these institutions points out that there are several forms of direct funding for CSOs envisaged by the State Budget Law, and namely: state grants/subsidies, service contracting, and project grants.

State Grants/Subsidies are the financial support rendered to CSOs in the form of transfers from the state budget to support certain categories of the population, according to the existing legislation. The 2017 State Budget Law stipulates that the recipients of such direct funding are the "Association of the Blind of Moldova", the "Association of Deaf of Moldova", the "Disabled Persons Society of the Republic of Moldova", and the "National Olympic Committee" Association. The budgeting of funds for the first three CSOs mentioned is done based on the Law on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities No.60 of 30.03.2012, and for the "National Olympic Committee" – based on the Law on Physical Culture and Sport, No.330-XIV of 25.03.99¹. In 2018, the list of these CSOs is completed with the "National Paralympic Committee".

Service contracting is another form of direct funding for CSOs from public budgets, which implies a transfer of funds based on services or consulting contracts. This category also includes the "social order" (comanda socială). This form of funding was examined in a study conducted by CAJPD in 2017², which found that CPAs and LPAs did not make full use of this opportunity to establish partnerships with CSOs for developing social services. The study authors believe that this is largely due to the small sums allocated in the LPA and CPA budgets for social contracting. In this study, we will look at project grants and subsidies as direct forms of CSO funding, and we will present in short the experience of the National Health Insurance Company (NHIC).

Project grants are the form of non-reimbursable funding provided by CPAs and LPAs for implementing programs/projects/activities according to the priorities announced by the authorities. These grants are offered based on competitions organized by each funding institution, following pre-announced procedures that we will describe further on. CSO funding in the form of grants also shows the government's recognition of the public role played by the third sector and, in most cases, it represents a fee paid by the state to CSOs for achieving the objectives that should be achieved by CPAs and LPAs.

Although the amount of funds allocated by the state for the direct funding of CSOs has considerably increased in the past ten years, Moldova has not advanced too much in developing an efficient CSO direct funding mechanism. This is also confirmed by the study conducted by the Contact Center in 2016³ that found that over 83% of the funds making up CSO budgets in Moldova were from external sources. These facts point out a dependence on foreign funding and generate threats to the sustainability of CSOs development in Moldova.

¹ Law on Physical Culture and Sports no.330-XIV din 25.03.99; <http://cnas.md/libview.php?l=ro&id=548&idc=183>

² The Study "Identification of Barriers and Gaps in State Contracting of Services Provided by CSOs", Chisinau, 2018. <http://www.advocacy.md/sites/newadvocacy/files/product/document/Studiu%20contractare%20servicii%20de%20stat%20a%20se%20vicilor%20Oscfinal.pdf>

³ The study "Fundraising in Local Sources: Opportunities and Perspectives", Contact Center; Chapter Conclusions

The current legislation generally allows CPA and LPA institutions to assign funding to CSOs. As part of this study, we looked at the budgets of CPAs and of some LPAs. Our analysis showed that only a few of them have direct funding programs for CSO projects/programs.

The central authorities that have direct funding programs for CSOs are the following:

- 1) **Ministry of Education, Culture and Research** that, after the 2017 Central Public Administration Reform, manages two grant programs: one in the field of youth, launched in 2010, and the second in the field of culture, launched in 2014.
- 2) **Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment**, after the 2017 reform, took over the management of the National Ecologic Fund, launched in 1998, which is the oldest fund for direct funding that can be accessed by CSOs.
- 3) **Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection** is the authority that in 2017 launched a direct funding program for CSO projects in active aging. In healthcare, it has funded CSOs directly through services contracts, **via the mandatory health insurance funds**, since 2006.
- 4) **Office for Diaspora Relations (State Chancellery)**, which in 2018 became a direct financier of projects of civic associations and initiative groups. Until the end of 2017, such programs were managed by the Office’s international partners that provided funding for projects in this field.

During our review of the 2017 State Budget Law, we established that, besides the above-mentioned funds, there are other separate funds set up but that are not open to CSOs. These are the Regional Development Fund, the Energy Efficiency Fund, the National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Budgetary Allocations for Country Reintegration Activities.

The total funds earmarked for the direct funding of CSO projects from the state budget under the programs described in this study can be estimated by analyzing either the amounts specified in the State Budget Law or those presented by ministries and agencies on their webpages, or the information presented upon request. The amounts budgeted in the Budget Law are outlined in the Annexes; these amounts, however, are general and do not necessarily indicate the money that is designated just for the direct funding of CSOs. Therefore, in order to have an as actual figure as possible, we will use the second method of calculation, based on the amounts indicated by the institutions as spent on funding CSO projects in 2017 or on those to be contracted in 2018.

DIRECT FUNDING FOR CSOs FROM THE STATE BUDGET, 2017-2018

	Name of Program	Amount spent in 2017	Amount set for 2018
YOUTH	1.1 Grants Program for Youth CSOs	MDL 6,076,371.53	MDL 5,820,541.74
	1.2 Youth Capital Program	MDL 1,303,642.93	MDL 1,384,852.90
	1.3 Local Youth Initiatives Grant Program		MDL 3,000,000
	1.4 Assistance Program for Strengthening and Developing Local Youth Councils	MDL 400,000	MDL 1,000,000

CULTURE	Grants program for cultural associations	MDL 2,000,000	MDL 3,974,000
	Support for the Republican House of Culture of the Deaf of Moldova and National Center for Information and Rehabilitation of the Association of the Blind of Moldova	MDL 2,409,200	MDL 2,409,200
HEALTH	Main funds of the National Health Insurance Company	8 938 834,74 MDL	10 815 606 MDL
	Prevention funds of the National Health Insurance Company	MDL 1,795,498	not established yet
SOCIAL	MHLSP Small Grants Program in the field of active aging	MDL 100,000	MDL 100,000
	State allowances/ subsidies for 4 public associations	MDL 15,337,100	MDL 19,602,200
DIASPORA	Grant Program "Diaspora Engagement Hub"	The funds were managed by IOM, not by the Office for Diaspora Relations	MDL 751,892
	TOTAL FUNDS CONTRACTED	MDL 38,360,647.2 (EUR 1,889,687.05)**	MDL 48,858,292.64* (EUR 2,406,812.44)**

* This amount does not include the money to be allocated in 2018 for the NHIC prevention fund

** Amount calculated at the exchange rate established by the National Bank of Moldova for 19 April (EUR 1 = MDL 20.3)

3. Review of Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks on the Direct State Funding for CSOs

CSOs play a large number of various roles in the society. They are the ones to empower citizens to claim their rights, contribute to the enhancement of active citizenship and to a greater level of information and citizen awareness, influence and monitor policy development and implementation, thus helping to increase government's accountability towards citizens' interests, and provide the basic services to vulnerable population categories, etc. As a whole, CSOs contribute to the development of social capital and increase confidence in common values and social cohesion. They are the ones that make sure that citizens' interests are properly reflected and integrated into the public policies developed by the state authorities.

There is a clear proven relationship between the degree of development of CSOs and good governance. The state should take into account the role of CSOs as development and good governance partners for their technical expertise, their major role as human rights advocates, and their knowledge and working experience in disadvantaged communities and with various vulnerable groups.

Hence, civil society is at the foundation of a functional democracy. The major interest of the state in a democratic society is to contribute to the most active involvement of its citizens in public life, building the necessary tools, including the financial ones, to support the voluntary associations that contribute to and participate in decision-making on social, economic and political development.

The development of civil society is proclaimed one of the main priorities of the state policy in

Moldova. This, among other things, has led to the adoption of the Civil Society Development Strategy (CSDS) for 2009–2011 and later for 2012–2015. The second objective of the 2018–2020 CSDS, recently approved by the Parliament, is to promote and strengthen the financial sustainability of civil society. Strengthening the CSO sector and improving the legal framework on civil society is a commitment undertaken by the Government under Article 135 of the Moldova–EU Association Agreement.

The direct state funding of CSOs represents the acknowledgment of the importance of CSO involvement in the development of a society where the degree of development and involvement of civil society is the main indicator of democracy and civic involvement. This is why the legal framework on the functioning, direct funding and other means for supporting civil society efforts of being ubiquitous in public life is the main pillar of an equal and fair relationship between the state and civil society.

The study conducted by *IDIS Viitorul* in 2014⁴ mentions the subject of financial sustainability as the first one of the three major problems CSOs face in Moldova. The 2017 CSO Sustainability Index survey also identified this as a major problem.⁵ Financial viability remains among the major issues of CSOs identified in the 2018-2020 CSDS⁶. Although many changes were made to the national legislation between 2014 and 2017, aimed to strengthen CSO financial sustainability, the progress made in this regard has been insignificant and slow. The new elements introduced included the Law on Percentage Designation (known to the public as the 2% Law) and the Law on Social Entrepreneurship, the amendments to the accounting standards for non-commercial organizations and the appropriate amendments made to the Tax Code. We believe that these steps have been insufficient as the vast majority of CSOs is still dependent on external funding.

There are several elements that ensure the financial sustainability of CSOs. In countries with an advanced democracy, one of the key elements is the state funding mechanism whose application differs from country to country.

By developing an effective CSO financial support mechanism and setting up an enabling environment for CSOs to contribute fully to good governance, the state encourages them to play their role as independent development actors.

The Moldovan legal framework that regulates various aspects of CSO development – from their establishment and registration to the dialogue and cooperation in various areas PA institutions – is a complex and continuously evolving process. This study further makes a short review of the main laws governing this area, including the Civil Code, the Law on Civic Associations, the Law on Foundations, the Concept of Cooperation between the Parliament and the Civil Society, the Civil Society Development Strategy, and other related laws.

By the provisions of these legal acts with reference to the CSO funding mechanism, they can be grouped into general, sectorial, financial and procedural legal acts.

3.1 General Legal Acts

⁴ The Study "Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Moldova: Evolution, Sustainability and Participation to the Political Dialogue", Chisinau 2014, p. 9

⁵ The 2016 CSO Sustainability Index - the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, August 2017, p. 5

⁶ The Civil Society Development Strategy for the period 2018-2020 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy, points 1.2 and 3.2

Civil Code of the Republic of Moldova, Law no. 1107-XV of 6 June 2002

The Civil Code of the Republic of Moldova states the elements and relations underlying the civil legislation that regulates the functioning of civic associations. Art.1 of the Civil Code⁷ stipulates that civil legislation is based on the recognition of the equality of participants in the relations regulated thereby as well as on the recognition of the need for a free exercise of civil rights. Section 5. *Non-Commercial Organizations* defines the main types of non-commercial organizations, determines the mandatory elements of the status of a non-commercial organization, and the types of their activities. As concerns the existence of funding programs and guidelines, established in state institution budgets, the above-mentioned provisions are meant to elaborate on the opportunities of accessing direct state funds by CSOs. *The Civil Code* also stipulates the possibility for non-commercial organizations to carry out economic activities.

Law for Approving the Civil Society Development Strategy for 2018–2020 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy

The CSDS is the basic policy document and the strategic framework for the development of civil society for 2018–2020, which reveals Moldova's commitment to improve systematically the conditions for the dynamic development of the civil society. The CSDS sets out three general objectives. Objective No.2 provides for the ***promotion and strengthening of the financial sustainability of civil society***. Some of the specific objectives⁸ under objective no. 2 secure CSO access to public funding and funding programs; amending the fiscal budgetary policy to establish VAT exemption mechanisms for CSOs having the public benefit status when procuring goods and services; and enhancing civil society access to and participation in the implementation of public policies through social contracting. These objectives, once achieved, will substantially contribute to promoting and strengthening the financial sustainability of civil society. The implementation of this law as adopted by the Parliament would ensure a greater degree of financial independence of CSOs by 2020, as well as a strong partnership between CSOs and public authorities, which would benefit the citizens.

Law No.837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations

The Law No. 837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations is the basic law governing the social relations related to the exercise of individuals' right to association and establishes the principles of establishment, registration, development and termination of activities of civic associations⁹.

The mechanism of legal regulation of direct state funding of CSOs is one of the factors of the relationship between the state and civic associations. The Law No. 837/1996 on Civic Associations establishes the possibility for the state to provide support, at the request of civic organizations, through special purpose funding of social, scientific and cultural programs, as well as by placing social orders for the implementation of various state programs.¹⁰ According to the law, CPAs and LPAs support CSOs by implementing the income tax deduction and designation mechanisms, providing preferential conditions for rental of premises, funding and subsidizing CSO programs,

⁷ Art.1 Civil Code, <http://lex.justice.md/md/325085/>

⁸ Law on Approving the Civil Society Development Strategy for 2018-2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation. Section 4, Specific objective 2.3

⁹ Preamble, Law 837 of 17.05.1996 <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&id=325424>

¹⁰ Art.8, Law No.837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations

projects and activities proposed, and placing social orders¹¹. The decisions on the funding of CSO projects are made by a committee made up of CPA and CSO representatives and independent experts. Project funding takes place on a public competition basis.

Following a review of the principles and methods of CSO support, described in the Law no.837, we identified an important condition for the process of selection of the direct funding recipient – the requirement for the recipient to have a public benefit status. In fact, the legal provisions in this regard are interpretable and may leave room for speculation. Arts.33 and 33¹ establish the procedure for granting financial or material support to CSOs and provide that potential beneficiaries of direct funding are CSOs having the public benefit status. On the other hand, the Law stipulates that one of the criteria for assessing the applications for funding is the degree of public benefit of the purposes and tasks invoked in the request for financial or material support.

The Law no.837 on Civic Associations is not sufficiently explicit about the rights of CSOs' that do not have a public status to request funding for their programs and projects, even if the programs and projects have a high public benefit level. Taking this into account, it is obvious that it is necessary to improve the Law in order to clarify the connection between the requirement to have a public benefit certificate and the criteria for assessing CSO funding applications. This becomes even more obvious when we look at local CSOs, in whose case it is the deciding LPA who assesses the level of public benefit in the organization's funding application. However, the practice of granting state financial support to CSOs in different activity areas shows that the general principle of obtaining and holding a public benefit status is not included in the funding regulations and is not a mandatory condition to follow. This requirement is also confirmed by the special laws that provide for the possibility of state funding of programs, projects and funding requests submitted by CSOs in specific areas.

Pursuing the purpose of setting up and activities of civic associations aimed at protecting civil, economic, social, cultural and other legitimate rights and freedoms of citizens, it is advisable that the Law no.837 clearly stipulate the sources of fund formation, the mandatory requirement to set up such funds, and their management mechanisms.

Law on Foundations, No.581-XIV of 30.07.99

Foundations are non-commercial organizations officially registered in Moldova in accordance with the Law no.581-XIV of 30.07.99. Foundations can have a public benefit status if their work is in the field of human rights protection, promotion of democracy, development of education and science, culture, art, physical culture and sports for all, health protection, social assistance, environmental protection, religion and other public benefit areas. There are various funding sources for public benefit foundations and they may also include transfers from the state budget and project grants.¹² If the foundation does not have a public benefit status, it may not enjoy the tax incentives provided by the legislation or direct state funding. The Law nr.581-XIV does not have distinct provisions on state funding for projects or foundations. They are summarized in the Law no. 837 on Civic Associations.

¹¹ Art.33, p.2, Law no.837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&id=325424>

¹² Art.9, p.4 Law on Foundations no.581-XIV of 30.07.99 <http://www.law-moldova.com/laws/rom/fondah-ro.txt>

3.2 Sectorial Legal Acts

Law on Culture no.413 of 27.05.1999; Law no. 21 of 01.03.2013 on Creative Professionals and Creative Professionals' Unions;

The Law on Culture establishes the related legal framework on the direct funding by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR) of CSO programs and projects in the field of culture, and in its Art.2¹³ establishes the definition of *cultural organizations* as unions of creative professionals, guilds, associations, including civic ones, organizations, institutions and businesses carrying out cultural activities.

The Law on Culture does not specifically refer to cultural CSOs or to the mechanisms and possibilities of their direct funding. The Law provides for the possibilities of supporting creative professionals in their respective fields rather than the CSOs that would represent and request financial support for cultural programs and projects. The title of Article 18 - *Relationships between the State and the Creative Professionals*, is meaningful in this respect. Provisions e) and f) mention the possibility to support the establishment and activity of creative professionals' organizations as well as the possibility to participate in cultural policymaking and in the professional training and professional development of creative professionals.

Even though the Article mentions that there are possibilities for financial state support, cultural CSOs are described only as *creative professionals' organizations*. The Law should stipulate explicitly that the founders and members, employees and volunteers of CSOs that develop cultural programs and projects do not necessarily have to hold the position of *creative professionals*. It is equally important for the society to have people and organizations that promote cultural values, ensure the management and organization of the creative process, the protection and sensitive management of the cultural heritage, the education and training of personnel, and work in many fields of cultural activities, other than the creative activities as such.

The same approach is used in **Article 22 of Law No. 21 of 01.03.2013 on Creative Professionals and Creative Professionals' Unions**, which establishes the relations of creative professionals' unions with the MECR. The Creative Professionals' Unions are declared strategic partners of MECR in the implementation of state programs in the field of artistic culture. In addition, the cultural events of Creative Professionals' Unions are deemed to be part of priority cultural events of the state and are supported by budgetary means.

Law No. 215 of 29.07.2016 on Youth

The Law No. 215 of 29.07.2016 on Youth determines the principles and objectives of youth policies, including the state's intervention in the field of youth. Art.2 of the Law defines a number of important concepts for the understanding, analysis and consideration of the funding process provided by the state to youth CSOs. Youth activity is defined as any action with and for young people that has a social, cultural, education or civic nature, is based on non-formal learning processes and the voluntary participation of young people. The presentation of this definition is important to determine who can be the applicant and beneficiary of state funding for youth

¹³ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=311664>

programs and projects and whether these can only be youth organizations or any civic organizations that are legally capable of carrying out projects in the field of youth.

