



2020 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INDEX

UKRAINE
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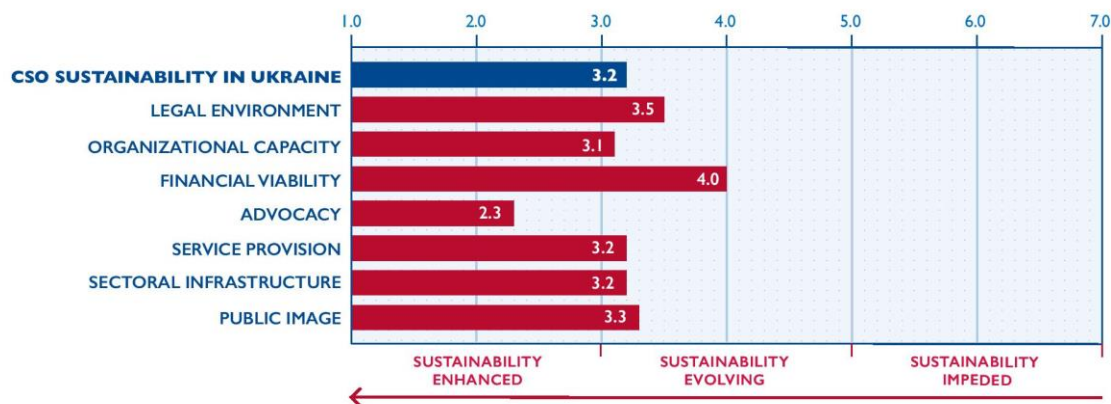
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UKRAINE

Capital: Kyiv
Population: 43,922,939
GDP per capita (PPP): \$8,800
Human Development Index: High (0.750)
Freedom in the World: Partly Free (62/100)

OVERALL CSO SUSTAINABILITY: 3.2



The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted all aspects of life in Ukraine in 2020. To control the spread of the virus, the government introduced various restrictions, such as limiting movement and imposing full and weekend lockdowns. These bans led to significant economic losses, hitting small and medium-sized businesses and the entertainment and tourism industries particularly hard. Combined with insufficient government support, the restrictions led to significant job losses and rising unemployment.

On March 2, 2020, President Zelenskyy, backed by the Verkhovna Rada (parliament), led a major government shakedown replacing the prime minister and cabinet members. The new government turned out to be less open to cooperating with CSOs. Local elections took place in the country on October 25, 2020, with extended voting times in some regions and cities. The elections were held under the new Electoral Code, which abolished the majority electoral system and introduced a proportional electoral system with open regional lists in cities with populations of 90,000 or more. It also included a 40 percent gender quota for female candidates. According to the Central Election Commission, representatives from the ruling party Servant of the People (Sluga Narodu) received more seats on the municipal level than any other party—approximately 15 percent of the vote—while the party's mayoral candidates received 30.74 percent of the vote. Despite these results, popular support for the ruling party and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dropped significantly, from 41 percent in 2019 to 19 percent in 2020, according to a survey conducted by the Razumkov Center.

The conflict in the east of the country and Russia's ongoing occupation of Crimea remains unresolved. Ukraine continued its attempts to stop hostilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and tried to draw the attention of the international community to the illegal annexation of Crimea. A number of CSOs contributed to these efforts by implementing projects aimed at helping internally displaced persons, protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, and unmasking disinformation.

To some extent these trends negatively affected the activities of CSOs in Ukraine in 2020. In contrast to previous years, which reflected stable growth from year to year, the overall level of CSO sustainability stagnated in 2020. However, the level of advocacy fell as a result of the

significant changes in the composition of both the national government and local representative bodies and the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, both of which complicated dialogue between CSOs and decisionmakers.

According to the Ukrainian State Statistic Service, as of January 1, 2021, there were 92,470 registered public associations, 1,875 unions of public associations, 26,651 religious organizations, 28,713 trade unions, 317 creative unions, 19,812 charitable organizations, and 1,649 self-organized bodies. The data does not include CSOs registered in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or in the city of Sevastopol, as there is no access to these areas.

