

THE ATTITUDES TOWARD NGO

Analyses of public opinion results

Podgorica, February 2008

Dear all,

Center for Development of NGO sector in cooperation with the Center for Democracy and Human Rights, and with financial support of the USAID/ORT, realized the research concerning attitudes toward NGO sector in Montenegro.

Having in mind that, there are over 3800 registered NGO's and foundations in Montenegro which deal with the different issues in society, CRNVO is continuously observing the attitudes Montenegrin citizens have toward NGO's, wishing to recognize the key problems within the NGO sector which at the same time have influence on forming the public opinion toward NGO sector. Therefore, this research is being performed for second year in a row, which enabled the comparative analyses of attitudes toward NGO's, too.

Sincerely,

Center for Development of NGO sector

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INTRODUCTION

This research is the third one in a sequence, which was carried out by the same procedure, and by the identical instruments. Therefore, it is a **longitudinal research**, i.e. **the trend study**. Having in mind that the procedure stays the same that means that we used identical sample, but of course the examinees are not identical within different researches. So, in this Report, we will follow the trend expressed within the last three years.

First of all, we should bear in mind the overall socio – economic and political background very much influenced public opinion in the last year. Generally, the political constellation has not changed. At the top of the power structures we still find the same actors. The formula which legitimizes the establishment in power hasn't changed in its basis, either. The efficient and consecutive management of neo - liberal reforms, inhibition of left wing orientated ideas, social polarization justified by the open foreign policy, still stays the dominant paradigm of the overall social constellation.

The key social and economic problems still go along with social pathology and negative aspects, for which hasn't been found the efficient cure in the current institutional structure, yet. In this light, there are two most significant problems. First, that's the problem of inefficient legal state, which is primarily reflected in inefficient judiciary system. Secondly, that's the problem of corruption, which seems to be spreading as cancer, through out the whole society. In the past period, the NGO sector mostly focused exactly on the second issue. The corruption was often the subject of discussions, analyses but also it was the subject of affirmative action of NGO activists. But, the results missed out. The level of corruption was not reduced. As a result, the scars remained on the institutions which are the subject of critics, as on the NGO sector, itself. The collision is deep and long lasting. It is hard to expect, that unchanged structures in power, will process the internal changes within the institutions. It is equally hard to imagine the sense of NGO functioning without, criticism of institutional praxis.

Still, the inevitable consequence is politicizing of NGO sector. It seems, that every action with sense, directed on certain change, ends up in the political field, i.e. it looks like that with no political changes it is not possible to expect structural changes. In other words, NGO sector necessarily acts critically, and the critics it self is directed toward the governance and political actors. In this way, considering the absence of constructive and strong political opposition, NGO sector becomes a strong opposition to the structures in power. The voices of NGO activists are numerous, well funded in evidences, ideologically uncontested and in the final outcome they are efficient.

Therefore, the fact which marked the period between two researches is that the front was opened with NGO's on one side and Government on the other. This conflict is reflected positively, in one part of public, while in the other it reflects negatively. Precisely, in political and divided kind of society, the Government opponents will evaluate positively every critic aimed at Government, even though the critic comes from NGO sector. On the other side there are the supporters of the structures in power, which condemn such behavior of NGO sector.

The context in which was performed this research, exactly fits into this description. I.e. the front opened between NGO sector and Government produced the effect of division in Montenegrin public. Consecutively, NGO sector became the integral part of the overall

political debates happening during nightfall of the final shaping of the neo-liberal society. NGO sector acts as left winged structure, while there is obvious lack of parties which would represent left wing political ideology. This way of NGO activism, suits the part of population which is not connected to the power structures, or the ones who have direct benefit from consecutive fulfillment of the neo-liberal pattern. There are quite many people fitting into this group. The long lasting structures in power, in condition when the overall voting population is 'small', managed to 'get into' its structure remarkable number of individuals and groups who base its functioning upon the structures in power. After acting with the Government, as the opposition to nationalistic ideology of '90, NGO sector in this phase of acting puts itself in the service of left winged ideas. It defends the interests of all the citizens, but consecutively it goes into open conflict with a very strong and consolidated opponent, reflected into rule of politics and oligarchic structures which go along with it.

SAMPLE AND STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH

The sample that was used in this research represents twofold stratified multi-level sample with random selection of examinees in the final units applied. The number of final census circles fluctuated between 4 and 8 depending from complexity and total structure of final units applied. As corrective factor were used easy ponders after finishing research on the field (post-stratification sample weights), in order to get full complementary based on gender, national structure, and age.

The research included 974 examinees, were 48,1% were male, and 51,9 female. Therefore, the gender balance is in accordance with the distribution on the level of the overall population. The structure of sample by age is in accordance with the characteristics of population, i.e. in this research 33,7% of examinees were old between 18-34 years, 37,3% were between 35-54 years old, and also 29,0% of examinees were older than 55 years. National structure: 45,9% Montenegrins, 33,5% Serbs, 4,2% Bosnians, 5,0% Albanians, 6,7% Muslims and 4,1 of the representatives of other national groups. The sample covered 31,5% of examinees from the north region, 46,1 from the central, and 22,3% from the south region. All the categories of examinees mentioned, are correspondent with the characteristics of population and the standard statistical error of sample is within the range of +-1.