The 2016 Law on Youth is sufficiently explicit about the funding categories the state can operate in the field of youth policy implementation. Art. 6 of the Law stipulates a number of state actions to support the participation and multidimensional development of young people. They include the financial support for youth initiatives through grant programs at central and local level, financial support for non-formal and informal education activities, support for youth civic education initiatives and projects, and support of programs and projects for young people with special needs.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (now MECR), in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Youth, has the main task to fund non-commercial youth organizations and their activities by running competitions based on projects and youth programs organized annually.¹⁴ The Law clearly stipulates the category of applicants for direct funding from the public budget. According to Art.2, the youth organization is a non-commercial organization in which are least 2/3 of members are young people, including in its governing bodies, and whose statutory purposes are aimed at developing the personality of young people and at integrating them into the public life. At the same time, Art. 19 of the Law mentions that the youth work is based on non-formal learning processes, encompasses any form of intentional learning and of acquiring skills and competences outside formal education, and is usually provided by youth organizations, civic associations, public institutions, youth centers or trainers.

Law on Social Assistance No.547 of 25.12.2003; Law on Social Services No.123 of 18.06.2010; Law on Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities No. 60 of 30.03.2012

A review of the legal framework on the direct funding of social programs and projects by state institutions fully confirms the need to address the relationship between the state and the civil society in systemic legislative and administrative frameworks. Although important legislative steps have been taken to establish the legal framework for the activity and to ensure the financial sustainability of social CSOs, their involvement in the provision of social services is insufficient. The Law on Social Assistance No.547 of 25.12.2003 in Art.1 defines *social assistance as a component of the national social protection system in which the state and the civil society commit to prevent, limit or eliminate the temporary or permanent effects of events regarded as social risks that may lead to the marginalization or social exclusion of people and families in need.*¹⁵ The joint commitment of the state and the civil society with regard to emerging social protection actions implies social assistance measures to be implemented through customized programs and actions. The legal framework deliberately provides for the possibility and need to involve civil society representatives in the developing social assistance policies¹⁶ and national and local programs to develop social services and ensure their quality.¹⁷

Law on Social Services No.123 of 18.06.2010 establishes the classification of social services and the list of social services providers. Social CSOs are presented alongside foundations, private non-profit institutions, and private social service providers. This Law also governs the rights of civic

¹⁴ Law 215 of 29.07.2016 on Youth, Art.9, paragraph 2, letter "g"

¹⁵ Law on Social Assistance No.547 of 25.12.2003, Art.1, <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&id=312847>

¹⁶ Art.12, paragraph (3), the Social Assistance Law No.547 of 25.12.2003

¹⁷ Art. 6, paragraph (4), the Social Assistance Law No.547 of 25.12.2003

associations working in the area of social services¹⁸ and establishes the main sources of funding for social services.¹⁹

The existing legal framework is sufficiently permissive with regard to the conditions and possibilities of contracting CSO social services by CPAs and LPAs. At the same time, the public service contracting mechanism is not sufficiently clear and coherent. A similar situation is also observed with regard to the adequate funding for social services. The current legislation only establishes the sources of funding for social services (the state budget, administrative-territorial units' budgets, own sources of social service providers, and other sources set in the law) but does not guarantee that the respective funds will provide enough funding for social services.

The degree of funding and involvement of CSOs in the delivery of social services is rather low, as confirmed by the interviews with the representatives of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection (MHLSP) and CSOs. In 2017 and 2018, the MHLSP signed only two contracts with CSOs for the provision of two social services. In both cases, the contracting was carried out through the public procurement procedure. One contract appointed "La Strada International Center" as the implementer of the public service "Telephone of the child" and the second one was to procure the service "Telephone of victims of violence" developed by the same organization.

This state of affairs has at least several explanations: the low rate of the public expenditure budget allocated to social services; insufficient involvement of CSOs in the development and implementation of public services in the social field; and the relatively low level of CSO information and interest in participating in social service delivery.

Law on Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities No. 60 of 30.03.2012. For the purpose of direct funding of societies and civic associations of persons with disabilities, the *Law on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities No. 60 of 30.03.2012* regulates the establishment of specialized enterprises that employ people with disabilities.

The state partially subsidizes the procurement of equipment and raw materials, plus job creation, and partly compensates for state social insurance contributions paid by the specialized enterprises of the Invalids Society of the Republic of Moldova, the Blind Society of the Republic of Moldova and the Deaf Association of the Republic of Moldova. This category also includes insertion social enterprises whose share capital is 100% owned by companies and civic associations of persons with disabilities, established to achieve their own statutory purposes, where 50% and more of the total number of employed workers are people with disabilities. These funds are approved annually by the state budget law.²⁰

This legal provision is proof of a concrete and direct application of the funding mechanism through its subsidizing form, having a particular significance in the general understanding and appreciation of the principles and forms of direct state funding for CSO programs, projects and requests. The *Law on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities No. 60 of 30.03.2012* is a special law that regulates this Study's relationships of interest in a specific field – the direct financial support to CSOs of disabled people. At the same time, the provisions of this Law exhibit the level of superficiality and ambiguity with which the mechanisms of state direct support and funding are dealt with and

¹⁸ Art.11, Law on Social Services No.123 of 18.06.2010

¹⁹ Art. 26, Law on Social Services No.123 of 18.06.2010

²⁰ Art.36, paragraph (2), Law No.60 of 30.03.2012 on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities,
<http://lex.justice.md/md/344149>

approached in other fields of activity as compared to Art.36 of the *Law on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities No.60 of 30.03.2012*.

Law No.436 of 28.12.2006 on Local Public Administration; Law on Administrative Decentralization No.435 of 28.12.2006

The policy of state support for civic associations is carried out at local level also by LPAs but this does not reduce the primary responsibility of CPAs, especially of the Government, for performing this task.²¹

Law No.436 of 28.12.2006 on Local Public Administration regulates the organization and functioning of PAs based on the principles of local autonomy and decentralization of public services, enjoying decision-making autonomy and organizational, management and financial autonomy. Based on the areas of activity of LPAs, the local council *develops partnerships with non-commercial and international organizations in view of implementing the local policies in the field*²². Until March 2018,²³ through the executive authority of the mayor, LPAs *registered CSOs that intended to work in the respective administrative-territorial unit*²⁴. The mayor also *supports the activity of public benefit CSOs active in the territory of the respective village (commune), city (municipality)*²⁵. The legal provisions regulating the activities of public authorities of the second level contain the same prerogatives. According to the law, LPAs are entitled to organize a review of the needs of first and second level localities regarding the establishment of the types of social services and to develop and approve projects and programs of social services.

Although in terms of legal regulations, LPAs have the necessary regulatory framework to support and fund the CSOs willing to share the social responsibility, they lack resources in order to involve the civil society in solving the problems of local communities. The forms of direct funding from LPAs are not accompanied by clear and explicit mechanisms for allocating resources to support public programs, projects and services. This is one of the reasons why CSOs do not show great interest in working with LPAs to develop joint projects and services for the benefit of local communities.

3.3 Financial and Procedural Legal Acts

Law on State Budget

Amounts for the direct funding of CSOs are set annually in the state budget law. The amount of funds budgeted in this law is based on the proposals of CPAs and LPAs submitted to the government according to the sectoral priorities and legal provisions in each field.

The subsidies and grants for funding CSO projects are described both in the text of the law and in its annexes. The 2017 State Budget Law No.279 of 16.12.2016²⁶, in art.2 “Specific regulations”, lists the special purpose allocations and letters (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n)) set out the financial means for funding CSO cultural projects/programs and the subsidies for four associations. These amounts are amended and approved each year by the Parliament at the Government’s proposal.

²¹ Art.61 of the Law on Administrative Decentralization no.435 of 28.12.2006

²² Art.14, paragraph (2), letter a), Law No.436 of 28.12.2006 on Local Public Administration

²³ LP31 of 16.03.18, MO126-132/20.04.18 art.247]

²⁴ Art. 29, paragraph (1), letter “p”), Law No.436 of 28.12.2006 on Local Public Administration

²⁵ Art. 29, paragraph (1), letter “r”), Law No.436 of 28.12.2006 on Local Public Administration

²⁶ Law on the State Budget for 2017, no.279 of 16.12.2016

<http://www.demo.weblex.md/item/view/iddbtype/1/id/LPLP20161216279/specialview/1/ref/md>

Law on Public Procurements No. 131 of 03.07.2015

There are several forms of state funding set out for CSOs: budgetary subsidies, grant programs and service contracts by the CPAs and LPAs. CSO services can be contracted in Moldova also under the Law on Public Procurements No.131 of 03.07.2015; Article 332 (on Social Order) of the Law on Public Associations No. 837 of 17.05.1996; and the Law no.179 of 10.07.2008 on the Public-Private Partnership.

The Public Procurement Law No. 131 of 03.07.2015 defines the concept of *public service contract* as a public procurement contract other than public works or supply contracts that aims to provide services.²⁷ Since the procurement procedure implies the existence of adequate financial resources to fund the contracted service, this contracting method is fully dependent on the sustainability of the funding public institution. Therefore, very few LPAs use this tool to contract CSO services. The current regulations on public procurement procedures²⁸ are not clear about the specific procedures to be applied when contracting certain categories of CSO services, the tender documentation to be submitted, or the criteria for awarding service contracts. The Law does not provide for any differences or approaches that would help CSOs in the procurement process.

Law No. 179 of 10.07.2008 on the Public–Private Partnership

The Law No. 179 of 10.07.2008 on the public-private partnership stipulates the basic principles of the public-private partnership, the forms and methods of establishment, the procedure of its commencement and execution, and the rights and obligations of the public and of the private partner.²⁹ Since a public-private partnership implies a joint participation and contribution of both partners to carry out a public interest activity, the bidding CSOs must have sufficient financial means to participate and implement the activities and services within the public-private partnership. The legislation in force requires the public partner to set the requirements for the bid financial guarantee and the banking guarantee for the good execution of the contract in the contract award conditions. Although CSOs come with financial inputs from other partners, these funds in most cases may only be used to fund specific activities under the project or contract. The current legal framework, although permissive for contracting CSOs, is not sufficiently developed and applicable when a CSO participates in the competition for a public-private partnership contract.

Government Decision No. 1213 of 27.12.10 on Approving the Measures to Support Youth Activities, the Framework Regulation on the Organization and Implementation of the Youth Grants Program and the National/Local Competition for Youth Initiative Groups

The regulatory framework governing the direct funding of CSO youth projects consists of the Law no.215 on the Youth and of the Government Decision No.1213 of 27.12.2010 on Approving the Measures to Support Youth Activities, the Framework Regulation on the Organization and Implementation of the Youth Grants Program and the National/Local Competition for Youth Initiative Groups, approved by the Minister’s Decree No.165 of 07.07.2017. The Government Decision sets out the *manner of funding youth activities and the expenditure standards for organizing and carrying out youth activities, programs and projects.*

²⁷ Art.1, letter “b”, the Law on Public Procurement No. 131 of 03.07.2015

²⁸ Art.44, Law on Public Procurement No. 131 of 03.07.2015

²⁹ Art. 1, Law No. 179 of 10.07.2008 on Public–Private Partnership.

The legal framework regulating youth activities stipulates the possibility of state funding, in addition to CSO projects, also of requests submitted by informal youth organizations. *The Framework Regulation on the Organization and Implementation of the Youth Grant Program and of the National/Local Youth Contest for Youth Initiative Groups* sets out the mission, principles, and procedure for the organization and holding of the funding program by CPAs and LPAs. *The Regulation* contains ambiguous and interpretable provisions on the application procedure and holding of the competition for CSOs and for youth initiative groups. Although *the Regulation* stipulates the organization of two distinct project selection procedures, with separate lists for the project documentation to be submitted, the evaluation criteria are the same for CSOs and for initiative groups (e.g. the criterion "organization's implementation capacity and experience"). *The Regulation* does not stipulate the procedures for awarding funding to initiative groups under a cooperation agreement. It is unclear if this is direct funding or the funding authority will directly pay for the project implementation services. In addition, the regulations on the mechanism of monitoring, evaluation and reporting are missing. The Regulation does not set an exact period for the announcement of the funding competition while the announcement about the funding competition does not respect the two-month term, stipulated in Law no.837, art.331, para.(2) that sets out the requirement for publishing the announcement and contest conditions at least two months before the deadline for the submission of projects.

Regulation on the Manner of Funding of Cultural Projects of Civic Associations from the State Budget, adopted by the Government Decision No.834 of 08.10.2014

Although neither the *Law on Culture* or the *Law on Creative Professionals and Creative Professionals' Unions* contains accurate definitions or determinations of the specific legal profile of the CSO that might request state funding for its cultural programs and projects, the Regulation on the Manner of Funding of Cultural Projects of Civic Associations from the State Budget, adopted by the GD no.834 of 08.10.2014 is much more explicit in this regard. *The Regulation* clearly sets out the general eligibility condition – holding cultural activities and integrating them in the process of achieving the national cultural objectives. This regulation is the only one of all direct CSO funding regulations in force today that follows the provision of Law no.837, art.33¹, para.(2) that establishes the obligation to publish the announcement and the contest conditions in the media at least two months before the deadline for the submission of projects.

Regulation on the National Small Grants Program in Active Ageing

The national program for small grants for active ageing was launched in the social field in 2017, and it is also implemented in 2018. The Regulation on this program was approved by the Order of the Minister of Health, Labor and Social Protection of 03.03.2018 and includes the conditions for participation and the manner of examination and evaluation of applications. The regulation does not include the funding principles, the project submission period or details on the nominal composition of the project review and evaluation committee. The text of the regulation does not say it clearly if civil society representatives are also part of the committee. The announcement launching the competition observes the term set out in the Law no.837, art. 33¹, para.(2) by being published two months before the deadline for project submission.

Having reviewed the legislative and regulatory frameworks on the direct state funding for CSOs, we find that the principles, forms and procedures for direct funding are addressed differently in the main laws and regulations (Law no. 837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations versus the laws and regulations concerned in the review) in relation to the laws and regulations on this mechanism at sectorial level. This approach highlights the need for a framework mechanism for the direct state funding for CSOs that would unify the conditions and procedures for awarding funding and would

set simple and unified rules and for all the institutions involved in the process. Even the Law no.837/1996 is applied differently by the contracting authorities. The lack of regulations to ensure a clear, coherent and transparent mechanism questions the principles of transparency, free and fair competition and equal opportunities.

The existing legal framework does not regulate the cases and conditions based on which a certain form of funding is determined and used. In the vast majority of cases, the decision on the form of funding is made exclusively by the funding authorities without a prior assessment and without consulting with the civil society. Both the public authorities and CSOs encounter difficulties in applying the legal provisions regulating direct funding uniformly, correctly and effectively.

4. Practices of Direct State Funding for CSOs

As mentioned earlier, different forms of direct state funding for CSO projects have been used in the past years. Further, we will present a description of the mechanism used by such institutions in their direct funding programs.

4.1 Funding for Youth Organizations

Youth is one of the first fields in which the direct funding of CSO projects started. It has significantly advanced over the past ten years in terms of diversification of funding lines. Starting with a modest grants programs in 2010, MERC has four direct funding lines for CSOs in 2018, with a total budget of **MDL 11,205,394** to be granted to youth organizations and initiative groups. In 2018, the funding for youth will take place under the following programs: 1) Grants Program for Youth Organizations; 2) Youth Capital Program; 3) Grants Program for Local Youth Initiatives; and 4) Grants for the CSO "District/Municipal Youth Councils".

4.1.1 Grant Programs for Youth Organizations

In accordance with the Law on Youth³⁰, in 2010, the Moldovan Government approved a decision on endorsing measures to support youth activities,³¹ which established the regulation of direct funding for youth programs and/or projects, carried out in partnership with youth CSOs. This has been the first direct funding program for youth organizations from the public budget, implemented for eight years already and with increasing budgets. In 2016, the budget spent on the direct funding of 24 youth organizations accounted for MDL 3,513,802. In 2017, the budget increased twofold, to **MDL 6,076,373**, spent for 28 projects selected on a contest basis.

Under the grants program, 78 applications were submitted in 2016 and 61 applications in 2017. In 2018, 23 projects of youth organizations were selected for funding. This program funds national, regional and local projects.

The Government Decision No.1213 of 27.12.2010 recommends LPAs to follow the regulation approved by the government when organizing or funding youth activities. The above-mentioned Decision also sets out the obligation for public authorities to draft a yearly plan of actions in the area concerned, within the limits of the budget allocations envisaged for that year. This is the only government decision on the direct funding of CSO projects that explicitly requests the local authorities responsible for youth management at the local level to apply a similar model of direct funding for youth activities at the local level as well.

³⁰ Law No. 279-XIV of 11 February 1999 on Youth (Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova 1999, No. 39-41, Law 215 on Youth <http://lex.justice.md/md/366763/>)

³¹ Government Decision No. 1213 of 27.12.10, <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=337472&lang=1>

The program's mission is to generate opportunities for youth participation and multilateral development, so that they participate actively in the country's economic, social and cultural life. The program is designed to contribute to the implementation of youth policy objectives set by the Law No. 215 on Youth and the Law on the Approval of the Youth Strategy.

The funding areas are established annually on the basis of the current policy papers and are published in the announcement launching the project competition.

The funding principles: *transparency* (the funding authority offers all the information about the organization and holding of the project competition); *free access* (ensuring the conditions in a non-discriminatory manner for any applicant); *supporting debuts* (encouraging initiatives of youth activities of debutant participants); *diversity* (promoting the diversity of territorial representation and multidisciplinary approach to youth programs/projects); *non-retroactivity* (excluding the possibility to designate non-reimbursable funds for an activity that has already begun or has been completed by the date of completion of the funding agreement); and *accountability for the program/project management* (compliance with all the procedures pre-established in this Regulation).