LEGAL ENVIRONMENT: 3.5



The legal environment governing the CSO sector was affected by both positive and negative developments that largely canceled each other out. The main legislation governing CSOs—the Law on State Registration of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs and CSOs, Law on Public Associations, and the 2016 Order of the Ministry of Justice on Approval of the Procedure for State Registration of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Entities Forming Non-Legal Entities—remained unchanged in 2020.

On June 24, 2020, a consortium of organizations comprised of the Initiative Center to Support Social Action Ednannia, Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR), and Center for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM) presented the Legal Reforms

Roadmap for Civil Society in Ukraine to the public. More than 150 CSO representatives from different regions in Ukraine were consulted during the Roadmap’s development. This analytical document outlines the civil sector’s reform priorities and recommends improvements to the legal provisions governing CSOs in Ukraine from 2021 to 2025. Among the issues highlighted in the Roadmap are the lack of transparent procedures in the allocation of budget funds to CSOs, the unfavorable tax environment for public, charitable and volunteer organizations, and the threats faced by civil activists. The Roadmap provided important input into the National Strategy for Civil Society Development, which was being developed during the year.

There were no significant changes to the registration process for CSOs in 2020, although minor changes were made to the registration forms for public associations to streamline the registration process and bring them in line with existing legislation. CSOs register easily; it only takes three days to register a public association and one day to register a charitable organization. The registration process is free of charge. CSOs can register at the national or regional levels in Justice Departments located in twenty-five oblast centers, Administrative Services Centers, or Centers of Free Secondary Legal Aid. CSOs can register online, a possibility that became even more important in 2020 when, due to pandemic restrictions, the Administrative Service Centers and the Ministry of Justice’s regional offices were closed. However, CSOs are often denied registration. According to the study “Practice and legislative problems in the field of registration of public associations in 2018-2019,” which was published by UCIPR in December 2020, CSOs are denied registration in about 17 percent of cases.

In addition to legal status, a CSO can choose to obtain nonprofit status, which exempts it from the 18 percent income tax as long as the income received from grants, endowments, fees, or economic activity is not distributed among its founders, but only used for its activities.

In August 2020, the Ministry of Justice announced the launch of the updated Unified State Register of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs, and Public Associations (USR). Through its new user-friendly web interface, it is possible to search for information about all legally-registered individuals and organizations with a public rather than corporate status.

On April 28, 2020, the Law On Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime, Financing of Terrorism and Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction entered into force. The law requires legal entities—including CSOs—to provide information on their ultimate beneficial owners, although there is still confusion as to who CSOs’ beneficial owners are.

Civil society activists were subject to numerous threats in 2020. The Zmina Human Rights Center recorded 101 cases of attacks and harassment of civil society activists in 2020, up from 83 in 2019. Two of the most noteworthy incidents included the attempt to imprison Serhiy Sternenko, an anti-corruption whistleblower in Odessa, and the arson of the house of anti-corruption activist Vitalii Shabunin.

During 2020, twelve draft laws that would have threatened freedom of association and peaceful assembly and provoked discrimination against human rights and public activists were registered in the Verkhovna Rada. These

included three draft laws that attempted to place restrictions on access to foreign funding for CSOs. All of these draft laws were rejected.

Despite the pandemic restrictions in place throughout much of the year, the freedom of assembly guaranteed in the constitutions was largely respected. In a few places like Kharkiv and Mariupol, local authorities attempted to limit assemblies, selectively applying the pandemic restrictions against groups supporting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals and entrepreneurs protesting the closure of markets.

Lobbying is still not legally regulated in Ukraine, although a number of draft laws submitted in 2020 attempted to regulate the work that public associations do in protecting the rights, freedoms, and interests of various social groups. These laws would equate the activities of CSOs with those of private lobbyists, which could impose significant obstacles for CSO advocacy.

Businesses and individuals that support CSOs continued to be eligible for tax benefits in 2020. According to a nationwide survey on civic engagement conducted by the USAID-funded ENGAGE program, approximately one in ten respondents (8.9 percent) exercised their right to receive tax rebates for charitable donations.

CSOs are allowed to receive funding from international donors, from the state budget in the form of grants, and from physical and legal persons. CSOs are also allowed to compete for government contracts and procurements at the local and central levels and to conduct economic activities. CSOs can raise funds through crowdfunding platforms.

