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**PARTNERS**ALBANIA  
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**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE**  
FOR **CIVIL SOCIETY** IN **ALBANIA**

# CAPACITY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN ALBANIA

## Assessment Report





# CAPACITY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN ALBANIA

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Partners Albania and National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania would like to extend its appreciation to all civil society organisations part of this assessment for their collaboration.



# INTRODUCTION

This assessment was conducted by the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania, a platform for civil society at the national and local level, in support of strengthening its capacities, promoting and facilitating dialogue in policy-making, and advocacy efforts for an enabling environment.

The Centre is an initiative of Partners Albania for Change and Development, launched in 2019, implemented in partnership with the Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) and the European Movement in Albania (EMA), with the support of the European Union.

The assessment aims to identify the current capacity development needs of organizations in key aspects of the growth and operations of civil society organizations. The identified needs will serve as a basis for the development of future capacity-building programs by the National Resource Center, supporting the civil society sector. The findings of the assessment can also be used by organisations, donors and other institutions working in support of civil society organisations and further development of the sector in the country.

For the preparation of this report, the National Resource Center conducted an online survey using a semi-structured questionnaire, distributed to and completed by civil society organisations (CSOs) between December 2024 - January 2025. The questionnaire was structured into six sections, collecting data and identifying needs in the following areas: organisational governance, development, and management, (2) participation in policy-making and the involvement of organisations in advocacy initiatives, (3) the participation of organisations in European integration processes, (4) CSOs transparency with the public (5) communication and collaboration between CSOs and the media and (6) collaboration with the private sector. A total of 110 nonprofit organisations (NPOs), networks, and informal groups from all twelve regions of the country participated in this survey by completing the online questionnaire and expressing their opinions.

## *Limitations of the assessment*

During the development of this report, both in data collection and in writing the assessment report, the main limitations were: (1) the number of organisations included, which, although relatively low compared to the total number of registered organisations (2000+ NPOs registered with the General Directorate of Taxes), is a representative study sample as it includes the majority of active organisations in the country; (2) the high participation of organisations from the capital, at a rate of 55%, which may influence the results by steering them more towards the issues and priorities of urban centres compared to rural or less-represented regions. To minimize this impact, a comparative analysis was conducted based on the location of the responding CSOs across most measured indicators; (3) self-reported data from CSOs, as the capacity assessment was based on information collected through an online survey completed by CSO representatives and their self-declaration on all issues. In this circumstances, self-reported data are limited by the fact that they may be subjective and cannot be independently verified.





# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFD</b>	<b>French Development Agency</b>
<b>BE</b>	<b>CSOs Civil Society Organizations</b>
<b>GIZ</b>	<b>EU European Union</b>
<b>HELVETAS</b>	<b>GIZ German Society for International Cooperation</b>
<b>OJF</b>	<b>Helvetas Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation</b>
<b>OSHC</b>	<b>NPO Non-Profit Organization</b>
<b>SIDA</b>	<b>PA Partners Albania for Change and Development</b>
<b>TVSH</b>	<b>SIDA Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</b>
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	<b>UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>UNDP United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>UNFPA United Nations Population Fund</b>
<b>VAT</b>	<b>VAT Value Added Tax</b>



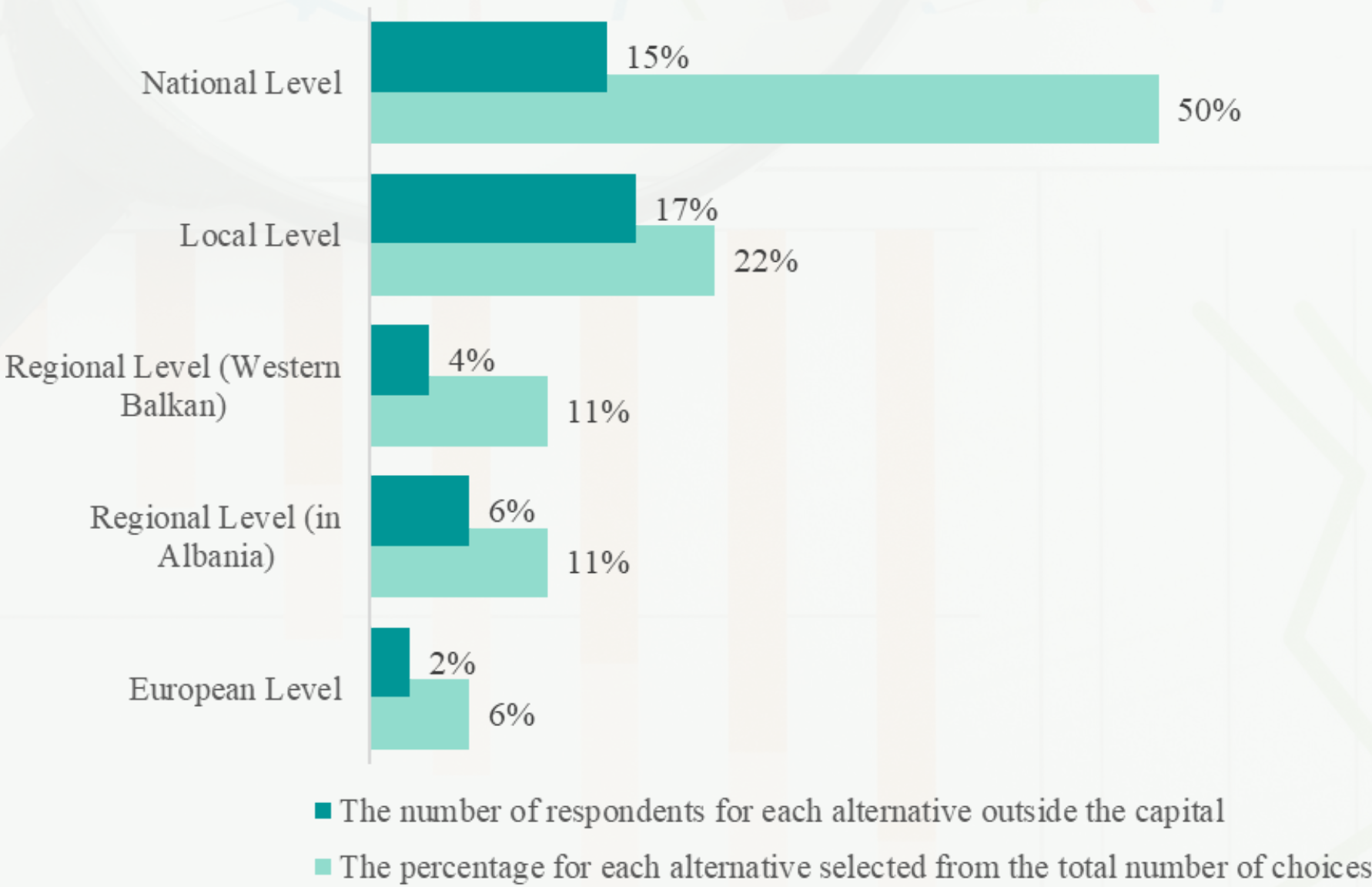
# GENERAL DATA ON CSOs PARTICIPANT IN THE ASSESSMENT

110 nonprofit organizations (NPOs), networks, and informal groups participated in this assessment

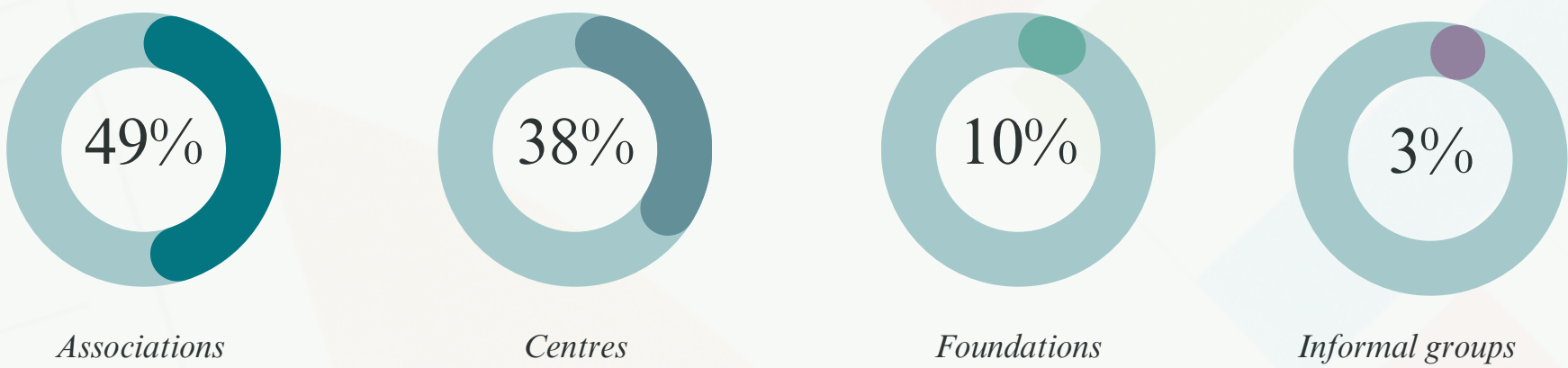
The assessment included organizations from various cities across the country, reflecting a broad geographical distribution such as in: Bulqiza, Fieri, Fushë-Arrëz, Lezha, Maliqi, Puka, Tropoja, Librazhdi, Lushnja, Rrësheni, Saranda, Korça, Berati, Gjirokastra, Përmeti, Durrësi, Shkodra, Elbasan, Vlora, and Tirana. Despite this geographical spread, around 55% of the responding CSOs are based in Tirana, where the national density of nonprofit organisations is also the highest.

The data indicate that CSOs operate at multiple geographical levels, with the national level being the most prevalent, followed by activity at the local level. This result is significantly influenced by the high number of Tirana-based CSOs participating in the assessment, as they primarily operate at the national level. When comparing data by the location of the organisations, it emerges that 77% of CSOs outside the capital primarily operate at the local level.

## Geographical area of CSO activity\*

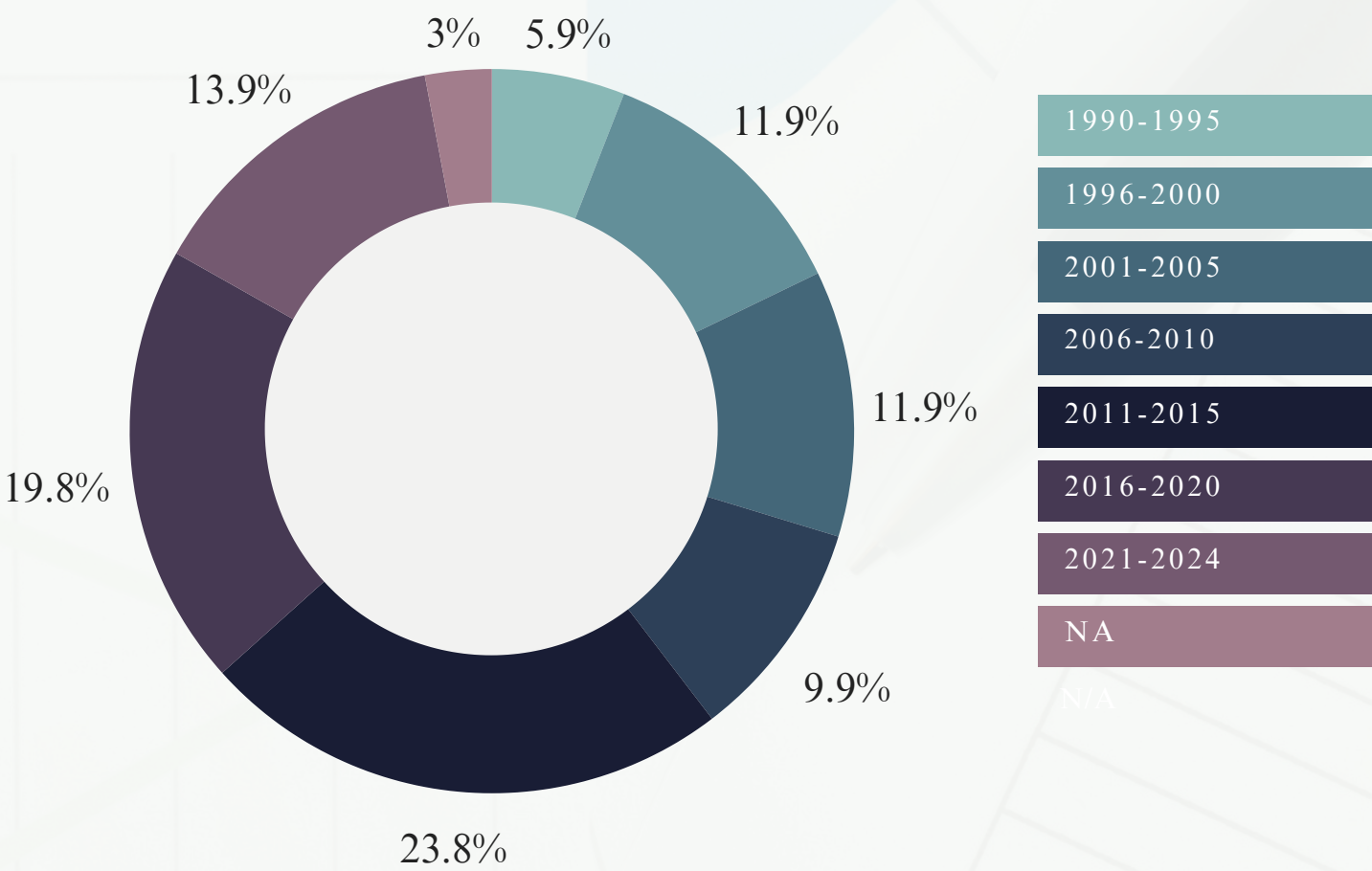


## Form of organisation of participating CSOs



Of the civil society organisations included in the assessment, 49% are registered as "associations," making this the most common legal form of organisation. Although informal groups are underrepresented in the sample of responding CSOs (only 3 organisations), they continue to be present as a form of organisation within civil society in the country. The informal groups included in the assessment are primarily found in large urban centers such as Tirana, Vlorë, and Shkodër, and operate at both the local and national levels. Their main fields of activity include civil society development and volunteering; youth and children; human rights; environmental protection; democracy, good governance, and rule of law; women's empowerment and gender issues; as well as culture and the arts.

