

# Greek Civil Society: The Long Road to Maturity (2005)

CIVICUS CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX SHORTENED ASSESSMENT TOOL  
REPORT FOR THE CASE OF GREECE

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Athens 2006



**Access2democracy (a2d)**

CIVICUS Civil Society Index Short Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT)  
An international action-research project coordinated by CIVICUS:  
World Alliance for Citizen Participation

## **FOREWORD**

Access2democracy (a2d) is a non-profit organisation, established in Athens and New York in 2004, by a group of prominent, like-minded world citizens. The mission is to promote the principles and practice of participatory e-democracy within the global arena.

Access2democracy believes that there is currently an historic opportunity to place the current state and power of technology in the service of democracy, enabling citizens' voices to be heard effectively, economically and constructively, thus strengthening the democratic process.

By definition, a2d's activities are "horizontal" rather than "vertical", meaning issue-specific, since the e-democracy paradigm is applicable to any issue of public concern, involving various stakeholders.

Therefore, the knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of Greek civil society is a prerequisite for implementing successful e-democracy projects. Although the significance of the civil society sector is now widely recognised and is part of the international debate on global governance, Greece is only beginning to follow this debate. A significant step towards reversing this deficiency is obviously an informed mapping of the scene, which can facilitate a documented dialogue on the subject.

Thus, a2d believes that the main benefit of the Civil Society Index (CSI) project is the acquisition of useful data on Greek civil society through the application of the Civil Society Index-Shortened Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT) methodology and approach in the context of Greece. Furthermore, in applying the CSI-SAT as part of an internationally recognised effort, a2d believes it can help Greece have "a voice" in one of the hottest debates of our time.

However, above all else, a2d hopes that this contribution does not end with the publication of this report, but rather that this effort will serve as a springboard for further debate, research and cooperation in the enduring quest for strengthening civil society worldwide.

**Vassilis Goulandris**

General Manager

Access2democracy

Athens, June 2006

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Civil Society Index (CSI) project, using the Civil Society Index-Shortened Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT) was carried out by Access2democracy in cooperation with a wide range of organisations and individuals. The approach and research methodology used by the project were developed by the international non-governmental organisation (NGO) CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

A Stakeholder Assessment Group (SAG) was established in line with the proposed methodology, to guide the project implementation process and provide input into the research. The SAG met on two occasions and helped to relate the gathered information to the reality of civil society groups in Greece. The SAG was composed of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences (their names are listed in Appendix 3), this prevented the information from being interpreted from only one perspective. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the members who selflessly offered their time, knowledge and information in order to successfully accomplish this project. Naturally, they bear no responsibility for the final content of this report.

The research project would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, Assistant Professor in the University of Athens, whose effort and scientific guidance in the research, data organisation and analysis, as well as in the drafting of the project report, is gratefully acknowledged.

We would also like to thank MEDA Communication for offering us, free of charge, the “Awareness & Social Behaviour Index 2005”; Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, Member of the European Parliament, for hosting the first meeting of the SAG on the premises of the European Parliament Delegation in Athens; as well as La Frianderie S.A. (member of the Katselis Group of companies) for offering the catering services for the same meeting.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the CSI team at CIVICUS, especially Volkhart Finn Heinrich and Mahi Khallaf for their support throughout the project and their invaluable input and comments in the drafting of this report.

**Vassilis Goulandris**  
Access2democracy  
Athens, June 2006

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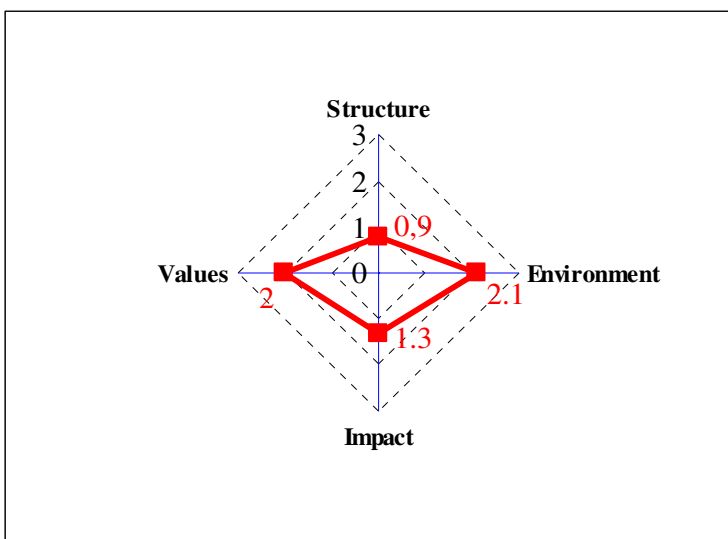
a2d	Access2democracy
ADAE	Hellenic Authority for Information and Communication Security and Privacy
ADEDY	General Confederation of Greek Civil Servants
CS	Civil society
CSI	Civil Society Index
CSI SAT	Civil Society Index Shortened Assessment Tool
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
DAC	United Nations Development Assistance Committee
DG	Directorate General
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EKEBI	National Centre for the Book
EKPAA	National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development
EKPOIZO	Consumer Union 'The Quality of Life'
EKKE	Greek National Center for Social Research
ELEPAP	Hellenic Society for Disabled Children
ESC	Economic and Social Committee
ESR	National Council of Radio and Television
ESS	European Social Survey
EU	European Union
EVS	European Values Survey
FYROM	Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender empowerment measure
GENOP-DEI	General Federation of employees of the national electric power corporation
GRECO	Group of States against corruption
GSEE	General Confederation of Workers of Greece
HSPN	Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature
ICT	Information and communication technologies
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organisations
KEDE	Centre of Research and Action on Peace
KEDKE	Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece
KE.S.S.A DIMITRA	Centre of Strategic Planning for Development 'DIMITRA'
KETHEA	Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals
KETHI	Research Centre for Gender Equality
KKE	Communist Party of Greece
MP	Member of Parliament
NCHR	National Committee for Human Rights
NCO	National Coordinating Organisation
ND	New Democracy
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIT	National Index Team
NNO	Non-state non-profit organisation
NPO	Non-profit organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation
OKANA	Organisation Against Drugs
OLME	Greek Federation of State School Teachers of Secondary Education
PASEGES	Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives
PASOK	Panhellenic Socialist Movement
RSF	Reporters sans frontières
SAG	Stakeholder Assessment Group

SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEV	Federation of Greek Industries
SMOs	Small and Medium Organisations
SYETE	National Bank of Greece Employees Union
SYNASPISMOS	Coalition of the Left
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
VAT	Value Added Tax
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
YDAS	International Development Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the course of 2005, the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Shortened Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT) collected secondary data and input from a broad range of civil society representatives, citizens, experts and researchers on the state of civil society in Greece. Drawing on this existing data and using a comprehensive framework of 74 indicators, the project's Stakeholder Assessment Group (SAG) assessed the overall state of civil society in Greece, which is summarised in the Civil Society Diamond (see figure 1). The Civil Society Diamond is a visual tool developed by CIVICUS and Helmut Anheier, Director of the Center for Civil Society at the University of California, Los Angeles, which presents the overall findings of the CSI study in the form of a diamond-shaped graph.

**FIGURE 1: The Civil Society Index Diamond for Greece**



The Civil Society Diamond which emerged for Greece is not well balanced in the four dimensions, i.e. structure, environment, values and impact, and is of a small size overall. The four dimension scores are between 0.9 and 2.1, indicating a relatively underdeveloped civil society with a very weak structure and a limited impact on society at large, but existing in a relatively enabling environment with rather positive values. The CSI-SAT findings in Greece brought forth many new insights

about Greek civil society, and at times even challenged existing wisdom. The highlights of the project are briefly summarised below:

The CSI-SAT project findings underlined the relatively underdeveloped and poorly organised nature of civil society in Greece, as well as the existence of a dominant central government. In particular, the findings show that large institutionalised civil society organisations (CSOs) are few and are not influential in Greece. Most formal CSOs do not attract a significant number of members or a significant amount of funds. However, the importance of informal groups, which play a significant role in the functioning of Greek society, was also observed and highlighted by the SAG.

While indicators which focus on membership and other forms of formal participation show that Greek civil society is comparatively weak, various informal civic activities, which are difficult to measure, exist and even flourish at the local level. In various towns throughout Greece informal gatherings of citizens have grown to local social movements which intervene to help protect the environment, demand higher subsidies for specific agricultural products and to support non-partisan candidates in local government elections (Sotiropoulos 2004). Informal civic activities have also started to appear in various policy areas, such as social services and information and communication technologies (ICT). Such initiatives, which include self-help groups, groups of volunteers offering services to people in need and networks of computer users are substitutes for



state organisations which are not developed enough to deliver various kinds of services to the people (i.e. social services, training, technical support).

However, this does not mean that civil society is strong in Greece. The state, the political parties and the family remain the strongest institutions within Greek society. Some of the aforementioned informal civic initiatives are no more than fifteen years old, while formal CSOs, such as labour unions, cultural associations and the student movement, have been either heavily influenced by the central government or have been dependent on the major political parties for a long time. Not surprisingly, Greek civil society is still influenced by the legacy of strong political party competition and a polarised political culture, which followed the fall of dictatorship. This legacy is manifested in the widespread social mistrust and the dependence of collective action on the state. Such action is also partly impeded by the fact that much of Greek social life revolves around family relations and Greeks rarely participate in formal organisations.

The study of civil society's **structure** revealed widespread apathy and a lack of civic engagement among Greek citizens. The majority of Greeks do not participate in non-partisan political activities, nor engage in any voluntary work, with the exception of the Olympic Games in 2004. The depth of citizens' commitment is not at all encouraging, in terms of the amount of time and investment that the average individual is prepared to make. However, certain groups, such as sport and labour associations are rather strong. In general, the poor, socially marginalised and young people are less engaged in civil society activities than would be hoped for. Also, the geographical distribution of CSOs is quite unevenly spread throughout the regions of Greece and there is a markedly urban character to these organisations. The absence of effective umbrella bodies and the low organisational capacities and financial resources were important concerns raised by SAG members. Here, environmental CSOs, which have managed to attract the interest and financial support from the state are an exception. However, in general, CSOs have been unable to gather resources to monitor the state and corporate sector, and they are often dependent on state funds and occasional outbursts of volunteering. Cooperation and collaboration between CSOs, although mainly issue based (e.g. anti-poverty alliances, environmental, anti-trafficking and minority issues), rather than cross-cutting, is quite satisfactory. The number of international linkages is also increasing, due to the development of European CSO networks during the past few years.

The external **environment** for Greek civil society is positive and relatively enabling. No major political or legal factors inhibit the development of civil society. The Greek Constitution of 1975 fully guarantees basic rights and freedoms. The Greek Republic respects freedom of speech, and citizens have the right to congregate, associate and submit petitions. Trade unions and professional associations are also free.

Despite these positive conditions, there is also room for improvement. The relationship between civil society and the private sector requires significant improvement. The CSI-SAT study showed that the concept of corporate social responsibility is in an early stage of development in Greece. This is also true for the concept of corporate philanthropy. While some private companies have funded cultural and sporting activities organised by CSOs the relationship between civil society and the private sector, in general, leaves a lot to be desired. A low score awarded for civil society's socio-cultural environment indicates that the societal basis for a strong civil society is not yet in place. Trust and other forms of social capital are not very widespread in Greek society, which, in cultural terms, has retained a focus on family units and a particular sort of individualism, as elaborated in the conclusion of this report.

Finally, relations between civil society and the government also leave much to be desired. Although no major political or legal factors inhibit the development of civil society, the domination of political and social interaction by political party interests, in the form of favouritism, plutocracy and intermeshed interests, have permeated Greek civil society and influenced the degree of support from the state. At the national level, with regard to labour relations, income and social security policies, institutionalised dialogue between CSO representatives and the state frequently takes place. At the regional level things are different; here, the dialogue is uneven and depends on the region in question.

The CSI-SAT assessed Greek civil society's **values** as rather positive. Greek CSOs practise and promote positive values, such as tolerance and non-violence. However, further efforts to improve accountability and transparency within CSOs and to promote gender equity are necessary. Although at the programmatic level, gender equity is professed by all institutions, SAG members stressed the need for more coordinated state action, with the involvement of the private sector and CSOs, to improve the status of women and to enable their advancement in all areas of political, economic and social life, as well as the strengthening of the existing institutional framework.

The same can be said about transparency. Greece has been categorised among the most corrupt countries in Western Europe. This worrisome tendency does not mean that Greek CSOs themselves are corrupt, but that citizens mistrust collective activities and institutions in general. Members of the SAG suggested updating the legal framework and developing a financial accountability system which would allow for de-facto transparency for CSOs (i.e. templates with clear instructions, and well known models of what and how to publish).

Looking at civil society's **impact**, Greek civil society does not appear to have a particularly strong role, neither in the area of service delivery and lobbying functions, nor as a watchdog of the state and private sector. Certain advocacy activities can be detected in the above areas, concerning environment, human rights or consumer protection, but their impact is limited. Similar to the values dimension, accountability does not feature strongly on civil society's agenda.

The lack of social norms conducive for civil society is mirrored by low trust of citizens in most types of CSOs, probably the result of a long tradition of authoritarian political regimes. However not all CSOs share an equally low public trust. Civil service and public sector unions, as well as trade unions, have shown important activity over the years. Strikes in the public sector have been frequent and public sector trade unions have been able to resist reforms of labour relations and the social security system.

Civil society also plays a limited role in empowering citizens and in service delivery, which is dominated by the central state, followed by the municipalities and local authorities and then the church (Makrydemetris 1999, Koliopoulos and Veremis 2002). It is only recently that a few CSOs have begun to take part in what used to be exclusively in the hands of central government officials. Positive examples include The Greek Council for Refugees, the Management Authorities of the National Parks, the National Centre for the Book and the Organisation against Drugs.

For the first time in Greek civil society, a comprehensive and participatory assessment of civil society has been carried out through the CSI-SAT project. Its findings seek to contribute to charting the way forward for civil society's progress in the years to come. The CSI-SAT study has found that further development of civil society in Greece will require a focus on increasing

citizen's support and involvement in civil society, improving the relations between the central government and CSOs, training of CSO activists, improving communication and networking among CSOs and strengthening the engagement of the corporate sector in charities, local development and support of the arts. In addition, CSOs need to monitor the state and the corporate sector more systematically, if they wish to become effective and win the trust of the wider public.

Thus, this project provides Greek civil society with a roadmap for the future. It is hoped that the knowledge-based nature of the CSI-SAT project has laid the groundwork for civil society and other stakeholders to act upon the goal of making Greek civil society stronger and more sustainable in the future.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This document presents the results of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Shortened Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT) in Greece, carried out by the CSI implementing partner in Greece, Access2democracy (a2d). The project was carried out from April 2005 through February 2006, as part of the international Civil Society Index (CSI) project coordinated by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. The CSI is a comprehensive participatory needs assessment and action-planning tool for civil society actors at country level, which is currently being implemented in more than 50 countries around the world.

In 2004, CIVICUS developed the CIVICUS Civil Society Index – Shortened Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT), a shorter, less comprehensive and less resource-intensive process to assess the state of civil society, which is based on the original CSI design. The CSI-SAT was developed in response to continuing demand from civil society organisations (CSOs) in various countries to engage in a civil society assessment exercise, since the next full CSI implementation phase will not begin before early 2007. The CSI-SAT seeks to provide a tool to conduct such an assessment, based on existing information only and can therefore be regarded as a preparatory activity for a full CSI implementation, which will also involve primary research and extensive consultations with stakeholders.

The CSI-SAT aims to:

- 1) Generate relevant knowledge on the state of civil society at a country level and
- 2) Provide an assessment of civil society's current state by civil society stakeholders.

In each country, the CSI-SAT is implemented by a National Coordinating Organisation (NCO), guided by a Stakeholder Assessment Group (SAG) and the CSI project team at CIVICUS. The NCO collects and synthesises data and information on civil society from a variety of secondary sources. This information is employed by the SAG to score the 74 CSI indicators, which together provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of civil society. The findings are then finalised and a final report is drafted to publicise the CSI-SAT at the national level. The international CSI project team at CIVICUS provides training, technical assistance and quality control to the NCO throughout the project implementation.

### **Structure of the Publication**

This report seeks to provide a comprehensive assessment of the current state of Greek civil society, with a particular focus on its strengths and weaknesses. It is structured as follows:

Section I, “The CSI-SAT Project: Background and Methodology”, provides a detailed history of the CSI-SAT, its conceptual framework and research methodology.<sup>1</sup>

Section II, “Civil Society in Greece”, provides a background on civil society in Greece and highlights some specific features of Greek civil society. It also describes the use of the civil society concept in Greece, as well as the definition employed by the CSI-SAT project.

Section III, entitled “Analysis of Civil Society”, is divided into four parts – Structure, Environment, Values and Impact – which correspond to the four main dimensions of the CSI-SAT. The presentation of the results, according to individual dimensions and subdimensions, is intended to be a resource repository.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Appendix 1, List of indicators and technical notes.

Readers looking for an overall interpretation of the report should refer to the conclusion. The conclusion in Section IV maps the Civil Society Diamond and offers an interpretation of the implications of the report for the overall state of Greek civil society.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Civil Society Diamond is a visual tool developed by CIVICUS and Helmut Anheier, Director of the Center for Civil Society at the University of California, Los Angeles, which presents the overall findings of the CSI study in the form of a diamond-shaped graph.

# I CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX SHORTENED ASSESSMENT TOOL APPROACH

## 1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Civil Society Index is based on an idea of the international non-governmental organisation CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation which in 1997 published the *New Civic Atlas* containing profiles of civil society in 60 countries around the world (CIVICUS 1997)<sup>3</sup>. To improve the comparability and quality of the information contained in the *New Civic Atlas*, CIVICUS decided to embark on the development of a comprehensive assessment tool for civil society, the Civil Society Index (Heinrich/Naidoo 2001; Holloway 2001). In 1999, Helmut Anheier, the then director of the Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics, played a significant role in the creation of the CSI concept. The concept was tested in 14 countries during a pilot phase lasting from 2000 to 2002. Upon completion of the pilot phase, the project approach was thoroughly evaluated and refined. In its current implementation phase (2003-2005), CIVICUS and its country partners are implementing the project in more than 50 countries (see Table I.1.1).

**Table I.1.1: Countries participating in the CSI implementation phase 2003-2005<sup>4</sup>**

1. Argentina	19. Germany	37. Orissa (India)
2. Armenia	20. Ghana	38. Palestine
3. Azerbaijan	21. Greece*	39. Poland
4. Bolivia	22. Guatemala	40. Romania
5. Bulgaria	23. Honduras	41. Russia*
6. Burkina Faso	24. Hong Kong (VR China)	42. Scotland
7. Chile*	25. Indonesia	43. Serbia
8. China	26. Italy	44. Sierra Leone
9. Costa Rica	27. Jamaica	45. Slovenia
10. Croatia	28. Lebanon	46. South Korea
11. Cyprus <sup>5</sup>	29. Macedonia	47. Taiwan*
12. Czech Republic	30. Mauritius	48. Togo*
13. East Timor	31. Mongolia	49. Turkey
14. Ecuador	32. Montenegro*	50. Uganda
15. Egypt	33. Nepal	51. Ukraine
16. Fiji	34. Netherlands*	52. Uruguay
17. Gambia	35. Nigeria	53. Vietnam*
18. Georgia*	36. Northern Ireland	54. Wales*

\* Represents the nine countries implementing the CSI-SAT.

In Greece, a2d implemented the project from April 2005 to February 2006. The CSO organisation a2d, applied, in March 2005, to conduct the project because of the CSI's aim to combine a comprehensive assessment on the state of civil society with the identification of concrete recommendations and actions on the part of civil society stakeholders. The comparison of the features of civil society in Greece with those of other countries in Europe and worldwide was also seen as potentially useful for a2d's work with sister organisations in other countries.

<sup>3</sup> CIVICUS (1997): *Legal Principles for Citizen Participation. Toward A Legal Framework for Civil Society Organizations*, Washington, DC: CIVICUS..

<sup>4</sup> This list encompasses independent countries as well as other territories in which the CSI has been conducted, as of July 2006.

<sup>5</sup> The CSI assessment was carried out in parallel in the northern and southern parts of Cyprus due to the de facto division of the island. However, the CSI findings were published in a single report as a symbolic gesture for a unified Cyprus.

## 2 PROJECT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The CSI uses a comprehensive project implementation approach and a structured framework to collect comprehensive data on the state of civil society on the national level. At the core of the project approach lies a broad and encompassing definition of civil society, which informs the overall project implementation process. To assess the state of civil society in a given country, the CSI examines four key dimensions of civil society, namely: its structure, external environment, values and impact on society at large. Each of these four dimensions is composed of a set of sub-dimensions, which again are made up of a set of individual indicators. These indicators form the basis for the CSI data collection process. The indicators also inform the assessment exercise undertaken by a Stakeholder Assessment Group (SAG). The CSI project approach, conceptual framework, and research and assessment methodology are described in detail in the remainder of this section.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.1 Conceptual Framework

#### *How to define civil society?*

At the heart of the CSI's conceptual framework is obviously the concept of civil society. CIVICUS defines civil society as the space between the family, state and the market, where people come together to pursue their interests (CIVICUS 2003). In this respect and different from most other civil society concepts, the CSI has two interesting features. Firstly, it aims to go beyond the usual focus on formal and institutionalised CSOs, and to take account of informal coalitions and groups. Secondly, while civil society is sometimes perceived as a sphere in which positive activities and values reign, CIVICUS seeks to also include negative manifestations of civil society in the assessment. The concept therefore covers not only charitable associations or environmental organisations but also groups such as skinheads and aggressive sports fans. The CSI-SAT assesses not only the extent to which CSOs support democracy and tolerance, but also the extent to which they themselves are intolerant or even violent.

#### *How to conceptualise the state of civil society?*

To assess the state of civil society, the CSI examines civil society along four main dimensions:

- The **structure** of civil society (e.g. number of members, extent of giving and volunteering, number and features of umbrella organisations and civil society infrastructure, human and financial resources);
- The external **environment** in which civil society exists and functions (e.g. legislative, political, cultural and economic context, relationship between civil society and the state as well as the private sector);
- The **values** practised and promoted within the civil society arena (e.g. democracy, tolerance or protection of the environment) and
- The **impact** of activities pursued by civil society actors (e.g. public policy impact, empowerment of people, meeting societal needs).

Each of these main dimensions is divided into a set of subdimensions that contain a total of 74 indicators.<sup>7</sup> These indicators are at the heart of the CSI and form the basis of the data presented in this report. The indicator–subdimension –dimension framework underpinned the entire process

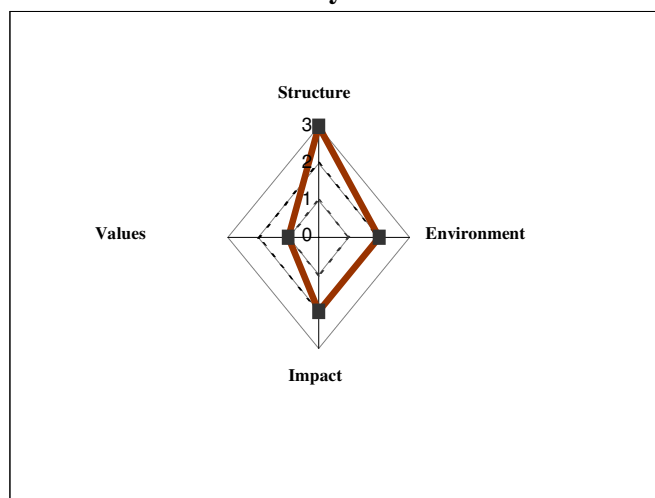
<sup>6</sup> For a detailed description of the CSI approach, see Heinrich (2004).