According to the structure, the research and therefore this report, consists of several parts. Beside the set of independent variables, on which we already gave certain basic information, this research consists out of following parts:

1. Citizens awareness concerning NGO activities
2. Trust in NGO's
3. Attitudes concerning the character, potential, place and role of NGO's
4. NGO's acting (political background and priorities)
5. NGO's influence

As in the research which was conducted last year, based on all the items used, we created a specific NGO INDEX, which in a summarizing way measures NGO activism, influence and

the attitudes toward NGO's. This INDEX is useful for the summarizing overview by social categories of citizens, but it is especially useful for measurement from the trend point of view. In other words, it is possible to compare through the period of time, the values of INDEX and by doing that we can access the influence, place and the role of NGO sector in Montenegrin social life.

RESEARCH RESULTS

1. *Citizens awareness concerning NGO activities*

Citizen's awareness concerning NGO activities was measured by the simple question: *How do you evaluate your awareness concerning NGO activities?* We had the same question in the previous research and here is the comparative illustration of the distribution of answers:

Table 1. Awareness concerning NGO activities

CATEGORIES OF AWARENESS:	DAMAR 2006 %	CEDEM 2007 %	CEDEM 2008 %
Informed (completely, very good and good informed)	19.1	25.5	28,2
Partially	41.7	38.1	38,4
Not enough informed	20.2	20.6	18,6
Uninformed	13.9	10.6	8,9
Not able to evaluate	5.1	5.2	5,5

Based on the first indicator, we could state that **comparatively there could be seen a mild increasing in the sense of citizens awareness about he NGO work** (table 1). As far as, the awareness of different social categories of citizens is concerned (table 1.2) we can conclude:

- When talking about gender differences, unlike the last year research results, men are accessing better awareness about the NGO sector
- There are certain differences, by age of examinees, which unlike the last research are not statistically important.
- The higher level of education citizen has, the better awareness about the NGO activities there is. This is the identical finding as appeared in the research conducted a year ago.
- There are no regional differences when awareness is concerned.
- Even though, the data is showing that categories of examinees with higher material status are better informed, these differences are not statistically important.

Table 1.2: Awareness and social characteristics of examinees

		INFORMED	PARTIALY INFORMED	NOT ENOUGH INFORMED	UNINFORMED	NOT ABLE TO EVALUATE	χ^2
Gender	Male	33,3%	37,0%	16,2%	9,1%	4,3%	15,54** Df = 4
	Female	23,6%	40,0%	20,8%	9,0%	6,6%	
Age	from 18 to 29 years	30,7%	37,2%	21,4%	6,5%	4,2%	22,93 Df = 20
	from 30 to 39 years	24,7%	38,4%	17,2%	12,6%	7,1%	
	from 40 to 49 years	33,8%	37,9%	18,2%	4,5%	5,6%	
	from 50 to 59 years	29,7%	39,0%	16,3%	9,3%	5,8%	
	over 60 years	20,6%	40,6%	19,4%	13,1%	6,3%	
Education	Without and primary	23,9%	22,8%	22,8%	22,8%	7,6%	47,33** Df = 12
	Secondary	26,5%	39,4%	20,4%	8,2%	5,5%	
	Higher	30,9%	43,2%	11,5%	8,6%	5,8%	
	High	38,9%	39,8%	15,9%	1,8%	3,5%	
Region	North	29,9%	35,4%	19,2%	9,7%	5,8%	7,01 Df = 8
	Central	27,8%	38,6%	17,7%	9,6%	6,3%	
	South	27,3%	43,1%	19,9%	6,0%	3,7%	
Material status	Low	25,3%	37,6%	17,4%	10,1%	9,6%	14,80 Df = 8
	Middle	25,6%	42,2%	18,5%	9,1%	4,6%	
	High	33,0%	34,5%	19,7%	8,0%	4,8%	

* Statistically important: $p < 0,05$

** Statistically important: $p < 0,01$

2. Trust in NGO

The level of confidence was measured by simple four level ordinary scales in the same way it was done in 2006 and 2007. The question was: *How would you evaluate your confidence in Non-Governmental Organizations?*

Table 2. Trust in NGO

LEVEL OF TRUST	DAMAR 2006 %	CEDEM 2007 %	CEDEM 2008 %
High	3.6	8.1	7,6
Medium	32.8	34.1	32,5

Small	19.8	25.3	26,0
No trust	14.4	15.7	12,6
Un determined	29.4	16.8	20,5

The data obtained, illustrate (table 2) that the trust in NGO's is **on the level of the research which was performed in 2007**. The differences are not significant, even though the trust demonstrated by those data is lesser. It probably means that we are having the variation within the standard weighing error, rather than the decrease of trust. Still, the key difference, which has to be identified, is the **comparative raising of the citizens who do not have opinion on this specific issue (1/5 of citizens)**. This number is still smaller compared to the year of 2006. If we compare the level of trust within different social categories of examinees (table 2.2) we can conclude:

- Gender differences are significant, but this is the case because the most women in the research do not have opinion on this specific issue.
- There are no differences by the age. This is the huge difference in comparison to the previous research.
- The differences in education exist, and it could be more or less said, that the connection is the linear one. I.e. the grader education examinee has the higher level of trust expresses.
- There are no differences, in the sense of the region, the citizens live in. This is also different data, when comparing to the last year research.
- The higher material status one has, the grater level of confidence expresses. This data, is a very indicative one, and completely different than the one obtained in the research in the previous cycles.
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Table 2.2: Awareness and social characteristics of examinees

		HIGH	MEDIUM	SMALL	NO TRUST	UN DETERMINED	χ^2
Gender	Male	7,8%	35,2%	27,0%	15,7%	14,3%	24,09** Df = 4
	Female	7,6%	30,4%	25,4%	10,3%	26,4%	
Age	from 18 to 29 years	7,6%	34,6%	21,8%	11,4%	24,6%	8,78 Df = 16
	from 30 to 39 years	8,1%	30,5%	27,9%	12,2%	21,3%	
	from 40 to 49 years	6,1%	37,6%	24,4%	13,2%	18,8%	
	from 50 to 59 years	8,1%	32,0%	27,9%	13,4%	18,6%	
	over 60 years	6,9%	29,9%	29,3%	13,2%	20,7%	
Education	Without and primary	5,4%	20,7%	35,9%	13,0%	25,0%	24,00* Df = 12
	Secondary	7,0%	32,8%	24,6%	14,8%	20,8%	
	Higher	10,8%	36,0%	24,5%	7,9%	20,9%	
	High	7,9%	39,5%	30,7%	7,0%	14,9%	
Region	North	9,8%	32,9%	22,5%	13,7%	21,2%	7,98 Df = 8
	Central	7,4%	33,4%	26,2%	12,6%	20,3%	

	South	5,5%	31,2%	31,7%	11,5%	20,2%	
Material status	Low	5,6%	31,6%	20,9%	13,6%	28,2%	33,15** Df = 8
	Middle	5,8%	31,1%	31,1%	15,7%	16,4%	
	High	11,1%	35,1%	22,9%	8,9%	22,0%	

- statistically important: $p < 0,05$ ** statistically important: $p < 0,01$

3. The attitudes toward character, potential, place and the role of NGO's

The integral part of research was to determine attitudes toward non governmental organizations within some key segments treated by public opinion. The network of items used is identical to the one in the previous research, therefore it is possible to compare the data obtained (table 3).

Table 3: Attitudes toward NGO's

ATTITUDE	AGREES %			DISAGREES %			NO OPINION %		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
NGO's in Montenegro are non profit and non party orientated.	36.2	40.8	33,8	28.2	36.5	43,3	35.6	22.6	22,9
NGO's are a good opportunity for the citizens to organize them selves, and in that way to solve important social issues.	59.2	59.6	58,6	14.3	26.6	26,6	26.5	13.8	14,8
NGO's work should be banned, because they serve to the interests of foreign countries.	20.6	15.3	14,6	54.0	62.9	63,4	25.4	21.7	22,0
Without NGO's, syndicates and independent media it is not possible to limit and control the Government.	57.6	55.3	56,1	18.3	26.5	25,5	24.1	18.2	18,4
NGO's make it possible for many capable individuals, who are not politically engaged to act, and to give opinion in public.	68.1	62.5	61,9	10.4	19.6	20,1	21.5	17.9	18,0
Political parties and their leaders do not care about NGO's opinion on certain social issues.	61.0	54.9	60,2	11.1	23.0	19,0	27.8	22.1	20,8
Most NGO's represent an instrument for the capable individuals to get money and influence.	66.7	45.5	49,9	13.7	32.7	27,9	19.6	21.9	22,2

- First attitude: *NGO's in Montenegro are non profit and non party orientated*, we could note that significantly smaller number of citizens expressed agreement with this sentence, or to be more precise , the number of citizens who disagree with it, has increased. Comparatively, the number of citizens who disagree with this attitude is even less that it was the case in 2006. Therefore, when this indicator is concerned, the

negative trend could be identified. The reasons for this are probably laying within the fact, that the year of 2007 was marked by the permanent conflicts between the most important NGO's and the structures in power. Most likely, this conflict reflected as a political – party kind of conflict, when speaking about the perception of the citizens themselves.