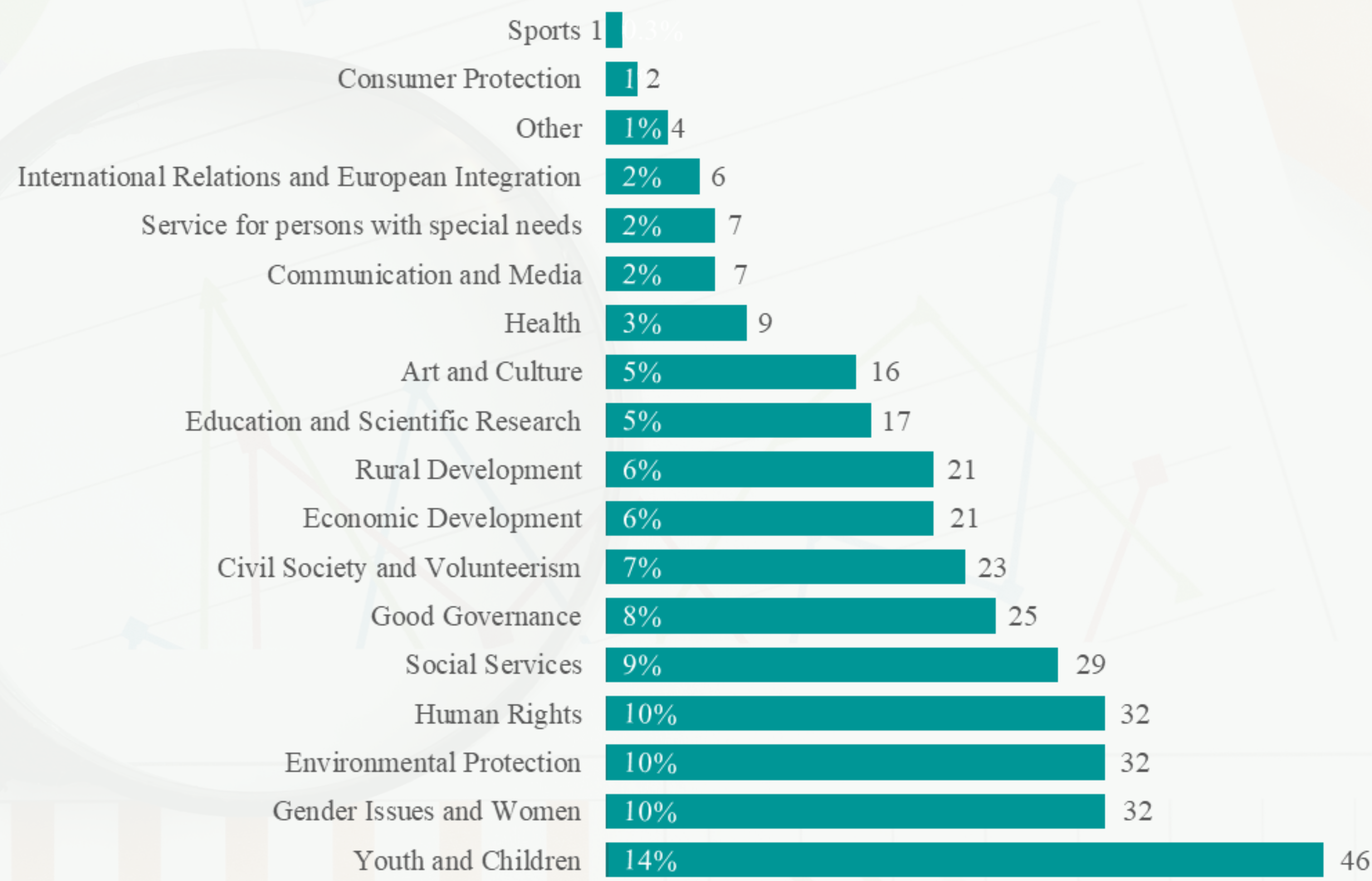
## Distribution of CSOs by year of establishment



The assessment reports over the years show a steady increase in the establishment and registration of CSOs, with the period 2011-2021 having the highest concentration of CSO registrations.



CSO's fields of activity\*



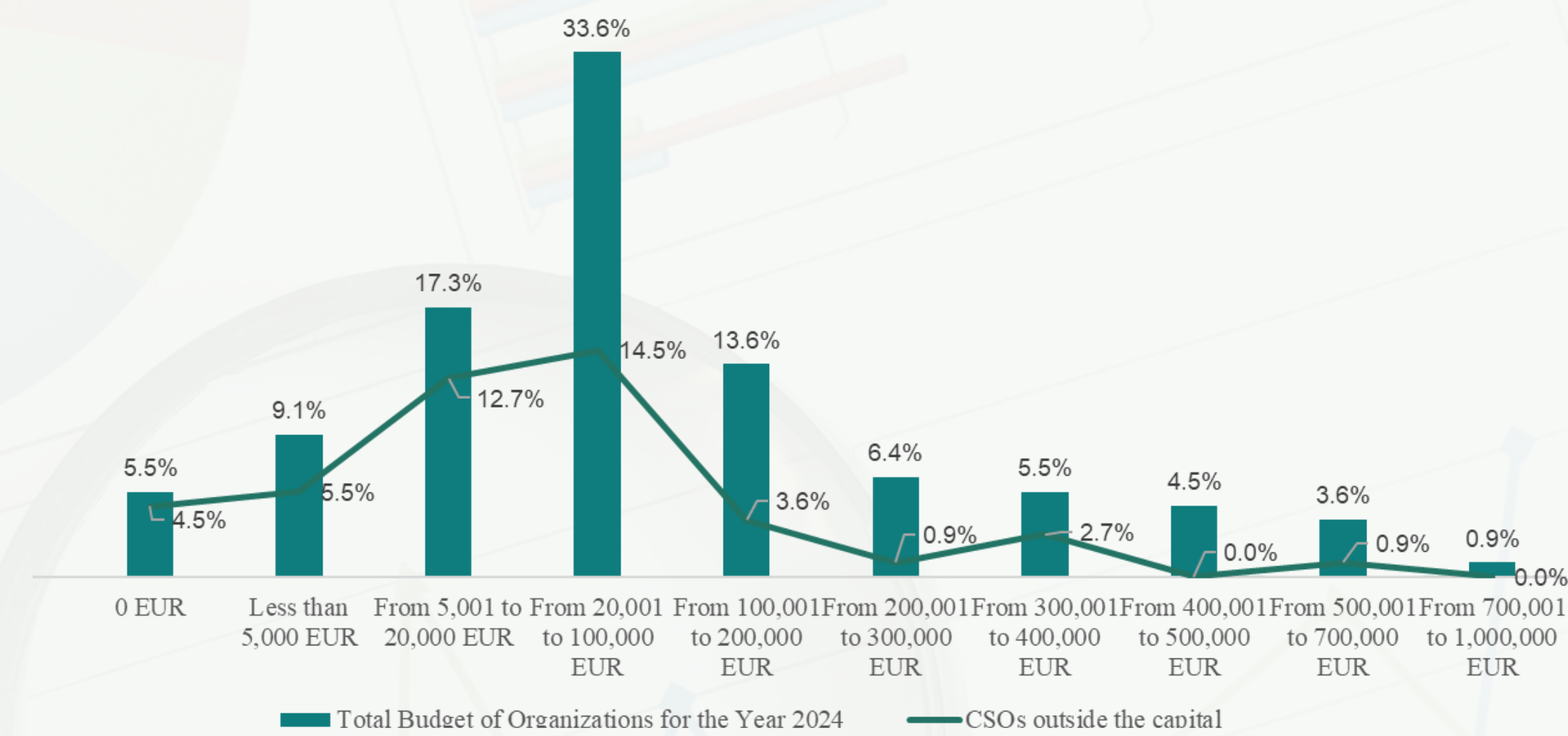
The majority of CSOs participating in the assessment primarily carry out their activities in the fields of youth and children, followed by women's empowerment and gender issues, environmental protection, and human rights. However, organisations continue to be engaged in a wide range of fields, including the provision of social services, education and research, democracy and rule of law, good governance, environmental protection, as well as international relations.





# GENERAL DATA ON CSOs PARTICIPANT IN THE ASSESSMENT

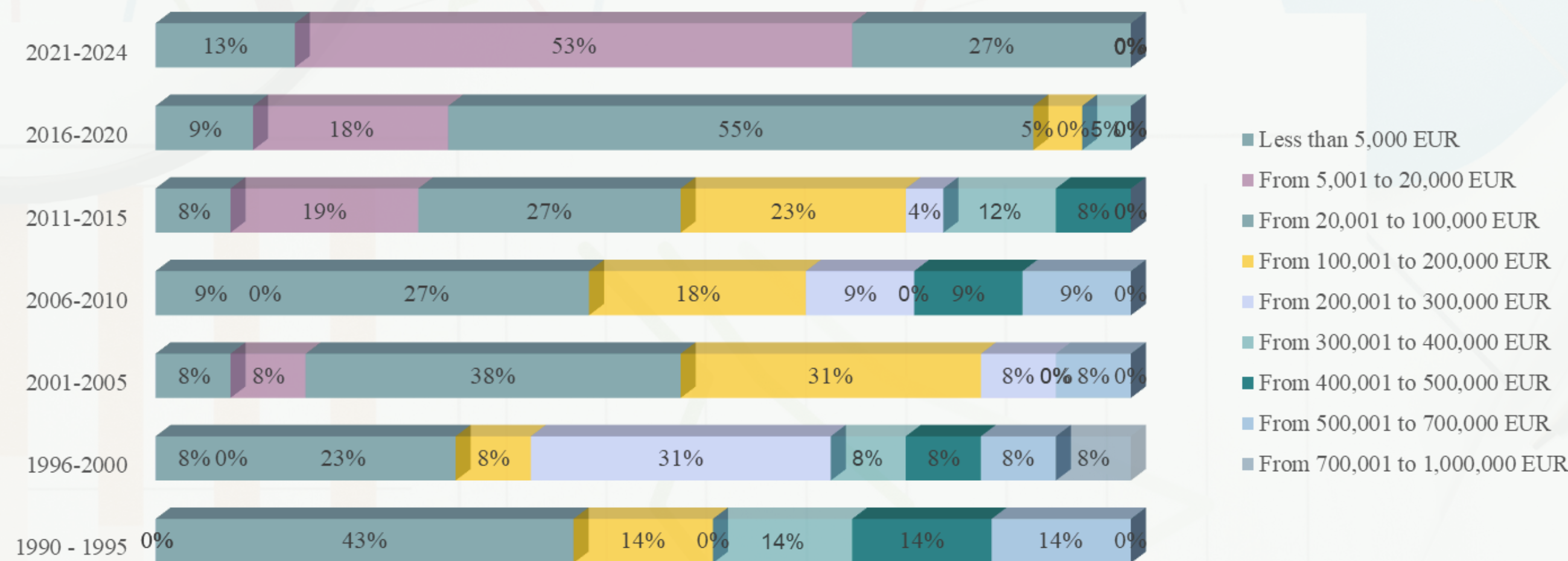
## CSOs Budget according to location



As in previous years, the data shows that the annual budget of CSOs varies from 0 to 1,000,000 EUR. The majority of CSOs participating in the assessment (34%) operate with budgets between 20,001 and 100,000 EUR, with 14.5% of respondents being CSOs based outside the capital. Additionally, 15% of participants report budgets ranging from 0 to 5,000 EUR, with a significant proportion (69%) of these CSOs located outside the capital.

On the other hand, 9% of the responding CSOs report budgets between 400,001 EUR and 1,000,000 EUR, of which 0.9% are located outside the capital.