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix 1: List of indicators and technical notes.

of data collection, the writing of the research report and the SAG's assessment of Greek civil society. It is also used to structure the primary component of this publication.

To visually present the scores of the four main dimensions, the CSI-SAT makes use of the Civil Society Diamond tool (see figure I.2.1 for example).<sup>8</sup> The Civil society diamond graph, with its four extremities, visually summarises the strengths and weaknesses of civil society.

**FIGURE I.2.1: Civil society diamond tool**



The diagram is the result of the individual indicator scores aggregated into subdimension and then dimension scores. As it captures the essence of the state of civil society across its key dimensions, the Civil Society Diamond can provide a useful starting

point for interpretations and discussions about civil society in a given country. As the Diamond does not aggregate the dimension scores into a single score, it cannot and should not be used to rank countries according to their scores on the four dimensions. Such an approach was deemed inappropriate for a civil society assessment, with so many multi-faceted dimensions, contributing factors and actors. The Diamond also depicts civil society at a certain point in time and therefore lacks a dynamic perspective. However, if applied iteratively, it can be used to chart the development of civil society over time as well as compare the state of civil societies across countries (Anheier 2004).

#### *What is unique about the CSI-SAT?*

As stated earlier, the CSI-SAT is a substantially shorter version of the full CSI, as it uses a less participatory and less comprehensive approach to collecting the information on the state of civil society in a particular country. Different from the full CSI, the CSI-SAT relies on existing data only and does not include the consultative and action-planning stages of the full CSI. However, its conceptual framework and breadth of indicators is the same as in the full CSI.

## **2.2 Project Methodology**

This section describes the methods used to collect and aggregate the various data used by the CSI-SAT project.

**2.2.1 Data Collection.** In recent years there has been a proliferation of the amount of literature published on civil society; however, there is an absence of an analytical framework that helps to organise and systematise this information into a comprehensive picture on the state of civil society at country level. The CSI seeks to provide such a framework as it identifies and reviews relevant data sources that cover the full range of civil society organisations included in the study. Here a variety of national and international data sources are utilised and drawn together in accordance with the definitions of the indicators provided by CIVICUS.

<sup>8</sup> The Civil Society Diamond was developed for CIVICUS by Helmut Anheier (see Anheier 2004).



In Greece research on social trust and networks of civic engagement is in an early phase. No comprehensive data sets exist that can be easily traced to earlier periods. The fragmentation of relevant sources (administrative, academic and sociological) also constitutes an impediment to research.<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, academic literature on Greek civil society is sparse, and legislation facilitating the development of CSOs is rather recent.

For the CSI-SAT study in Greece, a comprehensive study of existing secondary sources at national and international levels took place. The project team began with a review of information from existing studies and research projects on civil society and various related subjects. Also, several interviews were conducted and contact made with NGOs and representatives of CSOs. However, due to the lack of data, several indicators had to be taken out of the report.

*2.2.2 Data Scoring.* The various data sources are collated and synthesised by the CSI project team in a first draft country report, which is structured along the CSI indicators, subdimension and dimensions. This report presents the basis for the indicator scoring exercise. In this exercise, each score is rated on a scale of 0 to 3, with 0 being the lowest assessment possible and 3 the most positive. The scoring of each indicator is based on a short description of the indicator and a mostly qualitatively defined scale of scores from 0 to 3.<sup>10</sup> The scoring exercise is modelled along a “citizen jury” approach (Jefferson Centre 2002), in which citizens come together to deliberate and make decisions on a public issue, based on the facts presented. The SAG’s role is to give a score (similar to passing a judgement) on each indicator based on the evidence (or data) presented by the National Index Team in the form of the draft country report.

In Greece, the scoring process was conducted as follows: First, members of the SAG scored each indicator individually. Then, an average of these scores was calculated for each indicator, from which the scores for the subdimensions and dimensions were calculated through averaging. For approximately three-quarters of the 74 indicators, determining the final score was straightforward and it did not require a judgement by the SAG, as these indicators were quantitatively defined and did not leave any room for disagreement. There were 13 indicators, for which the scores of SAG members differed considerably, i.e. by more than one point. The SAG debated these controversial indicators at a day-long meeting, and a new vote was taken for each of these 13 indicators. A vote was also taken on the subdimensions and dimensions where the average of the individual indicators and the results of an instant assessment of the whole subdimension or dimension by the SAG differed considerably.

Several stakeholders raised concerns about the methodology. They felt that there should have been wider consultation, with meetings in different locations and a larger SAG, so that more people could be involved. They were dissatisfied with what they perceived to be their partial perspective being used for an analysis of this kind. This concern stems from the implementation of the less consultative CSI-SAT instead of the full CSI, which includes a range of stakeholder consultation meetings. This was due to the lack of resources and, to some extent, was unavoidable.

The final scores of the four dimensions (structure, environment, values and impact) were plotted to generate the Civil Society Diamond for Greece. The SAG then discussed and interpreted the

<sup>9</sup> Lyberaki, Antigone and Paraskevopoulos. Christos J.(2002): “Social Capital Measurement in Greece”, *OECD-ONS International Conference on Social Capital Measurement, 25-27 September*, London, Unpublished paper.

<sup>10</sup> See Appendix 1: List of indicators and technical notes.

shape of the Civil Society Diamond, as well as the potential causal relations among the scores for the four dimensions.<sup>11</sup>

### **2.3 Linking Research with Action**

The CSI is not a strictly academic research project, as its declared objective is to include civil society stakeholders in the research and assessment process. Therefore a significant effort was made to implement it in a way that would encourage the participation and consultation with all interested parties. From the very beginning, a diverse group of advisors guided the project implementation in the form of the SAG. The group comprised representatives of CSOs, regional authorities, politicians and specialists in civil society research. The project had its own micro website; regular project updates were published in the website of a2d and the newsletter of the organisation. A press conference is also scheduled to take place at the end of the project, which will highlight the implications of the report for the civil society. The report will be disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders, as well as the media and policy makers. In addition, it will be used in conjunction with reports from other stakeholders such as the “Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) – Initiative Opinion, September 2005” issued by the Greek Economic and Social Committee (ESC), to inform the wider national level debate about the role of civil society.

### **2.4 Project Outputs**

The CSI-SAT implementation in Greece has yielded a comprehensive country report on the state of civil society, while the following additional products and outputs are planned:

- A press conference on key findings;
- The publication of several articles on the CSI in civil society journals and the mainstream media as well as progress reports on the newsletter of a2d and
- A micro website dedicated to the project, published on the website of a2d.

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<sup>11</sup> See Section II.

## II CIVIL SOCIETY IN GREECE

### 1 SPECIAL FEATURES OF GREEK CIVIL SOCIETY<sup>12</sup>

**Table II.1.1: Country Information<sup>13</sup>**

Civil society in Greece has a long but chequered tradition. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have played a significant role in the history of the country, first during the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire (1821-1827) and then throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when nationalist, philanthropic, educational and church-related CSOs participated in the drive of the Modern Greek state to expand to lands in the Balkan Peninsula, inhabited by Greek-speaking and/or Christian populations.

While parliamentary democracy and the development of CSOs went hand-in-hand in the nineteenth century, in the twentieth century the democratic tradition was interrupted by the Greek Civil War (1946-1949), which followed the end of the Second World War and by the sporadic intervention by the military into Greek politics. The last such intervention occurred in 1967 and led to a seven-year-long military dictatorship.<sup>14</sup>

<p><b>Country size:</b> 131,940 sq. km  <b>Population:</b> 10,668,354 (July 2005 est.)  <b>Population density:</b> 81/km<sup>2</sup>  <b>Population structure:</b> 0-14 years: 14.4% (male 791,227/female 744,178), 15-64 years: 66.8% (male 3,561,689/female 3,564,675), 65 years and over: 18.8% (male 884,497/female 1,122,088) (2005 est.)  <b>Urban population:</b> 63 %  <b>Form of government:</b> Parliamentary republic; monarchy rejected by referendum 8 December 1974  <b>Freedom House Democracy rating:</b> Free  <b>Seats in Assembly held by women:</b> 13 %  <b>Languages:</b> Greek 99% (official)</p>
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During the post-war period several organisations and groups operated under the tutelage of the Greek state apparatus, which between the end of the Civil War (1949) and the breakdown of democracy in 1967 was mostly in the hands of a conservative political elite. Parties of the left and left-wing organisations of civil society were closely monitored by the state apparatus and were banished altogether from 1967 to 1974, when the military was in power. During the latter period, during 1967-74, resistance organisations of students, intellectuals and left-wing activists developed. Since the transition to democracy in 1974, democracy has been consolidated and civil society has flourished to an unprecedented degree. This is not meant to say that Greek civil society today is strong. Compared to other young democratic nations, including South-East European nations, Greece is an example of a successful democratic consolidation and civil society development. However, compared to other West European nations with strong civil society traditions, Greece has a less well-developed civil society.

Civil society in present day Greece is weak and has a low stock of social capital and trust.<sup>15</sup> The development of social capital in Greece has been hampered by two factors. The first factor is economic and political instability, which characterises most of the country's modern history. Throughout most of the twentieth century, this was marked by foreign intervention, waves of

<sup>12</sup> Much of the information in this section is to be found on the CIA World Factbook website: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/gr.html>.

<sup>13</sup> Sources: CIA World Factbook and Freedom House.

<sup>14</sup> For a history of Greek society and politics, see Clogg 1992, Koliopoulos and Veremis 2002, and Close 2002.

<sup>15</sup> Mavrogordatos (1993), Lyberaki and Tsakalotos (2000), Koliopoulos and Veremis (2002), Lyberaki and Paraskevopoulos (2002), Mouzelis and Pagoulatos (2002), Panagiotidou (1993) and Sotiropoulos (2004).

refugees and immigrants as well as periods of civil war and dictatorship. The second factor is civil society's heavy dependence on central state institutions (ministries and public sector organisations). Even though democracy has flourished in Greece since 1974, CSOs did not emerge in large numbers until the 1990s. Trade unions, sports clubs and cultural associations have the widest membership (Lyberaki and Paraskevopoulos 2002). However, the state, the political parties and the family remain the strongest institutions within Greek society.

## 2 THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Greek civil society is weak, in terms of recorded numbers and types of formal institutionalised organisations (Afouxenidis 2004). It was only after the Greek adhesion to the United Nations Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 1997 that small and medium organisations (SMOs) or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) made a noteworthy appearance in Greece. This fact reveals that it was a top-down political decision taken by the state to promote such forms of political participation that pushed for their creation and not a bottom-up process.<sup>16</sup>

Instances of informal civil society have become more evident since the democratic transition of 1974. Informal aspects of civil society do not appear in the form of formal organisations, nor do they enjoy the visibility of peak associations or prestigious professional associations (i.e. the associations of medical doctors, lawyers and engineers). There are many examples of informal civil mobilisation in Greece. Informal instances of civil society have included a wide range of traditional and modern gatherings, arising in various public spaces, including the traditional Greek coffee shops and discussion groups communicating through the Internet. Relevant examples of such informal groups include: rural and urban circles of neighbours, self-help groups in the various migrant communities, networks of people exchanging messages over the Internet and mobile phones, small social movements focusing on local issues, like-minded professionals and experts creating 'free-floating' and scientific or policy-oriented communities (Sotiropoulos 2004). Being less visible does not make informal instances of civil society unsuitable for inclusion in this discussion of civil society. The important feature is not the form they have taken, but rather the function they have fulfilled. This is why the criterion of functionality (noted in the beginning of Section 2.1 of chapter I above) was deemed important.

Formal organisations and informal collectives of volunteers, militants and others function in a social context dominated by a strong state, the Greek tradition of strong nuclear families and/or hierarchical 'clientelistic' networks, as well as an influential Greek Christian Orthodox Church. The Christian Orthodox Church in Greece has a recognised role as a provider of volunteer social services in the social sector, with over 190 charitable and social care units and the largest number of volunteers serving mostly small, parish-bound programmes. For example, there are more than 3,700 volunteers in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Athens alone, according to the official website of the Church.<sup>17</sup>

The specific term, 'civil society' is widely used by the public and in expert discourses in Greece. It is used to describe both formal organisations and informal collective activities of people independent of the state, contributing to the development of civic values and social capital and

<sup>16</sup> Afouxenidis, Alex, Leodidou, Lila & Sklias, Pantelis (2004): "CIVGOV – Organised Civil Society and European Governance: The Case of Greece", *CIVGOV – Organised Civil Society and European Governance project funded by the EU Commission DG Research Directorate K – Knowledge-based Society and Economy*,. Patras, Unpublished report.

<sup>17</sup> Official website of the Greek Orthodox Church of Greece .<<http://www.ecclesia.gr>>

taking a generally constructive stance towards democracy as a social order.

### **The Concept of Civil Society Used in this Study**

As mentioned in Section I.2.1, the civil society definition proposed by CIVICUS is characterised by a very broad scope, encompassing ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ organisations and also informal forms of citizen participation. Most of the research has focused on organisations, but some forms of informal groups were considered, for example, environmental activists, networks of people exchanging messages over the Internet and mobile phones and small social movements focusing on local issues. For the most part, the team focused on organisations, especially on ‘positive ones’; negative aspects only entered into the CSI-SAT assessment at certain points (indicators 3.3.1 or 3.4.1).

In addition, decisions were made regarding a number of organisational types, whose membership in civil society are unresolved in the literature, and strongly depend on country-specific historical factors. CIVICUS drafted a list of 20 types of CSOs to make the civil society definition usable. These were adapted to the Greek context in the following ways:

- Political parties were excluded from the definition.
- The Christian Orthodox Church was also excluded from the definition because of its particular legal status. Although a public organisation, whose staff is paid by the state budget, it has the legal right to form voluntary human services and non-profit philanthropic foundations.
- Independent authorities such as the Ombudsman were excluded from the definition. The Greek Ombudsman is a constitutionally sanctioned independent authority. He investigates individual administrative actions or omissions or material actions taken by government departments or public services that infringe upon the personal rights or violate the legal interests of individuals or any legal entity, association or union group of persons.

This gives the following list of included organisation types (listed in order of importance), which includes a number of legal forms (table II.2.1).

**Table II.2.1: Types of CSOs included in the study**

1. Charitable organisations	15. Organisations for the protection of minority rights
2. Churches	16. Organisations for the protection of rights
3. Citizens movements	17. Organisations of emigrants
4. Consumers organisations	18. Organisations of social identity
5. Cooperative Unions	19. Organisations promoting values
6. Educational organisations	20. Professional organisations
7. Employers organisations	21. Quasi-non-governmental organisations
8. Environmental organisations	22. Sports organisations
9. Faith Based organisations	23. Subject-based organisations
10. Foundations	24. Think Tanks
11. Groups supporting political parties	25. Trade Unions
12. Information Society	
13. Institutional building organisations	
14. Organisations for the protection of Human Rights	

*(Listed in alphabetical order)*

Important sub-groups of Greek CSOs can be distinguished according to their stage of development, field of activity and funding profile. They are listed below:

- Trade unions of the wider public sector. Typical examples are the unions of state-run banking employees i.e. National Bank of Greece Employees Union ( SYETE), of employees of the Public Power Corporation such as the General Federation of Employees of the National Electric Power Corporation (GENOP-DEI), and the Greek Federation of State School Teachers of Secondary Education state-run high-school teachers (OLME). At the organisational level, their strength is based on high organisational density and on the close links of union leaders with the leadership circles of political parties, including the governing party and
- Associations of liberal professionals, including lawyers, medical doctors and civil engineers. Their strength is derived from their high organisational density and their high representation among Members of Parliament and Cabinet ministers, regardless of which political party is in power (Sotiropoulos, 2004).

### 3 MAPPING CIVIL SOCIETY

What does civil society look like in Greece? How does it relate to broader social forces in the country? To explore these issues further, the SAG conducted a civil society social forces mapping exercise. Drawing on participatory rural appraisal methods, these mapping exercises seek to visually present the major forces within society and civil society respectively and to investigate the relations between these forces. SAG members gathered in a room and debated the number, selection and relative prominence of different social forces and CSOs. The identified actors, represented by boxes, were arranged in a two-dimensional virtual space. The Microsoft Office Visio 2003™ programme was used for this graphic presentation of both the mapping of the Greek society and the identification of the key actors of Greek civil society and proved to be very helpful.

#### **Exercise one: Mapping Greek Society**

The purpose was to identify and analyse key actors and power relations in Greek contemporary society.

Results: A total of 12 collective actors were identified. The larger the box, the more powerful the actor is. The different colours denote the societal sectors to which the respective actor belongs: red = state, blue=business, yellow=civil society and green = other actor. The map below shows the predominance of the Greek central state apparatus in society. Since 1974, Greek society has been shaped by a large, overbearing state and a few strong political parties.

FIGURE II.3.1: Social Forces Map



Political parties were seen as important social forces for the following reasons. First, Greek parties have managed to mobilize citizens in a way, and to an extent, that no other non-state organisation has been able to do since Greece's transition to democracy in 1974. The mobilisation capacities of parties are still strong, even though parties, as collective actors, have lost some of their appeal since the mid-1980s (Featherstone and Katsoudas 1987, Lyrantzis 2002, Nikolakopoulos 2000). Second, interest groups and some CSOs, such as peace organisations and women's movements, used to be dependent on political parties for personnel, infrastructure and other resources. Although this is no longer true, for a long time after the 1974 transition, civil society reflected the contours of nationwide political party competition (Mavrogordatos 1993). Third, participation in elections, which is one possible way to legitimise existing political parties in modern democracies has been consistently very high. Over the last 25 years the two strongest political parties, the conservative New Democracy (ND) and the socialist Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), have shared about 75-80% of the vote between them. As in most democratic societies, parties have collected, articulated and channelled the demands of society towards the Greek state, as no CSO has been able to do.

While the Greek system of government is definitely democratic, the state's control over CSOs is quite high. As all members of the SAG recognised, the Greek state can easily incite or stifle any civil society initiative, depending on the policy sector in question and the government's views on the particular initiative. For instance, since 1995, the Greek government has actively promoted the participation of Greek NGOs in the rebuilding of Balkan economic and social institutions, which had suffered from the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

Compared to the state, business actors are smaller and less powerful. The presence of informal forms of economy is considerable. For example, there are many and extended unrecorded business transactions. In Greece, the informal economy has been estimated to amount to approximately 30% of the annual GDP. The integration process into the European Union (EU) is another significant factor influencing Greek society. For example, certain activities of environmental organisations are as a result of pressure that the EU legislative framework has put on the Greek Government.

The importance of the Greek Orthodox Church, which to a large extent is funded by the state, should not be underestimated. On the one hand, the Greek Church is a force within Greek society, as its followers are not employees but voluntary churchgoers. On the other hand, the Church stands at the crossroads between state and civil society, as many of its assets are not taxed and its personnel is on the payroll of the Greek state administration. Among civil society actors three stand out: employers' organisations, trade unions and associations of liberal professionals, which are described in more detail below.

### **Exercise two: Mapping Greek Civil Society**

The purpose of this exercise is to chart the various actors within the Greek contemporary civil society and analyse the relationship between them.

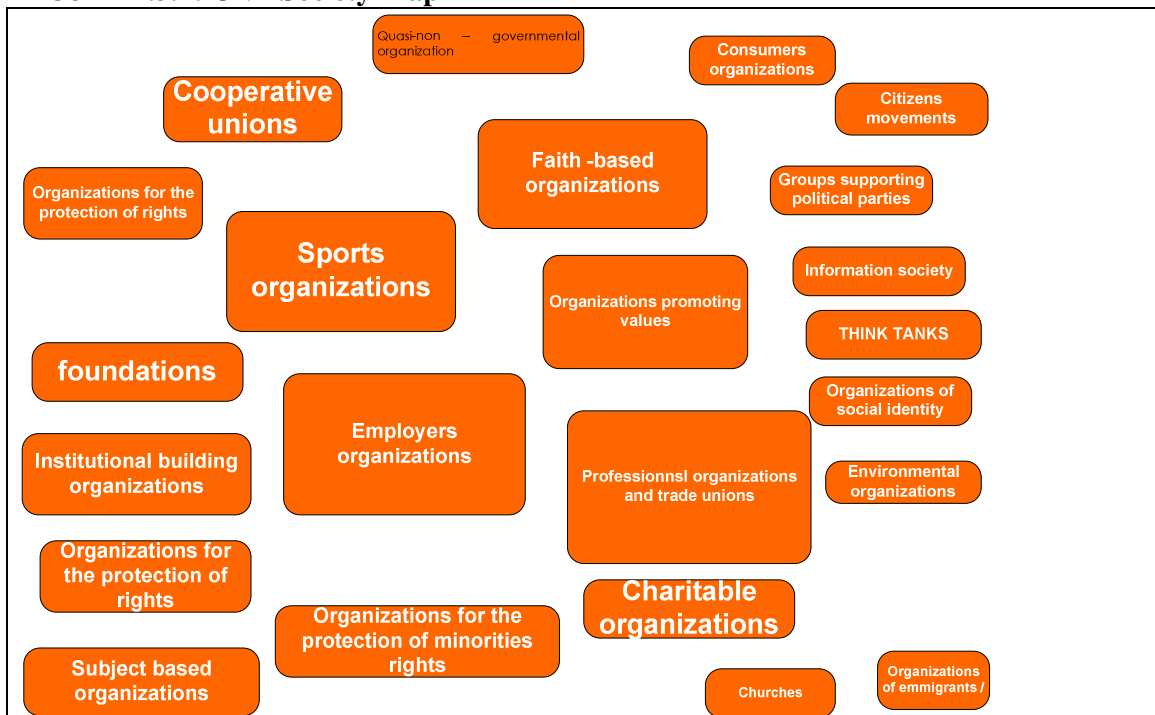
Results: The same approach as in the first exercise was employed. A total of 24 collective civil society actors were identified. The larger the box, the more the power the actor has.

The main representatives of civil society are trade unions and associations of professionals. There are powerful collective actors because of their ability to rally large numbers of people around their cause and their ability to exercise influence over the government and/or the Parliament (the vast majority of Greek Members of the Parliament are professionals). Faith-based organisations, controlled by the Greek Orthodox Church, are also powerful actors in some sectors, such as the social care services sector. Citizens' movements may become powerful at the local level in regards to periodic problems, such as relations with immigrants and environmental pollution.

During the mapping exercise SAG members underlined the relatively underdeveloped and poorly organised nature of civil society in Greece, as well as the existence of a dominant central government. They also stressed the existence of informal civil society and the fact that the latter have become more evident since the democratic transition of 1974.

When the SAG discussed which social groups were missing, it became clear that elderly people, the urban poor and many minority groups did not have powerful organisations representing their interests within civil society. They also referred to the young people whose representation among the leadership of interest groups (such as GSEE) is small, while the strongest youth organisations belong to the major political parties. Most young people refrain from any collective activity (Panayotopoulou, 2003).



**FIGURE II.3.2: Civil Society Map**

In reflecting on the mapping exercises, SAG members felt that the resulting pictures of civil society forces is an accurate portrayal of the current power relations within Greek society. Professional associations, trade unions, employers' organisations and sports organisations are the most powerful CSOs. Yet, the low degree of participation in CSOs, the lack of representation of important social groups from powerful CSOs, as well as the lack of human and financial resources, were seen as leaving much to be desired. All of these issues will re-emerge in the analysis section of this report, which analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the current state of Greek civil society.