The organizations that can apply under the grant program are the officially registered youth organizations as well as informal youth organizations, such as local youth councils, youth resource centers, youth publications, initiative groups, etc.

The mechanism for organizing and running the grant program is approved by the Minister's Order of 07.07.2017 "on Approving the Framework Regulation on Organizing and Holding of the Youth Program Grants Program and of the National/Local competition for Youth Initiatives Groups."

The program funds only programs and projects of public interest, selected on an open competition basis according to points scored during project evaluation. The number of projects funded is determined by the amount of resources budgeted each year, approved in the State Budget Law for youth activities. The funding is based on a funding contract with the CSOs and on a cooperation agreement with the initiative groups. Projects are selected by an evaluation committee made up of 11 persons, five of whom are representatives of the civil society and six – of the MECR.

The participation in this program implies an input from the youth organization in the size of 20% of the project budget, and the organization may request up to 20% of the total budget for administrative costs. Funding conditions for youth projects also allow remunerating the staff involved in project implementation. According to the rules established, the remuneration is based on services contracts.

The Regulation on organizing the grant program is complex but taking into account the mission of the program and its funding area, CSOs consider inappropriate the provision that the organization should secure a 20% input of the project budget. This condition removes from the competition new organizations that do not have their own resources but have active teams. This was suggested by the CSOs that filled in the questionnaire used in this study and they also mentioned that the mandatory input requirement was a discouraging element for CSOs.

Annex 2³² of the Regulation covers the expenditure standards for organizing and holding youth activities, projects and programs, to be used as a guide by all those planning to submit projects for the competition. Youth CSOs deem these rules as inappropriate in the current context and recommend aligning them to actual prices, as well as diversifying them.

4.1.2 The National Youth Capital Program

The National Youth Capital Program is an initiative taken from the experience of the European Youth Forum and involves selecting a locality in Moldova in which the youth activities of LPAs, regional and national CSOs, international organizations and CPAs are concentrated for a year. The National Youth Capital Program is another direct funding instrument for youth CSOs by MECR and it is carried out annually, on the same conditions as the Youth Grant Program. Only the youth organizations and initiative groups that work in the locality that was declared the National Youth Capital may participate in this program.

The following localities have been declared National Youth Capitals: Ungheni (2011), Cahul (2012), Ialoveni (2013), Soroca (2014) Sângerei (2015), Ialoveni (2016), Varnița (2017), and Cahul (2018). The financial support from MECC is of about 1 million lei. The funding is granted to the CSOs of the winning locality, which are selected by a joint commission, set up by the LPAs, and recommended to the ministry for signing funding contracts.

4.1.3 Assistance Program for Strengthening and Developing Local Youth Councils

According to Law No.215 on Youth, the local youth council is a youth representation and empowerment body that can be assigned the status of non-commercial organization and whose mission is to ensure the participation of young people in community development, especially in the decision-making process. In order to enhance the work of such councils and have an increased level of dialogue with state institutions, the representatives of 13 district/municipal councils set up the Civic Association "National Network of Local Councils of Moldovan Youth".

In order to encourage the activities of local youth councils, MECR has launched the National Assistance Program for Strengthening and Developing the District/Municipal Councils of Youth. The aim of the program is to provide financial and methodological support to strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of the Councils as representative bodies of young people to ensure their participation in decision-making at local and regional levels. This program has two components. The first component is focused on advising and empowering the councils, and the second component provides for the co-funding of activity programs of District/Municipal Councils of Youth. Within this component, each District Youth Council can receive a grant of MDL 40,000 for its activities. More precisely, the financial support is designed for the implementation of the framework action plan to secure youth participation in local budgeting for youth.

The funding of youth by district/municipal councils, which are informal bodies, is channeled through the National Network of Local Youth Councils of Moldova, which provides the secretariat, the coordination and the technical processes for 13 youth district/municipal councils (contracting, service procurement, etc.). This funding mechanism is open only to the above-mentioned type of organizations. During 2016-2017, the National Network of Local Youth Councils of Moldova

³² Annex no. 2 to the Government Decision No. 1213 of 27 December 2010.

benefited from direct financial support of about MDL 400,000. For 2018, MDL 1,000 000 MDL are planned for this program.

4.1.4 Grant Program for Youth Initiatives at Local Level

A new funding instrument is launched in 2018 by MECR and it has the mission to support local youth initiatives. MECR has consistently recommended to the local authorities to plan funds for youth activities in their budgets but, for various reasons, this has not happened in the vast majority of districts. In order to facilitate a change in the attitude of local authorities towards the funding of youth projects, MECR came with the initiative to co-fund youth activities in the districts that plan and spend money on youth activities.

The program is the third component of the Youth Center Development Program for the period 2017-2022, which provides for *support for the development of the District/Municipal Grant Program, aimed to finance, on competitive base, Youth Initiatives/Youth Projects and Youth Initiative Groups*. This program operates according to the principle of parity i.e. MECR contributes to the district fund for youth initiatives with an amount equal to the one granted by the District Council. Thus, the number of funded local projects could double. MECR's financial support will represent the equivalent of the allocations from the respective district/municipal council budget but will not exceed 100,000 lei per district. The 2018 Law of the State Budget planned MDL 3,000,000 to support the district/municipal grant programs. The beneficiaries can be both CSOs and initiative groups. We will be able to see the effects of this program in a year when we have a picture of the reaction of district councils to this initiative.

A CSO Representative's Opinion: It is noteworthy that funding opportunities are developed for youth associations but the government should consider the possibility of funding projects with an implementation period of more than 11 months. This would increase the impact of the funded projects. It is advisable to publish an implementation guide for each funding line. The fund transfer mechanism must be changed as well, since transfers are delayed very much at present, which jeopardizes the project implementation schedule.

4.2 Grants Program for Cultural Projects Implemented by CSOs

Government Decision No. 834 of 2014 approved the Regulation on the Manner of Funding of CSO cultural projects funded from the state budget. The Regulation sets out the rules for funding cultural projects and cultural projects of special importance.

Program mission: To finance cultural projects of international, national, regional or local interest that are implemented in the Republic of Moldova.

Funding principles: *free competition* (ensuring that any applicant has the right to become a beneficiary); *transparency* (the information about the funding procedure is made available to all stakeholders); *diversity* (non-discriminatory treatment of applicants – representatives of various areas and territories); *non-retroactivity* (excluding the possibility of designating non-reimbursable funds to an activity that has already begun or has been completed by the date of completion of the funding agreement).

Funding areas: - culture, without specifying specific priorities.

Organizations that can apply for the grant program: CSOs that carry out cultural projects.

Organization mechanism: Since 2014, the state budget has had a special fund for supporting CSO cultural projects. The fund finances two types of projects: cultural projects and cultural projects of special importance. The first category receives 90% of the fund's money and the second category receives the remaining 10%. Every year, between August 1 and October 15, MECR receives the CSO cultural projects to be implemented in the following year. Exceptions from this rule are the cultural projects of special importance that may be submitted to the competition during the entire year. Both project categories are assessed according to the same criteria.

According to the regulation, **a cultural project** is a set of cultural actions that take place for a determined period and aims to meet the cultural needs expressed at local, regional, national or international level. **A cultural project of special importance** is the cultural project that contributes to the implementation of major national cultural actions. Every year the minister issues an order to approve the composition of the expert committee for the evaluation of projects submitted for the competition and the committee's regulation. The projects are selected on a score basis by the expert committee, made up of seven experts – 4 representing MECR and 3 – the civil society. CSO representatives may be proposed for the expert committee by 15 October of each year. The expert committee examines the funding proposals and approves the list of selected projects and the amount of financial support for each project, based on the criteria set out in the regulation.

The conditions for project funding includes the requirement for the CSO's input. The funding that can be obtained for a cultural project is set up to 50% of its general budget but not more than MDL 100,000 for a project. Project direct and administrative costs may be covered from the resources obtained from the grant program. Organization's maintenance and capacity building may not be funded.

The regulation on the funding of cultural projects stipulates that the proposals based solely on the state budget support would not be examined.

Funding is based on a funding contract signed between MECR and the CSO, and includes the funding and the narrative and financial reporting conditions. The last installment of 20% of the total amount of state funding is transferred to the organization after submission of the analytical and financial project completion reports.

A CSO representative's opinion: "The biggest problem with project funding is that the money approved for the project is actually transferred only after the project implementation and submission of the financial report. This means that you, as a nonprofit organization, should take a loan (from the bank) to carry out the project and then repay the loan after reporting/actually receiving the funding granted, together with the interest that nobody funds. The solution would be for the donor to offer the amount approved for the funding in two installments: first installment – of 70-80% - after signing the contract, and the rest of the amount – after the submission of the final implementation report. SDC offers funding under such terms and it seems fair to me.

The second point is that those NGOs that have already proven to be good organizers of large-scale projects, with good reports, should not be treated in every funding session as the new NGOs or as those who proved unfair in the past. So, the idea is to simplify the 'bureaucratic' procedures for those who have asserted themselves in the civil society."

4.3. National Program for Small Grants in Active Ageing

Program mission: Promote the participation of the elderly and of active ageing in accordance with the objectives of the Program for the Integration of Ageing Problems in Policies, approved by the Government Decision No.406 of 02.06.2014.

Funding principles: not specified in the funding program regulation.

Funding areas: promotion of active ageing based on the priorities: 1) Participation of the elderly; 2) Services for the elderly; and 3) Economic opportunities for the elderly.

Organization mechanism: the grant is awarded on a competition basis. Organizations must submit their projects to MHLSP by 7 May 2018. The applications submitted are reviewed by an examination committee. The composition of the examination committee is established by the minister and is made up of seven persons, two of whom are CSO representatives and one is the representative of the UN Population Fund.

The organizations that participate in the grant competition must commit an input of at least 20% of the project budget. The proof is made through partnership and co-funding letters from local, national and/or international partners.

The projects submitted to the competition will be assessed within 15 working days from the submission of applications. The examination committee will determine the size of the grants and the number of projects to be funded within the limits of the financial resources allocated. The total annual budget of the program is MDL 100,000.

Organizations that can apply for the grant program: Moldovan CSOs implementing projects and initiatives with impact on the promotion of active ageing policy both at national and regional levels. The organizations must have a legal status, be a non-commercial organization in which the elderly represent 2/3 of the members and of the members of the governing bodies, and its statutory goals are focused on the development of the personality of the elderly and their integration into the public, social and cultural life.

Opinion: "There were fewer projects submitted to the competition in 2017. Four out of nine projects submitted were selected. We encouraged smaller organizations in the field to apply for funding and they were supported through their project funding, but also for the reason of strengthening their organizational capacities of providing quality services in the field of active ageing."

4.4 Grants Program "DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT HUB" (DEH)

The State Chancellery's Diaspora Relations Office (BRD) implements the governmental program **DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT HUB (DEH)** that has two funding opportunities for CSOs. DEH is a thematic grant program designed for Moldovan CSOs and citizens living abroad and is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) under the project "Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Republic of Moldova in the Field of Migration and Development" implemented in 2017 and 2018.

The mission of DEH program is to support the Moldovans from abroad in implementing their ideas in the Republic of Moldova and to capitalize the human capital of the Diaspora.

DEH has several funding options for different beneficiaries, but those that offer the possibility for CSO funding are: a) the Grants Sub-Program "Regional Thematic Partnerships" and b) the Grants Sub-Program "Empowering Women in the Diaspora".

4.4.1 Grants Sub-Program "Empowering Women in the Diaspora"

Mission of the sub-program: Support the programs implemented by the Moldovan diaspora, focused on social, civic, legal and economic empowerment of migrant women.

Funding areas: Community development; education and mentoring; health; social entrepreneurship; counseling and advocacy; and social services. The projects should contribute to: a) creating and supporting sustainable mechanisms for the involvement of women from the Moldovan diaspora in community consolidation and mobilization of human capital/their

contributions to solving socio-economic problems in the country of origin and residence; b) harnessing the human and socio-community potential of the diaspora in promoting gender equality and personal, entrepreneurial and leadership empowerment of women from the Moldovan diaspora; c) strengthening the capacity of diaspora members to develop and implement projects with an increased social impact.

Eligible applicants: Projects may be submitted to the competition by diaspora members (individuals, initiative groups/associations) whose direct and indirect beneficiaries are women from the Moldovan diaspora.

Organization mechanism: the projects must be submitted online by the interested parties by 28 February 2018. The BRD set up a selection and evaluation committee, made up of institution's representatives, to assess the projects according to the criteria announced and decides on those to be funded. The grants are awarded based on funding contracts signed by BRD in its capacity of implementing contractor and the selected grant beneficiary. The grant beneficiaries receive information support from BRD during the implementation of the project. This sub-program has funds available to fund five grants of MDL 93,986.50 each. All transfers of funds to the grant beneficiary shall take place only through the national banking system to an account opened in the Republic of Moldova (in installments, according to the contract). During the implementation of the project, the beneficiary shall present interim and final narrative and financial reports. All activities must be completed by 31 August 2018.

4.4.2 Sub-Program of Grants "Regional Thematic Partnerships"

This sub-program aims at strengthening diaspora associations and initiative groups in view of securing closer ties with the Republic of Moldova.

Mission of the sub-program: Developing and supporting mechanisms of cooperation with the Moldovan diaspora communities with a view to consolidating them and implementing joint projects.

Funding areas: The sub-program focuses on providing support to regional and community, socio-economic, educational, and health actions to be jointly implemented by at least two Moldovan diaspora associations from at least two countries and one CSO from the Republic of Moldova. The projects should contribute to: a) Mobilizing and actively involving the diaspora in decision-making, developing and assessing the legal and public policy framework, developing and implementing programs and projects; and b) Exploring the economic and socio-community potential of the Diaspora in the development of the Republic of Moldova.

Eligible applicants are the initiative groups composed of at least two diaspora associations from at least two countries and one CSO from Moldova. All project activities must be carried out in the territory of Moldova and the applicants must prove their contribution to the project of at least 15% of the total project budget.

Organization mechanism: the projects must be submitted online by the interested parties by 28 February 2018. BRD has established a selection and evaluation committee made up of the institution's representatives to assess the projects according to the criteria announced and decides on those to be funded.

The grant awards are based on customized funding contracts, signed by BRD in its capacity of implementing contractor and the selected grant beneficiary. Grant beneficiaries receive information support from BRD during project implementation.

This sub-program has funds available to finance three grants of MDL 93,986.50 each. All transfers of funds to the grant beneficiary shall take place only through the national banking system to an

account opened Moldova (in installments, according to the contract). During project implementation, the beneficiary shall submit interim and final narrative and financial reports. All activities must be completed by 31 August 2018.

4.5 National Ecologic Fund

The National Ecologic Fund (NEF) is one of the first direct funding opportunities of CSO projects developed in the Republic of Moldova. In order to implement the Law on Environment Protection no.1515-XII of 16 June 1993 with its subsequent amendments, the Government Decision no.988 of 21 September 1998³³ was approved to establish the regulation on ecologic funds management. The regulation establishes the basic principles of collection and spending of resources in the national and territorial ecologic funds. In 2013, the Minister of Environment issued order no.73 to approve the regulation on the administration of NEF.³⁴

Mission of the Fund: Collect additional resources to fund environment protection and ecosystem restoration measures.

Funding areas: Activities for the implementation of national action plans/programs in the field of environmental protection; extension and protection of forests and natural protected areas by the state; propagating ecologic knowledge; measures for fulfilling Moldova's international obligations assumed by signing international agreements and conventions, as well works designed to reduce emissions into the atmosphere, discharges into water bodies and the amount of wastes.

NEF means are used to finance projects for the implementation of national strategies, programs and plans for environment protection; standards and norms; construction and participation in the construction of environment protection objects (including funding of design works and their implementation in the field of water supply and sewerage; funding of waste collection/sorting works and supporting enterprises for waste processing or neutralization, for improving the quality of the air pool), and scientific investigations in environment protection, carried out by the Ministry of Environment.

Eligible organizations/institutions: In accordance with para.12 (g) of NEF Regulation, its resources may also be spent on providing financial support to environment CSOs under a special grant program for projects designed for environment projects.

Organization mechanism: NEF operates several types of funding, including non-reimbursable subsidies or grants, interest-free preferential loans or loans with exempted interest, loan pledges and interest rate subsidies on loans to organizations that have contracted bank loans for environmental projects.

NEF exclusively funds environmental projects that have passed through the selection and evaluation process on a competition basis. NEF is managed by an Administrative Board made up of seven people, including one representative of an environmental CSO with a two-year mandate. The Board adopts the decisions on project funding and disbursement of funds.

Projects may be submitted throughout the year and the Administrative Board meets monthly or quarterly to evaluate the projects received for the competition. Funds are disbursed under a funding contract signed with the grant beneficiary who is required to submit narrative and financial reports for each instalment received during the contracted period. A funding condition is

³³ Government Decision No 988 of 21.09.1998³³ "On Approving the Regulation on Environmental Funds"

³⁴ Order No.73 din 10.09.2013 "On Approving the Regulation on the Administration of the National Ecologic Fund"

that the funding applicant must come with a financial input of at least 15% of the total project cost. This input may be made either by the grant applicant or by other donors, such as district councils, businesses, municipalities, the community, other funds etc.

NEF is the only fund in Moldova that accepts the projects that have been approved but for which funding has not been provided in the reference year to be carried over to the following year for funding from the respective expenditure category.

NEF does not cover the following expenses in the funded projects: operational and/or administrative expenses of investment projects; salary costs for project management or coordination, telephone services, electricity, office rent or maintenance, etc. The project budget must include only the activities that are directly related to the improvement of environmental components.