There was very little change to the legal services available to CSOs in 2020. CSOs can get legal consultations from law firms, as well as Administrative Service Centers and regional offices of the Ministry of Justice, among other organizations. UCIPR, a non-governmental and non-partisan think tank, reestablished its legal aid services for CSOs in 2020.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: 3.1

CSOs showed varying levels of organizational capacity in 2020, although the overall capacity of the sector remained largely unchanged. According to CSOs that conducted the Ednannia CSO Organizational Capacity Self-Assessment before and after receiving capacity-building grants, 85 percent strengthened their capacity as a result of received grants. However, the COVID-19 pandemic tested the capacity of CSOs to operate and respond to crisis conditions and also exposed their weaknesses.

CSOs were limited in their ability to provide on-the-ground support to vulnerable groups in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Large organizations were generally able to adjust their work to these new conditions and make use of new communication and planning tools to reach out to their constituents. These organizations were also able to adapt and improve their internal operating policies during the pandemic. According to a study conducted by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation from April 15 to May 1, 2020, CSO representatives noted that increased cooperation between members of the public and representatives of public organizations helped to improve their “social capital,” i.e., human ties and solidarity, mutual trust, and organizational capacity. At the same time, some organizations noted significant deterioration in their constituency building as a result of the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic.

CSOs continued to strengthen their strategic planning in 2020. Approximately 60 percent of CSOs that applied for grants to Ednannia in 2020 asked for support in strategic planning.

Large CSOs clearly divide responsibilities between their executive and governance bodies and have well-developed administrative and financial management systems. Few CSOs are able to engage full-time staff. Most CSO representatives work as volunteers or individual entrepreneurs, which allows them to pay fewer taxes. This trend



worsened in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, as some organizations had insufficient resources to pay their workers. Public relations and communication professionals became more actively involved in the work of CSOs during the pandemic.

According to a May 2020 survey conducted by the Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR) that focused on CSO capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, more than two-thirds of CSOs (67.6 percent) began to implement innovative approaches in their activities, primarily by organizing conferences, trainings, consultations, and other events online. However, more than half of organizations (55.9 percent) state that online discussions were less effective than in-person ones.

According to the Ednannia survey, *The Lockdown Year: Challenges and Needs of Civil Society under COVID-19 Crisis and Quarantine*, many CSOs said that the lack of necessary software and equipment, including laptops, printers, and cameras, was the main challenge during the year and inhibited their ability to move their activities online and work remotely during the lockdown.

In 2020, some online service providers provided CSOs with free technical tools. For example, Google provided several new opportunities for Ukrainian CSOs through the Google for Nonprofits program, including free G Suite, Ad Grants, YouTube for non-profits, and data visualization tools such as Google Earth and Google Maps.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY: 4.0



The financial viability of CSOs in Ukraine remained stable in 2020.

According to a study on charitable giving conducted by the Zagoriy Foundation, most contributions to CSOs in 2020 came from individuals and the business sector, international donors, government programs, and through social entrepreneurship. More than half (57 percent) of Ukrainian charitable organizations are funded through local contributions, while 35 percent of organizations attract resources from abroad. However, the study does not indicate the exact funding breakdown, including which type of funding was the most predominant and what funding techniques were the most effective.

Overall, foreign donors continued to be the main source of funding for the CSO sector, with the exception of

charitable organizations. In 2020, foreign donors provided increased funding for CSOs. According to ForeignAssistance.gov, the United States obligated \$31.9 million in aid to Ukrainian civil society and spent \$27.6 million in 2020, nearly three times more than in 2019. EU funding for Ukrainian civil society doubled from 2019 levels to reach EUR 20 million in 2020. Donor funds were directed not only at specific projects, but also towards the institutional capacity and organizational development of CSOs.