### III ANALYSIS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

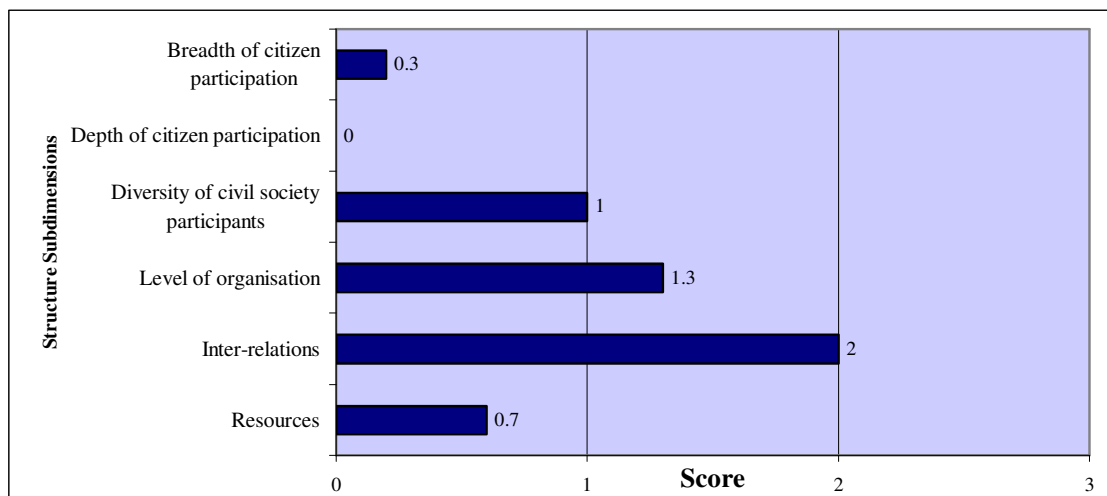
This section presents the bulk of the information and data collected during the course of the project. The analysis is structured along the individual indicators, subdimensions and dimensions.

This section is divided along the four dimensions: **Structure, Environment, Values** and **Impact**, which make up the CSI Diamond. At the beginning of each sub-section, a graph provides the scores for the subdimensions on a scale from 0 to 3. Findings for each subdimension are then examined in detail. A separate box provides the scores for the individual indicators for each subdimension.<sup>18</sup>

#### 1 STRUCTURE

This section describes and analyses the overall size, strength and vibrancy of civil society in human, organisational and economic terms. The score 0.9 for the structure dimension indicates a very small-sized civil society in Greece. Figure III.1.1, below, presents the scores for the six subdimensions within the Structure dimension: extent of citizen participation; depth of citizen participation; diversity of civil society participants; level of organisation; inter-relations and civil society resources. The very low breadth and depth of citizen participation, as well as the inadequate resource level for CSOs in Greece, stand out clearly as the main areas of concern.

**FIGURE III.1.1: Subdimension scores in structure dimension**



##### 1.1 The Extent of Citizen Participation in Civil Society

This subdimension looks at the extent or breadth of various forms of citizen participation in Greek civil society. Table III.1.1 summarises the respective indicator scores.

<sup>18</sup> See Appendix 2: the CSI scoring matrix, for a more detailed description of the indicator scores.

**Table III.1.1: Indicators assessing the extent of citizen participation**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.1.1	Non-partisan political action	1
1.1.2	Charitable giving	0
1.1.3	CSO membership	0
1.1.4	Volunteer work	0

*1.1.1 Non-partisan political action.* A sample survey conducted in Greece in mid 2005 by “Meda Communications”, in cooperation with the polling company V-PRC, revealed an important absence of participation in non-partisan political action. Only 0.6% answered that they had signed a petition and a mere 0.7% that they had participated in a demonstration. The following are examples of such actions:

- The nationwide mobilisation, engineered by WWF, the Greek Ornithological Society and other environmental CSOs, to block a very large construction project in the river Acheloos in Central Greece, which would have altered the course of the river.. The mobilisation, which has lasted from the early 1990s until today, has been successful and the highest administrative court in Greece has intervened and prohibited the implementation of this environmentally harmful project.
- The massive demonstrations, organised from 1993 to 1994 in a multitude of Greek cities by local authorities, parishes of the Greek Orthodox Church, school authorities and national CSOs, protesting the decision of the state authorities of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to use symbols (e.g., name of the country, emblems, flag) associated with the reign of Alexander the Great, the ancient Greek ruler of Macedonia, in the fourth century B.C.

SAG members agreed that an extended atomisation of social action prevails within Greek society, except for particular moments in time, such as after natural disasters, environmental threats or during national crises, such as the mobilisation to help victims of the earthquakes in North-Eastern Turkey and in Western Athens in the late summer and the early fall of 1999. It is only in such moments that Greeks, regardless of socio-economic status, mobilise en masse. Also, left-wing driven political mobilisation occurs in particular instances (e.g., against the war in Iraq in early 2003).

*1.1.2 Charitable giving.* Although giving money is considered to be the preferred type of activity according to the aforementioned “MEDA Communications” study, only 8.6% of respondents donate to charity on a regular basis. However, charitable giving has acquired larger proportions whenever natural disasters, in Greece and abroad, occur (i.e. the 1999 earthquake in Greece, Kallas 2004), and also in the case of initiatives promoted by international organisations with important media coverage, for example:

- The “Médecins Sans Frontières Grèce” programmes to provide medical care in Ethiopia in 2004.
- The UNICEF programme to assist children and women in 29 humanitarian emergencies such as Sudan, Eastern and Southern Africa, East Asia and the Pacific in 2005.

*1.1.3 CSO membership.* In Greece relatively few people participate in CSOs. A breakdown of the Eurostat data reveals that in 1994 only 10% of Greeks belonged to an association (Eurostat 1998). In 1998, only 24% of Greeks participated in any kind of institutionalised cultural, social or political activity (Eurostat 2000). The survey on Greek volunteer organisations in the sector of social welfare realised by the Greek NGO Citizen’s Union PAREMVASSI in 1997-99, compiled

a list of 2,400 entities (formal organisations and informal groups). The complete list included 585 organisations involved in mutual help, self-help, health, solidarity and welfare. Making the hypothesis that many more individuals contribute to CSOs, the survey extrapolates (rather generously) that registered members could be of the order of one million people (around 8% of the Greek population), with one out of three being active members. However, this extrapolation has not been confirmed by other sources ([www.paremvassi.gr](http://www.paremvassi.gr)). The picture is of a society where the only powerful CSOs are employers' organisations, trade unions and associations of liberal professionals (Sotiropoulos 2004) and where the participation of young Greek people is limited. As much as 62% of young Greek people do not participate in any organisation (Panayotopoulou 2003).

*1.1.4 Volunteer work.* Since the concept of volunteering is culturally bound, for the purposes of the present report the definition provided by CIVICUS, which defines volunteering as 'unpaid work within or outside of an organisation', is used. The survey conducted by "MEDA Communications" in cooperation with V-PRC revealed that eight out of ten Greek citizens do not undertake any voluntary work.

However, there is an interesting statistic showing the positive effect of the 'Olympic Volunteers Programme' in strengthening a sense of community service in Greek society. Prior to 2004, when the Olympic Games took place in Greece, volunteer work was not popular (Panayotopoulou 2003). However, as the Games approached, volunteer work picked up. The question "Do you intend to serve the community again, in further volunteer activities after the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens?" produced some interesting results: 76.1% answered "certainly" or "probably". The percentage was higher for women (78.2%) and also for areas outside Athens (84.0%), whereas respondents from two other cities, namely Volos (91.2%) and Heraklio (88.1%) scored highest. Though the wish to serve as a volunteer after the Games was evident in all age groups, it is notable that the percentage was over 80% for ages 50-59 and the over-60s.<sup>19</sup>

During the scoring meeting SAG members unanimously expressed their feeling that the mobilisation of volunteers for the Olympic Games was a rare moment. The majority of Greeks did not do voluntary work prior to the Olympics; nor do they seem to have continued voluntary work after the Olympics.

## 1.2 Depth of Citizen Participation in Civil Society

This subdimension looks at the depth, the meaning, the frequency and the extent of various forms of citizen participation in Greek civil society. Table III.1.2 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**Table III.1.2: Indicator assessing depth of citizen participation**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.2.3	CSO membership	0

*1.2.3 CSO membership.* How widespread are multiple memberships in CSOs among Greeks? According to the EuroBarometer 62.2 (2004) only a small percent (5%) belong to two voluntary

<sup>19</sup> On the basis of an opinion poll conducted in all areas of Greece between 15 March and 15 April 2004, by the MRB/Research International/V-PRC joint venture, an ATHENS 2004 partner, using a sample of 2000 individuals who had submitted applications for the Organising Committee's 'Olympic Volunteer Programme' <<http://www.sportsfeatures.com/PressPoint/show.php?id=7636>>.

organisations and only one percent belongs to three CSOs. From this fact we can conclude that there is an extremely limited number of Greek people who participate in more than one organisation. The European Social Survey 2003 showed the organisations that attract the most members are cultural organisations, trade unions and professional organisations. Peace and women's organisations were able to attract members in the late 1970s and the early 1980s but have gradually faded out. The fact that Greeks rarely participate in any organised collective could be explained by the fact that Greek social life revolves around family relations which heavily tax the time and other resources of individual citizens (Sotiropoulos 2004).<sup>20</sup>

### 1.3 Diversity of Civil Society Participants

This subdimension examines the diversity and representative nature of the civil society arena. It analyses whether all social groups participate equitably in civil society or whether there are any groups which are dominant or excluded. Table III.1.3 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**Table III.1.3: Indicators assessing diversity of civil society participants**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.3.1	Representation of social groups among CSO members	2
1.3.3	Distribution of CSOs around the country	0

*1.3.1 Representation of social groups among CSO members.* CIVICUS specified that the representation of five specific social groups should be used to assess the diversity of civil society participants. These groups are: (1) women, (2) rural dwellers, (3) ethnic/linguistic minorities, (4) religious minorities and (5) poor people amongst members of CSOs. In Greece, the working age group appears to be more likely to participate in groups, as opposed to the rest of Europe where younger or older non-working groups are most likely to be members of CSOs (Christoforou 2004). Participation among young Greek people aged 15 to 24 is relatively higher in sports, cultural and environmental protection associations (Eurobarometer 47.2, 1997). Additional factors which decrease the likelihood of joining a CSO are unemployment, and low income status. Also, women are less likely to participate in CSOs than men (Christoforou 2004).

As the aforementioned groups are seriously under-represented, SAG members scored this indicator with a medium score of 2.

*1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs around the country.* Greek CSOs are quite unevenly spread among the regions of Greece. Among the 13 regions of Greece, only four regions, Epirus, the Peloponnese, the Ionian Islands and Sterea Hellada, stand out as the regions with the highest number of CSOs (VOLMED 1997; Panagiotidou 2000). Being a resident of these regions increases the probability of being a member of a CSO, which is likely to be a result of either more favourable socio-economic conditions or a greater supply of social organisations (VOLMED 1997; Panagiotidou 2000). The relatively higher stock of social capital observed in parts of Greece, such as the Ionian Islands, may be partly due to the fact that these regions had not been under Ottoman rule, which spread distrust and weakened Greek civil society (Christoforou 2004).

### 1.4 Level of Organisation

This subdimension looks at the extent of infrastructure and internal organisation within Greek civil society. Table III.1.4 summarises the respective indicator scores.

<sup>20</sup> Project specific survey N 609, Kappa Research, Athens 2002.

**Table III.1.4: Indicators assessing level of organisation**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.4.1	Existence of umbrella bodies	<u>1</u>
1.4.2	Effectiveness of umbrella bodies	<u>1</u>
1.4.5	International linkages	<u>2</u>

*1.4.1 Existence of umbrella bodies.* There is no official information on the number of existing umbrella bodies in Greece. From the discussion with the SAG it can be concluded that there are very few and loosely coordinated umbrella bodies, mainly in the areas of human rights organisations and labour organisations. Examples include the following:

- “Together for the children” is an umbrella body of organisation working for the protection of the child and the realisation of the rights of children, as laid down in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The “Hellenic Centre for the Promotion of Volunteerism” is an umbrella body of NGOs who are networking among Greek NGOs;
- INKA/General Consumers’ Federation of Greece is the widest network of consumer organisations in Greece .It has a total of 46 member organisations throughout Greece, seven of which are nationwide organisations, five are regional and the remaining 34 are at the Prefectural level. Its aim is the protection of consumer rights and the amelioration of the quality of life and
- The General Confederations of Workers (GSEE) and the General Confederation of Greek Civil Servants (ADEDY) as well as farmers’ cooperatives such as the Apex Agricultural Cooperative Organisation (PASEGES) which depend financially on the state budget.
- In 2002, the United Nations Development Assistance Committee (DAC) recommended the creation of umbrella bodies that could facilitate and coordinate the role of NGOs working in developing countries. Currently, the only existing umbrella organisation working in this field is the National Committee for Development of NGOs.

*1.4.2 Effectiveness of umbrella bodies.* In the case of Greece, there are hardly any data on the effectiveness of umbrella organisations. Participants in the scoring meeting mentioned the ineffectiveness of umbrella organisations in achieving their goals, particularly their ineffectiveness in the environmental area as well as the protection of consumers. According to Ioannou (1999) and Koukias (1994), traditionally powerful CSOs, such as the confederations of workers (GSEE) and civil servants (ADEDY), have been unable to shape Greek social policy and, since the mid-1990s, have lost their political clout due mainly to the deterioration of their organisational density (less than 30% of workers and employees are active members of labour unions).

*1.4.5 International linkages.* A moderate number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages. This number has increased due to the parallel development of European CSO networks in the last few years. The Global Civil Society report data shows that in 2003, 3,850 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) had Greek CSOs and individuals as members. Positive examples are:

- The associations of employers (SEV) and GSEE and ADEDY, as well as the Greek sections of international organisations such as Green Peace, WWF-Hellas and Amnesty International;
- The Foundation for the Child and the Family which has a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and
- Small Greek anti-globalisation groups have also participated in large scale international demonstrations during European Union (EU) and G-8 summits (e.g. in Geneva, in Thessaloniki).

## 1.5 Inter-relations within Civil Society

This subdimension analyses the relations amongst civil society actors. Table III.1.6 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**Table III.1.5: Indicators assessing inter-relations within civil society**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.5.1	Communication between CSOs	<u>2</u>
1.5.2	Cooperation between CSOs	<u>2</u>

*1.5.1 Communication between CSOs.* In Greece, communication between CSOs is moderate (Lyberaki, 2002). The limited amount of existing research on this topic emphasises fragmentation, hierarchical structure, small size and the lack of strong links, either with other voluntary organisations or with other civil society entities.

Thematic conferences, seminars and workshops are considered adequate means of information exchange. CSOs also share information through newsletters and publications. Issue-based meetings sporadically take place, such as when a new law may threaten civil or political rights or environmental conditions in a particular area. Environmental organisations appear to be the most active in sharing information and communicating with one another. For example in 2001, environmental organisations shared information with one another on the constitution reform schedule, which was considered a potential threat to the environment, as it altered the legal framework of land use. Also human rights organisations are active in sharing information.

During the past few years the internet has begun to develop as a powerful tool for exchanging information and for communication. CSOs share information through their websites, and there are a few specific portals providing information for NGOs, such as funding opportunities and information on events. Examples include:

- The Civil Society Bureau which provides information for NGOs and interesting international news and invigorates civil society and social dialogue. It operates under the auspices of the Greek NGO, ARSIS and it is supported by the Directorate General “Education and Culture” of the European Commission and the Greek Ministry of Education.(www.civilsociety.gr);
- “Mko.gr” which provides information on NGOs and facilitates communication. It operates under the auspices of the “Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy”, an institute of the conservative party;

- “Anthropos.gr” is another portal which promotes networking among Greek NGOs through the provision of information and the facilitation of communication.
- “OneEarth.gr”, a development oriented NGO which features a database of CSOs in their website.

*1.5.2 Cooperation between CSOs.* Collaboration between CSOs is mostly issue-based, and there is no ‘civil society arena’ where a common agenda can be formed. There have been a number of common issues, such as anti-poverty alliances, environmental, anti-trafficking and minority issues, which have all gained widespread support from a number of CSO actors. For example:

- To answer the universal call to end poverty, many well known and particularly active Greek NGOs joined forces with the international movement, establishing the Forum “Action against Poverty”. The following NGOs participated in the forum: ANCE, ATTAC HELLAS, Fair Trade Hellas, One Earth, “Antigone”, Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity, Hellenic Association for International Development, Medical Centre for the Rehabilitation of victims of torture, KE.S.S.A DIMITRA Centre of Strategic Planning for Development, Care Centre for the Family and the Child, Centre for the Promotion of Volunteerism “anthropos.gr”, Mechanics of the World, ARSIS-Social Organisation for the Support of Youth, Bridges of Friendship-Social Solidarity Institute, Amnesty International, DI.KE.O.MA., Mediterranean Network SOS, Greek Refugee Council, Hellenic Emigrant’s Forum, Citizens’ Association for Intervention (“Paremvassi”), IASO, Klimaka, World Without Wars and Violence, Thessaloniki Ecological Movement, Universal Action, Citizens in Action, PRAXIS and the Station for the Protection of Wild Animals and Birds of Magnesia;
- In September 2005 an exhibition was organised by the Hellenic Centre for the Promotion of Volunteerism, “anthropos.gr”, and the Municipality of Amarousio Cultural Centre. The aim of the exhibition was the sensitisation of the public with respect to the role played by Hellenic NGOs in Civil Society. It was the first time that a large number of NGOs, active both in Greece and abroad in the field of humanitarian and development interventions participated jointly in an initiative, which portrayed, in a unique way, the work they undertake all over the world. The NGOs participating in the exhibition included: Action Aid, Caritas, HumanNet, One Earth, UNICEF, WWF, Doctors of the World, Doctors without Borders, Municipality of Amarousio, Hellenic Book Club, Hellenic Rescue Team, Hellenic Children's Museum, Hellenic Red Cross, European Perspective, European Centre of Public Rights, KE.S.S.A. “DIMITRA”, World without Wars and Violence, Municipality of Amarousio UNESCO Society, Hellenic Therapeutic Horseback Riding Society and Pharmacists of the World.

Several participants in the scoring workshop felt there was a lot of competition between CSOs for influence, which was to the detriment of cooperation among CSOs.

## 1.6 Civil Society Resources

This subdimension examines the resources available to civil society organisations. Table III.1.6 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**Table III.1.6: Indicators assessing civil society resources**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.6.1	Financial resources	1
1.6.2	Human resources	1
1.6.3	Technical and infrastructural resources	0



*1.6.1 Financial resources.* The overwhelming majority of CSOs suffer from insufficient financial resources (Afouxenidis, 2004). On the basis of hard data provided by Antigone Lyberaki and Christos J. Paraskevopoulos (2002) the following conclusion emerged concerning the financial capacity of Greek CSOs. Firstly, the total revenue of Greek CSOs is about 470 million Euros (2001 prices). Secondly, CSOs are in the red, as their expenditures exceed revenues, on average by about 10%. Thirdly, one-third of revenues comes from state grants. Fourthly, approximately 50% of the total expenditure of CSOs goes to salaries and operation costs.

According to Panayotopoulou (2003), 75% of all CSOs have received state subsidies, which amount to one-fourth of their budget. Many associations have been funded by local government, in some cases as an outgrowth of a municipality. In addition, substantive EU funding, and its requirements for involvement of civil society, (e.g. in regional development and vocational training) enabled the set-up of new many CSOs (Sotiropoulos 2004). In general, however, SAG members highlighted the fact that Greek CSOs suffer from chronic financial problems, which cause serious problems for their development.

*1.6.2 Human resources.* CSOs have inadequate human resources to achieve their goals. According to hard data gathered by Antigone Lyberaki and Christos J. Paraskevopoulos (2002), CSOs rely on volunteers without professional backgrounds. Between 1999-2001 (see table III.1.8) the number of CSO volunteers increased dramatically, but the number of paid employees did not increase as much.

**Table III.1.7: Employees (paid) and volunteers**

Year	1999	2000	2001
Paid employees(total)	1306	1354	1491
Full-time employed	1077	1112	1216
Part-time employed	229	242	275
Volunteers	5785	8063	8291

**Table III.1.8: Percent of change of employees and volunteers**

Year	1999-2000	2000-1
Paid employees(total)	3.6	10.1
Full-time employed	3.2	9.4
Part-time employed	5.7	13.6
Volunteers	39.3	2.8

CSOs often recruit students and urban upper-class senior citizens on a part-time basis (see table III.1.7).

Members of the SAG explained this by referring to the absence of a culture of volunteerism, particularly among the skilled labour force. They highlighted the fact that the lack of a clear institutional framework, on the basis of which CSOs can seek financial support from the state and other forces, only aggravates the situation as it does not allow for the training of staff.<sup>21</sup>

*1.6.3 Technical and infrastructural resources.* In a country where internet penetration is low, most CSOs do not have their own websites and do not make frequent use of the internet in

<sup>21</sup> Lambropoulos, N. , Poulou A.and Sirakoulis, K. "Third Sector in Greece: A Managerial Perspective", [Internet] Available from: <[http://www.crida-fr.org/03\\_actualites/streams/stream%205/2%20-%20ISTR-EMES\\_Lambropoulos.rtf](http://www.crida-fr.org/03_actualites/streams/stream%205/2%20-%20ISTR-EMES_Lambropoulos.rtf)>

their everyday work. Trade unions, professional associations and several foundations, however, do have websites.

Several issues of concern were mentioned in the scoring workshop, since the inadequate technological and infrastructural resources (office, computer, internet, telephone and fax) impede the ability of CSOs to achieve their goals. This is primarily due to the shortage of financial resources (Afouxenidis 2004) and the limited skills of those working for CSOs. There is a lack of infrastructure in rural areas and a digital divide is growing between those who have access to new technology and those who do not. This often means that those who are already excluded are likely to become even more excluded. In 2005, the Ministry of Development launched a call for funding website development and training for volunteers in ICT skills. The accepted projects were financed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Support Framework.

## **Conclusion**

The analysis of the structure of civil society reveals a low degree of citizen involvement in civil society activities. The majority of Greeks do not participate in non-partisan political activities, nor do they engage in any voluntary work (with the exception of the Olympic Games). Most Greek CSOs, with the exception of sporting and labour associations, are unable to attract members. The depth of citizen commitment is not at all encouraging in terms of the amount of time and investment the average individual is prepared to make. Certain groups, such as the poor, uneducated or illiterate and socially marginalised, are neither well represented nor involved in civil society. Young people are less engaged with civil society activities than would be expected. The geographical distribution of CSOs is quite uneven and there is a markedly urban character of these organisations.

The lack of a 'civil society arena' where a common agenda could be formed, as well as the absence of effective umbrella bodies and the low organisational capacities and financial resources (with the exception of some organisations, such as those belonging to the environmental movement that seem to have attracted the state's interest and some financial support) raise important concerns.