Although it is one of the first funds to open the door to direct funding for CSO projects, the list of CSO projects funded is not too long. For example, of the 284 projects funded in 2016, only **six** were submitted by CSOs that received in total MDL **1,685,493**³⁵ of the total NEF budget of MDL **319,581,100**.³⁶

A CSO representative's opinion: "Civic associations are not quite encouraged to apply to this fund for a number of reasons. They include the requirement for an input from CSOs that is too large; NEF's failure to follow the schedule for transferring funds for project implementation; the fact that CSOs are required to compete in the same conditions with LPAs and CPAs, which is not fair, and an additional argument is the disproportional allocation of NEF resources by expenditure categories. The allocation of 75% in 2017 and 85% in 2018 from NEF for water supply and sewerage projects is exaggerated. As a result, many environment protection sectors remain uncovered by activities, while the water supply and sewerage one that is also funded from other funds, consumes nearly all NEF resources. An unfair condition for CSOs in NEF regulation is the provision not to accept salary costs for the staff employed in project implementation and administrative costs in the project budget. The vast majority of CSOs do not have other income and volunteer work is already done by CSO's team while tasks with increased responsibilities that derive from project implementation must be paid."

4.6 Mandatory Health Insurance Funds

The Mandatory Health Insurance Funds (MHIF) managed by NHIC are another source of direct funding for CSOs. Although these funds do not have a specific structure for facilitating the direct funding of CSOs, those specializing in the health sector can receive funding for their projects.

The basic principle applied by NHIC in managing these funds is that of procurement of services from service providers. If the services provided by an accredited and licensed CSO are of the quality requested by NHIC, then the organization will be contracted. According to the information provided by NHIC, in the process of contracting service providers, the institution does not care about the legal form of organization of the service provider but about the quality of the offer.

³⁵ <http://mediu.gov.md/index.php/component/content/article/79-categorii-in-romana/despre-minister/institutii-subordonate/72-fondul-ecologic-national>

³⁶ State budget Law for 2016, No.154 of 01.07.2017, <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&id=365958>

The funding is made from the Fund for current medical services (base fund) and the first CSO contracted from this fund was for home healthcare services in 2006. For 2017 and 2018, the CSO contracting was done from two types of funds: the Fund for Payment of Current Medical Services (base fund) and the Prevention Measures Fund (illness risks prevention). Applications are submitted differently to these two funds and funding is provided based on two different types of contracts. For services paid out of the base fund, contracted institutions sign a contract with NHIC according to a model approved by a Governmental decision, which is the same for each contracted institution.

The contracting criteria for the resources from this Fund are set annually depending on the healthcare funds law that determines the size of the budget allocated for each fund and sub-program.

The conditions for applying to the Fund for payment for current healthcare services (base fund) are established by NHIC Order 159-A of 2008,³⁷ with subsequent amendments in 2015 and 2016, which establishes the contracting stages of the institutions, the necessary documentation to be submitted by applicants, a sample contracting application, a sample card of the institution and the nominal composition of NHIC committee for the coordination of institutions. This information is posted on the NHIC webpage and can be accessed by all interested organizations.

For applying to this fund, CSOs must meet a number of conditions, including: be accredited at the national level; have the necessary human resources employed in the institution for the service requested for contracting; prove experience of accredited healthcare provision of at least three years at the national level, etc.

In 2017 and 2018, four CSOs were contracted from this fund under the subprogram “*Specialized outpatient care*”; three others were contracted under the subprogram “*Inpatient healthcare*”; and 11 CSOs were contracted for services under the subprogram “*Community and home healthcare*”. The list is attached.

The second fund managed by NHIC to which CSOs may apply is the Preventive Measures Fund (prevention of illness risks) that has other conditions for the CSOs wishing to apply. This Fund provides funding based on a project competition, organized according to the priorities announced by MHLSP each year. After the consultations with the civil society, MHLSP established *HIV/AIDS prevention* as the priority area for the Preventive Measures Fund. Following the consultations, amendments were made to the regulation on the contracting of institutions and the methodology of calculation of service cost per beneficiary was established under this program.

To note that this funding process does not require a financial input as a contracting precondition. Moreover, those organizations that have been contracted from the prevention fund did not have to prove any co-funding from external funds, which grants more sustainability to the service contracted.

When contracting services from the above-mentioned funds, NHIC sets a condition for the contracted organization not to request additional payments from the beneficiary for the services provided and paid for from the mandatory health insurance funds.

In 2017 and 2018, two CSOs have signed funding contracts with NHIC from these funds.

³⁷ NHIC Order No 159-A “On Contracting Healthcare facilities Within the Compulsory Health Insurance”
http://www.cnam.md/editorDir/file/Ordin_Contractare_2009.pdf

A CSO representative's opinion: "The consultation with CSOs is a positive and important practice for strengthening the partnership between public institutions and CSOs in providing quality services to the citizens. All CSOs invited to participate in the discussions appreciated having been consulted during the drafting of the amendment to the contracting regulation and having been engaged in the debates for establishing the formula for calculating the cost of the service provided to the beneficiary. "

A NHIC representative's opinion: "CSOs are more than welcome to apply for contracting if they meet the announced requirements, especially if they intend to provide services in the regions where there is a shortage of service providers. There still are many regions where there is a need for active CSOs that would offer quality services. The contracting conditions include a provision allowing a CSO to be contracted as an exception from the three-year experience requirement if it intends to provide services in regions that are currently not covered with services."

4.7 Direct Funding from the Local Public Authorities

It is difficult to talk about a single model of direct funding for CSOs by the LPAs. The practice of direct funding of CSO projects is not widely spread at local level. Based on the information gathered, we would like to present a few examples of such funding. We will review the direct funding experiences of Ialoveni District Council and of Bălți and Chișinău municipalities.

4.7.1 Experience of Ialoveni District Council with Funding CSO Projects from the District Public Budget

Ialoveni District Council is one of the few district councils that funds projects of CSOs or initiative groups and does it according to its own model that it keeps polishing based on its own experience. The ex-president of the district mentioned that this model was partly inspired from Romania's experience where it is used by county councils in funding CSO projects.

Circa MDL 200,000 are spent for funding such projects from the district budget each year. This amount is not the total amount of the program budget. The District Council holds talks with various national and international organizations and institutions to attract them to the development of this district program. In 2017 and 2018, the budget of the CSO funding program has been co-funded by various partners, such as the East European Foundation in Moldova and other mayor's offices of the district.

Ialoveni District Council has a number of tools for funding CSO projects and they can be divided into several funding categories:

1) *Paying the mandatory input* in the budgets of CSO projects implemented in the district. In most cases, such projects are funded by international donors in proportion of 70%-80%, and the LPA contributes with assets or funds in the size of 20 to 30%. An example of such project was that of LUMOS Moldova that opened an inclusive education institution. The total cost of the project was around MDL 10 million, of which MDL 1,000,000 were allocated by the District Council, in addition to the land plot the latter offered for construction. Such contributions are voted for by the District Council based on a presentation of the arguments in favor of the importance of the project for the district population.

2) *Indirect funding of CSO projects* for the implementation of actions that coincide to those included in the District's Council Action Plan. The projects of various CSOs, including sports federations that organize recreational or sports activities may be included in this category. For such projects, the funds are not transferred to CSOs' accounts but directly to the service providers

of the necessary services for organizing the events. Typically, such funding covers the costs of diplomas, cups, medals, money prizes, etc. The funds for funding or co-funding such projects are allocated from the budget line 'sports activities' of the district budget.

3) Direct funding of CSO projects is the third type of funding provided by Ialoveni District Council. In the case of this program, funds are transferred to the account of an experienced CSO operating in the district and that manages the entire process of funding of projects of CSOs and initiative groups. The District Council has limited human resources to manage such a program and so, it has decided and voted to sign a partnership agreement with a CSO. The partnership agreement has been signed with the Civic Association "ECO Răzeni". The managing organization receives the funds from the District Council and is responsible for all funding stages, from posting the call for project proposals to selection, funding, and reporting.

Ialoveni District Council has decided that the program be launched to support youth initiative groups, especially youth from the district's education institutions. The main resources with which the program started had been planned in the district budget, in the funding line for youth activities.

Budgeting of funds: Funds are allocated annually to the district budget for youth activities. Of these resources, about MDL 200,000 are allocated to fund the grant program for youth initiative groups. Following two rounds of project selection, circa 40 projects amounting to MDL 40,000 paid from the district budget are funded each year.

Project selection process: A project selection committee has been set up by the president of the District Council. The committee includes representatives of the district council, of "Eco Răzeni", the president or deputy president of the District Youth Council and representatives of the other donors and partners in the implementation of the grants program. In the previous years, a MECR representative was invited to the committee, while in 2018 a MECR representative is invited. The selection takes place in several stages. After the deadline for project submission, the selection committee shortlists the projects and the teams of the shortlisted projects are invited to present their projects in a public meeting. The presentation of the projects takes place in the presence of all competitors who, thus, have the opportunity to listen to all the applying teams. The committee assesses the presentations, evaluates each project in part, and then selects the winner to be funded.

Funding conditions: Projects that tackle real issues in the locality where the initiative groups are located are accepted to the competition. Administrative and salary costs are not accepted as eligible costs.

Former president of the District Council: "All project presentation costs are covered by the district council and every young person who comes from a village to the district center to present their project has their travel expenditures reimbursed. To note that if the evaluation committee identifies a project that is based on an interesting idea but that technically is well prepared, the applicant receives all the necessary assistance to improve the project, so that to be able to implement that idea in their community."

Financial reporting: "Eco Răzeni" is in charge of all the financial reporting together with all the teams that have been funded. The reporting is also done in a public meeting attended by all the initiative groups that have been funded. Each group makes a presentation of the project result, with videos and photos from the activities conducted, and submits invoices for the money spent.

Transparency: All projects receiving funding from the District Council commit to publish permanently information about their activities in the social media. Such an approach makes a large number of citizens in the district become aware of such projects and the results of their implementation.

A LPA representative's opinion: "Today, the Law no.436 on Local Governments provides for the right of LPAs to fund CSO projects but this is written in a very general form. The mechanism is not clearly developed in terms of what and how to do so that the funding process is legally correct. I think this mechanism should be developed by the Ministry of Finance. We receive various notifications from the State Chancellery about the decisions made by the District Council on funding projects of CSOs and initiative groups. This happens exactly because there is no mechanism developed that would be implemented by all LPAs that have funding available for CSO projects. Unclear and uncertain situations will exist as long as the law is ambiguous and there is no methodological guidance from the Ministry of Finance for LPAs on how to carry out this process. The law allows LPAs to grant such funding, on the one hand, but does not clarify how such processes should take place so that not to trigger different interpretations by the control institutions, on the other hand."

A LPA representative's opinion: "LPAs do not have enough human resources trained to manage such a program as the funding of youth initiative groups is. Therefore, the District Council decided to vote for signing a partnership agreement with a CSO that would assist it with project selection, implementation and reporting. It is a successful partnership that the District Council can take pride in it."

4.7.2 Chişinău Municipality's Experience

Chişinău municipality's experience with funding CSO projects is specific and does not include models of direct funding for projects of CSOs initiative groups. One of the recent programs, launched in 2017, for funding projects of initiative groups is the Civic Budget³⁸ program, approved by the Municipal Council.

The funding priorities of the program for 2018 are the following: urban infrastructure; urban mobility; cultural and social infrastructure; development of a Smart City; local democracy; education; youth and sports.

Funding mechanism: In this program's understanding, civil budgeting means the mechanism used by the city residents who have reached 16 or by groups of residents to develop projects for the development of the municipality and submit them to the Mayor's Office for implementation in the benefit of the population. This program implies collecting project proposals from citizen groups, which are later to be evaluated by a committee made up of representatives of the Municipal Council and of the civil society. The projects, having passed a review by the evaluation committee, are posted on the Mayor's Office website in order to be appreciated by the public. Chişinău residents are invited to vote for the projects they consider a priority for the capital.

The Civic Budgeting Program implies funding for two types of projects: small projects, with estimated budgets between MDL 50,000 and MDL 100,000, and large projects, with budgets up to MDL 300,000. The program also requires an input from sources other than the municipal ones in project implementation.

Although the program's regulation states that projects developed in partnership with CSOs shall be prioritized, the details contained in the regulation prove that it is in fact not a program for the

³⁸ https://www.chisinau.md/public/files/anul_2018/regulamente/Regulament_BCC.pdf

direct funding of initiative groups or CSOs. The program’s regulation reads, “During project evaluation, the evaluation committee, based on the specifics of the activities set out in the project, shall determine which subdivision of the municipality will take responsibility for the implementation of the project. If a number of subdivisions are needed for the implementation of the project, the committee shall indicate the assignment of tasks to all the institutions to be involved, designating a leading institution to steer the implementation of the entire project and assume responsibility for the entire project.”

4.7.3 Bălți Municipality’s Experience

Bălți Municipality has an experience as modest as other LPAs with the direct funding for CSO projects. This Mayor’s Office website contains an order of the mayor³⁹ on the result of the competition for selecting public benefit projects according to the rules set in the funding instructions⁴⁰ for funding public benefit projects to be funded by the Mayor’s Office. According to this order, four civic associations have been selected to receive funding in the form of grants for project implementation. The budgets funded may account for MDL 10,000 to 30,000. The total budget allocated was MDL 70,000 MDL in 2016. Based on the discussions with Bălți CSOs, we conclude that there are certain experiences of direct funding for CSO projects but that they are sporadic and cannot prove a well-organized and functional mechanism.

5. Challenges of the Mechanism of Direct Funding for CSOs by the State (based on questionnaires and interviews)

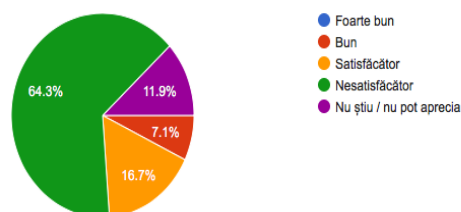
The existing mechanism of direct state funding for CSOs requires interventions in terms of its improvement and enhancement. This conclusion derives from the answers received from the 43 CSOs and CPA and LPA representatives who completed the questionnaire and assessed the current system. The following participated in the study: 43 respondents, of whom 18 national organizations, 15 local organizations, 3 foundations and 1 national private institution, 2 CPA and 2 LPA representatives, and 3 representatives of 3 initiative groups.

Out of all respondents, 64.3% assessed the existing mechanism as unsatisfactory and only 16.7% as satisfactory; 7.1% as good and the other 11.9% could not make an assessment of the mechanism. In order to understand the share of funding from the state budget in the respondent CSO budgets, they were asked to indicate their funding sources and the share of each source.

According to CSOs’ answers, 13 of them mentioned having received funds from CPAs and 16 – from LPAs. Over 75% of the budgets of 65% of respondents (28 organizations) receive funds from international donors and only one organization out of 43 mentioned that over 51% of their funds were from CPAs. Another organization indicated the same rate of funding in its budget received from LPAs. The share of public funding for CSOs remains extremely low and they are still dependent on external funding. Up to

6. Cum apreciați mecanismul existent de finanțare a proiectelor OSC de către instituțiile statului?

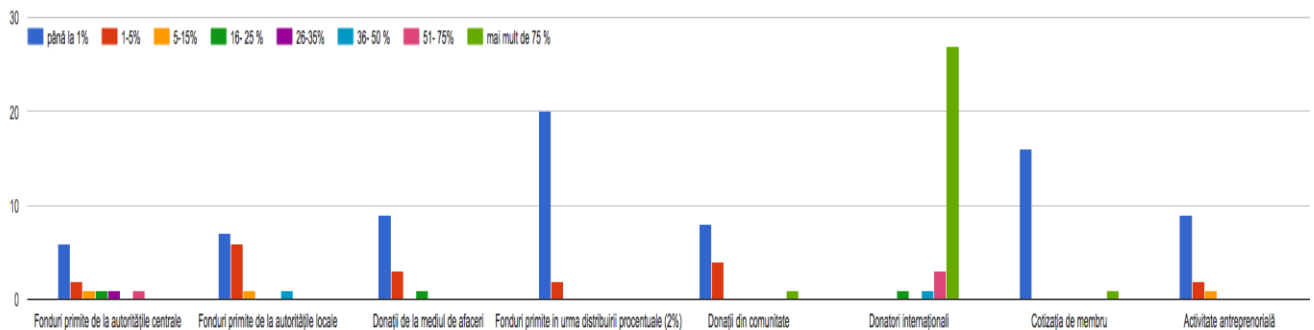
42 responses



³⁹ Mayor’s decision of the Bălți municipality No. 163 of 11.04.2016

⁴⁰ Mayor’s Decision of the Bălți municipality No. 426 of 09.07.2014 “On Approving the Instruction on the Funding of Public Benefit Projects from the Municipal Budget”

5. Sursele de finanțare ale organizației în 2017 (răspund doar reprezentanții OSC):



1% of the budgets of 49% respondent CSOs is made up of resources allocated through the percentage designation, while 21% of respondents mentioned that donations from the community and entrepreneurial activities accounted for up to 1% of their budgets each.

The shortage of programs and resources for CSO funding, limited institutional capacities to ensure an effective dialogue with the civil society, insufficient qualified human resources involved in non-reimbursable funding competitions offered to CSOs and the incoherence of the legal framework governing the CSO project funding mechanism from public funds are rated by 95% of respondents as the main issues of the direct funding mechanism operational today.