State funding continues to be an important source of funding for CSOs. In 2020, the government allocated UAH 66 million (approximately \$ 2.4 million) to support CSOs working on disability rights (compared to UAH 89 million in 2019), as well as UAH 8.6 million (approximately \$ 311,000) to veterans' organizations (down from UAH 22.5 million in 2019), UAH 13.5 million (approximately \$ 490,000) for youth and children's organizations (up from UAH 12 million in 2019), and UAH 8 million (approximately \$290,000) for organizations focused on the patriotic civic education of youth (the same amount as provided in 2019). More than half of these funds were distributed without competitive procedures. The state also provided approximately UAH 334 million (approximately \$12.1 million) in 2020 for the implementation of cultural projects through the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, less than half the amount provided in 2019. There is still no state financial support available to environmental, human rights, educational, and other types of organizations. The government did not provide any special support to CSOs affected by the COVID crisis.

Local governments also continued to support CSOs. About UAH 50 million (approximately \$1.8 million) is budgeted for such initiatives, out of which UAH 40 million (approximately \$1.5 million) is distributed on a

competitive basis. As of 2020, competitions for veterans' CSOs and CSOs assisting people with disabilities were introduced in fifteen oblasts and in the city of Kyiv; one region only held a competition for veterans' CSOs, while eight regions held no competitions at all.

CSOs continue to receive limited funding from individual contributions. According to a nationwide survey on civic engagement conducted by the ENGAGE program in summer 2020, most Ukrainians believe that public initiatives and organizations should be funded by wealthy people (62.7 percent) and businesses (51.1 percent). Approximately one-fifth (19.9 percent) believe that individuals should also support CSOs' activities. The poll also found that one out of every five Ukrainians (20.9 percent) made donations to charitable organizations or CSOs during the past twelve months. Among the factors that motivate them to contribute to a CSO, respondents named clear goals and results of specific civil initiatives (37.6 percent), transparent management of funding (30.4 percent), and references from people they trust (30.1 percent). One in every three Ukrainians (31.8 percent) who supported at least one initiative stated that it was a positive experience that brought the desired results.

CSOs at the local level are quite adept at raising funds from local residents and individual patrons. According to a survey conducted by the NGO Modern Format within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project Civil Society for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights in Ukraine, the main sources of funding for CSOs in the Zhytomyr region in 2020 were charitable donations from individuals and membership fees. However, due to COVID, most local organizations received less support from patrons and businesses in 2020.

While CSOs have yet to adopt the practice of raising funds over SMS, crowdfunding initiatives have become quite popular. In 2020, the Renaissance Foundation provided more than UAH 2 million (approximately \$72,400) in matching funding to CSO projects that had successfully raised funds through crowdfunding.

In June 2020, Google in Ukraine made available the Google for Nonprofits program, which provides non-monetary grants of up to \$10,000 per month in the form of advertising in Google search results.

In February 2019, the government issued a letter explaining how CSOs could conduct business activities without losing their nonprofit status, resulting in positive growth in this area. However, CSOs still need to gain more experience from the business sector in order to improve overall efficiency in this area. An EU-funded project published a White Paper on the Development of Social Entrepreneurship in Ukraine in September 2020. The White Paper analyzes international experience and recommends appropriate state policy for the development of social entrepreneurship in Ukraine at the national, regional, and local levels.

Financial planning and financial management continued to be challenging for smaller CSOs, while large organizations improved their competency in this area.

ADVOCACY: 2.3

CSO advocacy deteriorated slightly in 2020. The reshuffling of the government in March 2020, including the ousting of the prime minister and the cabinet, impacted CSOs' ability to gain the trust of and work effectively with the government, as many of the newly appointed officials were more conservative and close-minded than their predecessors. In addition, pandemic restrictions in the country and the focus on local elections contributed to a decline in both the level and effectiveness of CSO advocacy activities.

According to the ENGAGE survey, participation in public committees was the most popular form of civic engagement (8.4 percent), followed by participation in public hearings (6.7 percent) and in peaceful assemblies (6.2 percent). Only 5.7 percent of those surveyed said they issued complaints about infrastructure issues and 4.7 percent said they initiated electronic petitions to send to their respective mayor, district, or regional council, and the president, among others.



Restrictions on public gatherings and movement related to the pandemic significantly reduced the number of round tables, forums, conferences, and other events in 2020, thereby decreasing opportunities for public participation. While many public events and practices were curtailed under the pretext of enforcing the lockdown, many felt that the government's reluctance to engage with CSOs was also partially responsible for these cancellations.