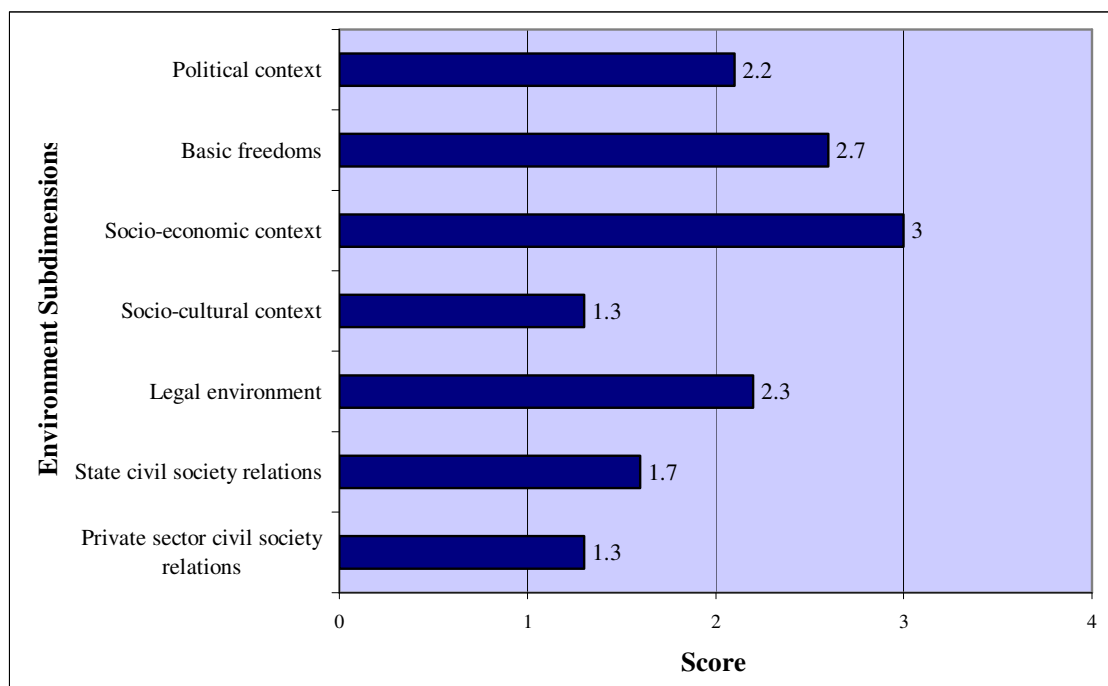
The overall picture is one of apathy and disengagement of Greeks from civil society. Such apathy and disengagement impinge on the structure of civil society organisations, which have been unable to gather resources to monitor the state and the corporate sector. The development of CSOs could have been a potential outlet for people seeking jobs, as unemployment was as high as 9.7% in the third trimester of 2005. As this section has shown, Greek CSOs are faltering, as they often depend on 'injections' of state funds and occasional outbursts of volunteering.

Concerning the collaboration and international linkages of CSOs, there is some ground for optimism, though the collaboration between CSOs is mostly issue-based. Anti-poverty alliances as well as environmental, anti-trafficking and minority issues have all gained widespread support from a number of civil society actors. The internet has begun to develop as a powerful tool for communication among them. The number of international linkages has also increased, due to the parallel development of European CSO networks in the last few years.

## 2 ENVIRONMENT

This section describes and analyses the overall political, social, economic, cultural and legal environment in which civil society exists and functions. The score for the environment dimension is 2.1, indicating an environment that is conducive to civil society. Figure III.2.1 presents the scores for the seven subdimensions within the environment dimension and shows that only the low support from the corporate sector detracts from the otherwise positive context of Greek civil society.

**FIGURE III.2.1: Subdimension scores in environment dimension**



### 2.1 Political Context

This subdimension examines the political situation in Greece and its impact on civil society. Table III.2.1 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.2.1: Indicators assessing political context**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.1.1	Political rights	3
2.1.2	Political competition	3
2.1.3	Rule of law	3
2.1.4	Corruption	1
2.1.5	State effectiveness	2
2.1.6	Decentralisation	1

*2.1.1 Political rights.* In Greece, political rights have been exercised freely for a long time. Since the transition to democracy in 1974, Greek citizens have been able to freely elect their representatives, organise themselves into political parties and fully enjoy freedom of assembly, association and petition. Freedom House classifies Greece in the most positive category (1) on

political rights.<sup>22</sup>

*2.1.2 Political competition.* Since 1977, the Greek party system has become a bipolar system. Only two parties, the conservative ND and the socialist/social democratic PASOK, have alternated power. The rest of the parties (usually of the Left) have rarely been able to obtain more than a combined 10% of the vote. It is common for ND and PASOK to share 80% of the vote between them. ND, PASOK, the Communist Party (KKE) and the ‘Coalition of the Left’ (SYNASPISMOS) are the four political parties represented in the Greek Parliament. There is also a multitude of very small extreme left and extreme right parties which are not represented in the Greek Parliament. During the scoring meeting, members of the SAG underlined the existence of robust, multi-party competition with well-institutionalised and ideologically diverse parties.

*2.1.3 Rule of law.* The rule of law has been consolidated since the fall of the Colonel’s authoritarian regime in 1974. The World Bank awarded Greece with an average score of 72% concerning the rule of law, well above the global average.<sup>23</sup> Members of the SAG argued that there is a moderate level of trust in the law. Violations of the law by citizens and the state are not uncommon, but are not frequent either. Furthermore, the courts are overburdened with lawsuits and the court process is typically extremely slow.

*2.1.4 Corruption.* Transparency International defines corruption as the abuse of public authority for personal benefit. Among all of the countries surveyed by Transparency International, Greece is ranked 49<sup>th</sup>, with a score of 4.3 for the corruption perception index (Transparency International 2004).<sup>24</sup> The Greek press and the Greek Ombudsman Report annually site frequent instances of corruption in the following sectors: local government, town planning and the tax authorities (Annual Report of the Greek Ombudsman, Athens, 2003).<sup>25</sup> Prior to the EU’s expansion into Eastern Europe, Greece was widely considered the least transparent among the EU member states. The Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2004 reveals that in Greece the medical sector is the most corrupt, followed by the police and the political parties.

*2.1.5 State effectiveness.* Greece is primarily characterised by a centralised and simultaneously weak central state structure.<sup>26</sup> State bureaucracy is functional but perceived as incompetent and/or non-responsive. Citizens and the press complain about inertia, red tape, discrimination against voters of opposition parties and mismanagement. These were also mentioned by several members of the SAG. The aforementioned World Bank survey assigns Greece an average score of 74.5 for 2004.<sup>27</sup> During the voting meeting, SAG members agreed on the widely perceived low capacities of the Greek state.

*2.1.6 Decentralisation.* The Greek political system has traditionally been highly centralised. Before 1994, regional authorities did not enjoy substantive powers. The reform plan, ‘KAPODISTRIAS’, initiated a transfer of jurisdictions to the local and regional level in 1998 and was supported by the re-allocation of state finance to local governments. There are currently four levels of governance: the national government, administrative regions (13), prefectures (54)

<sup>22</sup>On a scale of 0-7, where 1 is the most free and 7 is the least free <<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=6744&year=2005>>.

<sup>23</sup> Governance Indicators for 1996-2004 <[http://info.worldbank.org/governance/kkz2004/sc\\_chart.asp](http://info.worldbank.org/governance/kkz2004/sc_chart.asp)>.

<sup>24</sup> On a scale of 0-10, where 10 is “highly clean” and 0 “highly corrupt”.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.synigoros.gr>

<sup>26</sup> Sotiropoulos (1993) and Makrydemetris (1999).

<sup>27</sup> On a scale of 0-100, where 100 is the highest percentage for state effectiveness.

and local authorities (1,033, which include 900 municipalities and 133 communities). However, according to data from the Ministry of Interior, this procedure of decentralisation is incomplete and the sub-national share of government expenditure is 34.9% of the total.

## 2.2 Basic Rights and Freedoms

This subdimension examines the extent to which basic freedoms are ensured by the law and are guaranteed in practice in Greece. Table III.2.2 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.2.2: Indicators assessing basic rights and freedoms**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.2.1	Civil liberties	<u>3</u>
2.2.2	Information rights	<u>2</u>
2.2.3	Press freedom	<u>3</u>

*2.2.1 Civil liberties.* The Greek Constitution of 1975 fully guarantees basic rights and freedoms. The Greek Republic respects freedom of speech and citizens have the rights to congregate, associate and submit petitions. Trade unions and professional associations are also free. There is an independent authority, the Greek Ombudsman, which handles relevant complaints.<sup>28</sup> The government respects freedom of religious faith. Overall the score of civil rights in Greece, according to the Freedom House Index 2004, is 2.<sup>29</sup>

Although the Greek constitution allows for freedom of association, ethnic and religious minority groups face a number of barriers. The government does not officially recognise the existence of any Turkish minority groups (which are officially perceived as Muslim and therefore as religious, not ethnic groups), or any linguistic minority, such as Slavophones. Furthermore, the Greek government does not recognise Macedonian as a language, since officials understand this issue in the context of the tensions between Greece and FYROM and the claims that the latter country nourishes irredentist ambitions. The Roma, who may be either Greek Orthodox or Muslim, are not recognised as a minority, but rather as a ‘socially excluded’ or ‘sensitive’ group. Moreover, using the term *Turkos* or *Tourkikos* (‘Turk’ and ‘Turkish’, respectively) in the title of an association is illegal and may lead to persecution (Amnesty International 2003). In 2003, Amnesty International issued a report critical of Greece's treatment of conscientious objectors, who are frequently not given a real choice to do civil instead of military service.<sup>30</sup> In June 2003, a conscientious objector, Lazaros Petromelidis, was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment, suspended for three years, for failing to report to alternative civilian service. He has received other similar sentences, as he is the leader of conscientious objectors in Greece. Immigrants face discrimination and unequal treatment under the law. The European Commission’s Committee to Prevent Torture reports that in 2001 the police mistreated immigrants. The Roma community faces discrimination in all spheres of social life and has been the target of abusive police raids based on racial profiling.

<sup>28</sup> The Greek Ombudsman is a constitutionally sanctioned Independent Authority. It was founded in October 1998 and operates under the provisions of Law 3094/2003. The Ombudsman provides its services to the public free of charge. It received more than 41, 865 complaints during its first five years of operation (from 1 October 1998 to 31 December 2002). The Greek Ombudsman investigates individual administrative actions, omissions or material actions taken by government departments or public services that infringe upon the personal rights or violate the legal interests of individuals or legal entities (<http://www.synigoros.gr>).

<sup>29</sup> On a scale of 1-7, where 1 is the best <<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2005/table2005.pdf>>.

<sup>30</sup> ‘Greece: ‘To be in the Army or Choosing not to be: The Continuous Harassment of Conscientious Objectors’” Amnesty International <<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engneur250032003>>.

The SAG awarded the highest score in this subdimension to the civil liberties indicator. Their perception is that the aforementioned infringements of civil liberties have been relatively few and infrequent, and between 1974 and 2005 there has been a substantive improvement around this issue.

*2.2.2 Information rights.* The Greek Constitution provides for a general right of access to information. Article 5A states that: “[a]ll persons are entitled to information, as specified by law. Restrictions to this right may be imposed by law only insofar as they are absolutely necessary and justified for reasons of national security, of combating crime or of protecting rights and interests of third parties”. In addition, it specifies that “all persons are entitled to participate in the Information Society. Facilitation of access to electronically handled information, as well as of the production, exchange and diffusion thereof constitutes an obligation of the State”. Furthermore, article 10(3) states that a request for information shall oblige the competent authority to reply provided the law thus stipulates. Greece is a member of the Council of Europe and has signed and ratified the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108) and the EU Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. In November 2001, Greece signed the CoE Convention on Cyber crime. Greece is also a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and has adopted the OECD's Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data. Law 2472/1997 on the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data was adopted in April 1997. It establishes the terms and conditions under which the processing of personal data is to be carried out, so as to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons and in particular, their right to privacy. It also allows any person to obtain their personal information held by government departments or private entities. The Law, which was amended in 2000 and 2001, is enforced by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority. It is complemented by Law 2774/1999 on the Protection of Personal Data in Telecommunications and by Law 3115/2003 which established the Hellenic Authority for the Information and Communication Security and Privacy (ADAE), in order to protect the secrecy of mailing, free correspondence or communication in any possible way, as well as the security of networks and information.

The members of the SAG pointed out that despite these laws, in practice, it is still difficult to obtain government documents due to lack of familiarity with government processes, or poor website design.

*2.2.3 Press freedom.* Press freedom is ensured by law in Greece. Freedom House (2005) assigned Greece a score of 28, which indicates a free media.<sup>31</sup> Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) published an index of press freedom for the period September 2001-October 2002, where Greece was ranked 19 among 139 countries worldwide and was placed ahead of other countries in the European Union.<sup>32</sup> However, during the scoring meeting, members of the SAG argued that often the owners of the media are connected to politicians and political parties. As underlined in the ‘Report on Corruption in Greece’ by an investigative body of the Council of Europe, “there are great dangers because of the relations among politicians, media groups and economic interests...in Greece”. Mechanisms of regulation and control of the media, such as the National Council of Radio and Television (ESR), are under funded and understaffed, as well as monitored by the incumbent government.

<sup>31</sup> Scale is 0-30 which means a free media, 31-60 which means a partially free media and 61-100 which means the absence of free media <<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/pressurvey/allscore2005.pdf>>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Europe/greece.htm>

SAG members expressed their reservations about the extent of press freedom due to the possibly disruptive effects of the close linkages among media entrepreneurs, individual politicians and political party mechanisms.

## 2.3 Socio-economic Context

This subdimension analyses the socio-economic situation in Greece. Table III.2.3 shows the respective indicator score.

**TABLE III.2.3: Indicator assessing socio-economic context**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
2.3.1	Socio-economic context	3

To operationalise the concept of ‘socio-economic environment’, eight indicators were selected representing the different means through which the socio-economic context can potentially impact on civil society: 1) Poverty, 2) Civil war, 3) Severe ethnic or religious conflict, 4) Severe economic crisis, 5) Severe social crisis, 6) Serious socio-economic inequities, 7) Illiteracy and 8) Lack of IT infrastructure.

For each of these indicators a specific benchmark was defined which showed that the respective indicator presents a socio-economic barrier to civil society. The benchmarks and data for these eight indicators for Greece are presented below:

1. *Widespread poverty - do more than 40% of Greeks live on less than two US\$ a day?* No.
2. *Civil war - did the country experience any armed conflict during the last five years?* No.
3. *Severe ethnic or religious conflict?* No. In the Peace and Conflict Survey 2003, Greece is awarded the highest score (3) for Human Security.
4. *Severe economic crisis – is the external debt more than the GDP?* No.
5. *Severe social crisis?* No.
6. *Severe socio-economic inequities, i.e. is the Gini-coefficient greater than 0.4?* No. It must be noted that in Greece there is also an informal ‘grey’ economy estimated to amount to approximately 30% of the formal economy.
7. *Pervasive illiteracy - is more than 40% of the adult population illiterate?* No.
8. *Lack of IT infrastructure – are there less than 5 IT hosts per 10,000 inhabitants?* No. Greece has a relative good IT infrastructure, with 170 hosts per 10,000 inhabitants (Information Society Survey for 2003). Internet use is 19.9 % ; computer use is 27.1% and WAP services is 2.3 (GRNet, 2003)

The analysis of the socio-economic environment of civil society showed that none of these socio-economic barriers is presented in Greece. Thus, Greek civil society is operating in a very conducive socio-economic context.

## 2.4 Socio-cultural Context

This subdimension examines the extent to which socio-cultural norms and attitudes are conducive or detrimental to civil society. Table III.2.4 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.2.4: Indicators assessing socio-cultural context**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.4.1	Trust	<u>1</u>
2.4.2	Tolerance	<u>2</u>
2.4.3	Public spiritedness	<u>1</u>

*2.4.1 Trust.* Concerning interpersonal trust, the European Values Study (EVS) (wave 1999/2000) awards Greece a score of 1.2 on a scale of 1-2. This implies a moderate stock of social capital and trust.<sup>33</sup> A prior civic tradition of clientelism<sup>34</sup> under arbitrary rule, the interference of special-interest groups, which used to be monitored by and dependent on the central government and the lack of credibility and impartiality on the part of contemporary political institutions have impaired the strength of Greek civil society. According to the Eurobarometer Study of 2004 (Eurobarometer 62.2) only 18% of Greeks agree with the statement that most people can be trusted. The average of all European countries (West and East) is 33%.

According to the European Social Survey (2002-2003), Greece performs especially low in terms of social capital. For instance, with regard to generalised trust in fellow citizens (measured on a scale ranging from 0 to 10), the Greek mean scores are 3.6, 3.7 and 3.0 in trust in other people, in their perceived fairness and helpfulness. (EKKE 2003). The score of 3.6 in regard to trust in other people is far lower than the average of the 15 members states of the European Union (EU average 4.8) and the lowest among all countries of Western and Eastern Europe.

*2.4.2 Tolerance.* How tolerant are members of Greek society towards people of different race or ethnicity, towards immigrants, people with HIV/AIDS and homosexuals? Greek civil society is rather weak and implies a moderate stock of tolerance. There is a problem with xenophobia and intolerance with regard to minorities. According to the ESS Round I 2002-3, there is only a small percentage of Greeks who would want members of certain social groups, such as homosexuals or people of different ethnicity, as neighbours. 58.1% of the Greek population considers that only a small number of foreigners should live in Greece. Furthermore, 34.5% of Greeks considers that the existence of foreigners has caused a decrease in their income. Almost 13% of Greeks claim that foreigners have caused the deterioration of the quality of life in Greece. About 37% of Greeks believe that it is better for a country if all citizens share the same traditions.

However, the SAG members agreed on the score of 2 since this attitude is progressively improving and more and more positive measures are being adopted by the state authorities.

*2.4.3 Public spiritedness.* There is a relative lack of public spiritedness in Greece. Various analysts have commented on the tendency to circumvent the law or to interpret it in a formalistic fashion (Diamantouros 2002, Mouzelis 1986). Tax evasion is frequent; sensitivity towards environmental protection is low and misspending of public funds is not uncommon. According to the ESS (EKKE 2003), 44.7% of Greek respondents believe people should respect the provisions of the law. One possible explanation could be that for many Greeks the law is a pure formality, which people may choose to ignore, as sanctions against violations of some regulations (i.e. tax law, traffic regulations) are imposed in a sporadic and selective manner.

<sup>33</sup> Van Ooschot and Wil Arts. (2004): "The Social Capital of European Welfare States: The Crowding Out Hypothesis" revised paper presented at the 2nd Annual ESPAnet Conference *Meeting the Needs of a New Europe* Oxford, September..

<sup>34</sup> Clientelism refers to a system of unequal exchange between a patron (e.g. a Member of Parliament) and a voter of a particular political party, where the former offers favours (e.g. a job appointment) in exchange for the promise of a vote cast by the latter.



## 2.5 Legal Environment

This subdimension examines the legal environment for civil society and assesses the extent to which this environment is enabling or disabling to civil society. Table III.2.5 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.2.5: Indicators assessing legal environment**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.5.1	CSO registration	2
2.5.2	Freedom of CSOs to criticise the government	3
2.5.3	Tax laws favourable to CSOs	2
2.5.4	Tax benefits for philanthropy	2

*2.5.1 CSO registration.* There are several legal forms for CSOs which involve registration according to the Greek law: associations, foundations or non-profit corporations and NGOs. Processes vary with each type of legal form. While Greek civil law is clear about associations and foundations, the other organisational categories are not as clearly defined. There is an absence of a clear legal statute concerning the criteria such organisations have to meet in order to qualify as an NGO. The single law that sets such criteria is N 2371/99 which only includes organisations that aim to assist the social and economic development of developing countries, including countries of the CEE. The rest of Greek NGOs are not regulated by a specific Greek law but by the general legislation on associations or companies. The state started a national registration of NGOs (YDAS) with regard to humanitarian aid and development NGOs only as recently as 2002. This procedure is still ongoing. There is no such official registration for other NGOs. Registration follows accreditation, which in turn opens the way to secure state and European funding. The procedure is inexpensive and simple. Generally the Greek legal environment is relatively conducive to the founding and registering of CSOs.

*2.5.2 Freedom of CSOs to criticise the government.* There are no formal barriers to CSOs criticising the government and public administration. Since the transition to democracy in 1974, all barriers to CSOs with regard to their freedom of expression have been lifted. During the scoring meeting, participants expressed the perception that CSOs frequently feel that they cannot criticise the government as it is often the main source of their funds.

*2.5.3 Tax laws favourable to CSOs.* Formal CSOs are subject to income taxation (Law 2238/94 Tax Code) and are not exempt from value added tax (VAT). The tax system has few benefits for CSOs and then only for the non-profit making activities of CSOs. Donations, grants and membership fees are not subject to income tax (Circular of Ministry of Finance 1031/7.2.2001).

*2.5.4 Tax benefits for philanthropy.* Certain tax benefits are available for gifts of shares, property and legacies by individuals. Companies making donations can write them off against corporation tax.

Overall, the tax laws are somewhat complicated and unclear with respect to CSOs. Problems include: various definitions of favoured organisations in various acts, inconvenient administrative procedures and problematic differentiation between main and auxiliary activities.

## 2.6 State-Civil Society Relations

This subdimension describes and assesses the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the Greek state. Table III.2.6 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.2.6: Indicators assessing state-civil society relations**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.6.1	Autonomy of CSOs	3
2.6.2	Dialogue between CSOs and the state	1
2.6.3	Support for CSOs on the part of the state	1

*2.6.1 Autonomy of CSOs.* This indicator seeks to identify the extent to which civil society exists and functions independently of the state. Greece is a free country according to Freedom House Survey (2004). CSOs operate freely without excessive government interference. Oversight is reasonably designed and limited to protect legitimate public interests. Over 90% of the voluntary organisations are registered as ‘non-profit organisations’ and are primarily funded by private contributions (70%), while the remainder of the funding comes from state subsidies.<sup>35</sup> Greek political parties and the central bureaucracy of the state have, at times, weighed heavily over civil society. In the past (i.e. 1944-1961), independent trade unions, with no affiliation to either the state or to any of the parties, did not survive for long. Social movements, such as the environmental movement, have never acquired nationwide political significance.

Today some movements which exist in parallel to the major confederations of workers and public employers (GSEE, ADEDY), such as an assemblage of trade unions (PAME) controlled by the Communist Party (KKE) and youth, antiracist and anti-globalisation organisations of the independent Left, seem to have gained some momentum. They do not engage in dialogue, but rather in direct conflict with the state. Using an ideological discourse, reminiscent of the 1960s and the 1970s, such organisations of the independent Left engage in periodic clashes with the police in the city centres of Athens and Thessaloniki. While the ‘PAME Union’ would prefer heavy state intervention in the economy, the youth antiracist and anti-globalisation organisations advocate for the further expansion of human rights to protect all immigrants.

Since the autonomy of civil society from the state is fully secured in Greece, the SAG assigned a very positive score to this indicator.

*2.6.2 Dialogue between CSOs and the state.* At the national level, with regard to labour relations, income and social security policies, institutionalised dialogue between representatives of CSOs and the state frequently takes place. At the regional level, things are different: the dialogue is uneven and depends on the region in question. For instance, in the North Aegean region there is sparse and infrequent dialogue or collaboration between the regional authorities and civil society actors. Quite the contrary holds for the southern part of the Aegean Sea. Both the Dodecanese and the Cyclades prefectures in the southern Aegean demonstrate a pattern of general exchange between local social actors that is dense and horizontally structured, providing alternative leadership roles and public-private synergies (Lyberaki and Paraskevopoulos 2002).

There is hardly any dialogue between the state and civil society in policy areas other than labour relations. The following is a rare example: the first open consultation between Greek CSOs and the Secretary for the Information Society of the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance was held on 15 November 2005 in Athens. The initiative was led by a group of NGOs including: the ‘Citizens’ Union *Paremvassi*’, the ‘Citizens’ Movement for an Open Society’ and WWF Hellas, and was supported by the Secretary for the Information Society. The consultation allowed civil

<sup>35</sup> The VOLMED Study, undertaken to study volunteerism in the Mediterranean countries in 1996.

society to present its views and deliberate on the objectives set for the new 2006-2010 Digital Strategy for Greece that was presented by the Secretary a few months earlier.