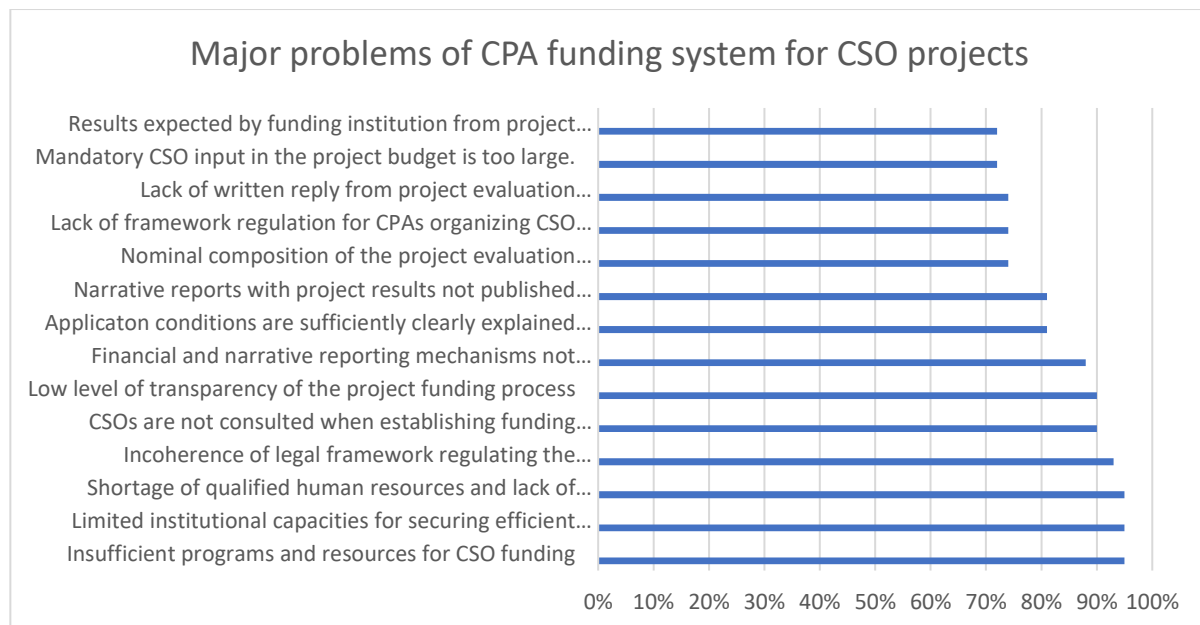
We find that 90% of respondent organizations mentioned that the state does not consult them when setting the funding priorities for the following year, as well the low level of transparency in the project funding process. Eighty one percent of CSOs consider the application conditions not sufficiently clearly explained in the calls for project proposals. During the interviews, over 50% of CSOs mentioned that each funding state institution, right after publishing the information about project competitions, should organize trainings for the organizations interested to apply. In order to increase trust in the fairness of the project funding process, 81% of CSOs think that the narrative reports on the project results must be published on the funding institution's website. Seventy four percent of CSOs consider that the funding institution must publish the information about the nominal composition of the project evaluation committee (to ensure lack of conflicts of interests) and, after the evaluation of the projects, send out letters to answer those organizations that had applied but were not selected, indicating the reasons why their projects were not selected.

In CSOs opinion, the reporting mechanisms are not developed at the appropriate level either – a statement supported by 88% of the respondents who think a unified financial and narrative reporting model should be developed for public funding.

In order to ensure the transparency of the direct state funding process, 74% of CSOs think that there should be a framework regulation in place for organizing funding competitions of CSO projects by CPAs, while 72% of them advocated for public disclosure of the information about the results expected by the funding institution from the implemented projects.

The review of the practices of direct state funding of CSO projects shaped up the idea that the state should consider lowering the share of the mandatory financial input the organization must commit to when applying with a project for a grant competition. Looking at the requirements set in the funding regulations of each funding institution, we find that the inputs requested from CSOs

varies between 15% and 50% of the total project budget, which 72% of respondent organizations considered a share too high for a non-profit organization.



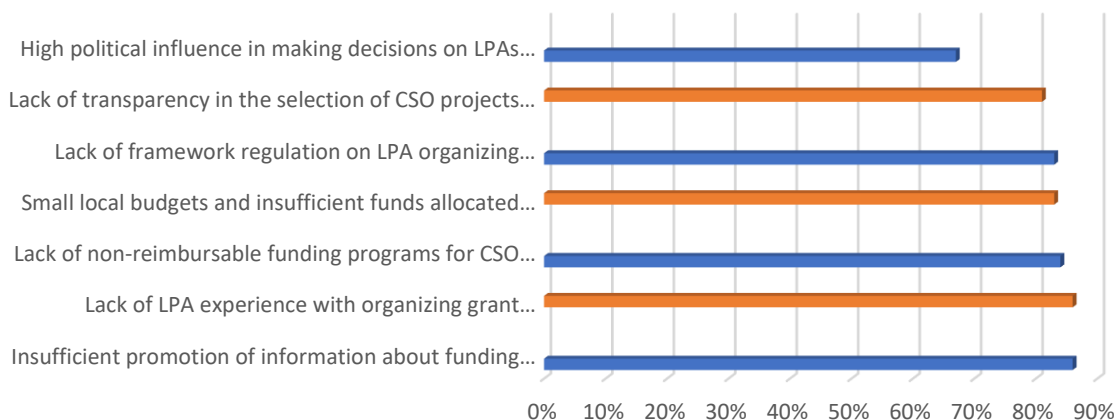
In addition to the above-mentioned issues, CSOs also mentioned in the questionnaire, under the rubric “Other issues” that many CSOs do not know about the funding programs offered by the state, that there was a high level of political control over the state institutions, and that there should be flexible funding mechanisms in place that would also consider the possibility of long-term funding.

A respondent’s opinion: (A) “We currently do not have transparent and viable mechanisms for CSO funding at either of the funding levels (central or local). These mechanisms should be flexible and consider CSOs’ need for long-term funding (e.g. for health or social services) but also offer one-time, per event, funding, for instance.”

A respondent’s opinion: (B) “No specific state policy exists in this sector and, therefore, insufficient funds are allocated. Funding is done sporadically, without a single well-established mechanism and without allocating substantial funds.”

The study also looks at the functioning of the mechanism of direct funding for CSOs by LPAs. The general picture of identified problems is not too different from the national level. According to 86% of the 43 respondents, the top three problems are as follows: LPAs lacking experience with organizing contests for project funding and also lacking competent human resources; poor promotion of funding opportunities and lack of non-reimbursable funding programs for CSO projects, implemented by LPAs on an annual basis.

Main problems of LPA funding system for CSO projects



Eighty three percent of CSOs mentioned that the small LPA budgets not allowing for funding CSO projects and the lack of a framework regulation for conducting grant competitions also were major issues. Eighty one percent of CSOs highlight the low levels of transparency in decision-making while 67% of respondents mentioned the high level of political influence in making financial decisions.

CSOs, in their answers given in the questionnaire and during the interviews, suggest the direction that they believe the mechanism of direct state funding for CSOs should head into so that to increase its efficiency and directly contribute to the development of CSO financial sustainability.

The sample mechanism of direct funding for CSOs, in the view of questionnaire respondents, should look as follows: Creating a national civil society development fund (supported by 79%) that would operate under a framework regulation approved after consultations with CSOs and would fund projects strictly on a contest basis (supported by 83%), and would announce the funding priorities in the first part of the current year for the following year (supported by 88%), after consultations with CSOs. According to 86% of the respondents, the direct state funding mechanism to which CSOs aspire should also provide for a greater diversity of the types of expenditures that can be accepted by the state for project implementation. All respondent organizations think that the direct funding mechanism should be implemented under a framework regulation for holding competitions of non-reimbursable funding of CSO projects from public money, which should obligatorily go through public consultations with CSOs before approval. In the view of 95% of respondent organizations, the mechanism should also include annual budgeting of resources for the implementation of sectoral funding programs of CSO projects, and this resource planning should cover a period longer than one year. Moreover, 93% of respondents believe that the mechanism should support the launch of new programs for direct state funding of CSO projects and for developing the concept of medium-term funding for CSO projects in line with the sectoral strategic priorities.

CSOs believe that the state needs to develop further its tools of communication with the non-governmental organizations and, in order for this to happen, it should consult them to determine the funding priorities for each area (supported by 88% of respondents).

CSOs also mentioned that there are positive models of direct funding of projects by the CPAs and LPAs in place. Out of all respondents, 58% noted that they knew such models, listing among them the small grants for local youth councils, the grants for youth organizations (implemented by MECR), funding of home care projects (NHIC funds) and the program supporting small CSO projects available for those CSOs that work in integrated water resource management (Apele Moldovei Agency). Some of these initiatives have been described in this study.

Main challenges identified by CSOs	
1.	Shortage of programs and resources allocated for CSO funding at local and national levels.
2.	The legal framework governing the mechanism of CSO project funding from public funds is incoherent.
3.	CPAs and LPAs have limited institutional capacities to ensure an effective dialogue with the civil society and insufficient qualified human resources to become involved in holding competitions of non-reimbursable funding, granted to CSOs.
4.	The share of public funding in CSO budgets remains extremely low and they are still dependent on external funds.
5.	The existing mechanism of direct state funding for CSOs requires improvements for increasing its efficiency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the application conditions are not sufficiently explained in the calls for project proposals; - the funding state institution, when making the project call, does not organize trainings for the organizations interested to apply; - the input requested from CSOs (15% to 50% of the total project budget) is too high for a non-profit organization; - limited expenditure categories/types accepted by the state for project implementation; - the project implementation period is too short and it is necessary to develop a medium-term funding concept in accordance with the sectorial strategic priorities; - the reporting mechanisms are not developed at the right level and a single financial and narrative reporting model for public funds is missing.
6.	Low level of transparency of the project funding process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the state does not consult with CSOs when setting its funding priorities for the following year; - the funding institution does not publish on its website either the narrative reports with project results or the information about the nominal composition of the project evaluation committee; - CSOs whose projects were not selected do not receive a reply from the funding institution that would tell them why their project was not selected.

6. Conclusions

A review of the existing practices of direct state funding for CSOs highlights a number of problems that influence the effectiveness of the funding mechanism. Such issues are related to the legal regulation, transparency, planning, budgeting and the functioning of the mechanism for the direct funding of CSOs.

Legal Regulation

✚ The conditions, forms and procedures for granting direct funding are dealt with differently in the main laws and regulations (Law no.837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations vs. the laws and regulatory acts concerned in the analysis) in relation to the laws and regulatory acts that regulate the mechanism in different sectors. This approach emphasizes the need for a framework mechanism of direct state funding for CSOs that would unify the conditions and procedures for awarding funding and would set simple and uniform rules for all institutions involved in the process. Even the Law no.837 is applied differently by the contracting authorities. The lack of regulation of a uniform, clear, coherent and transparent mechanism questions the principles of transparency, free and fair competition, and equal opportunities.

✚ The national legislation on direct state funding for CSOs does not expressly describe the principles that underpin this process. Only the regulations on the funding of youth and cultural projects mention some of them, such as the principles of transparency, free competition, diversity and non-retroactivity. This issue must be part of the Law on Civic Associations or of the framework regulation of the direct funding mechanism. The legislation lacks a number of principles that are applied in the relations between the public authorities and CSOs in the international practice. They include the principle of proportionality and simplicity that recognizes the particularities of each type of organizations and that each of them must enjoy adequate conditions of participation in direct funding competitions, organized by the state. The dialogue principle that underpins the creation of mutual trust between the parties and contributes to enhanced cooperation between the authorities and civil society is also missing in legal regulations.

✚ The legislation establishes the possibility of direct state funding for CSOs but does not establish clear norms and rules for such funding. Budgets and funding lines are set up arbitrarily, at the discretion of the funding authorities, without consultations with the civil society. The expenditure categories accepted in the implementation of the projects funded by the state must be extended and adjusted at the services market prices.

✚ There are only a few forms of direct state funding for CSOs and the legal framework does not regulate the conditions on which decisions are made about the form of funding to be applied. In most cases, it is exclusively the funding authority that decides on the form of funding to be applied, without a prior assessment and without consultations with the civil society. In order to strengthen the partnership with CSOs and directly contribute to their sustainable development, the state authorities should diversify the types/forms of direct state funding for CSOs.

✚ The legal provisions on public procurements and public–private partnerships do not contain regulations applicable to the contracting of services from CSOs and to the specifics of non-profit activities. This leads to using simpler ways (within the limits of the law) of establishing cooperation partnerships (especially LPAs), using the direct funding tools from the local budget.

Strategic Planning and Resource Budgeting

✚ There is no correlation between the strategic and budgetary planning either at the national or at the local level (e.g. at local level, the strategies and plans for local development contain a separate section dedicated to the cooperation with the civil society, without having any further budgetary reflections).

✚ Methodological instructions for CPAs and LPAs on the direct funding of CSO projects are missing. Looking at the regulations drafted by PA that implement CSO direct funding programs and projects in different fields and discussing with the PAs and CSOs, we find that each institution encountered difficulties when drafting the regulations for direct funding programs because the general legal provisions are either not sufficiently clear or missing.

✚ Direct funding is used only in a few areas, while the state has a commitment of cooperation with the civil society in all areas of development. There are CSOs with valuable human resources and capabilities in regional development, energy efficiency, child's rights, education etc. but that cannot contribute to the development of such areas in the absence of funding programs. For example, an association working in the field of child protection cannot request state funding because there is no program that would fund such activities. On the other hand, there are funds budgeted but that do not allow CSOs to participate in capitalizing them. For example, CSOs can also contribute to the implementation of regional development and country reintegration activities, areas for which funds are foreseen each year in the state budget law, but the funds regulations do not provide for CSOs right to access them.

✚ The accepted project implementation period is too short. Complex projects may need an implementation period of at least 24 months, while the existing funding regulations do not allow a project implementation period longer than 11 months.

✚ There is a big gap between the funding opportunities offered by CPAs in relation to what LPAs can offer. The own revenues accumulated by LPAs are too low to enable them organize annual programs for funding CSO projects. This disadvantages the development of local CSOs.

✚ Funding priorities are not clearly established and defined. During the interviews, we found that both parties were dissatisfied. CPA representatives expressed their frustration about the quality of the projects and their contribution to reaching the objectives announced. On the other hand, CSOs mention that the calls for proposals do not clearly set the funding priorities or expressly indicate the results that the funding institution wishes to achieve.

Transparency of the Process

✚ There is a communication gap between CPAs and CSOs, especially in crisis situations. It is necessary to improve the mechanism of consultation and dialog between CPAs and CSOs, and to delegate the responsibility for securing this process to a department/division of the State Chancellery and to the State Secretary General of in each ministry.

✚ Although the main elements of transparency of decision-making are generally observed, there is a dichotomy of this process when talking about direct funding practices. The public institution asserts that it has secured transparency by publishing the information about its grant competitions on the institution's website, while target audiences consider this action insufficient and that it does not fully secure the transparency of the process. This confirms that the information sources and communication channels for spreading the information about direct funding programs are underdeveloped.

✚ Most funding public institutions do not organize information events for CSOs about their direct funding programs. Although resources are planned in various areas for CSOs to access, the information is not clearly described and sufficiently promoted. From the interviews with the CSOs

and the answers they gave in the questionnaire, we find that some CSOs have not heard about funding opportunities for their projects by the public authorities.

✚ The deadlines for project selection competitions are not observed. Except for the competitions for funding cultural and active ageing projects, the rest of regulations reviewed violate the provisions of the Law no.837, art.33¹, para.(2), which requires publishing the competition announcement and conditions in the media **at least two months** prior to the deadline for project submission.

✚ Funding institutions do not publish the reports on the results of the implemented projects on their websites.

Procedures and Process Management

✚ The general evaluation and project selection criteria, established by the Law on Civic Associations, are not fully found in the regulations on funding CSO projects. The law provides for three basic criteria: 1) the character and public benefit level of the goals and tasks invoked in the project; 2) the importance and efficiency of the actions proposed by the civic association for achieving the targets set in the conditions of the project competition; and 3) the sufficiency of human, technical and financial capacities of the association for carrying out the actions proposed.

✚ Some funds offering direct funding for both LPAs, CPAs and CSOs do not provide distinct funding conditions for each applicant category. For example, the National Ecological Fund does not accept the inclusion of management costs in the project budget. Thus, LPAs and CPAs are favored by the Fund's funding conditions. A similar situation occurs in securing its contribution to the project budget. The National Ecological Fund regulation does not provide for a minimum funding quota from the total budget of the Fund for funding CSO projects.

✚ The rules for determining the size of CSO financial input in the project budget are unclear. Requiring a mandatory financial input from CSOs for state funded projects is not an encouraging element for developing a partnership between PAs and CSOs. If the state wants to establish a financial input from CSOs in the project budget, it must first include this in the general principles used for direct funding programs and conditions that may include an exception from the general rule. The provisions on the size of the input should be developed in the sectoral funding regulations, taking into account the experience, the field of activity, and the type of the organization. CSOs argue that the amount of the input required today in grant programs is too high.

✚ Although direct funding for all areas reviewed in the study is paid from the public budget, not all grant programs accept to fund projects' administrative costs and have different fund disbursement rules. The project implementation process is usually jeopardized by the late transfer of the instalments set in the contract as well as by the rule that the last installment is to be transferred after project completion, which puts CSOs in difficult situations. In most cases, CSOs must borrow funds or implement their last activities in debt (based on warranty letters). That debt is usually to be covered after the transfer of the last installment by the donor. It was mainly the organizations who had received funding for cultural projects that highlighted this issue.

✚ The lack of qualified human resources disturbs the good implementation of the direct funding mechanism. In many cases, the legislation is not properly enforced due to the limited

qualifications of civil servants working in the contracting PAs. PAs encounter difficulties in properly enforcing the legislation on public procurement procedures.

✚ The quality of the projects submitted does not always meet the expectations of the funding institution. CSOs mention that they do not have in their staff persons specialized in writing projects and fundraising and, therefore, they think it is necessary for the funding institution, when launching grant competitions, to organize trainings for CSOs in writing and implementation of projects funded from the state.

✚ There is no well-organized monitoring and evaluation system for projects implemented by CSOs in place, which makes it impossible to assess the efficiency and the impact of projects after their implementation. No evaluation or cost-benefit indicators have been developed, which would make it possible to make a fair and impartial evaluation.