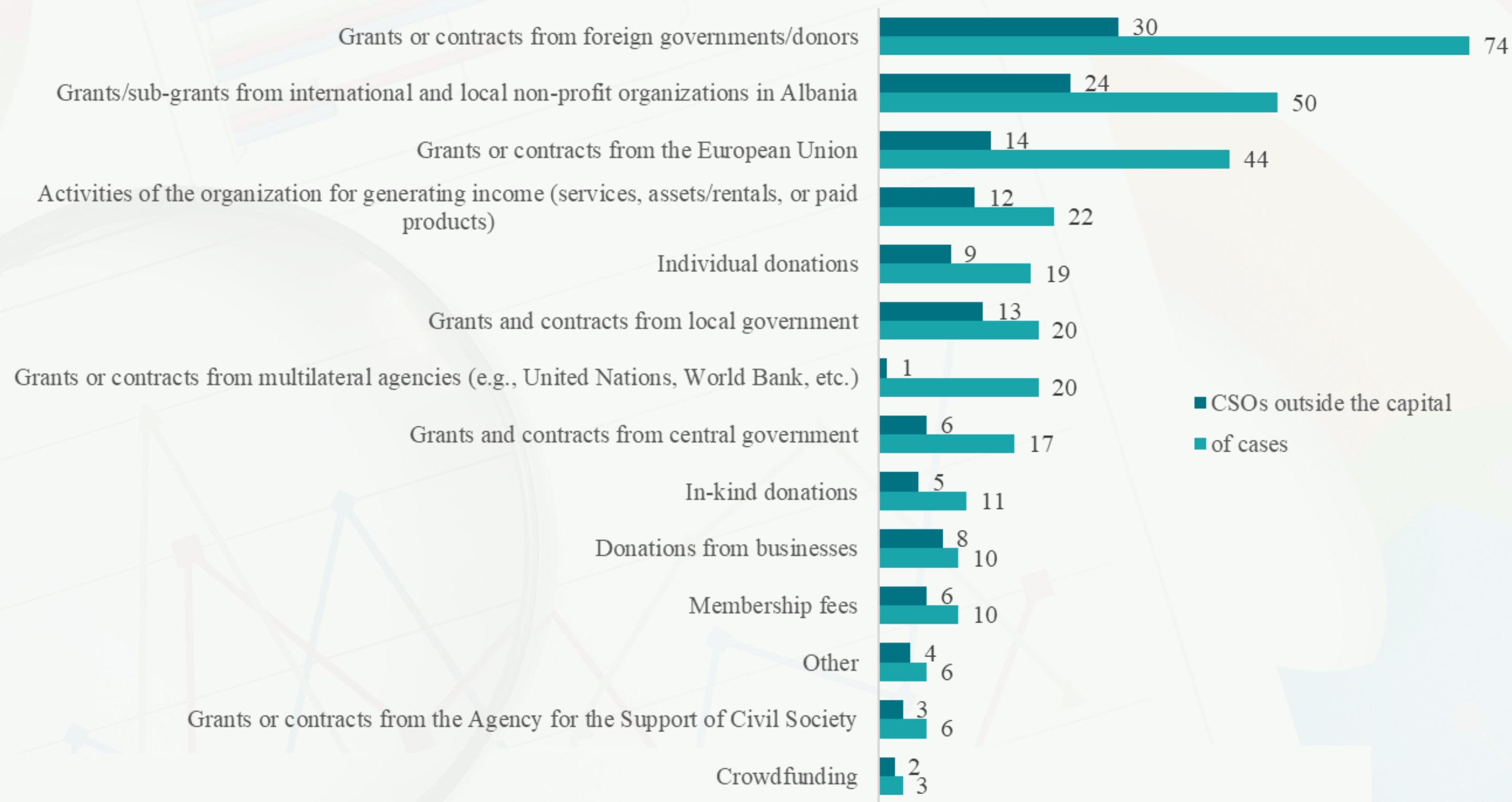
## CSOs Budget based on the year of establishment



If we compare CSOs budget levels according to their years of establishment, there is a distribution of budget levels across all age categories. However, it is notable that organisations established between 2011 and 2024 predominantly have a budget level below 20,000 EUR, compared to those established between 1995 and 2010.



Main Sources of Annual Income for the Organization for the Year 2024\*



Grants or contracts from foreign governments/ donors continue to be the primary source of reported income for participating 74 CSOs out of 110 participating in the assessment, followed by grants/ sub-grants from international and local nonprofit organisations in Albania (50 CSOs), and grants or contracts from the European Union (44). Among the foreign donors listed, in addition to the European Union, the most frequently mentioned are multilateral agencies and UN missions such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, as well as other international agencies like GIZ, Helvetas, AFD, SIDA, and others.

Meanwhile, grants and contracts from central and local government continue to remain low sources of income (17 and 20 ). The most frequently mentioned public institutions as funders are the National Youth Agency and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection at the central level, and the Municipality of Tirana at the local level.

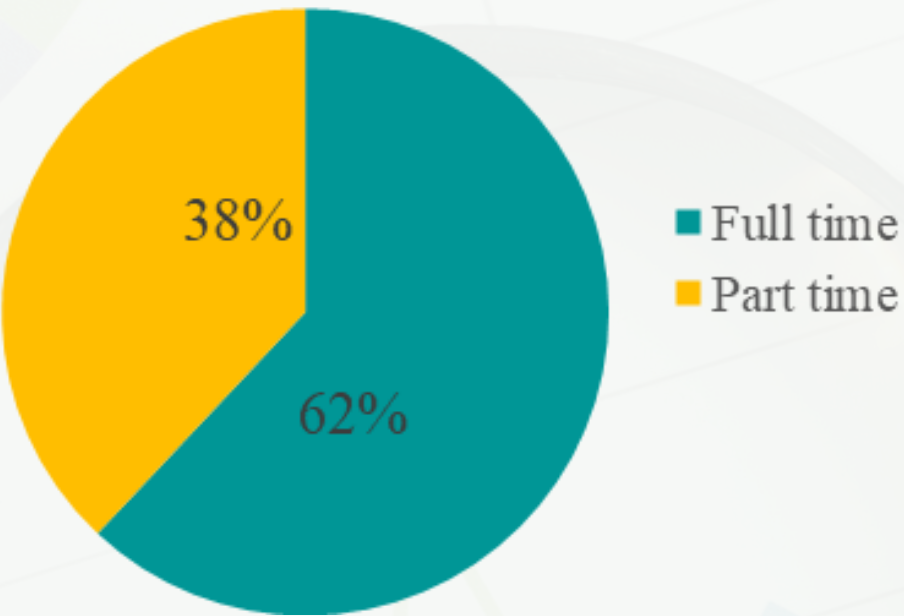
Grants and contracts from local government, although ranked in the same position as a funding source, have a slightly higher weight for CSOs based outside the capital. These represent over two-thirds of total funding for CSOs from local governments.



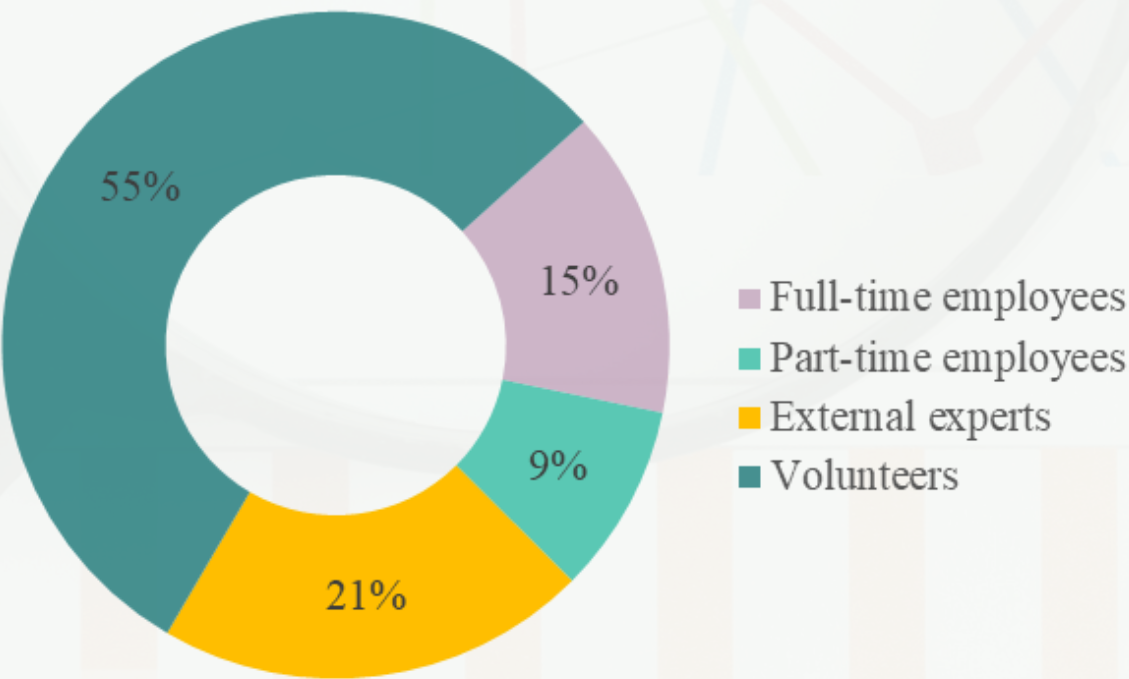
# GENERAL DATA ON CSOs PARTICIPANT IN THE ASSESSMENT

This year, full-time employment remains the most prevalent form of employment in the CSOs included in the assessment. Women and girls make up the majority of employees (69%), and in 55% of the participating CSOs they hold leadership positions.

## Employment in the sector during 2024



## Average Distribution of Human Resources Involved in 2024



In addition to employees, the majority of respondents declare that throughout 2024, they also engaged external experts and volunteers, respectively at rates of 82% and 80%.

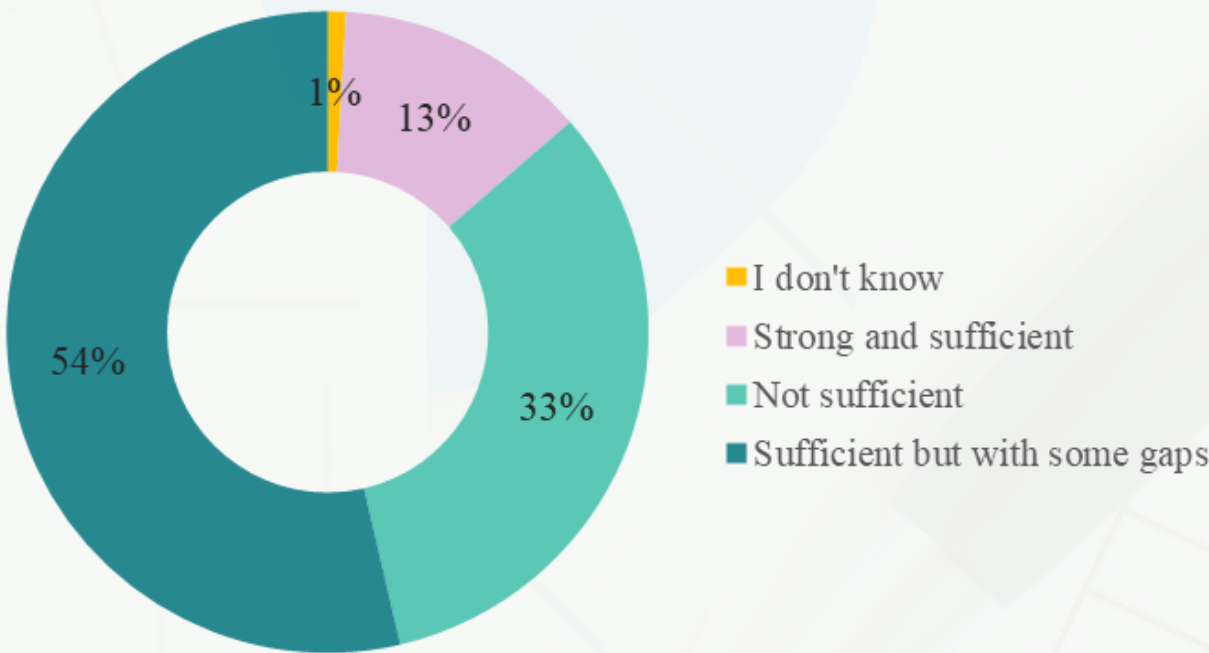
## Gender representation of CSO employees