During the scoring meeting the SAG members stressed that the dialogue between CSOs and the state rarely bears fruit and its outcomes are unpredictable.

*2.6.3 Cooperation/Support from the State.* This indicator looks at how narrow/broad the range of CSOs that receive state resources (in the form of grants or contracts.) is and at how significant these resources are compared to the other sources of income of CSOs.

A study by Lyberaki and Paraskevopoulos (2002) found that one-third of revenues of CSOs comes from state grants. The domination and permeation of political and social interaction by political party interests in the form of favouritism (“rousfeti” in Greek) and plutocracy, in the form of intermeshed interests (“diaplekomena symferonta” in Greek), has infiltrated Greek civil society and influenced the degree of support from the state. This has had adverse effects on economic reform and growth (Mouzelis and Pagoulatos 2002). CSOs receive little funding from the state, and when they do, it is often in a discriminatory, if not completely clientelistic, manner. Depending on who is in power, some CSOs obtain access to state funding, while other CSOs are excluded from state funding. The criteria for channelling funds to some CSOs instead of others are often political or personal. This reflects ideological bias in favour of some CSOs or even simply good personal contacts between political elites and the leadership of certain privileged CSOs. For example, a minister may disproportionately channel state funds to the CSOs of his electoral district or a specific category of CSOs.

Another example of state support of CSOs is the case of environmental organisations. Between 1997 and 2001, 35 NGOs had their projects approved and financed by the government, and received subsidies, which totalled 1.26 billion drachmas. This flow of funds, together with the 2002 to 2003 ‘Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Programme’ (2.2 billion GRD or 6.5 million Euros), shows rather strong state-support for the role and activities of environmental NGOs. For projects with budgets between 8,800 and 29,340 Euros, the recipient organisations were expected to finance 10% of their budget, while for projects over 29,340 Euros the recipients were expected to co-finance 15% of their activities.<sup>36</sup>

Overall, the relationship with the state is not as developed as would be desired. The Greek state should give incentives to CSOs to develop and should monitor the way CSOs spend state funds.

## 2.7 Private Sector-Civil Society Relations

This subdimension describes and assesses the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the private sector. Table III.2.7 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.2.7: Indicators assessing private sector – civil society relations**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.7.1	Private sector attitude to civil society	<u>2</u>
2.7.2	Corporate social responsibility	<u>1</u>
2.7.3	Corporate philanthropy	<u>1</u>

<sup>36</sup> Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works (2002): *Survey on Environmental NGOs in Greece*, Athens: National Centre for Social Research.

*2.7.1 Private sector attitude to civil society.* Public opinion in Greece is not very positive towards the private sector. According to the findings of the ‘MEDA Communications’ survey, eight out of ten Greek citizens think critically of companies and consider publicity to be the main incentive of private companies for supporting CSO activities. In practice, while generally positive towards civil society, private businessmen have never emphatically committed funds, time or other resources to CSOs. Businessmen have contributed to a few charitable and/or child care organisations or unpredictable events such as the Tsunami disaster in South East Asia in December 2004 (for instance, the Greek NGO ‘The Child’s Smile’).<sup>37</sup> The concept of sponsorship has become very popular, due to the Olympic Games of 2004, but again this has not lasted a long time. According to the same survey four out of ten respondents believe that the main activity of the private sector should be offering financial aid.

Overall, the SAG concluded that private sector support needs to be strengthened and the range of CSOs supported needs to be enlarged.

*2.7.2 Corporate social responsibility.* The concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) has started to develop in Greece over the last three to five years, mainly because of EU pressure. From the findings of the ‘MEDA Communications’ survey, six out of ten Greek citizens are not aware of even the existence of CSR. Those who are aware are mainly men in the 25-54 age group.

There are some activities within the Greek business sector to promote CSR. The Hellenic Network for Corporate Social Responsibility, based in Athens, was formed as a non-profit organisation in June 2000 by 13 companies and three business organisations. It is run by a board of seven member companies. Today, 54 companies and business institutions are members of the network. Its mission is to promote the meaning of CSR to both Greek businesses and Greek society with the goal of having a balance between profitability and sustainable development ([www.csrhellas.gr/](http://www.csrhellas.gr/)).

The aforementioned ‘MEDA Communications’ survey makes clear that sports, protection of children and the environment are the sectors in which Greek companies have initiated their CSR initiatives. The fact that sports come first on the list can be associated with the Athens Olympic Games of 2004. Generally, CSR is underdeveloped in Greece (survey by Price Waterhouse Coopers and Economic University of Athens, November 2004). In the framework of CSR certain banks offer the possibility of supporting NGOs through various programmes. For example, the Piraeus Bank has the ‘Winlife’ programme through which any VISA or MASTERCARD cardholder can make an on-line donation to the NGO of his choice (out of a list of organisations which subscribe to the programme) free of charge. The Bank has also issued a credit card called ‘Winlife VISA’ which is a regular VISA card, but 50% of the annual subscription fee, plus 0,30% of the total spending made through this card are donated to one of three NGOs of the cardholder’s choice.

However, participants at the scoring workshop questioned whether current CSR activities by Greek companies should be seen as mere public relations exercise.

*2.7.3 Corporate Philanthropy.* No information on the scope of corporate philanthropy exists in Greece. The fact that certain corporate foundations are operational does not imply corporate

philanthropy. Indicative activities of these foundations include scholarships for students and researchers, as well as financial aid to many cultural, medical, educational and environmental activities in Greece and abroad. The SAG focused on the premature character of corporate philanthropy and stressed the need for support from the private sector in order for corporate philanthropy to broaden its range.

## **Conclusion**

The external environment for Greek civil society is positive and rather enabling. Particularly political, legal and socio-economic factors are seen as enabling the development of civil society. The Greek Constitution of 1975 fully guarantees basic rights and freedoms. The Greek Republic respects freedom of speech, and citizens have the rights to fully congregate, associate and submit petitions. Trade unions and professional associations are also free. Only recently (late 2002), the state began national registration of humanitarian aid and development NGOs through YDAS.

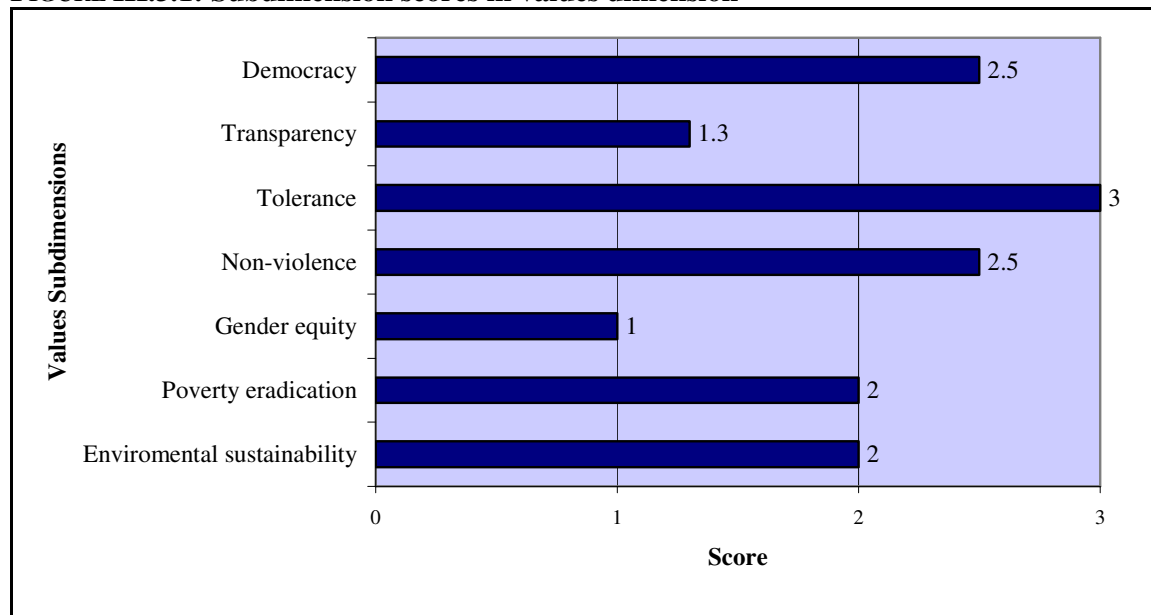
However, the relationship between civil society and the state needs to be improved. The same holds for the relations to the private sector. The CSI-SAT study showed that the concept of corporate social responsibility is in an early stage of development in Greece. This is also true for the concept of corporate philanthropy. While some private companies have funded cultural and sports activities organised by CSOs, in general, the relationship between civil society and the private sector leaves a lot to be desired. The low score for civil society's socio-cultural environment indicates that the societal basis for a strong civil society is not yet in place. Trust and social capital in general are not widespread in Greek society, which in cultural terms, has retained a focus on family units and a particular sort of individualism, as the conclusions of this report will indicate.

At the national level, with regard to labour relations, income and social security policies, institutionalised dialogue between CSOs representatives and the state frequently takes place. At the regional level, things are different: the dialogue is uneven and depends on the region in question. The domination and permeation of political and social interaction by political party interests, in the form of favouritism and plutocracy and in the form of intermeshed interests have infiltrated Greek civil society and influenced the degree of support from the state.

### 3 VALUES

This section describes and analyses the values promoted and practised by Greek civil society. The score for the values dimension is 2.0, reflecting an overall positive value basis of Greek civil society. Figure III.3.1 presents the scores for the seven subdimensions within the values dimension: democracy, transparency, tolerance, non-violence, gender equity, poverty eradication and environmental protection. Only the low score for the transparency and for the gender equity subdimensions stand out as problematic areas.

**FIGURE III.3.1: Subdimension scores in values dimension**



#### 3.1 Democracy

This subdimension examines the extent to which Greek civil society actors practise and promote democracy. Table III.3.1 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.3.1: Indicators assessing democracy**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.1.1	Democratic practices within CSOs	3
3.1.2	Civil society actions to promote democracy	2

*3.1.1 Democratic practices within CSOs.* The large majority of CSOs practise internal democracy; members have significant control over decision-making and leaders are selected through democratic elections (Afouxenidis 2004). The template documents for many forms of CSOs (trade unions, NGOs, associations, charity foundations and professional associations) include a definition of membership, details of management committee/trustees, rules regarding the calling of meetings, the quorum and the proportion of voters required for different kinds of decisions. In contrast to some political parties where internal democracy has been problematic, Greek CSOs typically adhere to democratic practices.

*3.1.2 Civil society actions to promote democracy.* Despite the fact that full and comprehensive democracy was established in Greece more than 30 years ago, civil society may still play a role

in making sure that democracy is promoted in every walk of life besides government/political life. From our research it is clear that there are very few such organisations, with a specific mandate to promote democracy, for example:

- The Citizens' Union PAREMVASSI is a non-profit citizens' association, which was founded in 1995. It focuses its research and activities on citizens' rights and promotion of democratic values. Since 1999, it has published the quarterly review 'Koinonia Politon' (Civil Society) and maintains a website accessed by 1,500 visitors per month ([www.paremvassi.gr](http://www.paremvassi.gr)) and
- MEDITERRANEAN S.O.S, ANTIGONE – Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-violence and Active Citizens, has begun implementing a project funded by the EU DG Education, entitled 'It is your fundamental Right'. The scope of the project is to promote active citizenship. Project activities include an informational website, awareness and sensitisation conferences and workshops and the publication of a pocketbook on citizens' rights ([www.citizenship.gr](http://www.citizenship.gr)).

Civil society organisations, such as associations of lawyers, student movements, feminist and human rights organisations, which are mainly active in the largest cities (Athens, Thessaloniki), intervene from time to time in the public domain to protest for the rights of freedom of expression, gender equality and freedom of movement. They also work to promote voting and to bridge the gap between young people and politicians. Examples include:

- Active mobilisation, through awareness-raising and sensitisation campaigns that have been attested by CSOs, mainly think tanks, in order to familiarise Greek citizens with the European Constitution and encourage voting during the last European Elections (June 2004) and
- In 2002, the Committee for the NGOs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a series of regular meetings with the Greek NGOs of European orientation in order to inform the NGOs on the 'European Convention', as well as to promote the participation of the NGOs in the proceedings of the Convention.

## 3.2 Transparency

This subdimension analyses the extent to which civil society actors practise and promote transparency. Table III.3.2 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.3.2: Indicators assessing transparency**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
<u>3.2.1</u>	Democratic practices within CSOs	<u>2</u>
<u>3.2.2</u>	Financial transparency of CSOs	<u>1</u>
<u>3.2.3</u>	Civil Society actions to promote transparency	<u>1</u>

*3.2.1 Corruption within civil society.* The issue of using a position within a CSO for personal benefit is difficult to quantify. The receipt of direct financial benefit is rare and trustees of foundation and charity organisations are forbidden by law to benefit from their position.

**TABLE III.3.3: National institutions and sector corruption<sup>38</sup>**

National Institution / Sector	Score
Medical Services	4.0
Political Parties	3.8
Tax Revenue	3.7
Media	3.5
Customs	3.3
Police	3.2
Legal system/Judiciary	3.1
Parliament / Legislature	3.0
Business/Private Sector	3.0
Utilities	3.0
Education System	2.8
Registry and permit services	2.8
Religious bodies	2.7
NGOs	2.4
Military	2.2

According to the Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2004,<sup>39</sup> Greeks consider medical services (hospitals), political parties and tax authorities to be the most corrupt institutions (table III.3.3). The Press, which is also considered a corrupt sector, often reports on bribes taken by tax collectors or medical doctors. NGOs are at the end of the list (2.4%) and the only sector considered less corrupt is the military sector. The issue of corruption in civil society, specifically in the NGOs sector, was highlighted by the Greek media in 2004, concerning the funding channelled to several Greek NGOs implementing programmes in less developed countries.

In the SAG the issue of misuse of influence and patronage was also raised and was linked to the general phenomenon of clientelism that characterises Greek society.

*3.2.2 Financial transparency of CSOs.* There is only a small portion of CSOs that publish their financial statements as a measure of financial transparency. As there is no official data on the financial transparency of CSOs from interviews and collective discussion, it emerged that although most organisations produce accounts, only a few CSOs make their financial accounts publicly available. Foundations, as well as unions of liberal professions, are forced by the current legislation to publish their financial statements in the press. However, only the large CSOs publish annual reports. Different ministries (Interior, Health, Foreign Affairs) annually publish a database with details on the grants awarded to various CSOs.

The members of the SAG mentioned the lack of a comprehensive system of financial accountability and unanimously expressed the view that existing practices and procedures do not guarantee financial transparency. They suggested the development of a system which would allow for de-facto transparency (i.e. templates with instructions and well-known models of what and how to publish).

<sup>38</sup> Scale from 1–5, where 1 means not at all corrupt and 5 means extremely corrupt.

<sup>39</sup> [http://www1.transparency.org/pressreleases\\_archive/2004/2004.12.09.barometer\\_eng.html](http://www1.transparency.org/pressreleases_archive/2004/2004.12.09.barometer_eng.html) and <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN019214.pdf>.



*3.2.3 CSOs actions to promote transparency.* Only a very limited number of CSOs are concerned with the transparency of public administration and companies, for example, Transparency International Greece. Its mission is to fight corruption and the apathy that enables corruption. It is involved in a range of anti-corruption programmes at an international, national and local level. Current projects include: initiatives to fight corruption in political funding, promotion of transparency in local government and combating corruption in public procurement (<http://www.transparency.gr>). Trade unions and professional associations are also active in drawing the government's attention to the consequences of their policies, such as the debate on the European Union working day time limits.

Overall, however, these attempts only concern limited approaches to greater transparency. Comprehensive transparency in this area cannot be claimed at this point in time.

### 3.3 Tolerance

This subdimension examines the extent to which civil society actors and organisations practise and promote tolerance. Table III.3.4 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.3.4: Indicator assessing tolerance**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.3.1	Tolerance within the civil society arena	3

*3.3.1 Tolerance within the civil society arena.* There are some intolerant forces within civil society, but they are isolated from civil society at large. Such forces include the nationalist or xenophobic associations. There are many, although small in size, right-wing and/or xenophobic civil associations which clearly pursue undemocratic goals, show flagrant intolerance towards minorities or reject legitimate causes beneficial to the wider community (Sotiropoulos 2004). Relevant examples are the following:

- A youth organisation entitled 'Golden Dawn' (in Greek, 'Chryssi Avgi') which is explicitly racist and xenophobic;
- The para-ecclesiastical organisations of 'Zoe' and 'Soter' which have been active in church matters for a long time. These are old, rather secretive and very conservative formal organisations of Christian Orthodox Greeks and
- 'Network 21', a network which has promoted confrontation (rather than reconciliation) with Greece's neighbouring countries. It has adopted particularly ethnocentric positions in regard to Balkan issues, Greek-Turkish relations and the Cyprus question.

Such organisations are few and they do not influence the overall level of tolerance in Greek civil society. Civil society actors generally support the right to express an opinion, whilst denouncing discriminatory behaviour or speeches.

### 3.4 Non-violence

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which civil society actors and organisations practice and promote non-violence. Table III.3.5 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.3.5: Indicators assessing non-violence**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.3.1	Tolerance within the civil society arena	3

*3.4.1 Non-violence within the civil society arena.* There are a number of causes which are associated with peaceful direct action or violence against property or people by CSOs, such as animal rights organisations, environmental campaigners or even agricultural cooperatives. For example:

- Environmental organisations, such as Greenpeace or WWF, have been involved in property occupation several times to protest the lack of respect of environmental rights and
- In 2004 representatives from agricultural unions caused blockages on the national highways protesting the national agricultural policy and the devaluation of prices of their products.

In general, civil society actors denounce these activities, but often reference is made to the strength of the views held by the campaigners. In other areas of civil society, violence is seen as unnecessary and unacceptable (i.e. sports hooliganism).

*3.4.2 Civil society actions to promote non-violence.* Several CSOs have been set up as a reaction to some form of violence in society, for example, women’s NGOs acting against domestic violence, NGOs acting against racism and trade unions working in order to facilitate mutual understanding and cooperation between workers and employers. Prominent examples include the following:

- In 2004 the National Committee for Human Rights (NCHR) translated into Greek, published and distributed the Pocketbook on Human Rights for the Police entitled ‘International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement’ (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCHR);
- A nationwide toll-free emergency hotline (197) has been launched for victims of the sex trade;
- Another hotline for victims of human trafficking is the SOS hotline (8001114400) which has been launched by the European Network of Women;
- Intellectuals, left-wing organisations of students and associations of foreign immigrants stage a three-day long gathering (‘Antiracist Festival of Athens’) as well as several shorter events every year to promote the causes of peaceful coexistence of local and immigrant communities and multicultural society and
- Major newspapers in Athens (‘Ta Nea’, ‘Eleftherotipia’) regularly publish reports on incidents of violence against foreign migrants or domestic violence, as well as articles on or by foreign migrants. For example, a prominent member of the Albanian community, Mr. G. Kaplani writes for the Athenian daily, ‘Ta Nea’ about police brutality.

Overall however, participants at the scoring workshop felt that broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives are lacking.

### **3.5 Gender Equity**

This subdimension analyses the extent to which civil society actors practise and promote gender equity. Table III.3.6 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.3.6: Indicators assessing gender equality**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.5.1	Gender equity within the CS arena	1
3.5.3	CS actions to promote gender equity	1

*3.5.1 Gender equity within the civil society arena.* The unfair treatment of women by civil society actors is widespread in Greece. There is no official data concerning either the equality of men and women in Greek Civil Society or the position of women in leadership roles. According to the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), there is little information on women's representation in trade unions. In 2004 in the GSEE election for the Administrative Council of this confederation only five women were among the 45 elected (11.1%). No women were elected in the management board.<sup>40</sup>

From the discussion with the SAG members it became clear that only a very small percentage of CSO leaders are women.

*3.5.3 Civil society actions to promote gender equity.* According to the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) of the Human Development Report Office, Greece ranks 43<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>41</sup> Women hold 8.7% of parliamentary seats and make up 48% of professional and technical workers. Only 26% of administrators and managers are women.

Women's organisations operate in many sectors, such as health, family and childcare, violence against women, the professional development of women and the position of women on the labour market. However, the status of women in society is generally low. A database of over 35 organisations working in the above-mentioned sectors is available on the website of the Civil Society Bureau, which is located in Thessaloniki and functions under the auspices of the EU.<sup>42</sup>

An example of a successful initiative is the case of The Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI).<sup>43</sup> KETHI is a Legal Entity under Private Law which was founded in 1994 with a dual focus: to conduct social research on gender equality issues and to improve women's status and enable their advancement in all areas of political, economic and social life. The KETHI Centre cooperates with the General Secretariat for Equality (which is part of the Ministry of Interior) as well as the Inter-ministerial Committee for Gender Equality established in 2000.<sup>44</sup> KETHI manages Information and Counselling Centres for Women's Employment, Entrepreneurship and Social Integration in Athens and several other cities of Greece (Thessaloniki, Patras, Heraklion and Volos) and co-operates with international organisations for the mutual exchange of information on gender equality. During 2002-2003, KETHI claimed that it offered its services to 7,714 women all over Greece: 1,715 women were informed about unemployment issues; 2,500 received consulting on promoting their professional career; 1,160 received psychological support; 2,100 legal consulting and 150 received advice on developing successful business plans.

Overall, these initiatives only concern limited approaches for promoting gender equity.

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.kethi.gr/greek/libraryggi/index.htm>

<sup>41</sup> The gender empowerment measure (GEM) reveals whether women take an active part in economic and political life. It focuses on gender inequality in key areas of economic and political participation and decision-making. It tracks the share of seats in parliament held by women; the number of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and the number of female professional and technical workers and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence. Differing from the GDI, the GEM exposes inequality in opportunities in selected areas <<http://www.undp.org>>.

<sup>42</sup> The Civil Society Bureau started operating at the beginning of 2002 in the framework of the project ONG-2001-129-Thessaloniki-ARSIS-HERMES-Action for the empowerment of Civil Society financed by the DG Education and Culture of the EU Commission <<http://www.civilsociety.gr>>.

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.kethi.gr/english/kethi/index.htm>

<sup>44</sup> Prime Minister's Decision (OJ 870/17.7.2000).

During the scoring meeting, SAG members highlighted the need for more coordinated state action on gender issues, also involving the private sector and CSOs.

### 3.6 Poverty Eradication

This subdimension examines to what extent civil society actors promote poverty eradication. Table III.3.7 presents the indicator score.

**TABLE III.3.7: Indicator assessing poverty eradication**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.6.1	CS actions to eradicate poverty	<u>2</u>

*3.6.1. Civil society actions to eradicate poverty.* Despite the strong economic growth and the gradual increase in social protection expenditures observed since the mid 1990s, Greece continues to exhibit a high percentage of poor among its population (21% in 1999) with income less than 60% of the national median, high levels of unemployment (9.6% in 2001) and a low employment rate (55.4% in 2001) which is 8.7 percentage points below the EU-15 average (64.1% in 2001). Unemployment is still concentrated mainly among young persons and women, reflecting a variety of institutional inefficiencies and structural imbalances. Poverty and social exclusion are the main issues of concern for the Greeks (18.8%), according to the aforementioned survey of “MEDA Communications”. There is no official data concerning the number of homeless in Greece. According to the data presented by the Greek NGO KLIMAKA, the number of homeless is estimated at about 17,000, of which about 12,000 lived in Athens in 2005<sup>45</sup>.