On a positive note, state executive bodies increased their use of online tools to involve the public in the drafting of policies and legislation and CSOs made better use of online communication tools, such as Zoom and Skype, to engage in dialogue with the government. For example, the Facebook page Civil Society and Government was created to inform people when public consultations were being held. However, mastering these new online tools took some time and many opportunities were lost.

In the summer of 2020, the government and representatives of the public sector began working on a new National Strategy for Civil Society Development for 2021-2026 that will determine the priorities of state support for the development of civil society in the coming years. The government held thirty-seven events and consultations with CSOs to develop the strategy during the year. In total, the project received more than 500 recommendations and comments from representatives of CSOs. The consultation process for the strategy was still ongoing at the end of 2020 and consultations with the authorities had begun.

In early 2020, the Verkhovna Rada established a working group with CSOs and other stakeholders to develop draft laws on various topics related to improving democracy and transparency and increasing civic engagement and participation in governance. With the participation of the working group, a draft law was developed to allow laws to be passed on the national level through a public referendum; the law was passed in January 2021. In October 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved a draft Law on Public Consultations, which defines the issues on which government entities are obliged to hold public consultations and prohibits the consideration of draft acts on which government entities did not organize consultations with the public.

From November 17-27, 2020, an online forum titled Dialogues on Reforms: On the Way to Vilnius was held, allowing leading politicians and civil society experts to discuss the progress of reforms that had taken place during the first year of the new government and parliament and to outline reform priorities for Ukraine in 2020-2021. During the forum, twenty-three panel discussions took place, including a platform devoted to the development of civil society in Ukraine. Each panel developed specific recommendations. In the field of CSO development, for example, recommendations included creating a platform for online interaction between the public and authorities, transferring all registration procedures for CSOs to an online platform, and introducing electronic competition of projects for state support of CSOs.

The project Pilot Implementation of the All-Ukrainian Public Budget, which is funded by the State Fund for Regional Development and implemented by the All-Ukrainian public budget Expert Office, allowed regions to identify and vote on projects to be funded through public consultation. By the end of the year, five regions had implemented projects while four others had started them.

According to the results of the poll conducted by Democratic Initiatives Foundation in April and May 2020, the main problems that impede a good working relationship between CSOs and the government include: reluctance of the authorities to cooperate; prejudice against CSOs; and non-transparency of the government and lack of information about its decisions.

CEDEM conducted its fifth School of Advocacy in December 2020. Through this initiative, thirty-one CSO representatives with basic experience in advocacy were able to deepen their knowledge to work further in this field.

CSOs continued to increase their interaction with local authorities, although the local elections and COVID-19 negatively affected the effectiveness of advocacy in some regions. On the eve of the local elections in Ukraine, Transparency International Ukraine and the Institute of Political Education presented the Code of Transparent Government, which promotes the development of good governance practices and local government accountability. In addition, Transparency International Ukraine created an online platform for transparency and accountability of local authorities. This platform allows community residents and CSO representatives to assess the levels of transparency and accountability of local authorities, provide feedback, and communicate with the authorities.

SERVICE PROVISION: 3.2



The overall level of service provision remained largely the same in 2020. CSOs successfully reoriented their activities to support vulnerable groups and the needs of the health system stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, however, the pandemic conditions negatively affected the ability of CSOs, in particular social service providers, to perform their tasks and activities. In addition, neither the state nor donor institutions prioritized support for CSOs' activities in this area.

Although social services remain the most prominent area of CSOs' activity, CSOs also provide educational and environmental services and legal aid, mostly for free. In 2020, however, most CSO services focused on combating the consequences of COVID-19. Many

organizations came together to support vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, the homeless, and doctors and medical staff. For example, in the beginning of the lockdown in Ukraine, public organizations in Donbass joined forces to support the population by creating the initiative Let's Beat COVID-19 Together, which provided free legal and psychological assistance online and through a hotline. In addition, volunteers of the initiative distributed products to the elderly and disseminated information about COVID-19.

Most services in 2020 were provided online. While this model worked well for training, educational, and consultative activities, CSOs providing social services faced more difficulties moving their services online, as many require in-person contact.