## Gender Representation in Leadership Positions



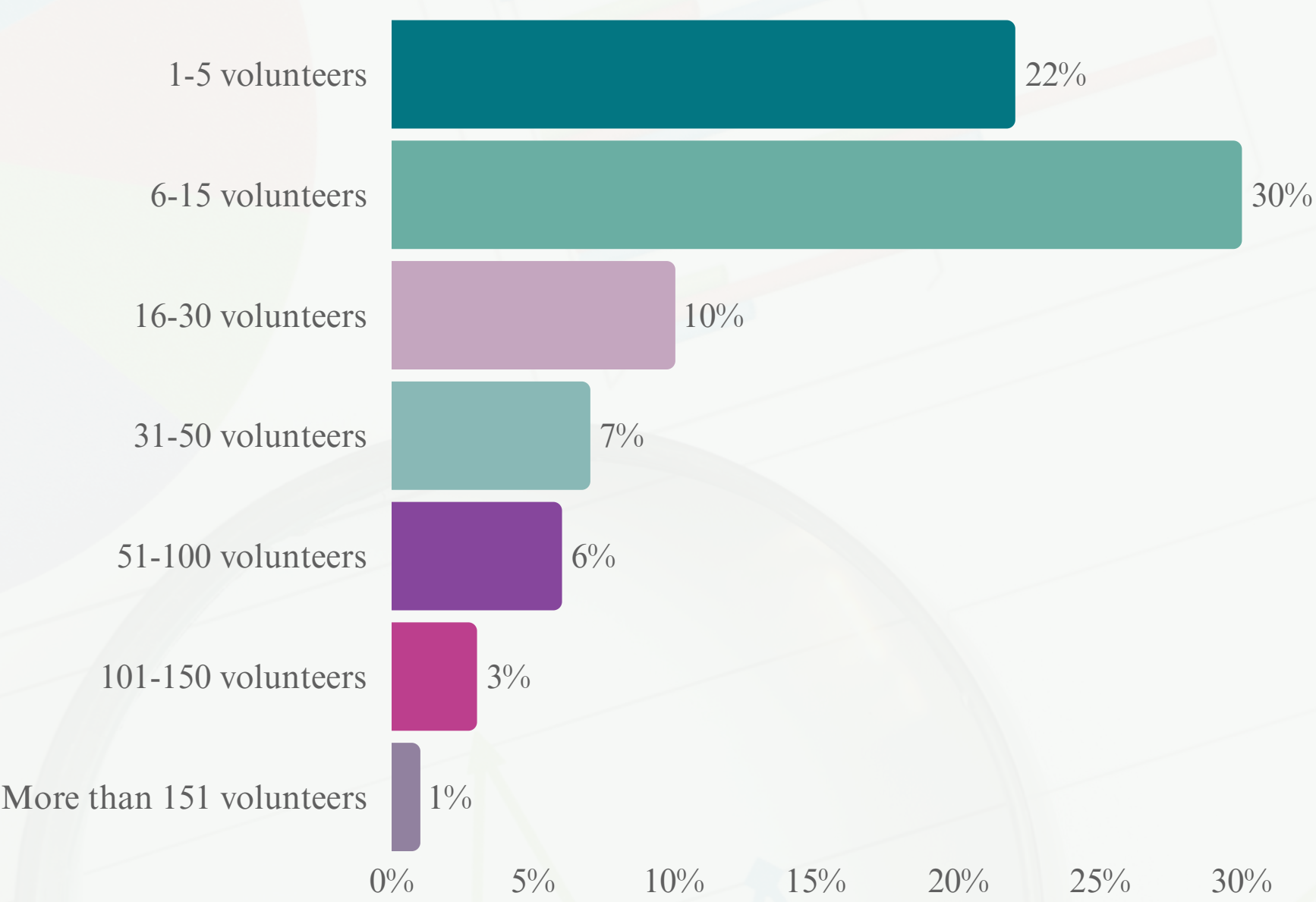
## Assessment of CSO staff capacities



The staff capacities of the participating organisations in the assessment are mainly considered *sufficient, although with some gaps*. Compared to the previous year, there is an increase in the number of organizations that consider their staff to have *strong and sufficient capacities*, from 22% in 2023 to 33% in 2024.



# GENERAL DATA ON CSOs PARTICIPANT IN THE ASSESSMENT



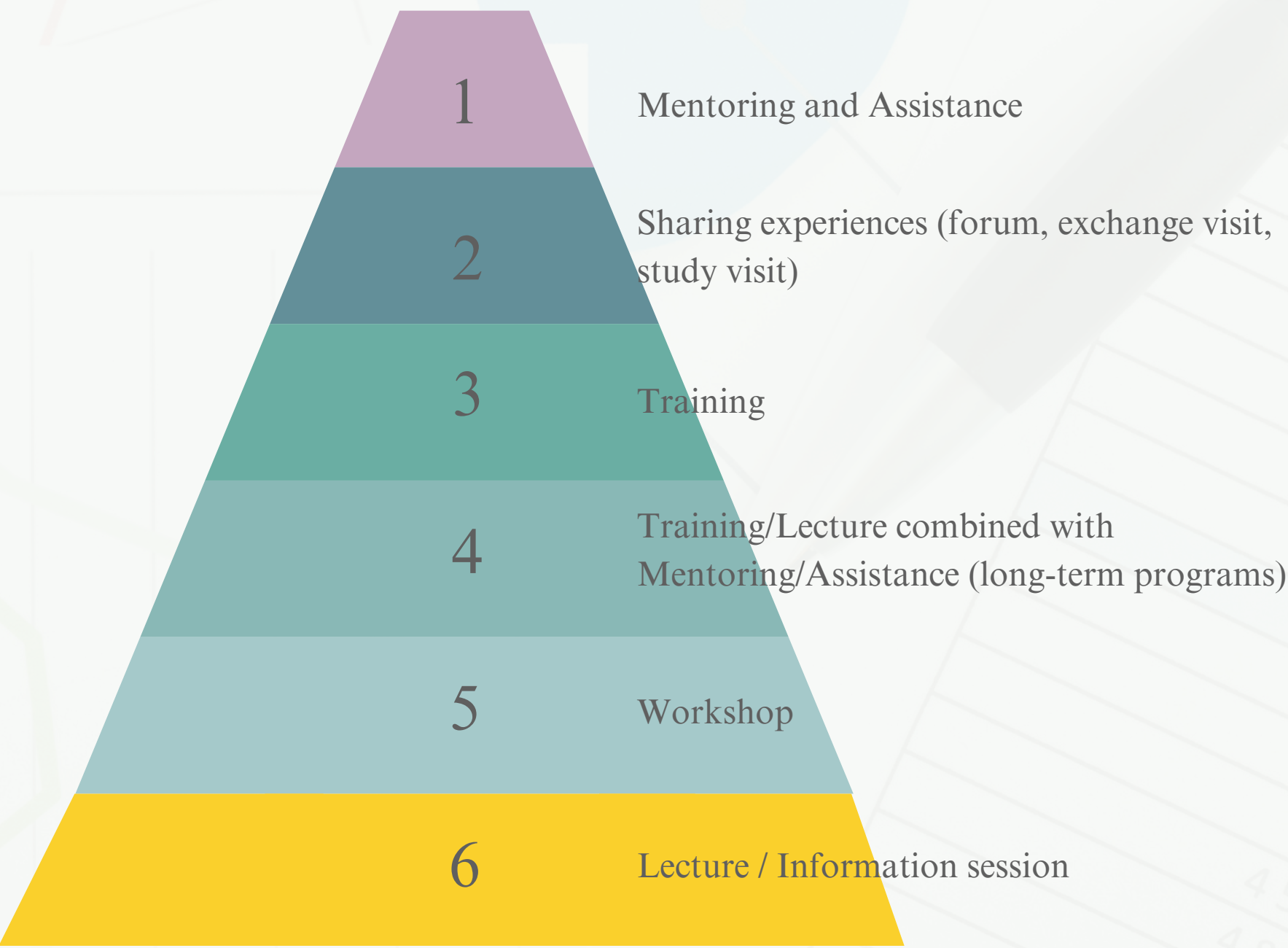
As part of the assessment, surveyed CSOs were asked to declare the number of volunteers engaged during 2024 and to estimate the average time contribution of their engagement. The declared number of volunteers ranges from 1 to 533 per organization. 52% of the CSOs reported having up to 15 volunteers engaged.

From the collected data, it appears that the average engagement of a volunteer with the participating organisations is around 9.8 hours per month, but this average is influenced by the presence of cases with very high volunteer engagement.

A significant challenge in this analysis has been the inconsistency in how organizations reported the data. 60% of the organisations provided complete and usable responses, specifying the time measurement unit, while 40% did not follow the given instructions, leading to inaccuracies in some calculations.

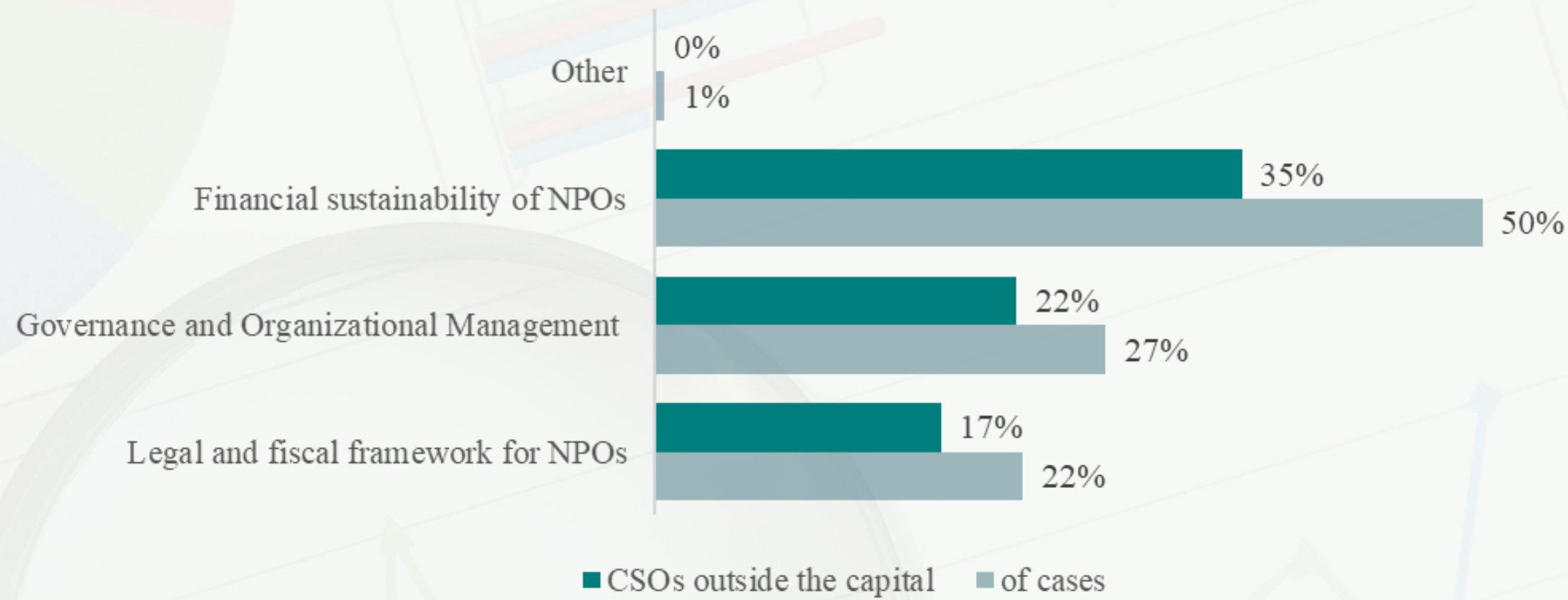
## Assessment of the most productive forms of activities on capacity building and knowledge development\*

Mentoring and technical assistance remain the most productive forms for capacity development as assessed by the participating CSOs, followed by experience sharing and training.