- The second attitude says: *NGO's are a good opportunity for the citizens to organize them selves, and in that way to solve important social issues.* Almost identical number of citizens expressed agreement with this sentence, as in the previous research.
- The third attitude: *NGO's work should be banned, because they serve to the interests of foreign countries.* As in the previous case, all the values are on the level of the last year research.
- The fourth attitude says: *Without NGO's, syndicates and independent media it is not possible to limit and control the Government.* The data obtained are indicating that the attitude has not changed concerning this issue.
- The fifth attitude: *NGO's make it possible for many capable individuals, who are not politically engaged to act, and to give opinion in public.* Both agreement and disagreement, is in accordance with the previous research conducted in 2007.
- The sixth attitude: *Political parties and their leaders do not care about NGO's opinion on certain social issues.* We have identified certain changes, regarding this position, too. I.e. comparatively we identified grater number of citizens who agree with this attitude. This finding is again, very likely the product of the overall conflicts which occurred during the last year on the relation political structures – NGO's.
- The last attitude in this set of items is: *Most NGO's represent an instrument for the capable individuals to get money and influence.* Compared to the previous research, more citizens agree with this statement. The reason for this is probably, that a few individuals thanks to the previous work in NGO sector acquired significant popularity and influence.

Therefore, the most findings, when the attitudes are concerned are on the level of 2007. The differences happened within the attitudes which reflect public opinion in the sense of the overall dynamics of relations between political structures and NGO sector.

As it was the case in the previous research, we formed a scale which measures **the attitude toward NGO's**. Just to remind, the scale consists out of the following claims:

- NGO's in Montenegro are non profit and non party orientated.
- NGO's are a good opportunity for the citizens to organize them selves, and in that way to solve important social issues.
- Without NGO's, syndicates and independent media, it is not possible to limit and control the Government.
- NGO's make it possible for many capable individuals, who are not politically engaged to act, and to express their opinion in public.

First of all, here are the averages by items (table 4), which were formed by using the four level ordinary scale, therefore, the higher value of average means the grater level of citizens who agree with the certain claim.

Table 4: Attitudes concerning NGO – averages by items

	N	A.S.	S.D.
NGO's in Montenegro are non profit and non party orientated.	752	2,32	.952
NGO's are a good opportunity for the citizens to organize them selves, and in that way to solve important social issues.	831	2,80	.882
Without NGO's, syndicates and independent media, it is not possible to limit and control the Government	795	2,87	.959
NGO's make it possible for many capable individuals, who are not politically engaged to act, and to express their opinion in public.	799	2,95	.842

These four items, are measuring in a summary and reliable way, **the overall attitude toward nongovernmental organizations**, by the same way we have done in the previous research. Just to make sure, we questioned the rigidity of attitudes structure (table 5), so, there is no doubt that we can, with the grate certainty, talk about the one single integral attitude which is the subject of our measurement.

Table 5: Correlation matrix of attitudes toward NGO's

	NGO's in Montenegro are non profit and non party orientated.	NGO's are a good opportunity for the citizens to organize them selves, and in that way to solve important social issues.	Without NGO's, syndicates and independent media, it is not possible to limit and control the Government	NGO's make it possible for many capable individuals, who are not politically engaged to act, and to express their opinion in public.
NGO's in Montenegro are non profit and non party orientated.	1.000	.472	.290	.334

NGO's are a good opportunity for the citizens to organize them selves, and in that way to solve important social issues.		1.000	.459	.495
Without NGO's, syndicates and independent media, it is not possible to limit and control the Government			1.000	.483
NGO's make it possible for many capable individuals, who are not politically engaged to act, and to express their opinion in public.				1.000

Cronbach's Alpha = 0,74

Further on, the scale was formed as average of all the four items which is consisted of. In other words, every examinee got its score on the basis of his/hers response on all four items in the scale. Table 6 illustrates the distribution of scores on scale of attitude toward NGO's.

Table 6: Distribution of values on the scale: ATTITUDE toward NGO's

	2007 %	2008%
1.00	3.8	4,3
1.25	.4	1,0
1.33	.3	,6
1.50	1.2	1,5
1.67	1.5	1,6
1.75	2.5	2,1
2.00	11.2	11,8
2.25	5.4	5,4
2.33	2.7	2,1
2.50	8.2	8,1
2.67	3.1	2,8
2.75	9.2	10,5
3.00	21.2	21,0
3.25	5.9	7,4
3.33	3.5	2,2

	3.50	6.9	6,6
	3.67	1.4	1,5
	3.75	4.5	3,7
	4.00	7.0	5,8
	Total	100.0	100.0

Further on, in table 7 were given the basic statistical characteristics in scale of attitude toward NGO's. The data was given in a comparative way for the years 2007 and 2008. This data **gives confirmation to our finding that the attitude toward NGO's is dominantly positive**. Still, the differences we identified are statistically important, and indicating toward negative trend ($t = 2,395$, $df = 904$, $p < 0,05$). Therefore, **in the past period happened a mild worsening of attitude toward NGO sector**. In other words, the latent, but some times the open conflict between the political structures and NGO sector, brought the relative worsening of the citizen's attitude toward NGO. What could be concluded, by looking at this finding? **Montenegrin society is still the political one, i.e. it is not independent**. Therefore, the conflict with some political structure, inevitably leads to the negative perception within the part of population which supports these structures, and of course this consecutively leads to more negative attitude toward NGO's.