There are several organisations that concentrate their work on people, families and children affected by poverty and homelessness, for example:

- SOS Children's Village is the Greek branch of an international child welfare organisation. This non-profit group provides homes and a family environment to abandoned, orphaned and destitute children of all nationalities. Two villages in Greece, one in Vari and another in Plagiari, near Thessaloniki, admit children who have lost either one or both parents or whose parents cannot provide for them any longer and
- Hellenic Red Cross feeds hundreds of asylum-seekers and refugees on a daily basis. It cares for a large number of refugee families at shelters.

Other organisations, mainly sections of international NGOs, are also active in the fight against global poverty. For example, Action Aid initiated an important campaign similar to the international campaign ‘Make Poverty History’ with the support of the media in 2005. However, media reporting and support in similar activities are not very widespread.

### 3.7 Environmental Sustainability

This subdimension analyses the extent to which civil society actors practise and promote environmental sustainability. Table III.3.8 presents the indicator score.

<sup>45</sup> FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless), Working Group on Data Collection (2004-5): “Homelessness in Greece: Socio-psychological Profile and Living Conditions in the Streets of Athens and three other big Greek cities”, Brussels 16-17 September <[http://www.feantsa.org/files/indicators\\_wg/working\\_group\\_september\\_2005/FEANTSA\\_16-17-09-05.ppt](http://www.feantsa.org/files/indicators_wg/working_group_september_2005/FEANTSA_16-17-09-05.ppt)>...

**TABLE III.3.8: Indicator assessing environmental sustainability**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.7.1	CS actions to sustain the environment	<u>2</u>

*3.7.1. Civil Society actions to sustain the environment.* Although sustainable development is an urgent need for today's society, comparing Greek environmentalism with corresponding western European cases, one witnesses a quasi-movement rather than a well-established and deep-rooted green movement (Demertzis, 1995). Mass involvement, as well as durable support and attractiveness, are the fundamental but missing elements for the development of an environmental social movement in Greece. This may also be related to the lack of environmental consciousness in the country (Demertzis, 1995). A 1998 survey conducted by EKKE noted that the great majority of environmental organisations were founded during the last two decades (Tsakiris & Sakellaropoulos, 1998). Moreover, 57% of them have maintained regular cooperation with the mass media in order to inform the public (*ibid.*). According to the same source, less than 10% were involved in environmental seminars in schools, but many were accepting invitations to inform students (*ibid.*).

Prominent roles among these organisations were played by the local chapters of international environmental NGOs, such as Greenpeace, WWF and a few Greek associations, such as the Hellenic Ornithological Society –Birdlife Greece, Nea Ecologia – Friend of Earth Greece (Botetzagias 2000). Examples include:

- The development of a mechanism for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the trans-boundary Prespa Park (in northwestern Greece), which is indispensable for the integrated protection and sustainable development of the protected area and
- The National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (EKPA), established in 2000 which aims to improve reporting on environmental issues and raise awareness on sustainable development issues, focused on the national level.

With regards to the membership of environmental organisations, a survey by Kousis & Dimopoulou (2000) has noted an increase in numbers, especially since 1992, although in many cases the members did not exceed 500 people. An important characteristic of the members of environmental organisations was their high educational level. Almost half of the members held a university degree and more than half of them were working in scientific sectors and/or were self-employed.<sup>46</sup> However, one cannot say that Greek Society as a whole has become more sensitive to environmental issues owing to civil society activities which aim to protect the environment. It is notable that only 33% of Greeks credit environmental CSOs with solving environmental problems (Eurobarometer 58.0, *The attitudes of Greeks towards the environment*, December 2002).

## Conclusion

In general, Greek civil society practises and promotes positive values, such as tolerance and non-violence. However, further efforts are necessary to improve accountability and transparency within CSOs and to promote gender equity. At the programmatic level, gender equity is professed by all institutions. The concern of the Greek state and society to improve the position of women is visible in the relevant provisions of the Greek constitution and in the care taken by parties to include some women's issues in their political campaigns. However, the effects of such

<sup>46</sup> Boudourides Moses .& Kalamas D. (2002): "Environment Organizations in Greece", *STAGE Thematic Network*, Gothenburg Workshop, October 24-26.

concern and care are not as visible. The same may be said about transparency. Politicians, journalists and other opinion-makers have paid lip service to issues of accountability and transparency. However, this principle is rarely applied in Greek society. For instance, the sector of private and non-governmental mass media is not self-regulated, and associations of journalists have failed miserably to produce the norms and institutions necessary to function in today's complex environment. In Greece, as in other contemporary democracies, the linkages between business interests, political parties and media organisations have increasingly become dense and less than transparent. The topics of corruption and accountability are often taken up in public debates in Greece, but there is a clear reluctance to implement policy measures, in order to ameliorate any relevant pathologies.

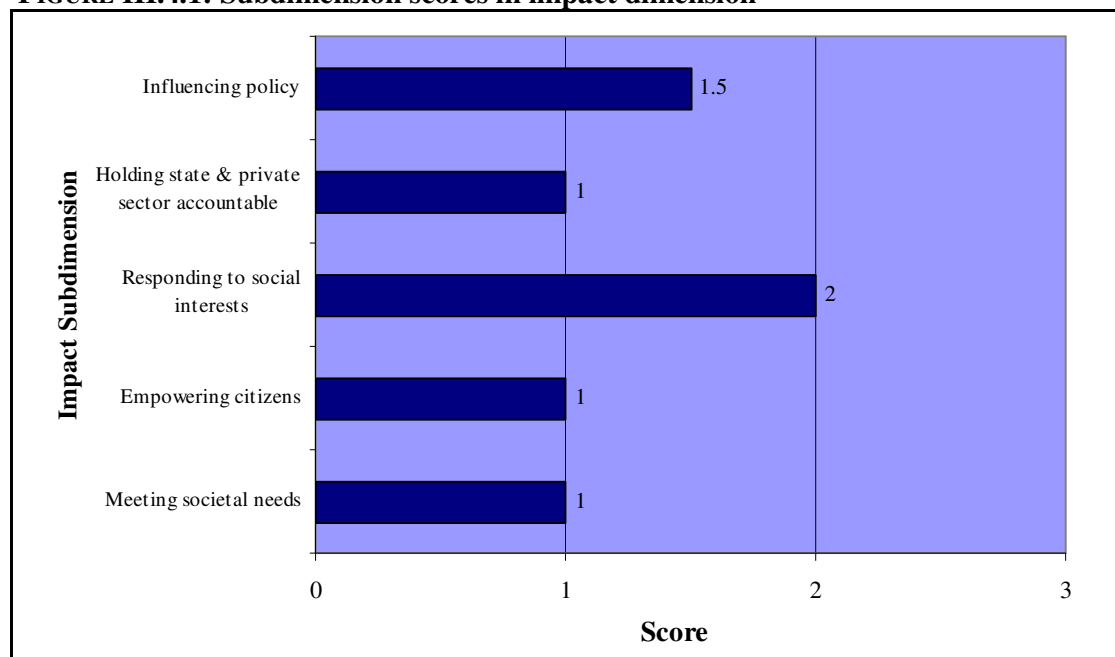
During the voting meeting, SAG members insisted on the need for more coordinated state action, also involving the private sector and CSOs, in order to improve the status of women and enable their advancement in all areas of political, economic and social life. They also insisted on the updating of the existing institutional framework, according to the relevant European acquis.

Concerning the issue of transparency, updating the legal framework and developing a financial accountability system which would enable better transparency measures by CSOs, was suggested.

## 4 IMPACT

This section describes and analyses the extent to which civil society is active and successful in fulfilling several essential functions such as influencing public policy, holding state and private corporations accountable, empowering citizens and finally meeting societal needs. The total score for the impact dimension is 1.3, reflecting the assessment of the scoring workshop that civil society in Greece has a weak impact on society. Figure III.4.1 presents the scores for the five subdimensions within the impact dimension.

**FIGURE III.4.1: Subdimension scores in impact dimension**



### 4.1 Influencing Public Policy

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which Greek civil society is active and successful in influencing public policy in the fields of social policy and human rights policy, as well as its impact on the national budgeting process. Table III.4.1 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**Table III.4.1: Indicators assessing influencing public policy**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.1.2	Human rights impact	<u>2</u>
4.1.3	Impact on national budgeting process	<u>1</u>

*4.1.2 Human rights impact.* The human rights situation in Greece is considered to be without major flaws, apart from the continuous harassment of conscientious objectors. A certain number of organisations are particularly dedicated to defending and promoting human rights. However, there are neither significant CSO actions nor campaigns to influence human rights policy and practice (Amnesty International, 'Annual Report for Greece, 2004'). In the field of socio-political exclusion of alien immigrants in Greece and racism, a few indicative examples of how CSOs influence human practice at the national level can be found.

- In August 2002, the issue of racial discrimination in the Greek press was publicly raised by the Greek Helsinki Monitor and the Refugee Association of Greece. On 1 August 2002, the above NGOs lodged a complaint with the Public Prosecutor of the Athens Magistrates' Court against three Greek national newspapers ('To Vima', 'Eleftherotypia' and 'Ta Nea') on the grounds of inciting racial hatred and discrimination through published material. All three newspapers are among the most popular in Greece and are to the left-of-centre in the political spectrum. The offensive material published by these newspapers appeared in the 'letters to the editor' section, and expressed strong anti-immigrant and anti-Jewish sentiments, using characterisations which were obviously offensive to the above social/ethnic groups. Moreover, one of the above newspapers, according to the complaint, "routinely" published advertisements ('want-ads') containing the specification "no foreigners". The newspapers were indicted on 13 August 2002 by the Public Prosecutor for violating Articles 1 and 2 of the Anti-racism Law 927/1979 (see infra). In the indictment procedure, the Minority Rights Group-Greece was also involved as a witness. The representatives of all three NGOs stressed in their testimonies "the accountability of democratic newspapers that choose from among the multitude of letters they receive, many of which they don't publish, to publish letters with this sort of racist content, without any disclaimer. This practice thereby, creates the impression that such opinions are acceptable in democratic discourse. In this way, they are contributing to the development of a climate of racial hatred and discrimination".
- The issue of racism in Greece was also put forward by two other NGOs, 'Citizens' Movement against Racism' and 'SOS Racism', during the local elections on 13 and 20 October 2002. On the initiative of these NGOs, an 'anti-racism charter of local administration' was signed by a large number of candidate Mayors and Prefects from all over Greece. Greek law and jurisprudence do not guarantee that associations, organisations or other legal entities with a legitimate interest may engage in any kind of legal procedures on behalf or in support of the person filing a complaint. In fact, court decisions regarding intervention attempts by, inter alia, human rights NGOs in administrative and civil law cases in favour of one of the parties, have shown that Greek courts have interpreted Greek civil and administrative procedural law restrictively. Greek courts have thus rejected the above NGO interventions on the grounds that they had no "legitimate interest" ("ennomo symferon" in Greek) to act as interveners.<sup>47</sup>

The National Committee for Human Rights (NCHR) was founded by Law 2667/1998 as a National Human Rights Institution, in order to monitor developments regarding human rights, to inform Greek public opinion and to provide guidance to the Greek state on human rights issues.<sup>48</sup> Although CSOs participate in the NCHR, better cooperation between civil society and the state is required in many fields such as the trafficking policy and the status of prisoners.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Council of State Judgment 575/2001, Athens First Instance Court judgment 5208/2000.

<sup>48</sup> This institution was founded according to the Paris Principles adopted by the UN and the Council of Europe and has a consultative status with the Greek state as an independent national human rights institution. NCHR membership consists, among others, of representatives of Greek NGOs, professional organizations, political parties, Ministries and Universities. NCHR has five Sub-Commissions whose work focuses on: Civil and Political Rights (First Sub-Commission); Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (Second Sub-Commission); Aliens' Rights (Third Sub-Commission); Human Rights Promotion (Fourth Sub-Commission) and International Relations (Fifth Sub-Commission).

<sup>49</sup> Greek Helsinki Monitor and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) (2002) "Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by Greece", report submitted to the *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* at its exceptional session 5-23 August [Internet] Available from: <[www.omct.org/pdf/vaw/GreeceEng2002.pdf](http://www.omct.org/pdf/vaw/GreeceEng2002.pdf)>.



*4.1.3 Impact on national budgeting process.* The national budgeting process in Greece is quite circumscribed. The state budget is drafted by the Ministry of Economy every autumn. The government submits the budget to the Parliament in the form of a bill. The bill becomes a law usually by mid-December and is implemented in the following year. Only ministers and some technical experts play a role in the budgeting process. In the Parliament the incumbent government is not allowed to modify the submitted budget; rather it votes in favour of the budget or rejects it. The only dialogue which takes place is after the submission of the budget by the government, through press releases and press conferences about specific budget components. These are mainly staged by labour unions and the associations of employers.

There are no CSOs which systematically focus on the budget process or in the budget monitoring phase. CSOs are mainly active in lobbying for grants and individual components of the budget, in the preparatory and legislative phases, through influencing specific ministries in the preparatory phase and MPs in the parliamentary committee stage. The expression of an opinion on the budget as a whole by CSOs is not very common. In 2004, there was certain criticism in the daily press on the transparency of the procedure for the allocation of funding by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to various NGOs implementing institutional building programmes in developing countries.

## 4.2 Holding the State and Private Corporations Accountable

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Greek civil society is active and successful in holding the state and private corporations accountable. Table III.4.2 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.4.2: Indicators assessing holding state and private corporations accountable**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.2.1	Holding the state accountable	1

*4.2.1 Holding the state accountable.* Greek CSOs monitoring and lobbying activities towards the state are mostly related to human rights and here particularly minority issues, as well as environmental protection and consumer protection. Some of the most prominent organisations include:

- ANTIGONE – Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-violence (<http://www.antigone.gr>) produces statistics on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the sectors of employment, education, legislation, racial violence and housing in Greece;
- The Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN) is involved in countering any serious threats to the natural environment of Greece. In the past few years, it has been involved in important activities, which have resulted in official complaints to the European Commission and appeals by the Council of State. Well-known cases were the construction of an Olympic rowing centre at Schinias-Marathon, the diversion of the course of the Acheloos River, the duration of the hunting season and the uncontrolled creation of wind-parks on Mt Oche in Evia (<http://www.eepf.gr>)
- Transparency International Greece is the national chapter of Transparency International. The scope of its aims includes the fight against corruption and against the contributing apathy. It is involved with a range of anti-corruption programmes at the international, national and local levels. Current projects include: initiatives to fight corruption in political funding, to promote transparency in local government and to combat corruption in public procurement (<http://www.transparency.gr>)

From time to time, some CSOs hold press conferences and/or stage protests to draw the public's attention to the state's inertia or reluctance to deal with a specific social or economic problem. Most of the time, they are the Greek trade unions and professional associations that are mobilised. For example, in the spring of 2001, massive mobilisations by trade unions in major Greek urban centres prohibited the government from passing a social security reform. However, mass media coverage of such events is uneven and unpredictable.

With regard to protests on global or European issues, the dominant themes are peace, anti-globalisation and anti-European. For example:

- Anti-globalisation mobilisations at the informal meeting of the EU Ministers of Employment and Social Policy at Nafplio, on 24 January 2003, led by the Greek Social Forum and a group of organisations including Initiative Genova 2001 (a Greek anti-globalisation organisation), SYN (the second biggest Greek left party) and various Greek Trade Unions, such as ADEDI and GSEE and
- Anti-war mobilisations responding to the Iraq crisis which peaked around the demonstrations of 20 March 2003 (official start of the war) and 12 April 2003. These were led by PAME and Action Thessaloniki 2003, two anti-globalisation organisations, a peace movement organisation, a trade union, and DIKKI, a left party (created by ex-members of PASOK, the Greek socialist party).

The members of the SAG felt that more coordinated action of CSOs is necessary in order to produce a discernible impact.

### 4.3 Responding to Social Interests

This subdimension analyses the extent to which Greek civil society actors are responsive to social interests and are trusted by the public. Table III.4.3 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.4.3: Indicators assessing responding to social interests**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.3.1	Responsiveness	<u>2</u>
4.3.2	Public trust in CSOs	<u>2</u>

*4.3.1 Responsiveness.* The policy concerns affecting Greek citizens, namely unemployment and health, largely fall under the state's jurisdiction. It has been shown that CSOs in Greece often respond quickly to social, political and economic changes and are able to identify problems with a change in government policy more quickly than planned evaluations (ESC Opinion, September 2005). Examples of such quick responses include the mobilisation of employees' associations, in response to changes in personnel management issues of public sector employees and particularly in large state-run companies in the banking and transportation sectors during the last three years.

Overall, at the scoring meeting, the SAG felt that while the voice of CSOs is effective in most cases, there could be voices that were not being heard by current civil society actors. For example, the problems of the Roma or Muslim women in Greece rarely find a strong outlet or mechanism to sensitise Greek society, although there are certain Greek NGOs who are actively working in the area, such as the Greek Helsinki Monitor.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Greek Helsinki Monitor and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) (2002): "Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by Greece" .report submitted to the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Report for Greece

4.3.2 *Public trust in CSOs.* The MRB Survey on the trends of attitudes of Greeks to various institutions, that was realised in December 2001<sup>51</sup>, reveals that Greeks trust the Christian Orthodox Church, the armed forces and the police above all other institutions (table III.4.4 ). Concerning CSOs there is very low trust compared to other institutions, such as Parliament. Only Thirty-three percent of respondents trust the Confederation of Greek Industries, which is the major association of employers, and only 56% trust labour unions (table III.4.4 ).

**TABLE III.4.4: Trust in institutions**

Institution	High confidence	Medium confidence	Low confidence
European Union	68.9	22.8	6.1
Church of Greece	68.0	21.2	9.4
Greek Parliament	56.9	29.6	11.0
Political Parties	46.7	34.2	17.1
Armed Forces	68.9	23.6	5.2
Ecumenical Patriarchate	68.1	21.4	7.2
Police	54.5	30.3	13.4
Newspapers	49.4	32.1	15.6
<b>Confederation of Greek Industries</b>	32.8	39.8	21.5
Radio	59.1	29.3	9.5
Large private sector firms	46.6	25.4	14.2
Large public sector firms	44.9	35.4	16.5
Television	57.1	29.2	12.6
<b>Labour Unions</b>	55.8	28.0	12.6

The differences noted in mistrusting representatives of organised interests, on the one hand, and trusting many of the non-accountable, non-elected institutions (army, police, and church) should be interpreted in a twofold manner. Firstly, there is a long tradition of authoritarian political regimes in Greece, which has contributed to a legacy of a strong imposing state. Secondly, representatives of organised interests are associated with intense political conflict and partisan strife.

#### 4.4. Empowering Citizens

This subdimension describes and assesses the extent to which civil society is active and successful in empowering citizens, especially traditionally marginalised groups, to shape decisions that affect their lives. Table III.4.5 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.4.5: Indicators assessing empowering citizens**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.4.2	Building capacity for collective action	1
4.4.3	Empowering marginalised people	1
4.4.4	Empowering women	1
4.4.5	Building social capital	1

4.4.2 *Building capacity for collective action and resolving joint problems.* There are only a few cases of Greek CSOs helping to build the capacity of people to organise themselves, mobilise

*Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* at its exceptional session, 5-23 August, [Internet] Available from: <[www.omct.org/pdf/vaw/GreeceEng2002.pdf](http://www.omct.org/pdf/vaw/GreeceEng2002.pdf)>.

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.prc.gr/en/companies/mrb.html>

resources and work together to solve common problems. For example:

- EKPOIZO is the only Greek consumer association(‘The quality of Life’) that has taken advantage of the Consumer Protection Law 2251/94, according to which any consumer association fulfilling certain criteria is entitled to take legal steps on behalf of consumers and against private companies whose practices are detrimental to consumers (collective action).<sup>52</sup> During 2000, EKPOIZO took legal action (13 collective actions) against companies for unfair contract terms-misleading advertising. All of them, except one, obtained a favourable decision at the First Instance Court and the Court of Appeals, while the Supreme Court has issued two favourable decisions so far.
- Elliniki Etaireia (<http://www.ellinikietairia.gr>) is a Greek NGO active in protecting Greece's environmental and cultural heritage since 1972. By mobilising its wide network of friends and members it has helped rescue some of the most important sites in Greece, such as Delphi, Pylos and the southern shore of the Saronic Gulf by preventing the construction of many public works detrimental to the environment. It successfully campaigned for the protection of Marathon, which is an historical landmark and one of the most important natural habitats in Attica. In 2002, Elliniki Etaireia was singled out by the Athens Academy for its work preserving Greece's environment and cultural heritage.

Professional associations and trade unions also provide training and the necessary resources for their members to develop skills. Indicative examples are the annual training seminars organised by the Athens Bar Association and the Athens Medical Association.

Umbrella organisations give opportunities for networking and for building consensus around issues that can then be addressed nationwide. For example, the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE) constitutes the principal institution that represents local authorities in the country and has as its scope the promotion of all issues concerning Greek local authorities.

*4.4.3 Empowering marginalised people.* Empowering people is enabling them to help themselves, by informing individuals of their rights and helping them to realise immediate goals. Several organisations in the social and healthcare sectors include informing people of their rights and helping them to realise immediate goals as part of their regular activities. Specific examples are:

- A free consultancy service by lawyers and social advisors: consultations are combined with practical assistance during interaction with public authorities by the Athens Bar Association in the framework of the programme EQUAL.
- The ARSIS programme which offers psychological aid to young prisoners for their reintegration into society.
- The ‘Stop trafficking now’ (STOPNOW) programme, which in April 2002 brought together NGOs, representatives of international organisations and governmental bodies in order to share their experiences and measures undertaken in anti-trafficking of women. The group, known as the Galatsi Group, consists today of 15 NGOs from all over Greece, from different activist fields (public health, human rights, women’s movement, religious groups). The Galatsi Group meets on a monthly basis to discuss the most recent developments in counter-trafficking, establishing appropriate action plans and exchanging feedback on the activities of each agency. In 2003, the primary goal of the Galatsi Group was the establishment of shelters and the provision of services to victims. The Galatsi

<sup>52</sup> [http://www.ekpizo.gr/info\\_dtl7eng.htm](http://www.ekpizo.gr/info_dtl7eng.htm).

Group was the first coordinated effort by civil society to tackle trafficking. The group has been a powerful presence since its establishment, but more lobbying for change must be done. There are still issues to be addressed and the state infrastructure needs to be effective in areas, such as the vocational training of the victims, residence status, voluntary repatriation procedures and the reintegration of victims into society.<sup>53</sup>

- The Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals (KETHEA) is a non-profit NGO that has been operating since 1983, when ITHAKI, the first Greek therapeutic community centre for drug addicts was established. On a daily basis, KETHEA offers its services to more than 2,800 persons (addicts and family members), thanks to a nation-wide network of services, which includes more than 60 units. KETHEA is also active in the fields of primary prevention, professional training and research. In 2001, KETHEA was granted special consultative status with the EU Economic and Social Council.<sup>54</sup>

Organisations of migrants exist, but have not been able to empower their members or receive state or civil society support for their activities.

During the scoring meeting, SAG members underlined the need for a national action plan to improve the living situation of marginalised social groups and to encourage the involvement of partnerships between CSOs, the private sector and local authorities.

*4.4.4 Empowering women.* Although women's organisations operate in many sectors on many issues, such as health, family, childcare, violence against women, the professional development of women, the position of women in the labour market and the status of women in society, generally their number is relatively small. A database of only 35 organisations active in the aforementioned areas is available on the website of the Civil Society Bureau.<sup>55</sup> The 'Gender Gap Index Measuring Inequality between Women and Men' in 58 countries, launched by the World Economic Forum in 2005, revealed that Greece has the lowest ranking in the EU, reflecting low levels of political participation by women in decision-making bodies and generally poor scores in terms of opportunities, for instance, for career advancement among female professional and technical workers. Currently women hold 13% of parliamentary seats, and make up 48% of professional and technical workers. 26% of administrators and managers are women.