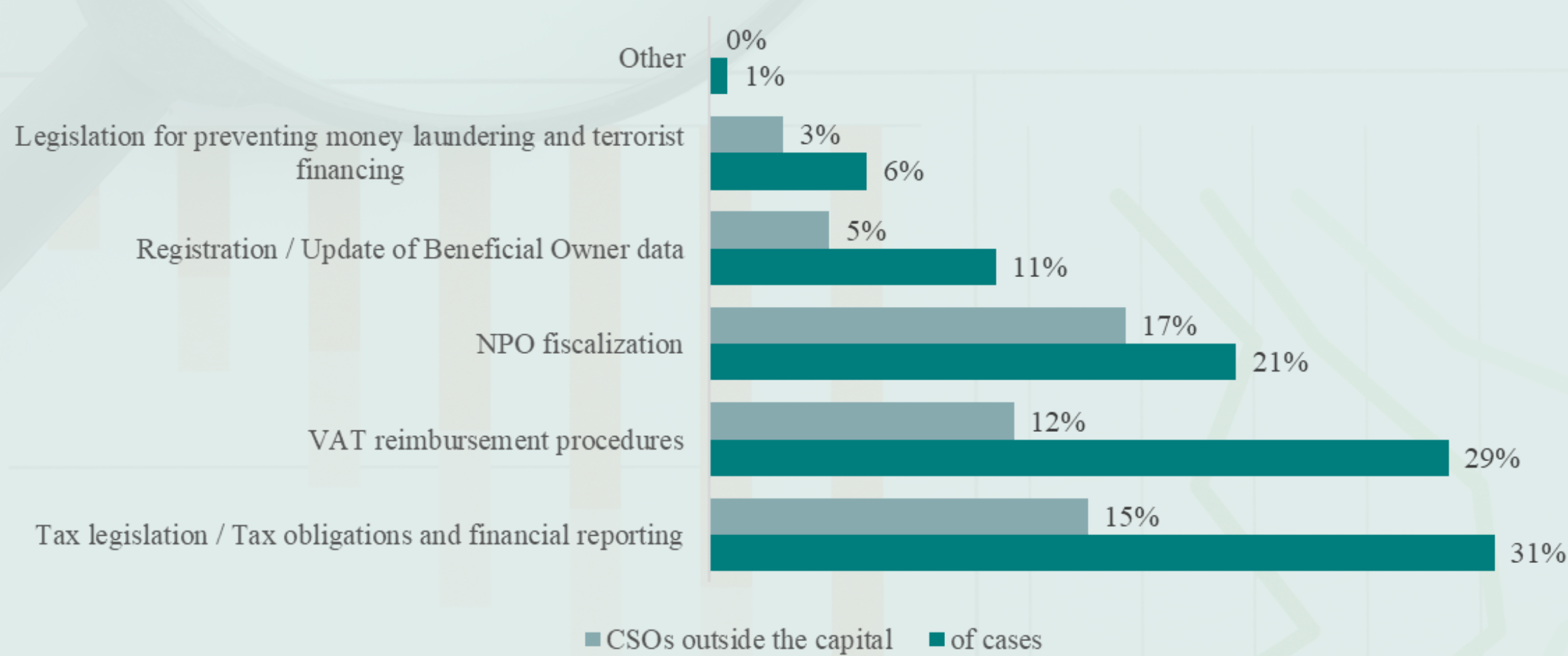


Issues of interest for CSOs organisational capacity building\*



Financial sustainability continues to be the most significant issue of interest in terms of building organizational capacities, regardless of the CSOs location, year of establishment, or budget.

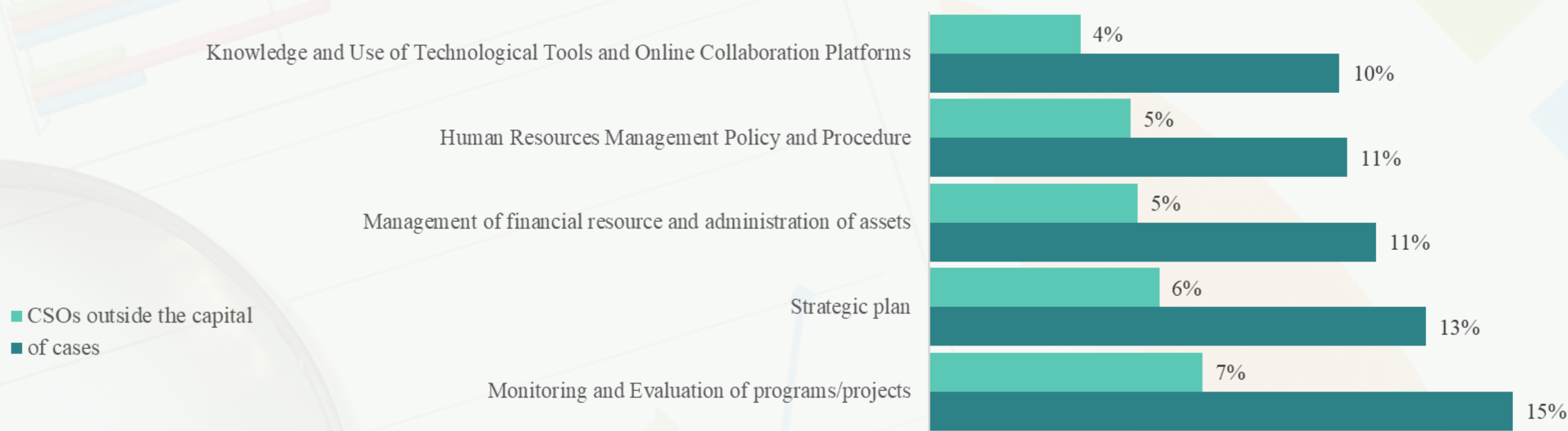
Legal and fiscal framework issues of interest for capacity building\*



Tax legislation, fiscal obligations, financial reporting, and VAT reimbursement procedures continue to remain the issues of highest interest for capacity building programs related to the legal and fiscal framework in 2024. For organisations located outside the capital, there is a notable increased interest in capacity building regarding the legislation and fiscalization procedures for CSOs, compared to the overall evaluation results.

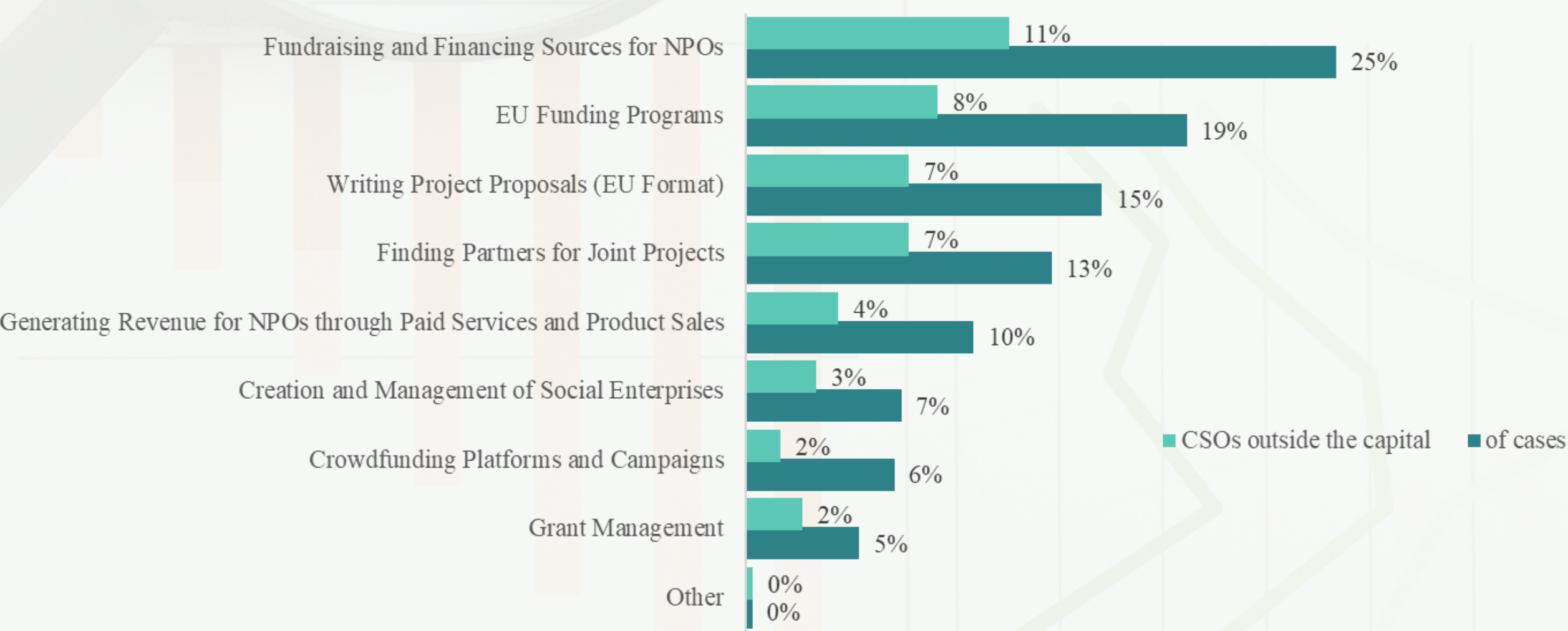


Top 5 issues of organisational management with interest for capacity building\*



Regarding capacity building in organisational management, program/ project monitoring and evaluation continues to be the topic of highest interest among CSOs, followed by the need for the development of strategic plans, which continues to rank second among the issues of greatest interest this year.

Issues of interest for capacity building on CSOs financial sustainability\*



Fundraising and funding sources for CSOs, as well as EU funding programmes, continue to be the two topics of highest interest for capacity building in terms of the financial sustainability of CSOs, whether these are located in the capital or outside of it.

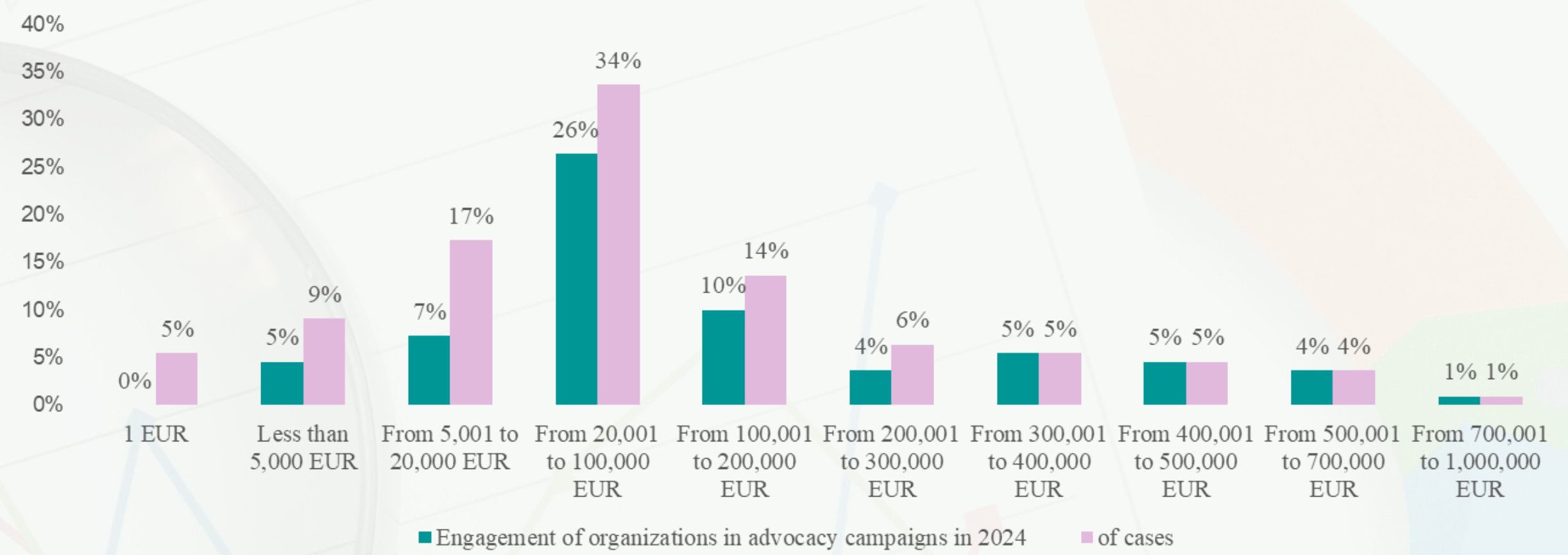


# CSOS PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-MAKING AND NETWORKING

## CSOs engagement in advocacy campaigns in 2024

66% of CSOs that participated in the assessment report being involved in advocacy campaigns during 2024. This involvement spans across all fields of activity of the responding CSOs, as well as their geographical distribution.