CSO services generally respond to the needs of the communities they serve. According to data from Ednannia, CSOs show some improvement in understanding the needs of their clients and target audiences. In 2020, these needs focused primarily on overcoming the effects of the pandemic.

Although an increasing number of organizations provide paid services, this still remains a minor source of revenue. According to Prozorro, an online platform for public procurement, CSOs received contracts worth just UAH 2.3 million (approximately \$83,300) for the provision of COVID-19 prevention services in 2020. Altogether, CSOs won tenders through Prozorro worth UAH 262.6 million (approximately \$9.5 million) during the year.

On January 1, 2020, the Law on Social Services came into force. According to this law, CSOs are full-fledged providers of social services, and the state may now purchase these services from them. However, as some legal acts of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine are not yet harmonized with the Law on Social Services, local governments purchased only a few social services from CSOs over the course of the year.

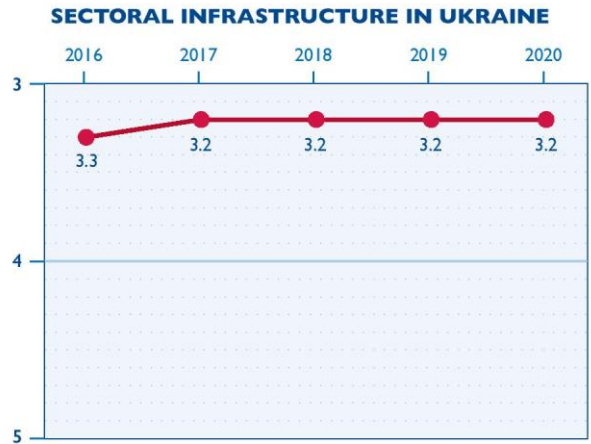
SECTORAL INFRASTRUCTURE: 3.2

The infrastructure supporting the CSO sector remained stable in 2020. While collaboration among CSOs and between CSOs and other institutions increased, pandemic restrictions had a negative impact on CSOs' abilities to hold live events on the ground in most communities, which previously fostered interaction between CSOs and other actors.

Donors and intermediary support organizations continued to provide grants for the development of CSOs' organizational capacity. Requests for these types of grants increased in 2020. The EU launched the EU4CSOs project, which helped to increase the capacity of Ukrainian CSOs during the pandemic. Ednannia, a traditional provider of CSO capacity support, is one of the implementers of this project.

CSOs increasingly worked in coalitions and networks in 2020, including on advocacy activities. For example, the network of CSO hubs, which operates with the support of UNDP, initiated local advocacy campaigns in 2020. As a result, twenty-seven normative legal acts and decisions on the development of local democracy were adopted.

The enhanced level of cooperation among CSOs is evidenced by the creation of large-scale common projects, such as the Legal Reforms Roadmap for Civil Society in Ukraine, as well as the National Strategy for Civil Society Development, which involved about 200 representatives of CSOs and experts from various ministries. RPR, one of the largest CSO coalitions in Ukraine, continued to promote CSO consolidation throughout the country in 2020. According to the study *Recommendations for further development and support of CSO coalitions in Ukraine*, conducted in August 2020 by CEDEM, twenty-two out of the thirty-eight organizations surveyed have incorporated the experience and policies of RPR into their own work. The study also identified ten key areas of development for CSO coalitions, including specific recommendations for improvement in each target area.



Cooperation among charitable organizations is also intensifying. According to a study by the Zagoriy Foundation titled *Charity in Ukraine: an Inside Look* (October-December 2019), 67 percent of representatives of charitable organizations cooperate with partner organizations to implement common projects and exchange information. Charitable organizations have also developed relationships with other actors, such as the business community and the media. According to representatives of charities, businesses’ main interest in allocating funds to charities is a desire to solve important problems (66 percent), because they sympathize with the needy (54 percent), and because they simply enjoy supporting good deeds (48 percent). It was noted that 52 percent of charitable organizations cooperate with the media mostly to inform them about the successes of their completed projects.

CSO representatives had the opportunity to attend various online trainings and workshops to improve their skills during 2020. The Ukrainian Catholic University continued to offer its master’s program in nonprofit management. Despite the lockdown, CEDEM, in conjunction with the Open University of Reforms and the School of Advocacy and Communication, continued to offer educational opportunities, primarily to young people interested in working on various reform projects.