7. Recommendations for Improving the Mechanism of Direct Funding of CSOs by the State

In order to ensure a democratic process of country development, the state must mobilize and support the involvement of all social actors in this process. The state must confirm the interest in and support of the social dialog whose quality and effectiveness depends, among others, on understanding and harnessing the potential of CSOs. The study recommendations come to emphasize the need for the state to acknowledge the role of the civil society and suggest directions in which Moldova must adjust its mechanism of direct funding for CSOs. We recommend making legislative, regulatory and procedural adjustment, so that to enhance transparency, planning and budgeting, as well as administration, as follows:

Legislative and Regulatory Adjustments

✚ Amend the Law on the Government in what concerns the State Chancellery competences in order to assign it the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Civil Society Development Strategy.

✚ Amend to the legislation on non-commercial organizations to include the principles, forms and shares of CSO financial inputs, and describe the procedures for granting direct state funding to CSOs.

✚ Introduce into the Law on the State Budget a provision related to the funding of the civil society development program, which would diversify the forms of CSO direct funding by the state, inclusively funding organizational development projects. Budget funds for the implementation of the Civil Society Development Strategy and related Action Plan for 2018-2020.

✚ Amend the legislation to introduce a provision on setting up sectoral lines for the direct funding of CSO programs.

✚ Amend the regulatory framework in view of diversifying the categories of expenditures allowed in the implementation of projects funded by the state, including allowing administrative and salary costs of the staff involved in project implementation.

✚ Develop a framework regulation for the direct funding of CSO projects, based on the legislation on non-commercial organizations.

- ✚ By a government decision, approve the framework regulation and the methodological instructions for implementing the mechanism for the direct state funding of CSOs.
- ✚ CPAs to draft and approve own regulations on the direct CSO funding of CSOs in accordance with the legislation on non-commercial organizations and with the framework regulation approved by the government.
- ✚ Revise the current regulations on the direct state funding for CSO programs/projects in order to adjust them to the legislation on non-commercial organizations with regard to the terms of distribution of the information about the project competition and project evaluation criteria and in order to exclude the conditions that disfavor the CSOs.

Strategic Planning and Resource Budgeting

- ✚ Expand the areas of cooperation between the state and CSOs with direct funding of projects. Revise the funding regulations of the Regional Development Fund, Energy Efficiency Fund, Country Reintegration Allocations, etc. in view of attracting CSOs as implementing partners and including them in the list of eligible participants.
- ✚ Develop and elaborate on the concept of long-term/multiannual funding. Complex projects may need an implementation period of at least 18 months, while the existing funding regulations do not allow an implementation period longer than 11 months.
- ✚ Develop mechanisms to encourage LPAs to plan funds and to launch CSO direct funding programs.

Process Transparency

- ✚ Establish and assign the responsibility for securing the institution's permanent dialog with civil society representatives to the secretary general of state in each ministry.
- ✚ Publish on the website of the donor institution the information related to the project call, the list of winning projects and the amounts granted to each project, as well the report on the results obtained under the projects funded.
- ✚ Diversify the channels for the distribution of information about the direct state funding programs for CSOs.

Procedures and Process Management

- ✚ Organize public consultations with the civil society in each field, which would help identify the real needs within each area, depending on which the means for direct funding would be budgeted.
- ✚ Organize annual trainings for the civil servants responsible for the management of direct funding programs in each funding institution (CPAs and LPAs).
- ✚ Develop the mechanisms that would contribute to strengthening CSO capacities of writing and implementing projects from governmental funds. A first step would be to organize trainings upon the launching of each project call and to accept project administrative costs as costs eligible for funding.

- ✚ Enhance the mechanism of fund transfer by the funding institution to avoid deviating from the schedule established in the funding contract. Remove/avoid the practice of 'advance' implementation of projects.
- ✚ Develop a monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of state-funded projects. Monitoring the cost-benefit indicators would help funding institutions determine the impact of the allocated funds and set new funding priorities.
- ✚ Outsource the function of monitoring and evaluation of state-funded projects.
- ✚ Develop and use unified forms for the narrative and financial reporting within the projects funded from the national public budget.

Annexes

List of CSO receiving state subsidies in 2017⁴¹ and 2018⁴²

	CSO	2017	2018
1	AO „Comitetul National Olimpic” (pentru și participare a sportivilor moldoveni la competiții internaționale- 2017-7000,0 mii; 2018- 3000,0mii) promovarea sportului pentru toți -1000,0 mii	8000,0 mii	4000,0 mii
2	Comitetul Paraolimpic al Republicii Moldova (pregătire a lotului național paraolimpic pentru Jocurile Olimpice din anul 2020)		1000,0 mii
3	AO „Asociația Nevăzătorilor din Moldova” pentru compensarea parțială a contribuțiilor de asigurări sociale de stat obligatorii care se plătesc de către organizație și întreprindere	535,5 mii de lei	645,5 mii
4	AO „Asociația Surzilor din Republica Moldova ” pentru compensarea parțială a contribuțiilor de asigurări sociale de stat obligatorii care se plătesc de către organizație și întreprindere	432,2 mii	517,7 mii
5	AO „Societatea Invalizilor din Republica Moldova ” pentru compensarea parțială a contribuțiilor de asigurări sociale de stat obligatorii care se plătesc de către organizație și întreprindere	220,0 mii	400,0 mii
6	AO „Asociația Nevăzătorilor din Moldova” pentru procurarea de utilaj și materie primă întreprinderii	2767,7 mii	1957,7 mii
7	AO „Asociația Surzilor din Republica Moldova” pentru procurarea de utilaj și materie primă întreprinderii	1184,1 mii	1385,5 mii
8	AO „Societatea Invalizilor din Republica Moldova ” pentru procurarea de utilaj și materie primă întreprinderii	1447,6 mii	1517,6 mii
9	AO „Asociația Nevăzătorilor din Moldova” pentru crearea locurilor de muncă la întreprindere	250,0 mii	250,0 mii
10	AO „Societatea Invalizilor din Republica Moldova ” pentru crearea locurilor de muncă la întreprindere	250,0 mii	250,0 mii
11	AO „Asociația Surzilor din Republica Moldova” pentru plata serviciilor de traducere a limbajului prin semne al persoanelor surde, mute ori surdomute, acordate de interpreți la solicitare	250,0 mii	269,0 mii

Resources allocated to the budgets of the CPA for projects funding in 2017⁴³ and 2018⁴⁴

⁴¹ Law on the State Budget for 2017, No. 279 of 16.12.2016 (Published: 27.12.2016 in the Official Gazette No. 472-477, art. No.: 943)
<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&id=368094>

⁴² Law on the State Budget for 2018, No. 289 of 15.12.2017 (Official Gazette no. 464-470 art. 810 din 29.12.2017)
<http://demo.weblex.md/item/view/iddbtype/1/id/LPLP20171215289/specialview/1/ref/mf>

⁴³ Law on the State Budget for 2017, No. 279 of 16.12.2016 (Published: 27.12.2016 in the Official Gazette No. 472-477, art. No.: 943)
<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&id=368094>

	CPA	Fund	Budgeted amount in 2017 MDL	Budgeted amount 2018 MDL	Funding conditions for CSOs
1.	Ministry of Economy	Energy Efficiency Fund	110000,0 thousand	50000,0 thousand	Does not provide CSOs funding
2.	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional development and Environment	National Fund for Regional Development	200000,0 thousand	200000,0 thousand	Does not provide CSOs funding
3.	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional development and Environment	National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development	900000,0 thousand	900000,0 thousand	Does not provide CSOs funding
4.	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional development and Environment	Fund of Vineyards and Wine	53606,0 thousand	45789,5 thousand	Does not provide CSOs funding
5.	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional development and Environment	National Ecological Fund	271733,1 thousand	269290,9 thousand	Provides CSOs funding
6.	Ministry of Culture	Funding for cultural projects/programs of CSOs	4409,2 thousand	7409,2 thousand	Provides CSOs funding
7.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	NGO „National Olympic Committee” (for participation of Moldovan athletes at international competitions - 2017-7000,0 thousand, 2018- 3000,0 thousand) Promoting sports for all -1000,0 thousand	8000,0 thousand	4000,0 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
8.	MECR	Paralympic Committee of RM (preparation of the Paralympic national team for 2020 Olympic Games)	-	1000,0 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
9.	MHLSP	The Association of the Blinds of Moldova for partial compensation of the compulsory social insurance contribution payable by the association and its enterprise	535,5 thousand	645,5 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
10.	MHLSP	Association of Death People of Moldova for partial compensation of the compulsory social insurance contribution payable by the association and its enterprise	432,2 thousand	517,7 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
11.	MHLSP	The Society of Person with Disabilities for partial compensation of the compulsory social insurance contribution payable by the association and its enterprise	220,0 thousand	400,0 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
12.	MHLSP	The Association of the Blinds of Moldova for the procurement of	2767,7 thousand	1957,7 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs

⁴⁴ Law on the State Budget for 2018, No. 289 of 15.12.2017 (Official Gazette no. 464-470 art. 810 din 29.12.2017) <http://demo.weblex.md/item/view/iddbtype/1/id/LPLP20171215289/specialview/1/ref/mf>

		equipment and raw materials to the enterprise			
13.	MHLSP	Association of Death People of Moldova for the procurement of equipment and raw materials to the enterprise	1184,1 thousand	1385,5 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
14.	MHLSP	The Society of Person with Disabilities for the procurement of equipment and raw materials to the enterprise	1447,6 thousand	1517,6 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
15.	MHLSP	The Association of the Blinds of Moldova to create jobs at the enterprise	250,0 thousand	250,0 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
16.	MHLSP	The Society of Person with Disabilities to create jobs at the enterprise	250,0 thousand	250,0 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
17.	MHLSP	Association of Death People of Moldova for payment of translation services provided by interpreters on request in sign language for deaf and mute people	250,0 thousand	269,0 thousand	State subsidy for CSOs
18.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	For youth activities (for youth centers, youth participation, youth services, grants for youth Organizations etc.)	5658,1 thousand (after rectifying the budget-13307,8 thousand)	19104,2 thousand +3000,0 thousand	Provides CSOs funding
19.	State Chancellery	Budget allocation for country reintegration activities		15 mln	Does not provide CSOs funding

Youth Projects Funded from the State Budget in 2017

Nr.	Organisation	Project	Total
1	Millenium	Promovarea educației non-formale de calitate in domeniul tineret	287 400.
2	Dreamups	Aplicarea instruirii mixte in domeniul antreprenorial din Republica Moldova	270 975
3	CNTM Consiliul National al Tinerilor din Moldova	Capacitarea organizațiilor de tineret prin programe si intervenții instituționale	308 205
4	CNOSM Consiliul National al Organizațiilor Studentești din Moldova	Mass-media pentru tineri	247 150
5	Asociația Națională a Scouților din Moldova	Fii gata, aventura începe!	346 800
6	Y-PEER Moldova Rețeaua de Tineri Educatori DE LA EGAL LA EGAL,	Participarea tinerilor prin tehnici de teatru social și activități de la egal la egal în luarea deciziilor privind sănătatea sexuală	250 440
7	Asociația pentru Dezvoltare Creativa	Wave week Moldova 2017	343 800
8	Asociația tineretului ucrainean din Moldova Zlagoda	Cetățenie digitala activa a tinerilor	177 460
9	ASM Alianța Studenților din Moldova	Dezvoltarea oportunităților economice pentru tineri prin intermediul internship-urilor	238 137,50
10	ANTEM Asociația Nationala a Trainerilor Europeni din Moldova	Diversificarea accesului la educație a tinerilor prin instruire la distanță	246 981,86
11	Oberliht	Edu-Art (educație artistică non-formală pentru o generație de tineri implicați social și	84 924

		integrati din punct de vedere profesional	
12	FACLIA	Participarea incluziva in societate - munca decenta pentru TINERi	327 180
13	FEED-BACK	Программа продвижения и самореализации молодежи в обществе «START»	119 477
14	Clubul Moldovenesc de Jocuri Intellectuale	Tabara de Vara de Jocuri Intellectuale	138 000
15	CERTITUDINE	Fii Antreprenor!	182 675
16	EcoVisio	Antreprenariat social - valorificarea oportunitatilor de dezvoltare a business-ului in Moldova	182 025
17	Societatea Modernizata prin Aspectele Reformelor Teritoriale (SMART)	Tinerii antreprenori - Un viitor prosper	70 550
18	Serviciul pentru Pace	Festivalul Vuntarilor, editia XV-a	348 778,50
19	Coalitia Nediscriminare	Protectia si incluziunea sociala a tinerilor in mediul scolar	116 208,25
20	Fundatia pentru Dezvoltare din Republica Moldova	Dezvoltarea modelelor de abilitare socioeconomica si implicare civica a tinerilor din colegii	133 195 00
21	AIESEC Cahul	Educatia si motivarea economica a tinerilor din Cahul	105 244,00
22	Ograda Noastra	IntegrACT - tineri diversi pentru o societate unitara	169 150,00
23	ANTiM Asociația Naționala a Tinerilor Manageri	Sustinerea si informarea tinerilor cu initiativa, prin oferirea de resurse financiare si de consultanta profesionala in vederea dezvoltarii de noi proiecte de afaceri in localitatile rurale din Republica Moldova	179 600,00
24	Agencia de dezvoltare rurala centru	AteSTAT Civic	187 375,00
25	Mileniul III	Dorința & perseverenta - asigura succesul	56 877,50
26	Tinerii pentru dreptul la viata (TDV)	SNV 2017 Hai in gasca voluntarilor	292 188,87
27	Platforma pentru Cetățenie Activa si Parteneriat pentru Drepturile Omului (CAP)	Conferința Internațională a Voluntariatului (CIV)	315 631,05
28	Centrul de Resurse pentru Tineret DACIA	Consolidarea sectorului de servicii prietenoase tinerilor din Republica Moldova III	349 943,00
	TOTAL		6 076 371,53

Ministerul Educației, Culturii
și Cercetării al Republicii Moldova



Ministry of Education, Culture and
Research of the Republic of Moldova

MD-2033, mun. Chișinău, Piața Marii Adunări Naționale, 1
tel. (373) 22227620, fax (373) 22232388

MD-2033, Chișinău, 1, Piața Marii Adunări Naționale
tel. (373) 22227620, fax (373) 22232388

**COMISIA DE EXAMINARE ȘI SELECTARE A PROIECTELOR CĂȘTIGĂTOARE
ÎN CADRUL PROGRAMULUI DE GRANTURI 2018
PENTRU ORGANIZAȚIILE DE TINERET,
ORGANIZAT DE CĂTRE MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI, CULTURII ȘI CERCETĂRII**

**Desemnează proiectele câștigătoare în cadrul Programului de Granturi 2018
pentru organizațiile de tineret, în urma procedurii de evaluare:**

Nr.	Asociația Obștească	Titlul proiectului
1	Asociația pentru Dezvoltare Creativă	Wave week Moldova 2018
2	Fundația pentru Dezvoltare	Participarea tinerilor pentru promovarea transparenței în educație
3	Rețeaua de Tineri Educatori DE LA EGAL LA EGAL, Y-PEER Moldova	Implicarea tinerilor în procesul de colaborare cu factorii de decizie în vederea promovării sănătății reproductive prin tehnici de teatru social, tehnici de dezbatere și activități de educație de la egal la egal
4	Asociația Muzical-Corală	Moldovan National Youth Orchestra: La La Play Worldwide
5	Asociația pentru Dezvoltarea Tehnologiilor Informaționale EDUCAT	GirlsGoIT
6	OWH TV Studio	Școala mea, filmul meu
7	Asociația Obștească pentru Copii și Tineret „FĂCLIA”	Competențe cheie pentru piața muncii
8	Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova	Consolidarea instituțională a organizațiilor de tineret prin dezvoltarea capacităților de planificare și management
9	Asociația surzilor din Republica Moldova	Deaf Skills Moldova
10	Tinerii pentru Dreptul la Viață	SNV 2018 „Hai în gașca voluntarilor!”