Table 7 Basics characteristics of the scale: ATTITUDE toward NGO's

Statistics		2007	2008
Average		2.78	2,72
95% Interval of trust	From	2.73	2,67
	To	2.82	2,77
Median		3.00	2,75
Variance		0.53	0,54
Standard deviation		0.73	0,73
Minimum		1.00	1.00
Maximum		4.00	4.00
Range		3.00	3.00
Skewness		-0.39	-,41
Kurtosis		-0.19	-,20

Further on, by using the synthetic score on the scale of attitude toward NGO's we can weigh the differences, which exist from different socio – demographic categories population point of view. The data shown in the table 8 indicates the following conclusions:

- Contrary to the previous research, there are no gender differences between male and female part of population, when talking about the attitude toward NGO's.
- There are no statistically important differences in comparison with the previous research, concerning the age of examinees.

- Also, there are no statistical differences, when we talk about the education of examinees.
- The regional differences are significant in the sense that the most positive attitude toward NGO's is expressed by the population from the south, and the most negative in the central region.
- There are no statistically important differences in the sense of material status of examinees i.e. between those belonging to low, middle or upper class.

Table 8: Socio – demographic differences in attitude toward NGO's

		AVERAGE	F TEST
Gender	Male	2,70	1,61 Df = 1
	Female	2,75	
Age	from 18 to 29 years	2,69	2,00 Df = 4
	from 30 do 39 years	2,66	
	from 40 do 49 years	2,68	
	from 50 do 59 years	2,86	
	over 60 years	2,71	
Education	Without educ. and Primary	2,74	0,44 Df = 3
	Secondary	2,70	
	Higher	2,78	
	High	2,71	
Region	North	2,74	8,05** Df = 2
	Central	2,70	
	South	2,78	
Material status	Lower	2,72	0,02 Df = 2
	Middle	2,71	
	High	2,72	

** statistically important: $p < 0,01$

4. Influence that NGO's make (political background and priorities of acting)

In this part of the research we used two questions, which are different by its nature, but which put light on several important aspects of attitudes in public opinion. The first one in set, was: *NGO's serve to achieve interests of which groups?*

Table 9: Whose interests realize NGO's?

STAV	DAMAR 2006 %	CEDEM 2007 %	CEDEM 2008 %
Montenegrin citizens and common good	26.0	33.3	31,8
NGO leaders	16.8	15.8	16,6
The Government	8.6	7.6	10,0

Political parties	6.8	7.5	9,4
Foreign countries	4.4	5.3	5,3
Can't tell	37.4	30.6	26,9

Table 9.2: Attitudes on interests NGO's fulfill, and the social characteristics of examinees

SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES OF EXAMINEES		NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE THERE TO ACHIEVE THE INTERESTS OF %						
		1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	χ^2
Gender	Male	33,0%	20,5%	12,3%	8,6%	5,0%	20,7%	27,33** Df = 5
	Female	30,7%	13,0%	7,6%	10,4%	5,8%	32,5%	
Age	from 18 to 29 years	31,0%	17,6%	8,8%	7,9%	4,2%	30,6%	29,10 Df = 20
	from 30 to 39 years	36,4%	15,7%	8,1%	7,1%	6,1%	26,8%	
	from 40 to 49 years	32,0%	20,0%	12,0%	5,5%	5,5%	25,0%	
	from 50 to 59 years	29,8%	14,6%	9,4%	9,9%	5,8%	30,4%	
	over 60 years	29,3%	12,6%	12,6%	17,2%	5,2%	23,0%	
Education	Without education and primary	20,4%	16,1%	18,3%	12,9%	2,2%	30,1%	28,21* Df = 20
	Middle	32,7%	15,0%	10,3%	9,3%	5,5%	27,2%	
	Higher	34,5%	17,3%	6,5%	9,4%	5,8%	26,6%	
	High	33,3%	26,3%	6,1%	7,0%	7,0%	20,2%	
Region	North	27,8%	16,3%	12,7%	8,8%	6,2%	28,1%	48,18** Df = 10
	Central	26,7%	19,6%	11,4%	10,0%	6,0%	26,3%	
	South	48,2%	10,6%	3,2%	8,7%	2,8%	26,6%	
Material status	Low	27,7%	14,1%	15,8%	10,7%	5,1%	26,6%	18,47* Df = 10
	Middle	31,4%	15,9%	11,4%	9,8%	5,5%	26,1%	
	High	34,3%	18,4%	5,4%	8,5%	5,4%	28,0%	

- **statistically important: $p < 0,05$; ** statistically important: $p < 0,01$** Legend: 1*/ Montenegrin citizens and common good; 2*/ NGO leaders; 3*/ Government; 4*/ Political parties; 5*/ Foreign states; 6*/ Can't tell

Even though the differences are not significant (table 9), we can still see that compared to the last year research **more citizens stress, that NGO's are there to fulfil the interests of certain political parties, while the smaller number of citizens think that NGO's serve to interests of all citizens and to common good.**

Analytically looking by categories, we can conclude the following (table 9.2):

- Between men and women there are statistically important differences
- Differences by the age of examinees, are not statistically important

- The differences by educational background, are important
- Regional differences, by this question exist also
- When material status of examinees is concerned, there are differences among citizens in the sense of attitude: whose interests realize NGO's?