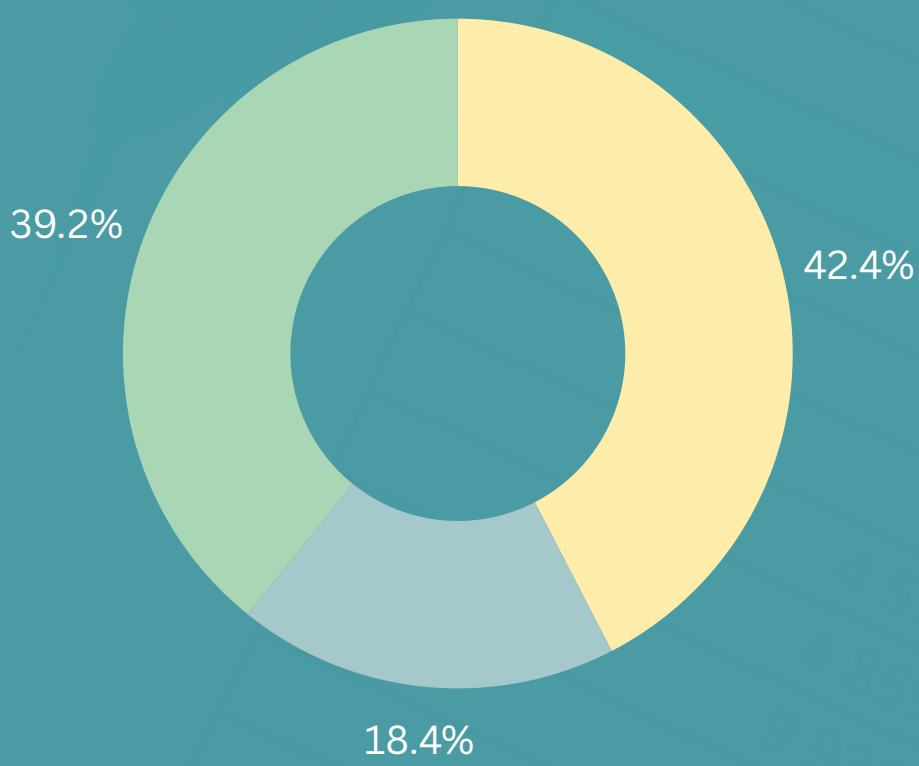
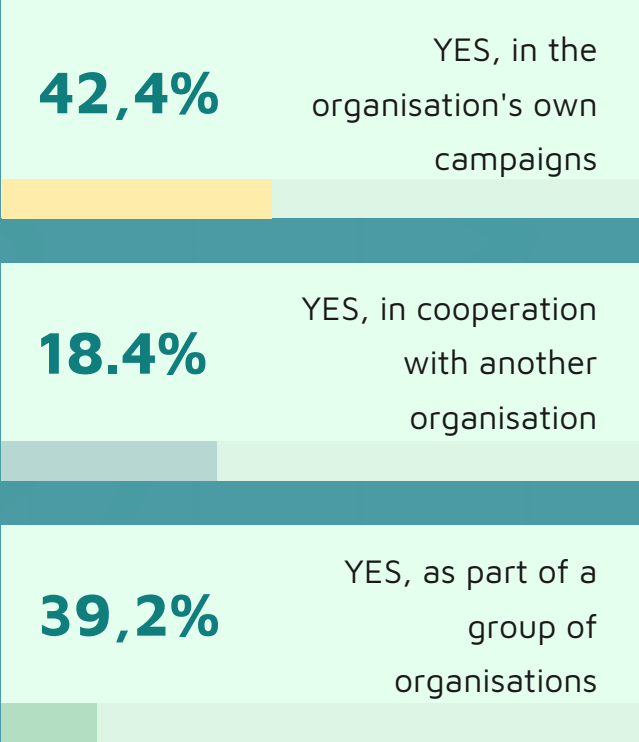
The data suggests that organizations with a budget over 300,000 Euros have a higher engagement (up to 100% of CSOs) in advocacy campaigns, compared to CSOs with lower budgets.



The data shows a *correlation between staff size and participation in advocacy campaigns*. In general, CSOs that participated in advocacy campaigns have a higher average number of staff compared to those that did not participate. Specifically, CSOs involved in advocacy campaigns have an *average of 7.1 employees*, while those not involved have an average of 2.8 employees, indicating a difference of over 2.5 times. This trend is also evident in the distribution of employees, with 78% of CSOs participating in campaigns having up to 10 employees, while 68% of CSOs not involved have up to 3 employees.

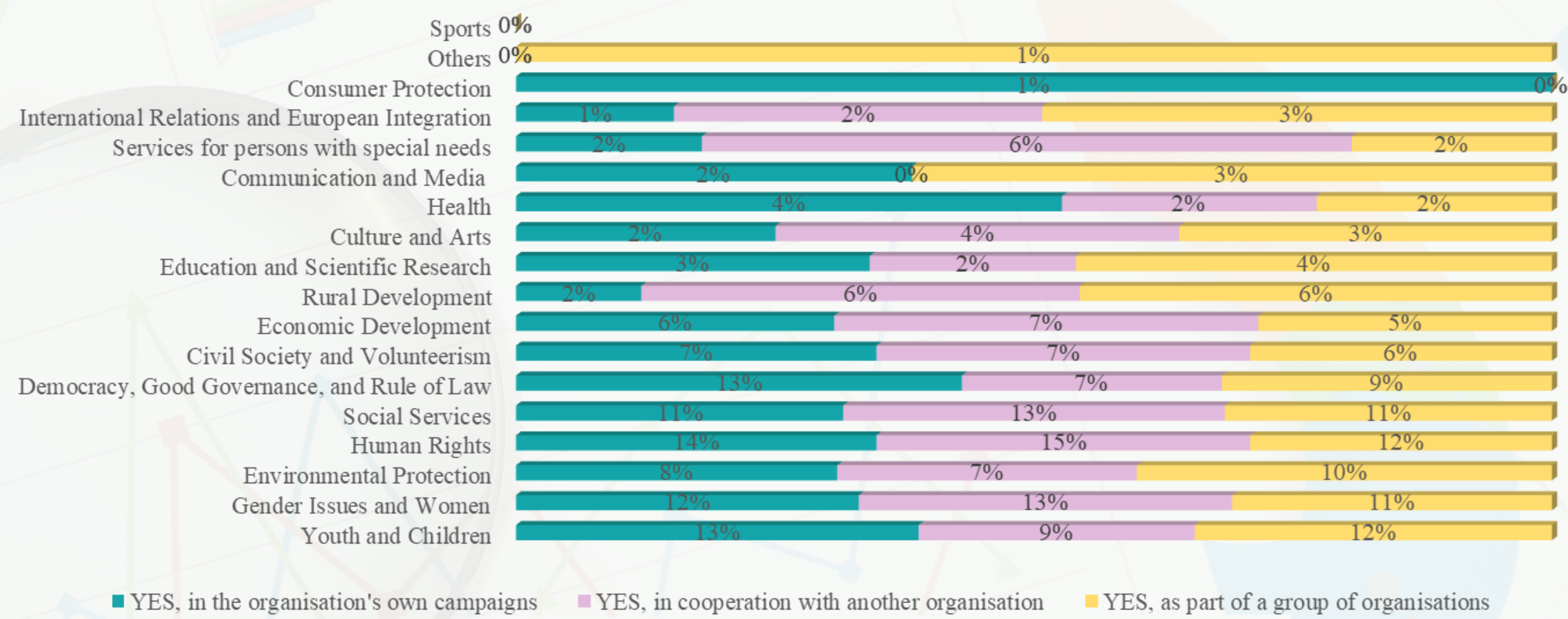
The extremes in the distribution of staff also show noticeable differences: organisations with more employees in the advocacy group, have up to 33 employees, while in the non-participating group, the maximum limit is 13 employees. Furthermore, 43% of CSOs not involved in advocacy have only 1 employee or fewer, suggesting that human resources could be a factor influencing involvement in advocacy.

When it comes to the advocacy activities of CSOs, they are primarily carried out in collaboration with one or more organisations. This is supported by the assessment findings, where 57,6% of CSOs report being involved in advocacy campaigns in 2024 in collaboration with another organisation or as part of a network. It is worth noting that the responding CSOs declare multiple forms of involvement, participating simultaneously in both their own initiatives and in advocacy campaigns in collaboration with others.





CSOs engagement in advocacy campaigns in 2024 according to their fields of activity\*



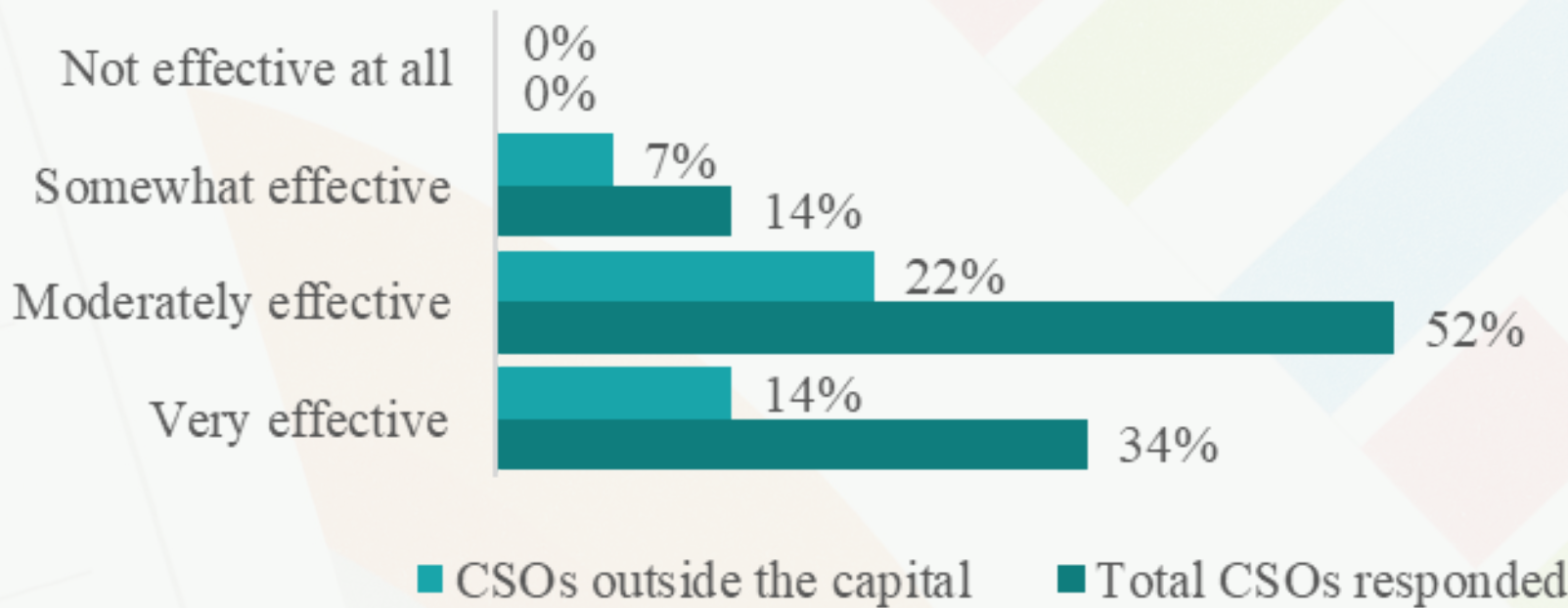
As mentioned earlier, CSOs involved in advocacy campaigns represent a wide range of activity sectors. However, the link between the form of involvement—whether in collaboration or individually—and the main field of activity seems to follow a correlation. Specifically, organisations operating in areas such as rural development, environmental protection, and social protection/ services are more likely to engage in advocacy campaigns in collaboration with other CSOs, compared to the total number of organisations operating in these fields.



Assessment of advocacy campaigns effectiveness

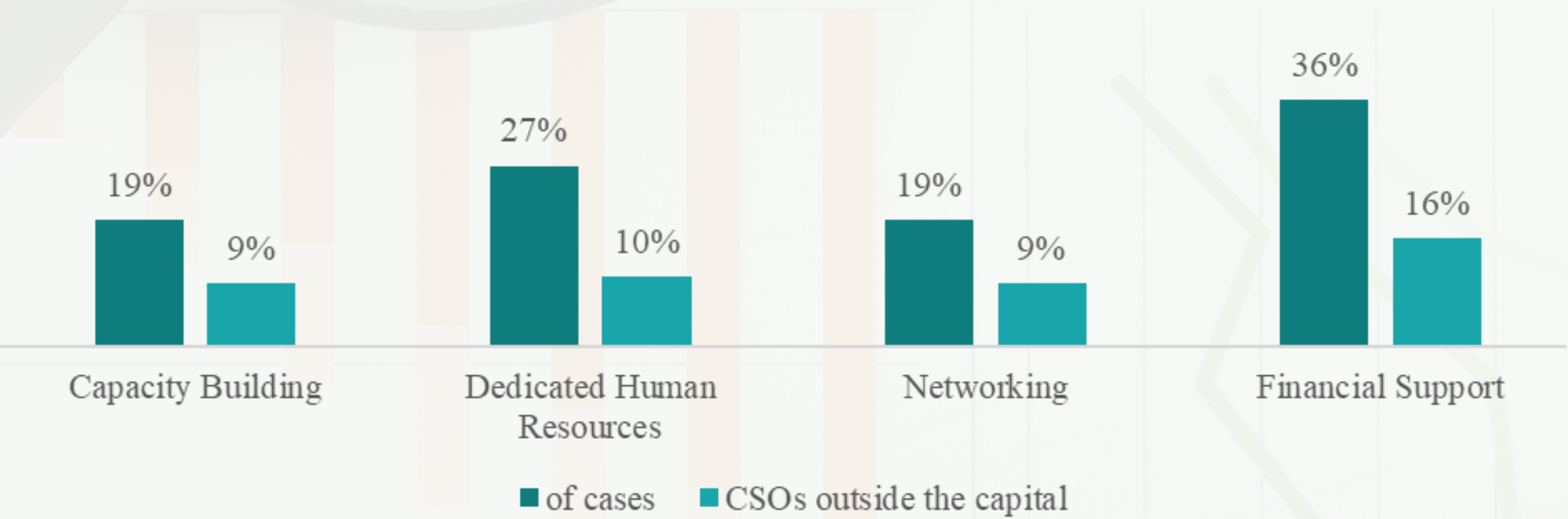
The effectiveness of the advocacy campaigns in which the surveyed CSOs participated, in one form or another, is generally rated as *moderately effective* and *very effective*, regardless of their location, budget, year of establishment or field of activity. It is worth noting that none of the surveyed CSOs rated the advocacy campaign they participated in as *ineffective*.