Intersectoral partnerships were robust in the fight against the pandemic. For example, CSOs created partnerships with businesses, diaspora groups, creative agencies, and political parties to purchase the equipment needed by the Ukrainian health-care system. Charity Map 2.0 is a database of anti-pandemic initiatives undertaken by charitable organizations, businesses, and individuals from all regions of Ukraine.

Ednannia organized the IX Civil Society Development Forum in December 2020. Due to pandemic restrictions, the event was held as an open online “telemarathon,” bringing together approximately 9,500 participants from twenty-four regions, including Donetsk, Luhansk, and Crimea. For the first time, regional events were held on the same day as the main event in Kyiv. The forum enhanced networking between CSOs, government, and business, by improving each party’s understanding of the main challenges and needs of Ukrainian civil society and identifying common ground for cooperation.

PUBLIC IMAGE: 3.3

The CSO sector’s public image did not change in 2020. According to research by the Razumkov Center that was published in December 2020, public trust in civil society decreased slightly but remained relatively high. Approximately 46 percent of respondents indicated that they trust CSOs (a decrease from 51 percent in 2019) and 66 percent indicated that they trust volunteer organizations (a decrease from 70 percent in 2019). The difference between those who trust public organizations and those who do not dropped significantly compared to 2019 (0.3 percent in 2020 as compared to 15.8 percent in 2019). CSOs were actively involved in countering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which strengthened their credibility in the public eye.

Despite this public support, Ukrainian CSOs faced some challenges in establishing an effective dialogue with the government during the year. Headed by Prime Minister Shmygal, the new government showed itself to be quite



closed with limited understanding of CSO activities. On a positive note, the information campaign Civil Society and Government - Best Cooperation Practices, implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and a consortium of CSOs including UCIPR, Ednannia, and CEDEM as part of the Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity Project, gathered examples of successful cooperation between the civil sector and government. For example, the CSO Urban City Development Agency received funding for the project Give a City to a Tourist through the public budget competition. The project was implemented with the support of the Economic Department of the Executive Committee of the Kryvyi Rih City Council and the Municipal Enterprise Institute of Development of the City of Kryvyi Rih. The aim of the project was to raise awareness among hospitality

workers—including taxi drivers, waiters, and hotel workers—about tourist attractions in Kryvyi Rih and teach them to present these attractions to visitors to the city.

A number of media outlets continued to run negative information campaigns about CSOs and civil activists in 2020. For example, media published inaccurate information about the activities of CSOs, activists, and human rights defenders, sensitive personal data (such as their addresses, phone numbers, and information about their families), and hate speech. In November 2020, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU), the Zmina Human Rights Center, and the Institute of Mass Media (IMM) launched the Media Fuflo project to counter this phenomenon. It compiled and published a list of eighteen media outlets that disseminated discrediting and manipulative information about human rights and civil society activists in 2020.

Campaigns against the civil sector contributed to a persistent negative attitude towards CSOs on certain issues. According to the research *What do Ukrainians expect from NGOs?*, conducted by the NGO Center for Communication Modeling (CCM) from July 20 to August 10, 2020, 40 percent of respondents believe that the activities of foreign donors should be controlled and blocked; 40 percent believe that foreigners receive data through NGOs in order to establish control over attractive areas of Ukraine’s economy; and 45 percent share the opinion that NGOs collude with foreign structures to share these grant funds. At the same time, 70 percent believe that simply because they are recipients of foreign funding does not necessarily mean that NGOs are not working in Ukraine’s interests.

CSOs continued to work with some journalists and independent media companies in 2020, including at the local level. For example, the local CSO Development Platform in Chernihiv (Zaporizhzhya region) cooperates with the newspaper Voice of Chernihiv to publish its announcements, news, and information about major events. CSOs also actively use social media—primarily Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, and even TikTok—to promote their image and activities.

Large CSOs generally issue annual program and financial reports, while small ones either do so irregularly or not at all. CSOs do not actively implement or adhere to good governance principles.

Disclaimer: *The opinions expressed herein are those of the panelists and other project researchers and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or FHI 360.*

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