The second question in this set was: *In what area of every day life is NGO engagement most needed?* The data is comparative to the one in previous research and they are demonstrating that **there are no significant differences in comparison to the last year scoop.**

Table 10 Areas of NGO influence

AREAS OF INFLUENCE /PRIORITIES RANK	DAMAR 2006 %	CEDEM 2007 %	CEDEM 2008 %
1. Combat against corruption	22.0	23.3	27,8
2. Human rights	18.1	21.8	17,6
3. Social care and humanitarian work	13.4	10.9	11,4
4. Monitoring of Government and local municipalities work	10.9	12.7	10,4
5. Combat against drugs and alcoholism	10.0	12.4	11,3
6. Something else (other specified areas)	7.4	2.4	3,8
7. Ecology	6.4	4.5	3,6
8. Women rights	3.6	5.4	2,9
9. Traffic safety	2.5	2.3	5,2
10. Education	1.7	0.8	1,3
11. Customer protection	1.6	0.6	1,2
12. Culture and art	1.1	1.5	1,5
13. Private property protection	0.7	0.6	,7
14. Animal protection	0.7	0.6	1,3

The data are indicating (table 10) that all the findings are in accordance with the last year research. The most significant difference is that the number of citizens, who think that NGO's must deal with the issue of corruption, has increased. Most likely, this is the reflex of the fact that more NGO's, in its acting, insisted on the issue of corruption, in the past period.

5. *The influence NGO's make*

The influence NGO's have in society was weighed by the two last questions in survey. The first one was: *What influence do NGO's have in solving the key social problems in Montenegro?* The data from the last and this year researches are given in the table 11:

Table 11: The influence NGO's make

ATTITUDE	DAMAR	CEDEM	CEDEM
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	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
High	4.8	7.2	5,1
Medium	15.2	18.8	18,5
A little	33.9	39.9	38,1
None	20.1	19.4	22,0
Can't tell	26.0	14.8	16,3

The data are indicating (table 11), that there could be seen a **mild negative trend considering smaller number of those who think that NGO's have significant influence**. However, in comparison to the previous research, the differences, still, are not stressed out. Looking from the stand point of deferent socio – demographic characteristics of examinees we can conclude:

- More women have opinion on this specific issue, compared to male part of population.
- There are no significant differences toward this attitude, within different age categories of citizens.
- Contrary to the last year research, the examinees with high education think that NGO's realize grater influence than the other categories
- Inhabitants of the northern regions, believe that NGO's make more significant influence, than the examinees from the south and central region
- The examinees with the low material status consider that NGO's have grater influence compared to the other categories of material status

Table 11.2 The influence that NGO's make and socio – demographic attributes

		BIG	MEDIUM	SMALL	NONE	CAN'T TELL	χ^2
Gender	Male	5,0%	20,1%	41,0%	25,3%	8,6%	39,55** Df = 4
	Female	5,0%	16,8%	35,8%	19,0%	23,4%	
Age	from 18 to 29 years	6,1%	17,3%	38,8%	18,7%	19,2%	15,13 Df = 16
	from 30 to 39 years	4,1%	23,9%	36,5%	18,3%	17,3%	
	from 40 to 49 years	4,5%	18,1%	39,7%	22,6%	15,1%	
	from 50 to 59 years	5,8%	18,6%	39,5%	23,8%	12,2%	
	over 60 years	3,4%	14,3%	37,7%	26,9%	17,7%	
Education	Without education and primary	4,3%	10,8%	35,5%	20,4%	29,0%	21,47* Df = 16
	Middle	4,8%	18,3%	37,8%	22,5%	16,6%	
	Higher	5,0%	23,7%	36,7%	21,6%	12,9%	
	High	7,9%	17,5%	43,0%	21,9%	9,6%	
Region	North	6,8%	19,8%	32,1%	24,0%	17,2%	41,28*

Material status	Central	5,6%	14,5%	40,8%	25,8%	13,4%	$Df = 8$
	South	1,8%	25,3%	40,6%	11,1%	21,2%	
	Low	5,1%	14,7%	37,3%	26,0%	16,9%	17,26* $Df = 8$
	Middle	2,9%	18,1%	38,5%	24,0%	16,3%	
	High	8,0%	20,7%	38,1%	17,6%	15,6%	

*statistically important: $p < 0,05$

** statistically important: $p < 0,01$

The second question which measures the influence NGO's make was: *Has any activity of NGO, or project, directly influenced you and your interests?* Therefore, this question directly refers on individual experience which citizens may had, when talking about NGO activities. Comparative data are given in the table 12.