No clear correlation is observed between the form of involvement of CSOs in advocacy campaigns – whether in collaboration or as part of the organisation's own initiatives – and the size of their staff or their budget level.



The lack of human and financial capacities ranks as the two main reasons for CSOs not participating in advocacy campaigns in 30% and 26% of cases, followed by the difficulty of networking with other NGOs in 16% of cases. In 14% of cases, advocacy is not a focus of their organization's activities. Meanwhile, although in small numbers, there are still CSOs that do not engage in advocacy campaigns due to receiving government funding (2%). 12% of CSOs listed other reasons for non-participation, such as being a new organisation, being far from areas where advocacy initiatives are mainly undertaken, and not receiving an invitation to participate in such initiatives, etc.

CSOs needs for effective advocacy \*

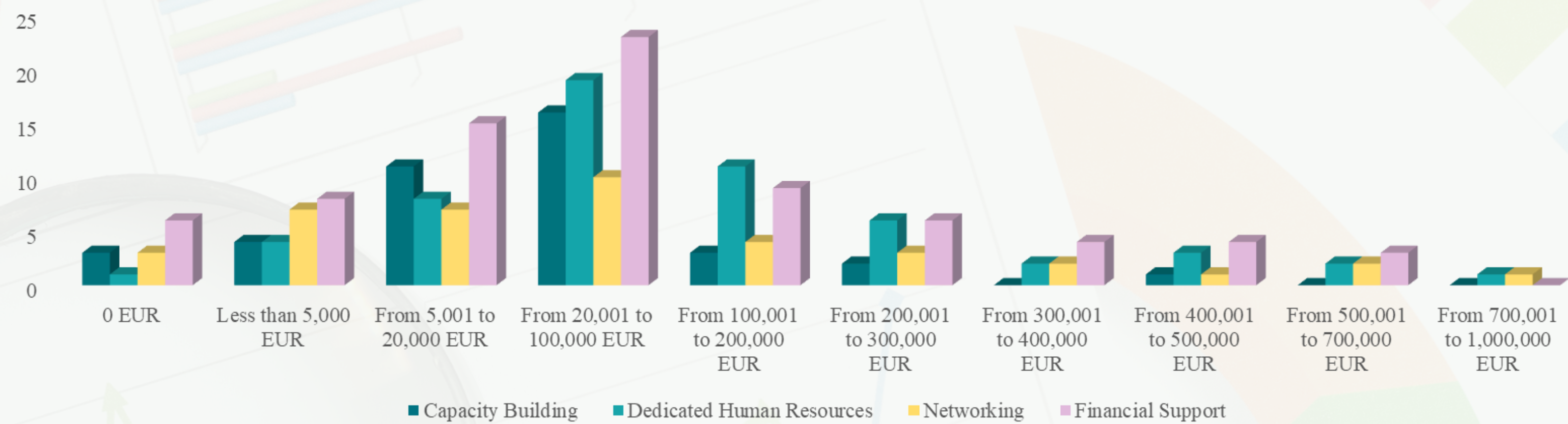


Financial support continues to be the primary need for CSOs for effective advocacy campaigns, regardless of their location or field of activity, followed by the need for dedicated human resources.



# The needs of CSOs for the most effective advocacy according to the budget\*

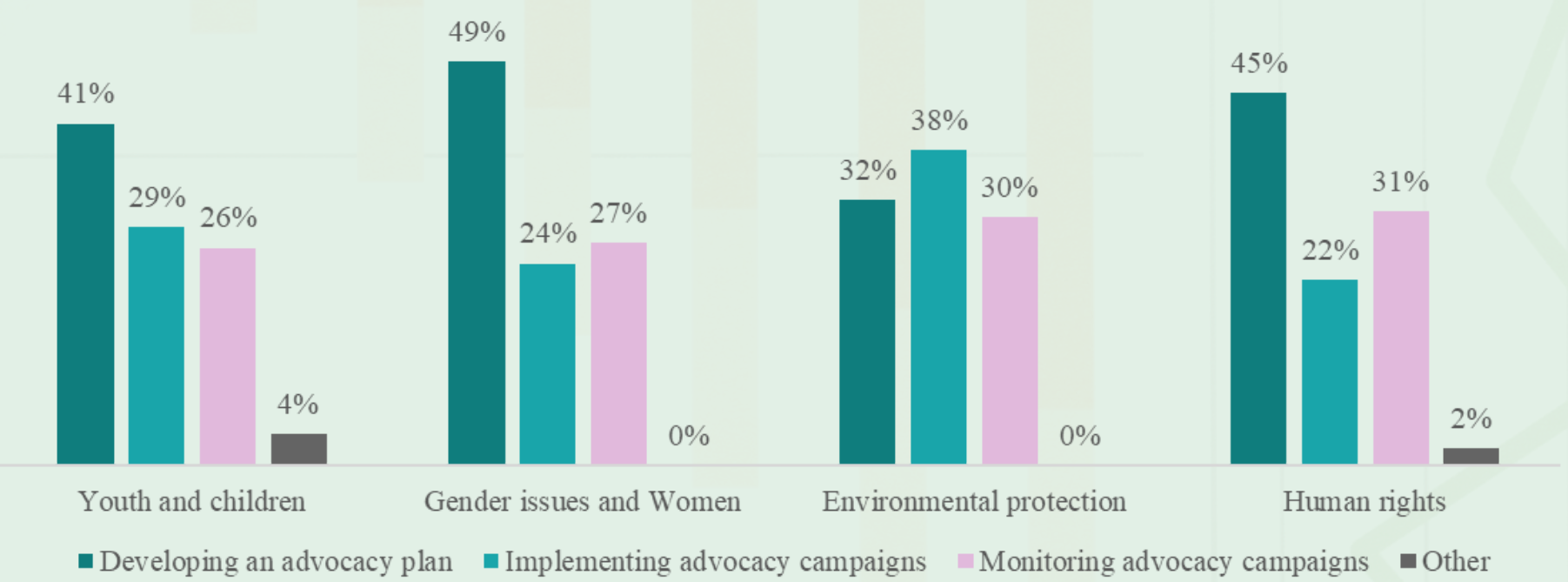
The ranking of needs remains unchanged even when analyzed in relation to the budget level of the CSOs. The need for financial support continues to be the top priority both for CSOs with a budget between 0-5,000 Euros and for those with a budget in the range of 300,000-700,000 Euros.



## The needs of CSOs for capacity development in advocacy according to the 4 most selected areas of activity\*

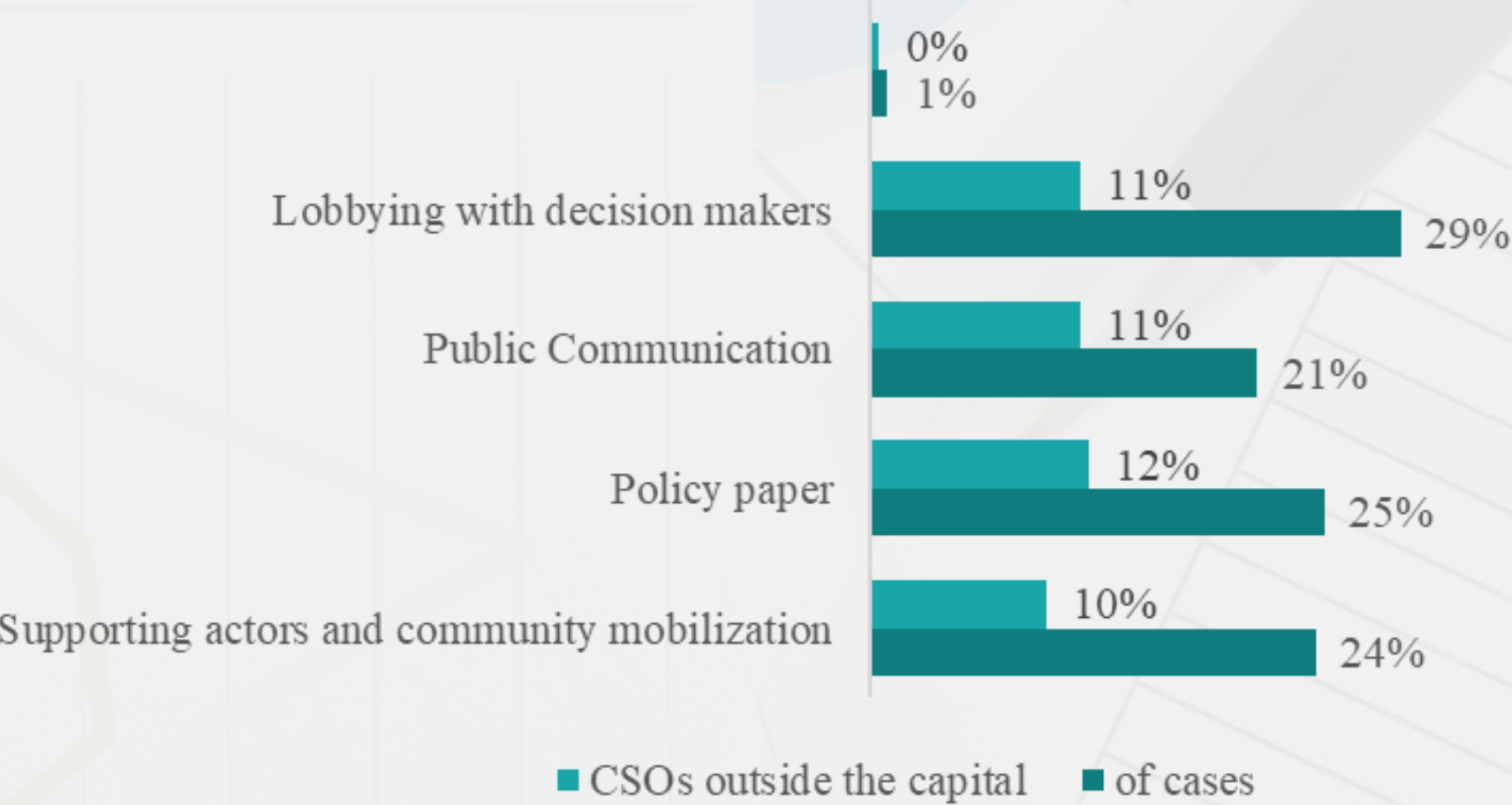
The development of advocacy plans, as in previews assessment reports, continues to be the most reported need for capacity building in advocacy (39% of cases), regardless of the location of the CSOs, followed by the need for monitoring advocacy campaigns and their implementation (30% and 29%, respectively). Among the suggestions provided by CSOs, 2% of respondents highlighted the need for financial support and dedicated funds for advocacy in the 'other' option.

This ranking undergoes slight changes when compared to the field of activity of the organisation. CSOs operating in the field of environmental protection identify the implementation of advocacy campaigns as their main need.



## Advocacy campaign implementation issues of most interest in capacity building\*

Compared to previous years, lobbying with decision-makers is reported the highest need of CSOs, in terms of implementing advocacy campaign, followed by the drafting and writing of a policy document.