All SAG members agreed that a lot still needs to be done in terms of ensuring that the legal frameworks are implemented and that women from non-Greek backgrounds are also enabled to make their own choices.

*4.4.5 Building social capital.* Social capital refers to the stock of social relations, based on norms and networks of cooperation and trust, that spill over to the market and state to enhance collective action between actors and achieve improved social efficiency and economic growth. In Greece, the relatively low level of group membership, compared to the other EU countries, might provide further evidence of its low civic levels. This has been a result of a prior civic tradition of

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.britishcouncil.org/gendernetwork26.pdf/> and [http://www.stoptrafficking.org/the\\_gallatsi\\_group](http://www.stoptrafficking.org/the_gallatsi_group).

<sup>54</sup> <http://212.205.85.73:8051/pub/Category.asp?lang=en&catid=10>.

<sup>55</sup> The Civil Society Bureau started operating at the beginning of 2002 in the framework of the project ONG-2001-129-Thessaloniki-ARSIS-HERMES-Action for the empowerment of Civil Society financed by the DG Education and Culture of the EU Commission <[www.civilsociety.gr](http://www.civilsociety.gr)>.

clientelism under arbitrary rule, the interference of special-interest groups and the lack of credibility and impartiality from the part of the state (Christoforou 2004).

## 4.5 Meeting Societal Needs

This subdimension examines the extent to which Greek civil society is active and successful in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalised groups. It looks at civil society's activities in the actual delivery of public services, the promotion of self-help initiatives and its efforts to engage the state in policy discussions around the performance in this area. Table III.4.6 summarises the respective indicator scores.

**TABLE III.4.6: Indicators assessing meeting societal needs**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.5.2	Meeting societal needs directly	1
4.5.3	Meeting the needs of marginalized groups	1

*4.5.2 Meeting societal needs directly.* Greek CSOs do not have the jurisdiction nor the resources to directly meet the needs of society. The state plays the crucial role in the provision of services, followed by the municipalities, local authorities and the church (Makrydemetris 1999, Koliopoulos and Veremis 2002). It is only recently that a few CSOs have obtained some power which in the past used to be exclusively in the hands of central government officials. Examples include:

- *The Greek Council for Refugees.* The Council contributes to the solution of problems faced by persons who have valid claims to be considered as refugees, according to the 1951 Geneva Convention and the relevant supplementary New York Protocol, both ratified by Greece. The Council achieves this through advocacy for the causes of refugees and the provision of coordinated services to them such as the legal advice bureau. It receives funding partly by the State. (<http://www.gcr.gr>),
- *National Parks.* A National Park is a forested area, which is of great interest from the aspect of wild fauna and flora conservation. The Management Authorities of the National Parks are participatory bodies, where all the relevant stakeholders participate (i.e. prefectures, NGOs);
- *National Centre for the Book (EKEBI).* Funded by the Ministry of Culture, EKEBI is responsible for the implementation of the national policy for the promotion of books (<http://www.ekebi.gr/>) and
- *The Organisation Against Drugs (OKANA).* OKANA is the national coordinator and service and programme provider in the fields of planning, promoting, coordinating and implementing a national policy on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

*4.5.3 Meeting the needs of marginalised groups.* Generally CSOs are perceived to be slightly more effective than the state at providing services to marginalised groups because they are considered to be more flexible and more adaptive to specific needs (Fragonikolopoulos 2003). For example:

- The NGO KLIMAKA administers two reception centres for Roma and Muslims. On the premises of these centres more than 2,000 families have found support for their reintegration into Greek Society (<http://www.klimaka.gr>);

- The Hellenic Society for Disabled Children (ELEPAP) is an NGO founded in 1937 to provide support, diagnosis, healthcare, therapeutic and educational services, or in one word, rehabilitation, to physically disabled children in Greece from birth to 16 years of age. It offers its services in six rehabilitation centres nationwide: in Athens, Thessaloniki (1969), Chania (1980), Ioannina (1981), Volos (1998) and Agrinio (1999). ELEPAP has succeeded throughout the years in offering its services to more than 91,000 children. Currently, more than 1,000 children, with different types of physical disabilities (i.e. cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and various other syndromes), receive the services offered daily at ELEPAP centres (<http://www.elepap.gr>).

## Conclusion

Civil society's impact on governance and society is assessed as weak, not only concerning civil society's service delivery and lobbying functions, but also concerning its role as a watchdog of the state and private sector. Certain activities can be detected in the above areas concerning environment, human rights or consumer protection, but their impact is limited. Similar to the values dimension, accountability does not feature strongly on civil society's agenda.

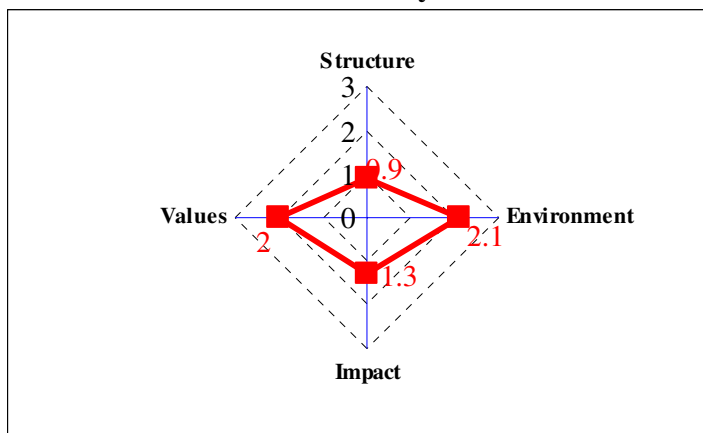
Hidden in the medium score for responsiveness is a rather low public trust in CSOs. Thus, the lack of social norms conducive for civil society is mirrored by low trust of citizens in most types of CSOs. Of course, not all CSOs share an equally low social trust. Trade unions have lost members over the past 25 years, but their mobilisation capacities are not necessarily weaker. In particular, civil service and public sector unions are strong and have been able to offer significant resistance against any new policies affecting their working conditions, pension prospects and salary levels. On the other hand, there is generally positive coverage of CSOs and most trade union activism by the mass media. In Greece, if CSOs have a lower than expected rating among citizenry, this is probably the result, not of bad publicity, but of the organisational and environmental (political and social) confining conditions, described in sections one and two of this report. There is a long tradition of authoritarian political regimes in Greece which has contributed to a legacy of a strong imposing state. Furthermore, representatives of organised interests are often associated with intense political conflict and partisan strife.

Civil society also plays a limited role in empowering citizens and particularly in service delivery. It is the state that plays the crucial role in the provision of services followed by the municipalities, local authorities and the church (Makrydemetris 1999, Koliopoulos and Veremis 2002). It is only recently that a few CSOs have obtained some power which in the past used to be exclusively in the hands of central government officials. Positive examples include The Greek Council for Refugees, the Management Authorities of the National Parks, the National Centre for the Book and the Organisation against Drugs.

## IV CONCLUSION

The conclusion seeks to draw together the main findings and recommendations of the CSI-SAT project in the Greek Republic. It offers a thorough interpretation of the state of Greek civil society, as presented in the Civil Society Diamond, and then engages with some key findings from the CSI-SAT project implementation in Greece.

**FIGURE IV.1.1: The Civil Society Index Diamond for Greece**



The Civil Society Diamond for Greece (figure IV.1.1) is not well balanced in terms of its structure, environment, values and impact, and overall the size of the diamond is small. The four dimension scores are between 1.0 and 2.0, indicating a relatively underdeveloped civil society with a very weak structure and a limited impact on society at large, but existing in a relatively enabling environment with rather positive values.

Civil society in Greece has, in recent years, grown both in quality and quantity. This is partly due to the crisis of traditional representative structures, such as the inability of political parties to meet major societal needs, but also due to the influence of the EU, which requires an involvement of civil society in many public issues and provides significant funding. However, the CSI-SAT has found that, in comparative terms, Greece still does not have a stable, well-organised civil society and the further development of civil society in Greece will require a particular focus on the structure and impact of civil society.

The analysis of civil society's **structure** revealed an overall picture of apathy and disengagement of Greeks from civil society. Only a limited segment of citizens are involved in civil society activities. The majority of Greeks do not participate in non-partisan political activities, nor engage in any voluntary work, with the exception of the Olympic Games. Most Greek CSOs are unable to attract members, with the partial exception of sport and labour associations. The depth of citizen commitment is not at all encouraging, in terms of the amount of time and investment the average individual is prepared to make. Certain groups, such as the poor, socially marginalised and young people are less well represented and involved in civil society than would be hoped. The geographical distribution of CSOs is also quite unevenly spread among the regions of Greece and there is a markedly urban character of these organisations.

There is an absence of a 'civil society arena' where a common agenda could be formed. The dearth of effective umbrella bodies and the low organisational capacities and financial resources of CSOs was noted. The exceptions to this were some organisations, such as those belonging to the environmental movement, that seem to have attracted the state's interest and some financial support. This has raised important concerns.



So far, CSOs have proven to be unable to gather resources to monitor the state and corporate sector. Furthermore, Greek CSOs are faltering, as they often depend on ‘injections’ of state funds and occasional outbursts of volunteering.

However, there is some ground for optimism concerning communication and collaboration between CSOs. Anti-poverty alliances, environmental, anti-trafficking and minority issues have all gained widespread support from a number of CSO actors, and the internet has begun to develop as a powerful tool for communication among them. The number of international linkages has also increased due to the parallel development of European CSO networks in the last few years.

The external **environment** for Greek civil society is positive and rather enabling, with no major political or legal factors inhibiting the development of civil society. Particularly factors such as political, legal and socio-economic factors are seen as enabling the development of civil society, whereas the relationship between civil society and the state needs to be improved. The Greek Constitution of 1975 fully guarantees basic rights and freedoms. The Greek Republic respects freedom of speech, and citizens have the right to congregate, associate and submit petitions. Trade unions and professional associations are also free. The same holds for relations with the private sector. Both the concept of corporate social responsibility and the concept of corporate philanthropy are in early stages of development in Greece. While some private companies have funded cultural and sporting activities organised by CSOs the relationship between civil society and the private sector, in general, leaves a lot to be desired. The low score for civil society’s socio-cultural environment indicates that the societal basis for a strong civil society is not yet in place. Trust and other forms of social capital are not very widespread in Greek society, which, in cultural terms, has retained a focus on family units and a particular sort of individualism, as elaborated in the conclusion of this report.

Finally, relations between civil society and the government also leave much to be desired. Although no major political or legal factors inhibit the development of civil society, the domination of political and social interaction by political party interests, in the form of favouritism, plutocracy and intermeshed interests, have permeated Greek civil society and influenced the degree of support from the state. At the national level, with regard to labour relations, income and social security policies, institutionalised dialogue between CSO representatives and the state frequently takes place. However, at the regional level the dialogue is uneven and depends on the region in question.

In general, Greek civil society practises and promotes positive **values**, such as tolerance and non-violence. Although at the programmatic level, gender equity and transparency are professed by all institutions, further efforts to improve accountability and transparency within CSOs and to promote gender equity are necessary. SAG members underlined the need for more coordinated state action with the involvement of the private sector and CSOs, in order to improve the status of women and enable their advancement in all areas of political, economic and social life, as well as the strengthening of the existing institutional framework concerning the issue of transparency. They suggested updating the legal framework and initiating a system which would allow for de-facto transparency (i.e. best practice, instructions, and well-known models of what and how to publish).

Civil society’s **impact** on governance and society is assessed as weak; not only concerning civil society’s service delivery and lobbying functions, but also concerning its role as a watchdog of the state and private sector. Only certain CSO activities can be detected. These concern

environment, human rights or consumers' protection, but their impact is limited. Similar to the values dimension, accountability does not feature strongly on civil society's agenda.

The lack of social norms conducive to civil society is mirrored in citizens' low levels of trust in most types of CSOs. This is probably the result of a long tradition of authoritarian political regimes in Greece, which has contributed to a legacy of a strong imposing state. Representatives of organised interests are also associated with intense political conflict and partisan strife. Of course, not all CSOs share an equally low public trust. In particular, civil service and public sector unions are strong and have been able to offer significant resistance against any new policies affecting their working conditions, pension prospects and salary levels. Trade unions, even if they have lost members over the past 25 years, have not seen their mobilisation capacities weaken.

Civil society plays a limited role in empowering citizens and, particularly, in service delivery. It is the state that plays the crucial role in the provision of services followed by the municipalities, local authorities and the church (Makrydemetris 1999, Koliopoulos and Veremis 2002). Only recently have a few CSOs obtained some power which in the past used to be exclusively in the hands of central government officials. Positive examples include: the Greek Council for Refugees, Management Authorities of the National Parks, the National Centre for the Book and the Organisation against Drugs.

Access2democracy hopes that the findings of the present research have revealed the strengths and weaknesses of civil society in Greece and also hopes to stimulate a debate within civil society on how to make CSOs a more credible and influential force within Greek society.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Access2democracy is committed to widely disseminating the findings of this study, to popularise this publication both amongst CSOs and stakeholders who are less familiar with the topics discussed, such as government, civil servants and politicians, at the central, regional and European levels.

This publication should serve as a useful reference text for researchers on civil society and related themes. The country report will be posted on the a2d website. Hard copies of the country report will be sent out to targeted stakeholders, such as umbrella CSOs, INGOs, donors, government, universities and research centres, and an announcement of the country report and the next steps of the project will be sent to listservs or e-lists. A press release will also announce the project findings and launch the country report.

In its English version, this publication will also serve as the basis for international comparisons within the framework of the Civil Society Index project as a whole. The Greek Republic is one of more than 50 countries involved in the project.

Access2democracy implemented the CSI-SAT, which is intended to serve as an excellent basis for a full CSI implementation, using a more participatory and comprehensive approach in 2007.

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## APPENDIX 1-THE CSI SCORING MATRIX

### 1 – STRUCTURE

#### 1.1 - Breadth of citizen participation

**Description: How widespread is citizen involvement in civil society? What proportion of citizens engage in civil society activities?**

##### 1.1.1 - Non-partisan political action

*Description:* What percentage of people have ever undertaken any form of non-partisan political action (e.g. written a letter to a newspaper, signed a petition, attended a demonstration)?

A very small minority (less than 10%).	Score 0
A minority (10% to 30%)	Score 1
A significant proportion (31% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

##### 1.1.2 - Charitable giving

*Description:* What percentage of people donate to charity on a regular basis?

A very small minority (less than 10%)	Score 0
A minority (10% to 30%)	Score 1
A significant proportion (31% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

##### 1.1.3 - CSO membership

*Description:* What percentage of people belong to at least one CSO?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

##### 1.1.4 - Volunteering

*Description:* What percentage of people undertake volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?

A very small minority (less than 10%)	Score 0
A small minority (10% to 30%)	Score 1
A minority (31% to 50%)	Score 2
A majority (more than 50%)	Score 3

##### 1.1.5 - Collective community action

*Description:* What percentage of people have participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organised event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% -50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

#### 1.2 - Depth of citizen participation

**Description: How deep/meaningful is citizen participation in civil society? How frequently/extensively do people engage in civil society activities?**

### 1.2.1 - Charitable giving

*Description:* How much (i.e. what percentage of personal income) do people who give to charity on a regular basis donate, on average, per year?

Less than 1%	Score 0
1% to 2%	Score 1
2.1% to 3%	Score 2
More than 3%	Score 3

### 1.2.2 - Volunteering

*Description:* How many hours per month, on average, do volunteers devote to volunteer work?

Less than 2 hours	Score 0
2 to 5 hours	Score 1
5.1 to 8 hours	Score 2
More than 8 hours.	Score 3

### 1.2.3 - CSO membership

*Description:* What percentage of CSO members belong to more than one CSO?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

## 1.3 - Diversity of civil society participants

***Description:* How diverse/representative is the civil society arena? Do all social groups participate equitably in civil society? Are any groups dominant or excluded?**

### 1.3.1 - CSO membership

*Description:* To what extent do CSOs represent all significant social groups (e.g. women, rural dwellers, poor people and minorities)?

Significant social groups are absent / excluded from CSOs.	Score 0
Significant social groups are largely absent from CSOs.	Score 1
Significant social groups are under-represented in CSOs.	Score 2
CSOs equitably represent all social groups. No group is noticeably under-represented.	Score 3

### 1.3.2 - CSO leadership

*Description:* To what extent is there diversity in CSO leadership? To what extent does CSO leadership represent all significant social groups (e.g. women, rural dwellers, poor people, and minorities)?

Significant social groups are absent / excluded from CSO leadership roles.	Score 0
Significant social groups are largely absent from CSO leadership roles.	Score 1
Significant social groups are under-represented in CSO leadership roles.	Score 2
CSO leadership equitably represents all social groups. No group is noticeably under-represented.	Score 3

### 1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs

*Description:* How are CSOs distributed throughout the country?

CSOs are highly concentrated in the major urban centres.	Score 0
CSOs are largely concentrated in urban areas.	Score 1
CSOs are present in all but the most remote areas of the country.	Score 2
CSOs are present in all areas of the country.	Score 3

## 1.4. - Level of organisation

***Description:* How well-organised is civil society? What kind of infrastructure exists for civil society?**

#### 1.4.1 - Existence of CSO umbrella bodies

*Description:* What percentage of CSOs belong to a federation or umbrella body of related organisations?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 70%)	Score 2
<b>A large majority (more than 70%)</b>	Score 3

#### 1.4.2 - Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies

*Description:* How effective do CSO stakeholders judge existing federations or umbrella bodies to be in achieving their defined goals?

Completely ineffective (or non-existent)	Score 0
Largely ineffective	Score 1
Somewhat effective	Score 2
<b>Effective</b>	Score 3

#### 1.4.3 - Self-regulation

*Description:* Are there efforts among CSOs to self-regulate? How effective and enforceable are existing self-regulatory mechanisms? What percentage of CSOs abide by a collective code of conduct (or some other form of self-regulation)?

There are no efforts among CSOs to self-regulate.	Score 0
Preliminary efforts have been made to self-regulate but only a small minority of CSOs are involved and impact is extremely limited.	Score 1
Some mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place but only some sectors of CSOs are involved and there is no effective method of enforcement. As a result, impact is limited.	Score 2
<b>Mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place and function quite effectively. A discernible impact on CSO behaviour can be detected.</b>	Score 3

#### 1.4.4 - Support infrastructure

*Description:* What is the level of support infrastructure for civil society? How many civil society support organisations exist in the country? Are they effective?

There is no support infrastructure for civil society.	Score 0
There is very limited infrastructure for civil society.	Score 1
Support infrastructure exists for some sectors of civil society and is expanding.	Score 2
<b>There is a well-developed support infrastructure for civil society.</b>	Score 3

#### 1.4.5 - International linkages

*Description:* What proportion of CSOs have international linkages (e.g. are members of international networks, participate in global events)?

Only a handful of "elite" CSOs have international linkages.	Score 0
A limited number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages.	Score 1
A moderate number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages.	Score 2
<b>A significant number of CSOs from different sectors and different levels (grassroots to national) have international linkages.</b>	Score 3

### 1.5 - Inter-relations

*Description:* How strong / productive are relations among civil society actors?

#### 1.5.1 - Communication

*Description:* What is the extent of communication between civil society actors?

Very little	Score 0
Limited	Score 1
Moderate	Score 2
<b>Significant</b>	Score 3

#### 1.5.2 - Cooperation

*Description:* How much do civil society actors cooperate with each other on issues of common concern? Can examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances/coalitions (around a specific issue or common concern) be identified?

CS actors do not cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. No examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances/coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 0
It is very rare that CS actors cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Very few examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 1

CS actors on occasion cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Some examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 2
<b><u>CS actors regularly cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Numerous examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.</u></b>	Score 3

## 1.6 – Resources

**Description: To what extent do CSOs have adequate resources to achieve their goals?**

### 1.6.1 - Financial resources

*Description:* How adequate is the level of financial resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious financial resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate financial resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the financial resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure financial resource base.	Score 3

### 1.6.2 - Human resources

*Description:* How adequate is the level of human resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious human resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate human resources to achieve their goal.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the human resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
<b><u>On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure human resource base.</u></b>	Score 3

### 1.6.3 - Technological and infrastructural resources

*Description:* How adequate is the level of technological and infrastructural resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious technological and infrastructural resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate technological and infrastructural resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the technological and infrastructural resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure technological and infrastructural resource base.	Score 3

## 2 - ENVIRONMENT<sup>56</sup>

### 2.1 - Political context

**Description: What is the political situation in the country and its impact on civil society?**

#### 2.1.1 - Political rights

*Description:* How strong are the restrictions on citizens' political rights (e.g. to participate freely in political processes, elect political leaders through free and fair elections, freely organise in political parties)?

There are severe restrictions on the political rights of citizens. Citizens cannot participate in political processes.	Score 0
There are some restrictions on the political rights of citizens and their participation in political processes.	Score 1
Citizens are endowed with substantial political rights and meaningful opportunities for political participation. There are minor and isolated restrictions on the full freedom of citizens' political rights and their participation in political processes.	Score 2
<b><u>People have the full freedom and choice to exercise their political rights and meaningfully participate in political processes.</u></b>	Score 3

#### 2.1.2 - Political competition

*Description:* What are the main characteristics of the party system in terms of number of parties, ideological spectrum, institutionalisation and party competition?

Single party system.	Score 0
Small number of parties based on personalism, clientelism or appealing to identity politics.	Score 1
Multiple parties, but weakly institutionalised and / or lacking ideological distinction.	Score 2
<b><u>Robust, multi-party competition, with well-institutionalised and ideologically diverse parties.</u></b>	Score 3

#### 2.1.3 - Rule of law

<sup>56</sup> For most of the indicators, secondary data sources are available for a broad range of countries. For each indicator, the scores indicate how to translate the original secondary data into the 4-point scale of the CSI scoring matrix.

*Description:* To what extent is the rule of law entrenched in the country?

There is general disregard for the law by citizens and the state.	Score 0
There is low confidence in and frequent violations of the law by citizens and the state.	Score 1
There is a moderate level of confidence in the law. Violations of the law by citizens and the state are not uncommon.	Score 2
<b>Society is governed by fair and predictable rules, which are generally abided by.</b>	Score 3

#### 2.1.4 – Corruption

*Description:* What is the level of perceived corruption in the public sector?

High	Score 0
Substantial	Score 1
Moderate	Score 2
<b>Low</b>	Score 3

#### 2.1.5 – State effectiveness

*Description:* To what extent is the state able to fulfil its defined functions?

The state bureaucracy has collapsed or is entirely ineffective (e.g. due to political, economic or social crisis).	Score 0
The capacity of the state bureaucracy is extremely limited.	Score 1
State bureaucracy is functional but perceived as incompetent and / or non-responsive.	Score 2
<b>State bureaucracy is fully functional and perceived to work in the public's interests.</b>	Score 3

#### 2.1.6 – Decentralisation

*Description:* To what extent is government expenditure devolved to sub-national authorities?

Sub-national share of government expenditure is less than 20.0%.	Score 0
Sub-national share of government expenditure is between 20.0% and 34.9%.	Score 1
Sub-national share of government expenditure is between 35.0% than 49.9%.	Score 2
<b>Sub-national share of government expenditure is more than 49.9%.</b>	Score 3

## 2.2 - Basic freedoms and rights

*Description:* To what extent are basic freedoms ensured by law and in practice?

#### 2.2.1 - Civil liberties

*Description:* To what extent are civil liberties (e.g. freedom of expression, association, assembly) ensured by law and in practice?