National Small Grants Program in Active Ageing⁴⁵ 2017

	Organizatia	obiectivele proiectului
1.	AO „Altair-Z”, mun. Bălți	dezvoltarea atelierilor de lucru în domeniul artizanatului, crearea unui magazin online pentru produsele create de vârstnici, fortificarea cunoștințelor în domeniului antreprenoriatului și creșterea angajării în rândul vârstnicilor
2.	AO „ Pro Asistență și Dezvoltare Comunitară”, s. Ciolacu Nou, r-l Fălești	dezvoltarea și instituirea Cluburilor pentru persoanele vârstnice, desfășurarea de șezători, activități de salubritate, competiții sportive și sprijin persoanelor în etate cu mobilitate redusă.
3.	AO ” Oameni pentru Oameni”, mun. Edineț	promovarea modul sănătos și activ de viață în rândul persoanelor vârstnice, în mod special prin practicarea sportului.
4.	AO ” Pro comunitate Bahrinești”, s. Bahrinești, r-l Florești,	implicarea activă a persoanelor vârstnice în activități de voluntariat, desfășurarea ședințelor „Cafeneaua publică Secretele îmbătrânirii active”, fortificarea competențelor de utilizare de către vârstnici a tehnologiilor informaționale moderne, implicarea persoanelor vârstnice în procesul decizional la nivel local
	TOTAL	100 000 MDL

⁴⁵ <http://www.msmps.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-sanatatii-muncii-si-protectiei-sociale-si-desemnarea-castigatorii-programului-de>

CSOs Contracted by NHIC in 2018⁴⁶(base fund)

	Organization name	Type of subprogram
1.	AO Centrul de Reabilitare Medico-Socială pentru Persoane cu Vedere Slabă „LOW VISION”	AMSP
2.	AO Centrul de Intervenție Precoce „VOINICEL”	AMSP
3.	AO "Aripile Speranței"	IMD
4.	Fundația Agapedia	IMD
5.	AO Angelus Ocnîța	IMD
6.	AO Angelus Soroca	IMD
7.	AO Gloria	AMS; IMD
8.	AO "Prosperare-Zubrești"	AMS; IMD
9.	AO "Casmed"	IMD
10.	FF MS "Angelus-Moldova"	AMS; IMD
11.	AO "Medlife"	IMD
12.	AO "Homecare"	IMD
13.	FB „Caritas Moldova"	IMD
14.	AO "Ascode"	AMSP
15.	AO "Centrul Tony Hawks"	AMSP

AMSP – Specialist Physician Assistance

AMS – Hospital care

IMD – Home medical care

⁴⁶<http://www.cnam.md/httpdocs/editorDir/file/Lista%20institutiilor%20medicale%20contractate%20de%20CNAM%20C3%AEn%20anul%202018.pdf>

CSOs Contracted by NHIC in 2017 (base fund)

	Denumirea instituției	Tip IMS
1.	AO Centrul de Reabilitare Medico-Socială pentru Persoane cu Vedere Slabă „LOW VISION”	AMSP
2.	AO Centrul de Intervenție Precoce „VOINICEL”	AMSA
3.	AO "Aripile Speranței"	IMD
4.	Fundația Agapedia	IMD
5.	AO Angelus Oconița	IMD
6.	AO Angelus Soroca	IMD
7.	AO Gloria	AMS; IMD
8.	AO "Prosperare-Zubrești"	AMS; IMD
9.	AO "Casmed"	IMD
10.	FF MS "Angelus-Moldova"	AMS; IMD
11.	AO "Medlife"	IMD
12.	AO "Homecare"	IMD
13.	FB „ Caritas Moldova"	IMD
14.	AO "Ascode"	AMSA
15.	AO "Centrul Tony Hawks"	AMSA

AMSP - Specialist Physician Assistance

AMS - Hospital care

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Annex no. 1
Order of the Minister of Education, Culture and Research
Nr. 117 of February 6, 2018

Nr.	Name of the Organization	Project	Aproved 2018
	Artă populară, muzeografie		
1.	Asociația obștească „Doina Răutului”	Muzeul „Vatra Mamei”	30,000
2.	Asociația obștească Zâmbet regăsit	Prin cântec trăim, ne înrudim, ne amintim, apoi plecăm	25,000
3.	Fundația Culturală „Nicolae Glib”	Festivalul National de Folclor Nicolae Glib	30,000
4.	Asociația obștească „Bella getica”	Arta din pănuși-atelier de prelucrare a fibrelor vegetale	15,000
	Total		100,000
	Arte vizuale		
5.	Uniunea Artiștilor Plastici din Republica Moldova	Program Expozițional 2018	100,000
6.	Uniunea Artiștilor Plastici din Republica Moldova	Saloanele Moldovei - Expoziție concurs de artă plastică contemporana	90,000
7.	Asociația obștească „Adăpost și Alinare”	Tradiții cu modernism	15,000
8.	Asociația obștească Asociația Tinerilor Artiști Oberliht	ZPAȚIU – platformă de activism cultural pentru tineri artiști	40,000
	Total		245,000
	Cinematografie		
9.	Asociația obștească ALTFILM	TIFF Chișinău 2018	65,000
10.	Asociația obștească ALTFILM	Festivalul Internațional de Film de Animație, Animest Chisinau 2018	65,000
11.	Alternative Cinema	Zilele Filmului Românesc la Chișinău, ediția IV	50,000
12.	OWH TV Studio	CRONOGRAF TUR	70,000
13.	Asociația obștească „MOLDOX”	„Diaspora Conference @MOLDOX”	30,000
14.	Asociația obștească „MOLDOX”	„MOLDOX la școală”	35,000
	Total		315,000
	Cultură-comunități		
15.	Asociația obștească „Organizația Veteranilor din Republica Moldova”	Festival Republican Internațional „Credință, Speranța, Iubirea, Victoria - 73”	40,000
16.	Asociația obștească Academia Europeană pentru Cultura și Arta (AECA)	Lectoriu public muzical Pianul-Regele Scenei	30,000
17.	Uniunea Scriitorilor din Moldova	Festivalul „George Meniuc sau Toamna lui Orfeu”	30,000



18	Asociația obștească „Noi-Viitorul Luminos”	Festivalul Național al Dinastiilor de Familie „La izvorul Osoiencelor”, ediția a V-a,	20,000
19	Asociația obștească „Autentic-Horești”	Festivalul Horelor	25,000
20	Asociația obștească a Părinților în sprijinul învățământului	Clubul cultural al seniorilor	
21	Asociația obștească FAMILII MIGRANTE	iProsop în Duminica Mare	20,000
22	Fundația pentru Relații Moldo-Japoneze	Festivalul Culturii Japoneze „BUNKASAI – SPIRITUL JAPONIEI” - ediția a V-a	40,000
23	Asociația obștească „Liman-T”	„La vatra Izvoarelor”	20,000
24	Asociația obștească Centrul Cultural al Comunității Evreiești	Ecomentalitatea femeilor	20,000
25	Asociația obștească Liga Tineretului din raionul Leova „SPERANȚA”	EDITAREA ZIARULUI DE CULTURĂ, TINERET ȘI OPINIE “ADEVĂRUL MOLDOVEI” – ANUL IV	45,000
26	ProSolidaritate	Noaptea Muzeelor	30,000
27	Asociația obștească „Consiliul Național Consultativ al Șefilor Direcțiilor/Secțiilor Cultură și Oamenilor de Cultură din RM ”	Consolidarea relațiilor dintre autoritățile publice locale și autoritățile publice centrale întru formarea și dezvoltarea competențelor profesionale necesare pentru o administrare/gestionare eficientă a instituțiilor de cultură	90,000
28	Asociația obștească PRO COMUNITATE BĂHRINEȘTI	Biserica copiilor	15,000
29	Asociația obștească ”Casa de acasă”	Concursul național de poezie și cântec „Dumitru Matcovschi”	50,000
30	Asociația obștească „Societatea Modernizată prin Aspectele Reformelor Teritoriale” (SMART)	„Culegeri din Triumfurile Folclorice”	60,000
31	Asociația obștească „Andrieș”	Festivalul păstoresc „La stână”	15,000
32	Asociația obștească Forumul de Studii Interdisciplinare PLURAL	FestivAlt	25,000
33	Asociația obștească Forumul de Studii Interdisciplinare PLURAL	Calendar cultural - platformă solidară online a scenei culturale independente din Republica Moldova și unitățile administrativ-teritoriale din stânga Nistrului	25,000
34	Asociația de Dezvoltare Comunitară din s. Molovata	Festivalul Sarmalelor	20,000
35	Asociația obștească Asociația Tinerilor Artiști Oberliht	CHIOȘC – punct de informare cultural / platformă publică de manifestare	20,000



36	Asociația obștească Asociația Tinerilor Artiști Oberliht	Program Cultural pentru Zilele Spațiului Public 2018 (ediția a 3-a)	20,000
	Total		660,000
	Literatură		
37	Asociația obștească Centrul Cultural-științific „Grigore Vieru”	Festivalul Internațional de Poezie „Grigore Vieru”, ediția a X-a	50,000
38	Asociația obștească Clubul Moldovenesc de Jocuri Intelectuale	Manual de jocuri intelectuale, volumul 2	10,000
39	Fundația „SUD-EST cultural”	Editarea revistei „SUD-EST cultural”	50,000
40	Uniunea Editorilor din Republica Moldova	Salonul Internațional de Carte Bookfest Chișinău 2018	95,000
41	Uniunea Scriitorilor din Moldova	Revista literară	60,000
42	Uniunea Scriitorilor din Moldova	Literatura din Basarabia - fenomene și evenimente ale anului 2018	20,000

43	Uniunea Scriitorilor din Moldova	Festivalul Internațional „Primăvara Europeana a Poeților”, edita a VIII-a, 2018	70,000
44	Uniunea Editorilor din Republica Moldova	Festivalul Internațional EUROPOESIA 2018	65,000
45	Uniunea Editorilor din Republica Moldova	FILIT, Extensiunea Chișinău, ediția 2018	70,000
46	Uniunea Editorilor din Republica Moldova	Zilele Literaturii Române, ediția 2018	50,000
47	Uniunea Editorilor din Republica Moldova	Participarea Republicii Moldova la Târgul Internațional de Carte de la Leipzig 2018	95,000
48	Fundația Culturală „Contrafort”	„Susținerea și promovarea literaturii originale din Republica Moldova în revista „Contrafort” pe parcursul anului 2018”	50,000
49	Asociația obștească Fondul Culturii Scrise din Moldova	Concursul de poezie „Slam poetry” (Ringul poezilor), ediția a III-a	30,000
50	Asociația obștească Fondul Culturii Scrise din Moldova	Festivalul Internațional de proză „Quadrat”	30,000
51	Asociația obștească „Secția Națională din Republica Moldova a Consiliului Internațional al Cărții pentru Copii și Tineret”	Salonul Internațional de Carte pentru Copii și Tineret, ediția a XXII-a	90,000
52	Asociația obștească „Secția Națională din Republica Moldova a Consiliului Internațional al Cărții pentru Copii și Tineret”	Festivalul „Zilele Creangă”, ediția a VIII-a	40,000
53	Asociația obștească Forumul de Studii Interdisciplinare PLURAL	Club de carte PLATZFORMA	40,000



54	AO Asociația Scriitorilor ruși din Moldova	Festivalul prozei „Gutuia basarabeană”	30,000
	Total		945,000
	Muzică		
55	Uniunea Compozitorilor și Muzicologilor din Moldova	CONCURSUL NAȚIONAL DE COMPOZIȚIE ȘI MUZICOLOGIE 2018	35,000
56	Uniunea Compozitorilor și Muzicologilor din Moldova	FESTIVALUL INTERNAȚIONAL „ZILELE MUZICII NOI”, ediția XXVII	60,000
57	Centrul Cultural Evreiesc KEDEM	Muzica Moldovei: tradiții si viitor	50,000
58	Asociația obștească Plai Înfloritor	Ediția a XIV-a a Festivalului Internațional de Arte „Plai Natal”	25,000
59	Asociația obștească „Pro – Cultura” din raionul Leova	„Festivalul – concurs de muzică ușoară în memoria compozitorilor băștinași Petre Teodorovici și Ion – Aldea Teodorovici”.	40,000
60	Asociația obștească Academia Europeana pentru Cultura si Arta (AECA)	Festivalul de Muzica Clasica MOLDO CRESCENDO ediția 4, 2018	30,000
61	Fundația Culturală „J.S.Bach”	Festivalul Internațional „J.S.Bach”, ediția VIII	50,000
62	Asociația obștească TRIGON	ETHNO JAZZ FESTIVAL 2018 ed. XVII	100,000
63	Asociația obștească Doua inimi gemene	Festival Internațional de muzică ușoara Doua inimi gemene în memoria Doina si Ion Aldea Teodorovici	70,000
64	Uniunea Muzicienilor din Moldova	Concursul Național al interpreților la instrumente populare Barbu Lăutaru	30,000
65	Uniunea Muzicienilor din Moldova	Concursul Național al Interpreților Cântecului Folcloric Tamara Ciobanu	50,000
66	Uniunea Muzicienilor din Moldova	Festival Concurs Național de creație si interpretare a romanței românești „Crizantema de Argint”	70,000
67	Uniunea Muzicienilor din Moldova	Sărbătorile naționale de iarnă ”Aprindeți Luminile”	10,000
68	Uniunea Muzicienilor din Moldova	Pascala-2018	15,000
69	Asociația obștească „MuzArt”	JAZZ’n Chișinău Internațional Festival, ediția VI.	70,000
70	Asociația obștească „Perlele Moldovei”	„Festivalul-concurs Național de Folclor „La Nistru la mărgioară” ediția XXIII	30,000
71	Asociația obștească „Perlele Moldovei”	„Festivalul concurs Internațional de Artă vocală „Cîntă Inima”	20,000
72	Asociația obștească „Consiliul Național Consultativ al Șefilor Direcțiilor/Secțiilor Cultură și Oamenilor de Cultură din RM ”	„Festivalul concurs Transfrontalier „Răsune Fanfare, Fără Hotare” ediția a IV- a	100,000
73	Asociația Muzical-Corală	Chișinău International Choir Festival, ediția XI	100,000
74	Asociația Muzical-Corală	Concertele de vară ”Moldovan National Youth Orchestra - 2018”	100,000



75	Asociația obștească „Familii Migrante”	Festivalul itinerant „Lelita Franta Joaca Sârba Moldovenească”	35,000
	Total		1090,000
76	Asociația obștească Plai Înfloritor	„Întâlniri de Crăciun” - diversitatea patrimoniului cultural	35,000
77	Asociația obștească Societatea Științifică de Bibliofilie și Ex-libris „Paul Mihail” din Moldova	ARHIVA DE VOICI: INTERVIURI CU PERSONALITĂȚI DIN DOMENIUL CULTURII NAȚIONALE	35,000
78	Asociația obștească „Implică-Te”	Promovarea și salvagardarea patrimoniului istorico-arheologic de pe teritoriul raionului Rezina	29,000
79	Asociația obștească „UNIREA - ONOARE, DEMNITATE ȘI PATRIE”	Sărbătorile naționale românești – componentă esențială a patrimoniului cultural internațional	30,000
80	Asociația De Femei „Mărinimia”	„Colindă Suflet, Colindă”	50,000
81	Asociația obștească „Centrul de Informare și Consultanță DIALOG”	„Memorie vie a eroilor Marelui Război: concurs de cântece populare și poezii dedicate Primului Război Mondial adresat elevilor din Găgăuzia și raionul Taraclia (clasele V-XII)”	20,000
82	Asociația obștească „Bella Getica”	Magia culorii costumului popular	20,000
83	Asociația obștească „Urban Lab Chișinău”	Patrimoniul cultural și comunitățile	40,000
84	Asociația obștească Reuniunea pentru Promovarea Artelor, Culturii și Patrimoniului	Arhiva Mateevici	50,000
	Total		309,000
85	Asociația obștească Altair-Z	ARTA TREZEȘTE SUFLETU	25,000
86	Asociația obștească Centrul Studentesc Creativitate și Talent	Festivalul Internațional al Școlilor de Teatru ClassFest	100,000
87	Uniunea Teatrală din Moldova	FORUMUL TINERILOR CREATORI DE TEATRU-2018	30,000
88	Uniunea Teatrală din Moldova	Concurs recital VALERIU CUPCEA 2018	25,000
89	Uniunea Teatrală din Moldova	GALA PREMIILOR UNITEM 2018	60,000
90	Uniunea Teatrală din Moldova	Ziua Națională a Actorului 2018	30,000
91	Centrul de proiecte culturale Arta Azi	Școala de dramaturgie contemporană	40,000
	Total		310,000
	Total (all categories)		3 974 000

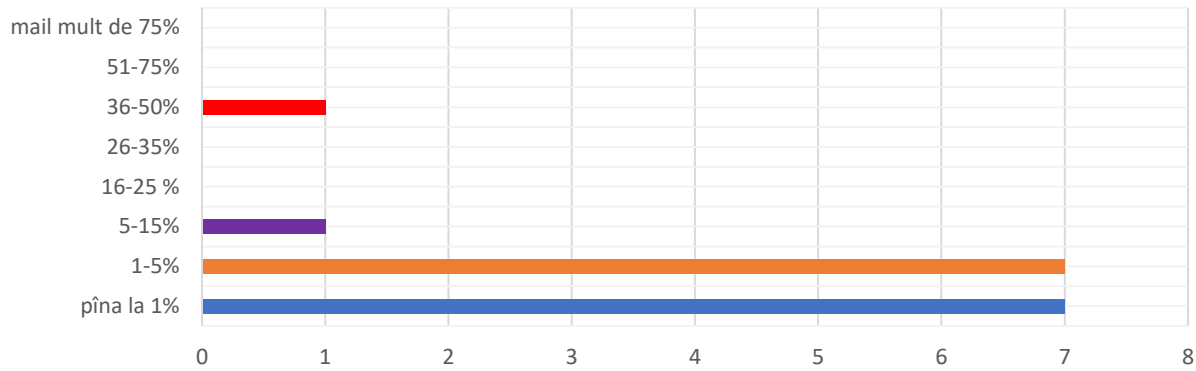
List of Interviewed People

	Name	Position
1.	Daniela Morari	State Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
2.	Igor Sarov	State Secretary General, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
3.	Viorica Dumbraveanu	State Secretary General, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
4.	Ion Donea	Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
5.	Marina Semeniuc	Head of Department, Ministry of Finance
6.	Adrian Culai	Municipal Councilor, Municipal Council of Chisinau
7.	Aliona Cretu	Head of Department, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
8.	Iurie Osoianu	NHIC
9.	Ghenadie Damascan	NHIC
10.	Maria Lifciu	NHIC
11.	Vadim Pistrinciuc	Member of Parliament
12.	Lilia Pascal	Head of Department, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
13.	Djulieta Popescu	Head of Department, Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
14.	Anatol Dimitriu	Former president of the District Council , Ialoveni
15.	Victor Pletosu	Youth Specialist Ialoveni District Council
16.	Antonita Fonari	President, CAP
17.	Sergiu Neicovcin	Executive Director, Contact Center
18.	Gabriel Margineanu	Consultant, NGO "Biotica", member of the administrative council of the NEF
19.	Iuliana Cantaragiu	National Environmental Center /Centrul National de Mediu
20.	Sergiu Gurau	Director, NGO " Eco- Razeni"
21.	Ina Coseru	National Environmental Center /Centrul National de Mediu
22.	Alla Iatco,	TDV Balti
23.	Virgil Margineanu	OWH TV Studio
24.	Ana Revenco	President, NGO „La Strada”
25.	Ghenadie Turcanu	Center PAS