Table 12: Direct influence of NGO's on individual

ATTITUDE	DAMAR 2006 %	CEDEM 2007 %	CEDEM 2008 %
Yes	10.8	15.3%	13%
No	75.5	68.8%	68,9
Don't know, cant tell	13.6	15.8%	18,2

The data (table 12) given above, is simple and with single meaning, **the number of citizens which were directly influenced by some NGO project, decreased from 15,3% to 13%**. This difference is not huge, but it's evident. By looking from the different socio – economic categories (table 12.2) point of view, we can conclude:

- There are no gender differences regarding direct NGO influence
- Also, the differences by age, are not statistically important
- NGO's have made stronger influence on individuals with higher and high educational background, that on those with primary or secondary education
- Regionally, the differences concerning this issued are not statistically important
- When the material status of examinees is concerned, the NGO work had more influenced individuals who belong into high and low category, than those belonging to middle class

Table 12.2: Direct influence NGO's make on individuals, by social attributes

		YES	NO	CAN'T TELL	χ^2
Gender	Male	13,1%	68,1%	18,8%	0,27 $Df = 2$
	Female	12,5%	69,7%	17,8%	
Age	from 18 to 29 years	10,9%	66,8%	22,3%	11,54 $Df = 8$
	from 30 to 39 years	14,4%	65,1%	20,5%	

	from 40 to 49 years	16,0%	67,0%	17,0%	
	from 50 to 59 years	9,9%	73,1%	17,0%	
	over 60 years	11,6%	75,6%	12,8%	
Education	Without education and primary	8,9%	68,9%	22,2%	17,33** Df = 6
	Middle	10,9%	69,8%	19,3%	
	Higher	16,9%	66,9%	16,2%	
	High	22,1%	67,3%	10,6%	
Region	North	11,1%	72,1%	16,7%	5,97 Df = 4
	Central	12,2%	69,3%	18,5%	
	South	17,1%	63,0%	19,9%	
Material status	Low	15,3%	67,6%	17,0%	13,76** Df = 4
	Middle	8,8%	73,4%	17,8%	
	High	16,9%	63,8%	19,2%	

****statistically important: $p < 0,01$**

THE FINAL INDICATORS

As in the last year research, we made the **INDEX of public opinion toward NGO sector**. This INDEX represents the final and summary indicator, which basically weights the **NGO activism through the public opinion perception**. Index was consisted out of four elements:

- Attitude toward NGO's (the scale formed on the basis of four above mentioned items)
- Citizens awareness concerning NGO work
- Influence that NGO's have
- Trust in NGO's

Therefore, by summarization of these four aspects, we got the single INDEX which weighs the overall perception of NGO's. As we previously mentioned, it consist of: attitudes toward NGO's, awareness concerning its work, trust in non governmental organizations and influence NGO's make. The consistency of INDEX was checked by intern correlations (table 13), we can see that it's a solid structure:

Table 13: The correlation matrix of items o NGO INDEX

	Being informed	Trust	Influence	Attitude	Cronbach's Alpha
Being informed	1.000	.396	.319	.240	0,723

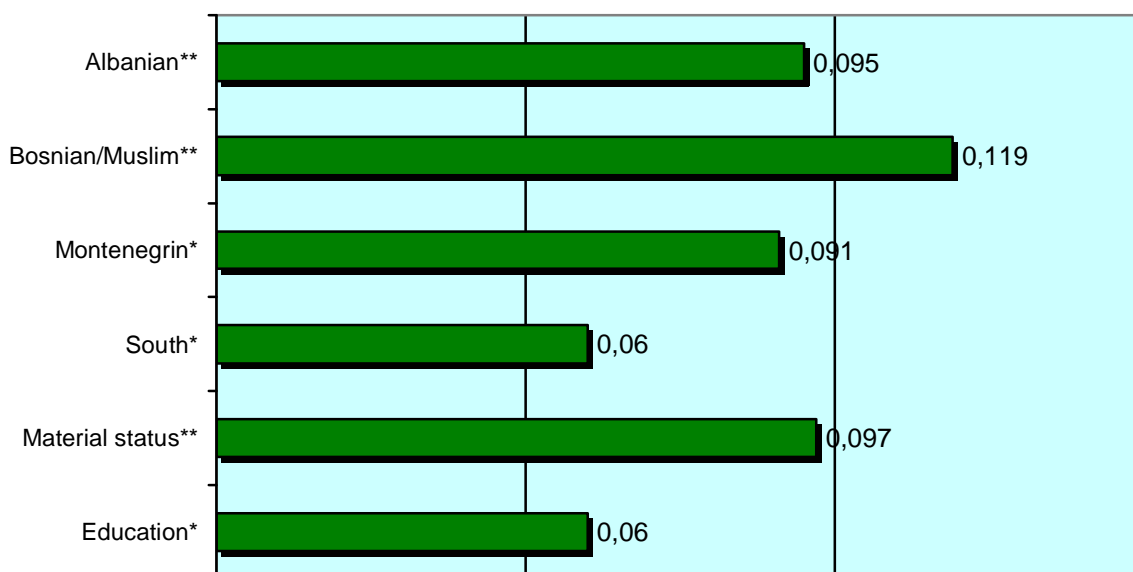
Trust		1.000	.519	.478
Influence			1.000	.407
Attitude			.	1.000

The score summarization was done by optimization of values in range between 10 to 100 in other words there are (theoretically minimum and maximum values). Score distribution could be seen on the graph, and the comparative characteristics of INDEX are in table 14. Compared to the last research, **the key finding is that the differences are not statistically important** ($t = 0.56$, $df = 963$, $p > 0.05$). Therefore, the difference in averages should be assigned to standard statistical weighing error, or in other words, **the value of INDEX in 2008 is on the level of those measured in 2007**. Even more, if we compare the values of median it could be seen that it is greater in the research performed in 2008.