Civil liberties are systematically violated.	Score 0
There are frequent violations of civil liberties.	Score 1
There are isolated or occasional violations of civil liberties.	Score 2
<b>Civil liberties are fully ensured by law and in practice.</b>	Score 3



### 2.2.2 - Information rights

*Description:* To what extent is public access to information guaranteed by law? How accessible are government documents to the public?

No laws guarantee information rights. Citizen access to government documents is extremely limited.	Score 0
Citizen access to government documents is limited but expanding.	Score 1
Legislation regarding public access to information is in place, but in practice, it is difficult to obtain government documents.	Score 2
<b>Government documents are broadly and easily accessible to the public.</b>	Score 3

### 2.2.3 - Press freedoms

*Description:* To what extent are press freedoms ensured by law and in practice?

Press freedoms are systematically violated.	Score 0
There are frequent violations of press freedoms.	Score 1
There are isolated violations of press freedoms.	Score 2
<b>Freedom of the press is fully ensured by law and in practice.</b>	Score 3

## 2.3 - Socio-economic context<sup>57</sup>

*Description:* What is the socio-economic situation in the country and its impact on civil society?

### 2.3.1 - Socio-economic context

*Description:* How much do socio-economic conditions in the country represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society?

Social and economic conditions represent a serious barrier to the effective functioning of civil society. More than five of the following conditions are present: 1. Widespread poverty (e.g. more than 40% of people live on \$2 per day) 2. Civil war (armed conflict in last 5 years) 3. Severe ethnic and/or religious conflict 4. Severe economic crisis (e.g. external debt is more than GNP) 5. Severe social crisis (over last 2 years) 6. Severe socio-economic inequities (Gini coefficient > 0.4) 7. Pervasive adult illiteracy (over 40%) 8. Lack of IT infrastructure (i.e. less than 5 hosts per 10.000 inhabitants)	Score 0
Social and economic conditions significantly limit the effective functioning of civil society. Three, four or five of the conditions indicated are present.	Score 1
Social and economic conditions somewhat limit the effective functioning of civil society. One or two of the conditions indicated are present.	Score 2
<b>Social and economic conditions do not represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society. None of the conditions indicated is present.</b>	Score 3

## 2.4 - Socio-cultural context

*Description:* To what extent are socio-cultural norms and attitudes conducive or detrimental to civil society?

<sup>57</sup> This sub-dimension/indicator is not broken up into individual indicators to facilitate and simplify scoring. The sub-dimension/indicator consists of 8 socio-economic conditions which are of importance to civil society. The scores for this indicator are designed in such a way that they indicate how many socio-economic obstacles are there for civil society (max: 8; min: 0). The task for the NAG scoring meeting is to simply verify the number of obstacles (as identified by the secondary data) and assign the score accordingly.

#### 2.4.1 - Trust

*Description:* How much do members of society trust one another?

Relationships among members of society are characterised by mistrust (e.g. less than 10% of people score on the World Value Survey (WVS) trust indicator).	Score 0
There is widespread mistrust among members of society (e.g. 10% to 30% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 1
There is a moderate level of trust among members of society (e.g. 31% to 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 2
<b><u>There is a high level of trust among members of society (e.g. more than 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).</u></b>	Score 3

#### 2.4.2 - Tolerance

*Description:* How tolerant are members of society?

Society is characterised by widespread intolerance (e.g. average score on WVS derived tolerance indicator is 3.0 or higher).	Score 0
Society is characterised by a low level of tolerance (e.g. indicator between 2.0 and 2.9).	Score 1
Society is characterised by a moderate level of tolerance (e.g. indicator between 1.0 and 1.9).	Score 2
Society is characterised by a high level of tolerance (e.g. indicator less than 1.0).	Score 3

#### 2.4.3 - Public spiritedness<sup>58</sup>

*Description:* How strong is the sense of public spiritedness among members of society?

Very low level of public spiritedness in society (e.g. average score on WVS derived public spiritedness indicator is more than 3.5).	Score 0
Low level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator between 2.6 and 3.5).	Score 1
Moderate level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator between 1.5 and 2.5).	Score 2
High level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator less than 1.5).	Score 3

### 2.5 - Legal environment

***Description:* To what extent is the existing legal environment enabling or disabling to civil society?**

#### 2.5.1 - CSO registration<sup>59</sup>

*Description:* How supportive is the CSO registration process? Is the process (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) following legal provisions and (5) consistently applied?

The CSO registration process is not supportive at all. Four or five of the quality characteristics are absent.	Score 0
The CSO registration is not very supportive. Two or three quality characteristics are absent.	Score 1
The CSO registration process can be judged as relatively supportive. One quality characteristic is absent.	Score 2
The CSO registration process is supportive. None of the quality characteristics is absent.	Score 3

#### 2.5.2 - Allowable advocacy activities

*Description:* To what extent are CSOs free to engage in advocacy / criticize government?

CSOs are not allowed to engage in advocacy or criticise the government.	Score 0
There are excessive and / or vaguely defined constraints on advocacy activities.	Score 1
Constraints on CSOs' advocacy activities are minimal and clearly defined, such as prohibitions on political campaigning.	Score 2
CSOs are permitted to freely engage in advocacy and criticism of government.	Score 3

#### 2.5.3 - Tax laws favourable to CSOs

*Description:* How favourable is the tax system to CSOs? How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that are eligible for tax exemptions, if any? How significant are these exemptions?

The tax system impedes CSOs. No tax exemption or preference of any kind is available for CSOs.	Score 0
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<sup>58</sup> The score is derived by averaging the means for the three variables (1. claiming government benefits, 2. avoiding a fare on public transport and 3. cheating on taxes).

<sup>59</sup> This indicator combines a number of individual quality characteristics of the registration, namely whether the registration is (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) fairly applied and (5) consistently applied. The process of using these five 'Yes/No' variables for the scoring of the CSO registration indicator by the NAG follows the process outlined for sub-dimension 3. The indicator scores are defined by how many of these five quality characteristics are existent/absent.

The tax system is burdensome to CSOs. Tax exemptions or preferences are available only for a narrow range of CSOs (e.g. humanitarian organisations) or for limited sources of income (e.g. grants or donations).	Score 1
The tax system contains some incentives favouring CSOs. Only a narrow range of CSOs is excluded from tax exemptions, preferences and/or exemptions, or preferences are available from some taxes and some activities.	Score 2
The tax system provides favourable treatment for CSOs. Exemptions or preferences are available from a range of taxes and for a range of activities, limited only in appropriate circumstances.	Score 3

#### 2.5.4 - Tax benefits for philanthropy

*Description:* How broadly available are tax deductions or credits, or other tax benefits, to encourage individual and corporate giving?

No tax benefits are available (to individuals or corporations) for charitable giving.	Score 0
Tax benefits are available for a very limited set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 1
Tax benefits are available for a fairly broad set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 2
Significant tax benefits are available for a broad set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 3

## 2.6 - State-civil society relations

***Description:* What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the state?**

### 2.6.1 – Autonomy

*Description:* To what extent can civil society exist and function independently of the state? To what extent are CSOs free to operate without excessive government interference? Is government oversight reasonably designed and limited to protect legitimate public interests?

The state controls civil society.	Score 0
CSOs are subject to frequent unwarranted interference in their operations.	Score 1
The state accepts the existence of an independent civil society but CSOs are subject to occasional unwarranted government interference.	Score 2
CSOs operate freely. They are subject only to reasonable oversight linked to clear and legitimate public interests.	Score 3

### 2.6.2 - Dialogue

*Description:* To what extent does the state dialogue with civil society? How inclusive and institutionalized are the terms and rules of engagement, if they exist?

There is no meaningful dialogue between civil society and the state.	Score 0
The state only seeks to dialogue with a small sub-set of CSOs on an ad hoc basis.	Score 1
The state dialogues with a relatively broad range of CSOs but on a largely ad hoc basis.	Score 2
Mechanisms are in place to facilitate systematic dialogue between the state and a broad and diverse range of CSOs.	Score 3

### 2.6.3 - Cooperation / support

*Description:* How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that receive state resources (in the form of grants, contracts, etc.)?

The level of state resources channelled through CSOs is insignificant.	Score 0
Only a very limited range of CSOs receives state resources.	Score 1
A moderate range of CSOs receives state resources.	Score 2
The state channels significant resources to a large range of CSOs.	Score 3

## 2.7 - Private sector-civil society relations

***Description:* What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the private sector?**

### 2.7.1 - Private sector attitude

*Description:* What is the general attitude of the private sector towards civil society actors?

Generally hostile	Score 0
Generally indifferent	Score 1
Generally positive	Score 2
Generally supportive	Score 3

### 2.7.2 - Corporate social responsibility

*Description:* How developed are notions and actions of corporate social responsibility?

Major companies show no concern about the social and environmental impacts of their operations.	Score 0
Major companies pay lip service to notions of corporate social responsibility. However, in their operations they frequently disregard negative social and environmental impacts.	Score 1
Major companies are beginning to take the potential negative social and environmental impacts of their operations into account.	Score 2
Major companies take effective measures to protect against negative social and environmental impacts.	Score 3

### 2.7.3 - Corporate philanthropy<sup>60</sup>

*Description:* How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that receive support from the private sector?

Corporate philanthropy is insignificant.	Score 0
Only a very limited range of CSOs receives funding from the private sector.	Score 1
A moderate range of CSOs receives funding from the private sector.	Score 2
The private sector channels resources to a large range of CSOs.	Score 3

## 3 - VALUES

### 3.1 – Democracy

***Description:* To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote democracy?**

#### 3.1.1 - Democratic practices within CSOs

*Description:* To what extent do CSOs practice internal democracy? How much control do members have over decision-making? Are leaders selected through democratic elections?

A large majority (i.e. more than 75%) of CSOs do not practice internal democracy (e.g. members have little / no control over decision-making, CSOs are characterised by patronage, nepotism).	Score 0
A majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 50%) do not practice internal democracy (e.g. members have little/no control over decision-making, CSOs are characterised by patronage, nepotism).	Score 1
A majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 50%) practice internal democracy (e.g. members have significant control over decision-making; leaders are selected through democratic elections).	Score 2
A large majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 75%) practice internal democracy (e.g. members have significant control over decision-making; leaders are selected through democratic elections).	Score 3

#### 3.1.2 – Civil society actions to promote democracy

*Description:* How much does civil society actively promote democracy at a societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a democratic society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

<sup>60</sup> The NAG's task in scoring the indicator is to assess the significance of corporate support to civil society. Here, the score descriptions focus on two elements: (1) the overall size of corporate support to civil society and (2) the range of CSOs supported by the corporate sector. Both elements are combined in the indicator score descriptions.

### 3.2 – Transparency

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote transparency?**

#### 3.2.1 - Corruption within civil society

*Description:* How widespread is corruption within CS?

Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are very frequent.	Score 0
Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are frequent.	Score 1
There are occasional instances of corrupt behaviour within CS.	Score 2
Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are very rare.	Score 3

#### 3.2.2 - Financial transparency of CSOs

*Description:* How many CSOs are financially transparent? What percentage of CSOs make their financial accounts publicly available?

A small minority of CSOs (less than 30%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 0
A minority of CSOs (30% -50%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 1
A small majority of CSOs (51% -65%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 2
A large majority of CSOs (more than 65%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 3

#### 3.2.3 – Civil society actions to promote transparency

*Description:* How much does civil society actively promote government and corporate transparency?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in demanding government and corporate transparency. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

### 3.3 – Tolerance

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance?**

#### 3.3.1 Tolerance within the civil society arena

*Description:* To what extent is civil society a tolerant arena?

CS is dominated by intolerant forces. The expression of only a narrow sub-set of views is tolerated.	Score 0
Significant forces within civil society do not tolerate others' views without encountering protest from civil society at large.	Score 1
There are some intolerant forces within civil society, but they are isolated from civil society at large.	Score 2
Civil society is an open arena where the expression of <i>all</i> viewpoints is actively encouraged. Intolerant behaviour is strongly denounced by civil society at large.	Score 3

#### 3.3.2 – Civil society actions to promote tolerance

*Description:* How much does civil society actively promote tolerance at a societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a tolerant society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

### 3.4 - Non-violence

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote non-violence?**

### 3.4.1 - Non-violence within the civil society arena

*Description:* How widespread is the use of violent means (such as damage to property or personal violence) among civil society actors to express their interests in the public sphere?

Significant mass-based groups within CS use violence as the primary means of expressing their interests.	Score 0
Some isolated groups within CS regularly use violence to express their interests without encountering protest from civil society at large.	Score 1
Some isolated groups within CS occasionally resort to violent actions, but are broadly denounced by CS at large.	Score 2
There is a high level of consensus within CS regarding the principle of non-violence. Acts of violence by CS actors are extremely rare and strongly denounced.	Score 3

### 3.4.2 – Civil society actions to promote non-violence and peace

*Description:* How much does civil society actively promote a non-violent society? For example, how much does civil society support the non-violent resolution of social conflicts and peace? Address issues of violence against women, child abuse, violence among youths etc.?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions actually contribute to societal violence.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a non-violent society. CS actions in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility	Score 3

## 3.5 - Gender equity

***Description:* To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote gender equity?**

### 3.5.1 - Gender equity within the civil society arena

*Description:* To what extent is civil society a gender equitable arena?

Women are excluded from civil society leadership roles.	Score 0
Women are largely absent from civil society leadership roles.	Score 1
Women are under-represented in civil society leadership positions.	Score 2
Women are equitably represented as leaders and members of CS.	Score 3

### 3.5.2 - Gender equitable practices within CSOs

*Description:* How much do CSOs practice gender equity? What percentage of CSOs with paid employees have policies in place to ensure gender equity?

A small minority (less than 20%)	Score 0
A minority (20%-50%)	Score 1
A small majority (51%-65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

### 3.5.3 – Civil society actions to promote gender equity

*Description:* How much does civil society actively promote gender equity at the societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions actually contribute to gender inequity.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a gender equitable society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

### 3.6 - Poverty eradication

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors promote poverty eradication?**

3.6.1 – Civil society actions to eradicate poverty

*Description: To what extent does civil society actively seek to eradicate poverty?*

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions serve to sustain existing economic inequities.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in the struggle to eradicate poverty. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

### 3.7 - Environmental sustainability

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability?**

3.7.1 – Civil society actions to sustain the environment

*Description: How much does civil society actively seek to sustain the environment?*

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions serve to reinforce unsustainable practices.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in protecting the environment. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

## 4 - IMPACT

### 4.1 - Influencing public policy

**Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?**

4.1.1 – 4.1.2 - Human Rights and Social Policy Impact Case Studies

*Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?*

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

4.1.3 - Civil Society's Impact on National Budgeting process Case Study

*Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing the overall national budgeting process?*

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and focused only on specific budget components. <sup>61</sup>	Score 1
Civil society is active in the overall budgeting process, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role in the overall budgeting process. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

<sup>61</sup> The term “specific budget component” refers to a single issue or sub-section of the budget, such as the defence budget or welfare grants. Higher scores are assigned for those civil society activities, which provide an analysis, input and advocacy work on the *overall* budget.

## 4.2 - Holding state and private corporations accountable

**Description: How active and successful is civil society in holding the state and private corporations accountable?**

### 4.2.1 - Holding state accountable

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in monitoring state performance and holding the state accountable?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

### 4.2.2 - Holding private corporations accountable

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in holding private corporations accountable?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

## 4.3 - Responding to social interests

**Description: How much are civil society actors responding to social interests?**

### 4.3.1 - Responsiveness

*Description:* How effectively do civil society actors respond to priority social concerns?

Civil society actors are out of touch with the crucial concerns of the population.	Score 0
There are frequent examples of crucial social concerns that did not find a voice among existing civil society actors.	Score 1
There are isolated examples of crucial social concerns that did not find a voice among existing civil society actors.	Score 2
Civil society actors are very effective in taking up the crucial concerns of the population.	Score 3

### 4.3.2 - Public Trust

*Description:* What percentage of the population has trust in civil society actors?

A small minority (< 25%)	Score 0
A large minority (25%-50%)	Score 1
A small majority (51%-75%)	Score 2
A large majority (> 75%)	Score 3

## 4.4 - Empowering citizens

**Description: How active and successful is civil society in empowering citizens, especially traditionally marginalised groups, to shape decisions that affect their lives?**

### 4.4.1 - Informing/ educating citizens

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in informing and educating citizens on public issues?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

### 4.4.2 - Building capacity for collective action

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in building the capacity of people to organise themselves, mobilise resources and work together to solve common problems?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

### 4.4.3 - Empowering marginalized people

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in empowering marginalized people?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1



Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.4.4 - Empowering women

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in empowering women, i.e. to give them real choice and control over their lives?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.4.5 - Building social capital<sup>62</sup>

*Description:* To what extent does civil society build social capital among its members? How do levels of trust, tolerance and public spiritedness of members of civil society compare to those of non-members?

Civil society diminishes the stock of social capital in society.	Score 0
Civil society does not contribute to building social capital in society.	Score 1
Civil society does contribute moderately to building social capital in society.	Score 2
Civil Society does contribute strongly to building social capital in society.	Score 3

#### 4.4.6 - Supporting livelihoods

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in creating / supporting employment and/or income-generating opportunities (especially for poor people and women)?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

### 4.5 - Meeting societal needs

***Description:* How active and successful is civil society in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalised groups?**

#### 4.5.1 - Lobbying for state service provision

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in lobbying the government to meet pressing societal needs?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.5.2 - Meeting pressing societal needs directly

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in directly meeting pressing societal needs (through service delivery or the promotion of self-help initiatives)?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.5.3 - Meeting needs of marginalised groups

*Description:* To what extent are CSOs more or less effective than the state in delivering services to marginalised groups?

CSOs are less effective than the state.	Score 0
CSOs are as effective as the state.	Score 1
CSOs are slightly more effective than the state.	Score 2
CSOs are significantly more effective than the state.	Score 3

<sup>62</sup> To score this indicator, we make use of the measure of trust (see sub-dimension socio-cultural norms in Environment dimension): 1) Compute the three measures for two sub-groups of the population: (1) CSO members and (2) non-CSO members and 2) Compare each measure's score for the two sub-groups and establish which sub-group has the better score (i.e. indicating higher trust).

## APPENDIX 2: SCORING MEETING RESULTS

### I. STRUCTURE (0.9)

#### 1.1 Indicators assessing the extent of citizen participation (0.25)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.1.1	Non-partisan political action	1
1.1.2	Charitable giving	0
1.1.3	CSO membership	0
1.1.4	Volunteer work	0

#### 1.2. Depth of Citizen Participation in Civil Society (0)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.2.3	CSO membership	0

#### 1.3 Diversity of Civil Society Participants (1.0)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.3.1	Representation of social groups among CSO members	2
1.3.3	Distribution of CSOs around the country	0

#### 1.4 Level of Organisation (1.3)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.4.1	Existence of umbrella bodies	1
1.4.2	Effectiveness of umbrella bodies	1
1.4.5	International linkages	2

#### 1.5 Inter-Relations within Civil Society (2.0)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.5.1	Communication between CSOs	2
1.5.2	Cooperation between CSOs	2

#### 1.6 Civil Society Resources (0.7)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
1.6.1	Financial resources	1
1.6.2	Human resources	1
1.6.3	Technical and infrastructural resources	0

### II. Environment (2.1)

#### 2.1 Political Context (2.2)

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.1.1	Political Rights	3
2.1.2	Political competition	3
2.1.3	Rule of law	3
2.1.4	Corruption	1
2.1.5	State effectiveness	2
2.1.6	Decentralisation	1

**2.2 Basic Rights and Freedoms (2.7)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.2.1	Civil liberties	3
2.2.2	Information rights	2
2.2.3	Press Freedom	3

**2.3 Socio-economic Context (3.0)**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
2.3.1	Socio-economic context	3

**2.4 Socio-cultural Context (1.3)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.4.1	Trust	1
2.4.2	Tolerance	2
2.4.3	Public spiritedness	1

**2.5. Legal Environment (2.3)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.5.1	CSO registration	2
2.5.2	Freedom of CSOs to criticise the government	3
2.5.3	Tax laws favourable to CSOs	2
2.5.4	Tax benefits for philanthropy	2

**2.6. State - Civil Society Relations (1.7)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.6.1	Autonomy of CSOs	3
2.6.2	Dialogue between CSOs and the state	1
2.6.3	Support for CSOs on the part of the state	1

**2.7. Private Sector – Civil Society Relations (1.3)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
2.7.1	Private sector attitude to Civil Society	2
2.7.2	Corporate social responsibility	1
2.7.3	Corporate philanthropy	1

**III. Values (2.0)****3.1. Democracy (2.5)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.1.1	Democratic practices within CSOs	3
3.1.2	Civil society actions to promote democracy	2

**3.2. Transparency (1.3)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.2.1	Democratic practices within CSOs	2
3.2.2	Financial transparency of CSOs	1
3.2.3	Civil Society actions to promote transparency	1

**3.3 Tolerance (3.0)**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.3.1	Tolerance within the civil society arena	3

**3.4. Non-Violence (2.5)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.4.1	Non-violence within the CS arena	3
3.4.2	CS actions to promote non-violence	2

**3.5. Gender Equity (1.0)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
3.5.1	Gender equity within the CS arena	1
3.5.3	CS actions to promote gender equity	1

**3.6. Poverty Eradication (2.0)**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.6.1	CS actions to eradicate poverty	2

**3.7. Environmental Sustainability (2.0)**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
3.7.1	CS actions to sustain the environment	2

**IV. IMPACT (1.3)****4.1 Influencing Public Policy (1.5)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.1.2	Human rights impact	2
4.1.3	Impact on national budgeting process	1

**4.2 Holding State and Private Corporations Accountable (1.0)**

Ref. #	Indicator	Score
4.2.1	Holding the state accountable	1

**4.3 Responding to Social Interests (2.0)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.3.1	Responsiveness	2
4.3.2	Public trust in CSOs	2

**4.4 Empowering Citizens (1.0)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.4.2	Building capacity for collective action	1
4.4.3	Empowering marginalized people	1
4.4.4	Empowering women	1
4.4.5	Building social capital	1

**4.5. Meeting Societal Needs (1.0)**

Ref. #	Indicators	Score
4.5.2	Meeting societal needs directly	1
4.5.3	Meeting the needs of marginalized groups	1

### **APPENDIX 3- THE STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT GROUP MEMBERS**

*(Listed in alphabetical order)*

- Zoi Alaxouzou, Scientific Associate, Centre of Research and Action on Peace (KEDE)
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- Panagiota Kalapotharakou, President of Consumer Union “The Quality of Life” (EKPOIZO)
- Konstadia Kanaliotou, Scientific Associate, Arsis
- John Konstadinou, Lawyer, Member of the Administrative Board of the Thessaloniki Bar Association
- Nikitas Lionarakis, Vice President, GreenPeace Hellas, ex President of Committee for Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Evangelos Liotzis, Scientific Associate, Citizens’ Union PAREMVASSI
- Panagis Panagiotopoulos, expert on political parties, Lecturer, University of Thessaloniki
- Thanassis Papaioannou, Independent expert, Scientific Associate of the Greek Economic and Social Committee (ESC), representing the President of the ESC Mr Nicholas Analytis
- Petros Patronos, Director, Nomos + Physis
- Miltos Pavlou, Scientific Associate, Hellenic League for Human Rights, Scientific Associate of the Greek Ombudsman
- Michael Stertsos, Representative of the General Confederation of Workers (GSEE),
- Myrsini Zorba, President, Network for the Protection of Children Rights, ex Member of the European Parliament

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