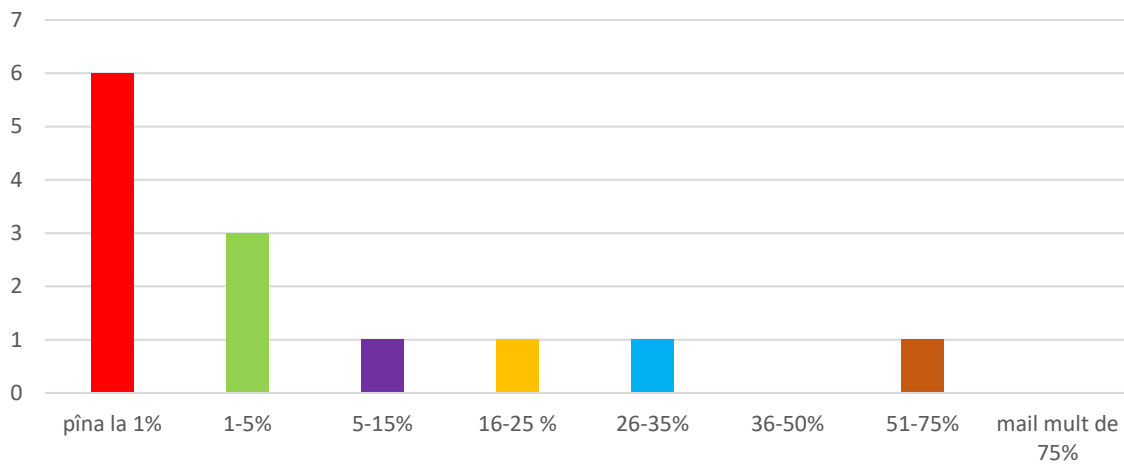
List of Analyzed Documents

1. Law on physical culture and sports nr.330-XIV of 25.03.99;
<http://cnas.md/libview.php?l=ro&id=548&idc=183>
2. Study "Identification of Barriers and Gaps in State Contracting of Services Provided by CSOs", Chisinau, 2018.
3. Study "Fundraising of Local Sources: Opportunities and Perspectives", Contact Center;
4. Study "Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Moldova: Evolution, Sustainability and Participation in the Political Dialogue", Chisinau 2014;
5. 2016 CSO Sustainability Index - Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, August 2017;
6. Civil Society Development Strategy for the period 2018-2020 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy;
7. Civil Code of the Republic of Moldova;
8. Law No.837 of 17.05.1996 on Civic Associations;
9. Law on Foundations, No.581-XIV of 30.07.99;
10. *Law on Culture no.413 of 27.05.1999;*
11. *Law No. 21 of 01.03.2013 on Creative Professionals and Creative Professionals' Unions;*
12. *Law No. 215 of 29.07.2016 on Youth;*
13. Law on Social Assistance No.547 of 25.12.2003;
14. Law on Social Services No.123 of 18.06.2010;
15. Law on Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities No. 60 of 30.03.2012;
16. *Law No. 436 of 28.12.2006 on Local Public Administration;*
17. *Law on Administrative Decentralization No. 435 of 28.12.2006;*
18. *Law on the State Budget for 2016;*
19. *Law on the State Budget for 2017;*
20. *Law on the State Budget for 2018;*
21. Law on Public Procurement No. 131 of 03.07.2015;
22. Law on Public-Private Partnerships No.179 of 10.07.2008
23. *Government Decision No. 1213 of 27.12.10 on Approving the Measures To Support Youth Activities, the Framework Regulation on the Organization and Implementation of Youth Grants Program and the National/Local Competition for Youth Initiative Groups;*
24. *Regulation on the Manner of Funding of the Cultural Projects of Civic Associations from the State Budget, adopted by Government Decision No.834 of 08.10.2014;*
25. Regulation of the National Small Grants Program in Active Ageing;
26. Government Decision No. 988 of 21.09.1998¹ "On Approving the Regulation on Environmental Funds";
27. Order No.73 din 10.09.2013 "On the Approval of the Regulation for National Ecologic Fund Administration";
28. NHIC Order No 159-A "On the Contracting of Healthcare Facilities Within the Compulsory Medical Insurance" ;
29. Mayor's Decision of Bălți Municipality No. 163 of 11.04.2016;
30. Mayor's Decision of Bălți Municipality No. 426 of 09.07.2014 "On Approving the Instruction on the Funding of Public Benefit Projects from the Municipal Budget."

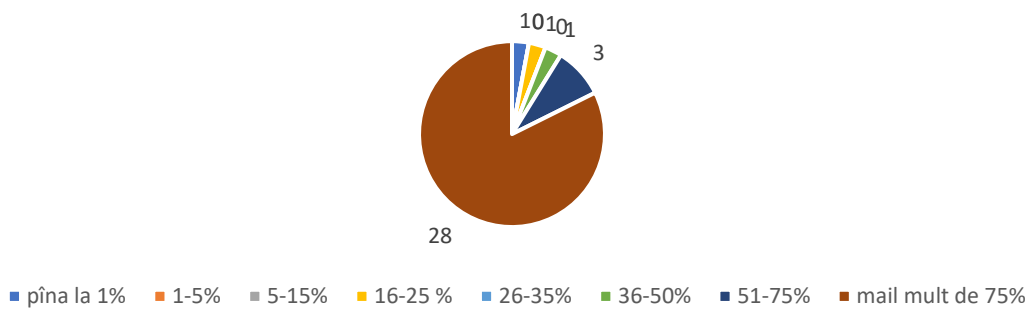
Funds received from Local Public Authorities

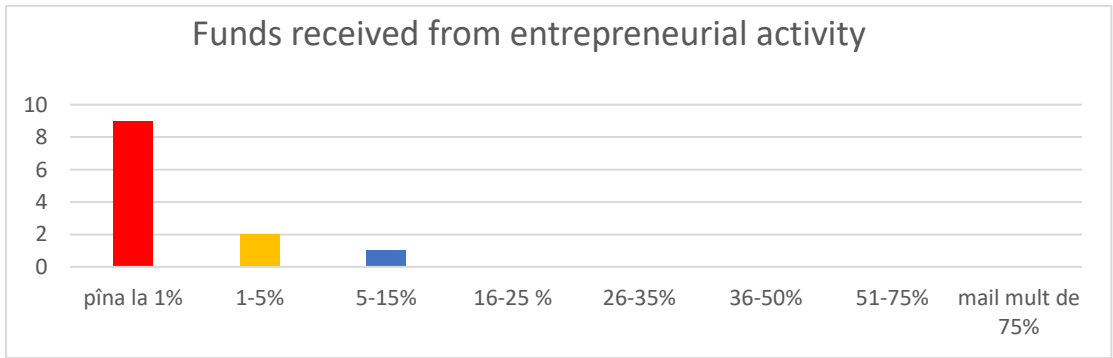
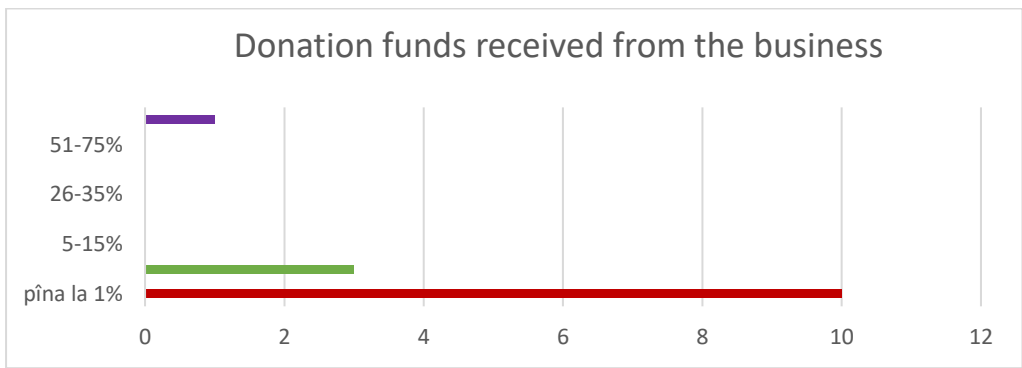
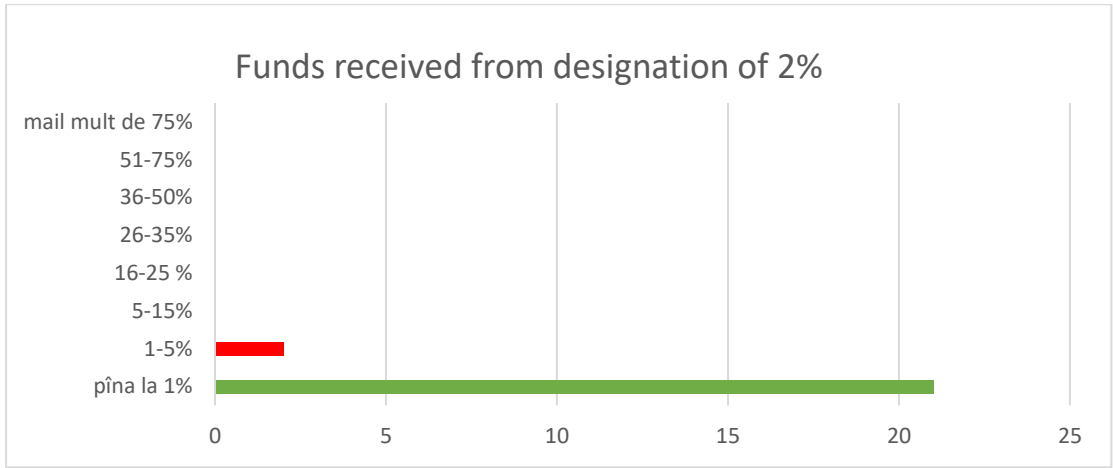


Funds received from Central Public Authorities



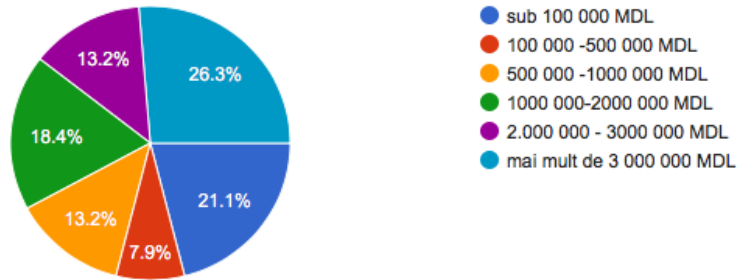
Funds received from international donors



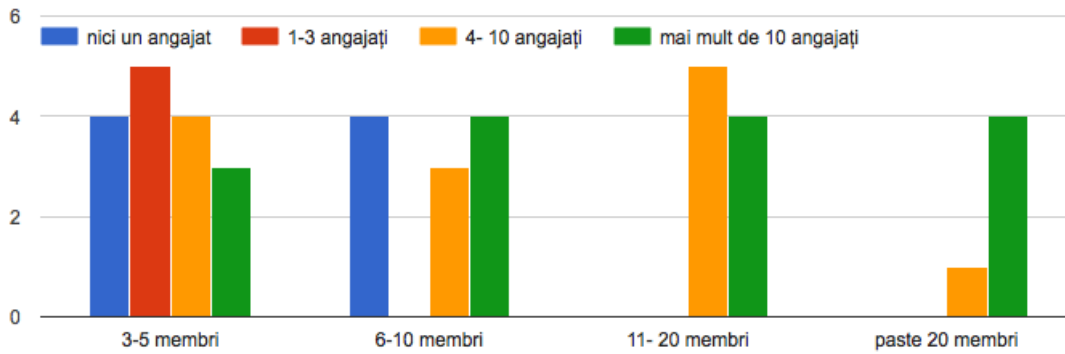


4. Bugetul aproximativ al organizației pentru 2017 (răspund doar reprezentanții OSC):

38 responses



3. Numărul de membri si de persoane angajate in organizația Dumneavoastră (răspund doar reprezentanții OSC):



PRACTICES OF DIRECT STATE FUNDING OF CSOs PROJECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you represent:

1.1. a governmental institution? 1-Yes 2-No

1.1.1. If yes, then please provide the name of the organization and describe your position in the organization.

1.2. a local public authority?

1 – Yes 2 – No

1.2.1. If yes, then please provide the name of the organization and describe your position in the organization.

1.3. a civil society organization? 1 – Yes 2 – No

1.3.1. If yes, than please provide:

1.3.1.1. The exact name of the organization:

1.3.1.2. The type of organization:

1 – civic association	4 – private institution
2 – foundation	5 – other
3 – associates union/ platform	

1.3.1.3. the number of members of your organization:

1 – 3-5	3 – 11- 20
2 – 6-10	4 – over 20

1.3.1.4. the type your organization:

1 – local; 2 – national; 3 – international

1.3.1.5. approximate budget of your organization for 2017:

1 – under MDL 100,000; 4 – MDL 1,000,000 – 2,000,000; 2 – MDL 100,000 – 500,000; 5 – over MDL 2,000,000; 3 – MDL 500,000 – 1,000,000

1.3.1.6. financial sources of the organization in 2017:

1 – funds received by the central authorities _____%

2 - funds received from the local authorities _____%

3 – donations from private businesses _____%

4 – funds received from the 2% law _____%

5 – community donations _____%

6 – international donors _____%

7 – membership fee _____%

8 – entrepreneurial activity _____%

9 – other (specify) _____%

2. How do you appreciate the existing mechanism of direct state funding for CSOs' projects?

1. Very good 2. Good 3. Satisfactory. 4 Bad 5. I don't know /I can't appreciate

3. Evaluate the main problems of the state funding mechanism for CSO projects.

	Very important	Important	Not important	Cannot answer
Incoherence of the legal framework regulating the funding mechanism of CSO projects from public money	1	2	3	4
Lack of a framework regulation on organizing competitions for funding CSO projects by the CPAs	1	2	3	4
Limited institutional capacities to ensure an effective dialogue with the civil society	1	2	3	4
Insufficient financial programs and resources to fund CSO projects	1	2	3	4
CSOs are not consulted when setting the funding priorities for the following year	1	2	3	4
Low levels of transparency of the project funding process	1	2	3	4
Application conditions are not sufficiently clearly explained in the call for project proposals.	1	2	3	4
The nominal composition of the project evaluation committee is not publicly disclosed, so it is impossible to verify potential conflicts of interest between members of the jury and the applicants	1	2	3	4
Lack of a written reply from the project evaluation committee indicating why the project was not selected.	1	2	3	4
Insufficient promotion of the information about the project competition.	1	2	3	4
There is no public disclosure of the information about results expected from the project by the funding institution.	1	2	3	4
CSO mandatory input to the project budget is too high.	1	2	3	4
Insufficient qualified human resources as well as the lack of experience of public authorities in organizing non-reimbursable funding competitions offered to CSOs.	1	2	3	4
Lack of a unified mechanism of financial and narrative reporting for all non-reimbursable grants offered from the public budget.	1	2	3	4
The narrative reports with the project results are not published on the website of the funding institution	1	2	3	4
Other (Specify)				

4. Evaluate the main problems of the funding mechanism for CSO projects by the public local authorities.

	Very important	Important	Not important	Cannot answer
Lack of a framework regulation for the organization of competitions for funding CSO projects by LPAs	1	2	3	4
Lack of a clear procedure for funding CSO projects by LPAs	1	2	3	4
Lack of transparency in the selection of CSO projects in which LPAs have a financial input	1	2	3	4
High level of political influence in making decision on funding projects by LPAs	1	2	3	4
Lack of non-reimbursable funding programs for CSO projects, implemented annually by LPAs.	1	2	3	4
Small local budgets and insufficient resources allocated for funding CSO projects.	1	2	3	4
LPAs lack experience with organizing non-reimbursable funding competitions for CSOs and qualified human capital in this area.	1	2	3	4
Other (Specify)				

5. In your opinion, which should be the model of funding of CSO projects by the public authorities?

	Yes	No	Cannot answer
Create of the National Civil Society Development Fund	1	2	3
Approve a framework regulation for organizing non-reimbursable funding competitions for CSO projects	1	2	3
Consult with the civil society on the framework regulation for organizing the project funding	1	2	3

competitions for CSOs prior to their approval.			
Consult with CSOs in establishing the funding priorities for each area.	1	2	3
Develop a concept of medium-term funding for CSO projects, in line with sectoral strategic priorities	1	2	3
Each year plan in the state budget the necessary resources for the implementation of sectoral non-reimbursable funding grant programs for CSOs.			
Launch sectoral non-reimbursable funding programs for CSOs	1	2	3
Announce cooperation priorities for the coming year with CSOs	1	2	3
Each project call to be followed by a session explaining the application process and the funding institution's expectations from the funded projects.	1	2	3
Fund CSO projects strictly on a contest basis.	1	2	3
Diversify the accepted expenditure categories for project implementation	1	2	3
Other (specify)			

6. What actions, including legislative ones, are necessary for the creation of an effective direct funding model for CSOs?

	Yes		No	Cannot answer
Adopt and implement the Civil Society Development Strategy	1		2	3
Amend the law on the state budget and the law on local public funds in view of establishing the norms on CSO project funding.				
Amend the Law on the Administrative Decentralization and Law on Local Public Administration to clarify the LPA competencies for funding CSO Projects	1		2	3
Amend the law to introduce into the state budget law of the provision on establishing sectoral funds to support funding programs for CSO projects.				
Amend the Law on the Government with regards to the competences of the State Chancellery to assign it the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Civil Society Development Strategy and the funding program for CSO projects.				
Develop and approve a framework regulation for the direct funding of CSOs	1		2	3
Set up a fund for civil society development.	1		2	3
Amend the legislation to diversify the categories of expenditures allowed in the implementation of CSO projects funded by public authorities.				
Other (Specify)				

7. Do you know any positive examples of direct state funding for CSO projects?

1-yes. 2-no

7.1. If yes, please describe them in detail