Table 14: Basic statistical characteristics of NGO INDEX

Statistics	2007	2008
Average	57.46	57,17
95% Interval of trust		
FROM	56.48	56,18
TO	58.45	58,17
Median	57.36	58,33
Variance	256.84	249,00
Standard deviation	16.03	15,78
Minimum	16.67	16,67
Maximum	100.00	100,00
Range	83.33	83,33
Skewness	0.031	-,130
Kurtosis	0.093	,054

OLS: Predicators of NGO INDEX - Standardised Beta koeficients



** $p < 0,01$ * $p < 0,05$

B (Constant) = 54,26

F = 6,12 (df,6) $p < 0,01$

$R^2 = 0,19$

In the end, in the graph were given standard regression coefficients which represent predictors of NGO INDEX. The results are indicating the following:

- The greater level of education, the more possibility there is, that the INDEX values will be higher
- The higher material status one citizen possesses, the greater INDEX value will be
- The citizens who live in the south will have grater value of INDEX
- The ones nationally declaring as Montenegrins, have higher value of INDEX
- The ones nationally declaring as Muslims or Bosnians, have higher value of INDEX
- The ones nationally declaring as Albanians, have higher value of INDEX

INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION

Based on all the findings and identified trends, by summarizing all the information obtained, we can conclude:

- 1) There is positive trend, when awareness of citizens is concerned. I.e. **the number of people, who are well informed about the NGO work, has increased.** Consecutively, the number of those, who are not informed, is really small.
- 2) **There hasn't been any change concerning the trust in NGO sector, in the last period.** The differences which could be seen in data are not important, except for the one which indicates the number of citizens who did not have opinion on this issue, which has increased compared to the previous research.
- 3) By analyzing the attitudes in a synthetic way, the research has indicated that generally speaking, **the citizens have a little more negative attitude toward NGO's, than it was the case in 2007.** This is most likely, the reflex of more open political engagement of NGO sector, which directly influenced the ones close to the ideology in power in the sense of more negatively evaluating NGO sector
- 4) The dominant majority of citizens, still percept, **that NGO sector are there to serve to all citizens, and than to individuals from within NGO sector.** Than, citizens are emphasizing that NGO sector serves to Government and political parties.
- 5) Likewise, in the previous research, citizens think that NGO's must focus on the following areas of acting: **combat against corruption, human rights protection, government and local municipalities monitoring, combat against drug addiction and alcoholism, social care and humanitarian work.** It should be noted, in this sense, that **it has increased the number of those who think than NGO's should commit to combat against corruption and that decreased the number of citizens who think that NGO's should protect human rights.** This change is probably the reflex of the fact than NGO sector more significantly in praxis confronted corruption, in recent period.
- 6) The influence NGO's make, in citizens opinion, is not satisfactory, even more, Montenegrin public think that NGO influence is somewhat smaller, than it was the case in the previous period. Just by looking at this finding, we could not see anything wrong, but the problem occurs if we simply look at all the empirical statistics, which is totally opposite to this finding. Precisely, we know that NGO performed several successful and mass actions (hydro central on the river of Tara, paying bills for electric energy), which proves that NGO has significant influence. Considering, that it is almost impossible that the problem is not in insufficient awareness about these actions, it is rather the fact that a part of politically affected citizens percept these actions as specific 'attack on ruling political establishment', and for that reason they evaluated very negatively the work of NGO's. This data is indicating the simple fact. **In the society of political kind, every activity has its political consequences.**
- 7) Compared to the previous research, **somewhat decreased the number of citizens who are directly influenced by NGO work.** The difference is not significant, but it is evident. This data is negative, simply because this is very important indicator from the long lasting NGO operating point of view. If there is less citizens who are directly influenced by NGO work, that means that NGO sector is getting further away from citizens and beginning to follow some other and different 'non civic' interests.

- 8) By summarizing, based on perception INDEX, we can state that the INDEX **values are in the level of research which was performed last year**, or to be more precise, all the changes we identified in research are not significant, and therefore the overall perception of NGO sector within society is more or less the same as last years.
- 9) In search for the factors in multi – variant space, we identified a few predictors of NGO INDEX, based of perception, those are: **education, material status, region and nationality**. Therefore, we have the factors which positively influence the overall perception of NGO sector in global.
- 10) **NGO criticizing directed toward the Government and institutional structures representing it has its positive and negative characteristics**. The positive ones, reflect in the fact that it seems like this is the only efficient way of combating pathological phenomena in society, with impotent opposition political party block, and the negative is that the part of public which supports the structure in power, negatively percept this way acting.

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