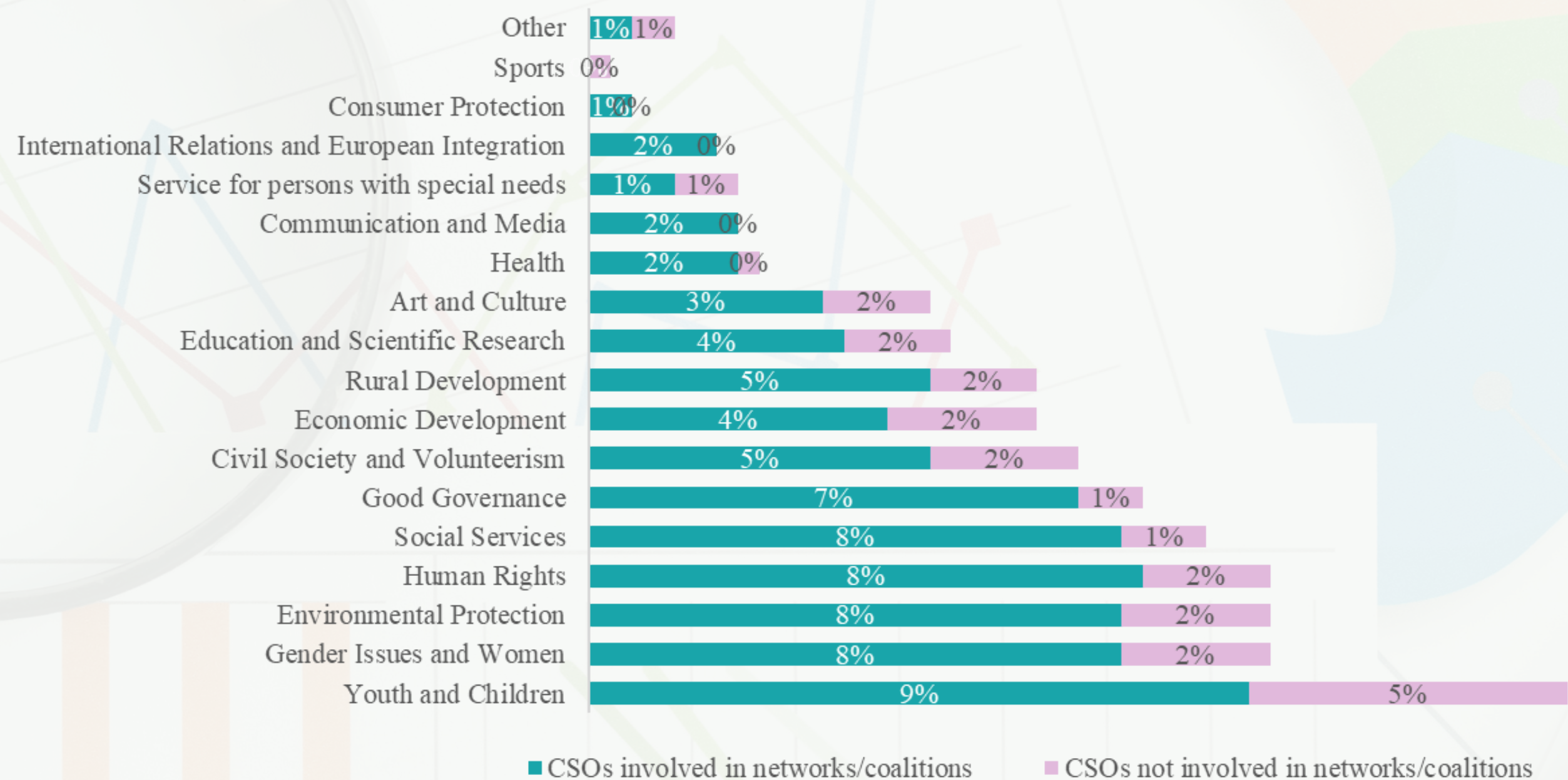


# CSOs participation in Networks/ Coalitions

76% of participating CSOs declare that they are part of a formal or informal network, coalition, or groups, marking a slight decrease compared to previous years (78% in 2023 and 81% in 2022).

Participation in networks and coalitions spans across all areas of CSOs activities, regardless of their profile. In most cases, *the number of organisations involved in networks or coalitions is higher than that of organisations not part of them*, within the same field of activity. One exception is observed among CSOs working with youth and children, where the ratio of organisations involved in networks to those not involved is equal (1:1).

## based on fields of activity\*

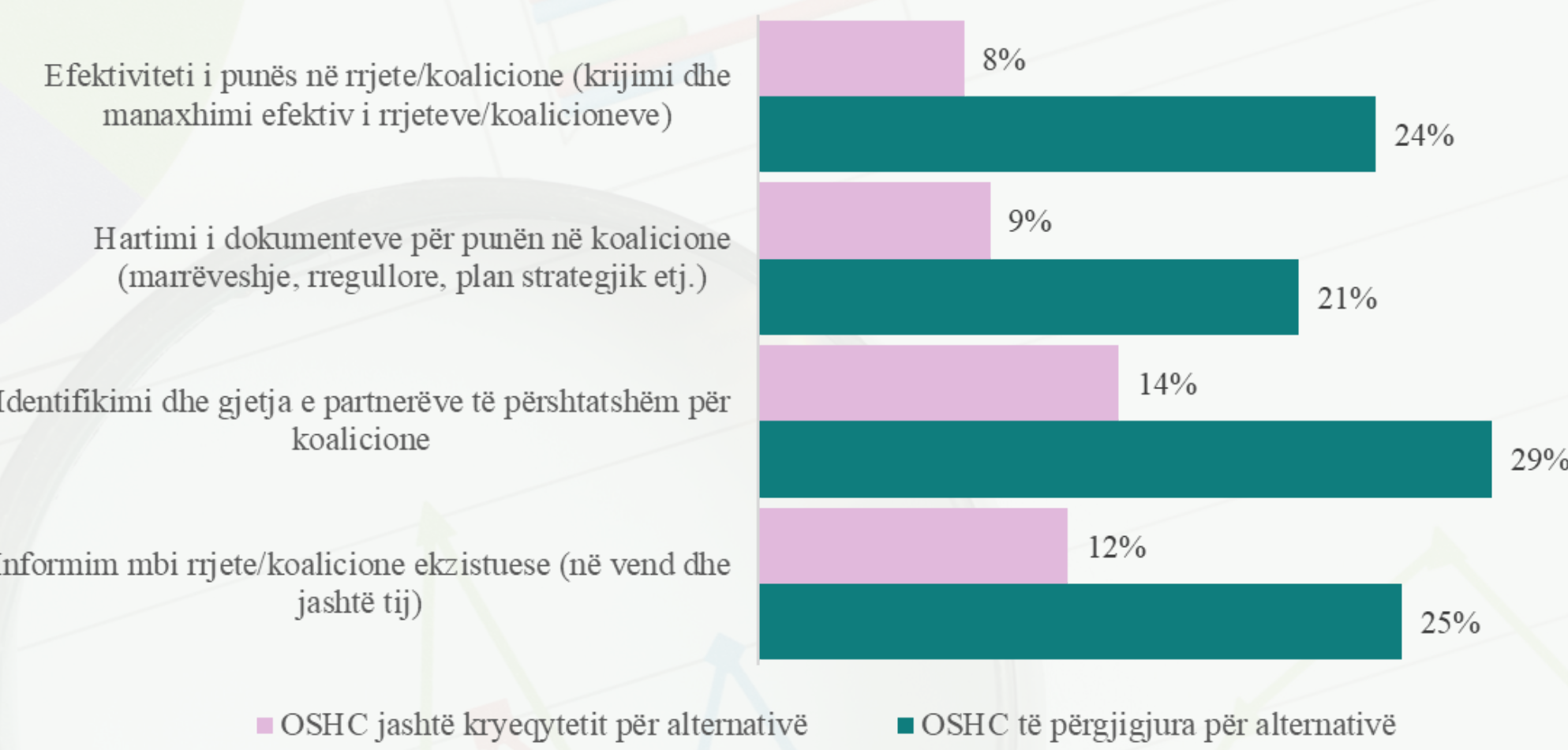


CSOs are involved in various networks operating at different levels. As in previous years, involvement in networks/ coalitions operating at the national level remains the most widespread, with 45% of cases, followed by participation in networks/ coalitions in the EU and beyond, with 24% of cases, and in networks/ coalitions in the Western Balkans region, with 20% of cases. Meanwhile, CSOs' involvement in networks/ coalitions at the local level remains low, with only 11% of cases.



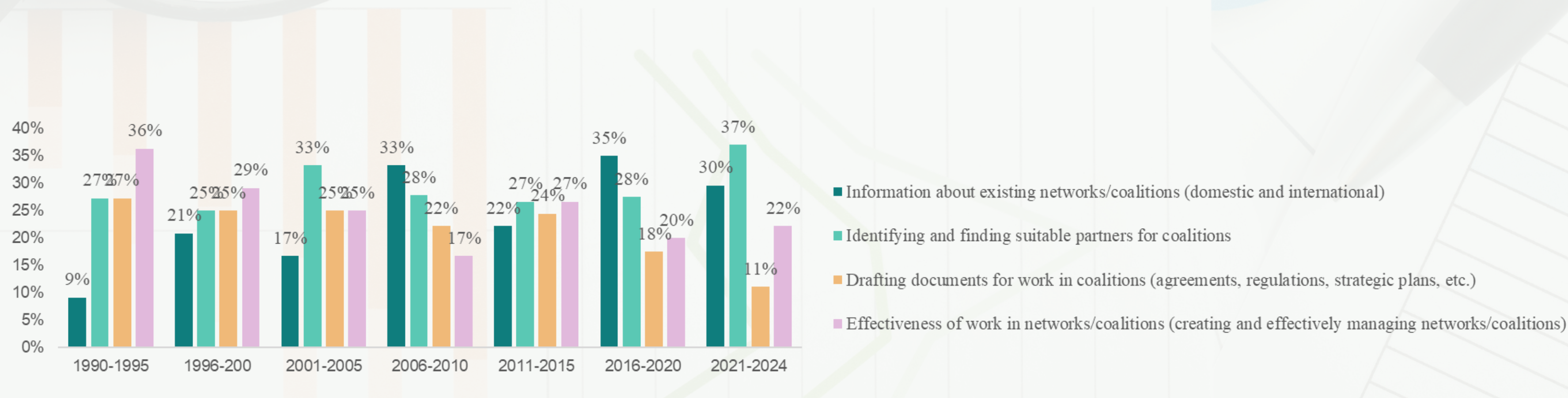
# The needs of CSOs for increasing the effectiveness of work in networks/coalitions

Despite the majority of CSOs engaged in networks/ coalitions, the identification and finding of suitable partners for networking, remains the primary need for enhancing the effectiveness of network/ coalition work, as highlighted in also previous assessments.



## based on year of establishment\*

If the data is analysed in relation to the establishment year of CSOs, organisations established during the period 1995-2000, with over 25 years of activity, identify increasing the effectiveness of network and coalition work (their creation and effective management) as their primary need, compared to other alternatives.



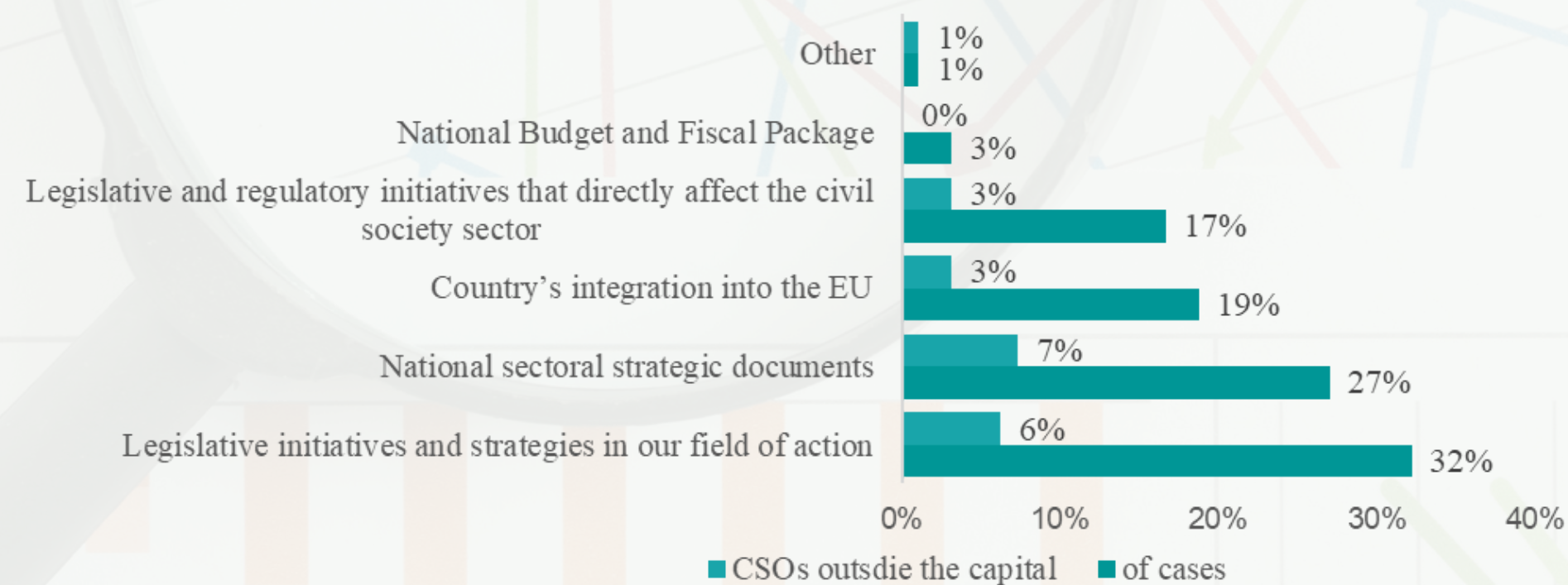


# CSOs involvement in consultation processes

For the year 2024, the collected data shows that 67% of participating CSOs have been involved in consultation processes, marking a slight increase compared to the last two years (63% in 2023 and 62.5% in 2022). However, the level of involvement remains low for CSOs located outside the capital, which make up only 43% of the organisations engaged in these processes. The data does not show a correlation between participation or non-participation in consultation processes and the average number of employees in CSOs (respectively averaging 5.6 and 5.2 employees).

## on policies and draft laws in 2024 at the central level\*

Out of 110 CSOs participating in the assessment, 62 (56%) stated that they have not been involved in consultation processes at the central level during 2024. Among these organisations, 44 (71% CSOs) are based outside the capital. Consultations on legislative initiatives and strategies at the central level, affecting the fields of activity of CSOs, represent the consultation process with the broadest CSO participation. This is followed by involvement in sectoral national strategic documents. Meanwhile, participation in consultation processes related to the National Budget and Fiscal Package remains at lower levels compared to other alternatives.

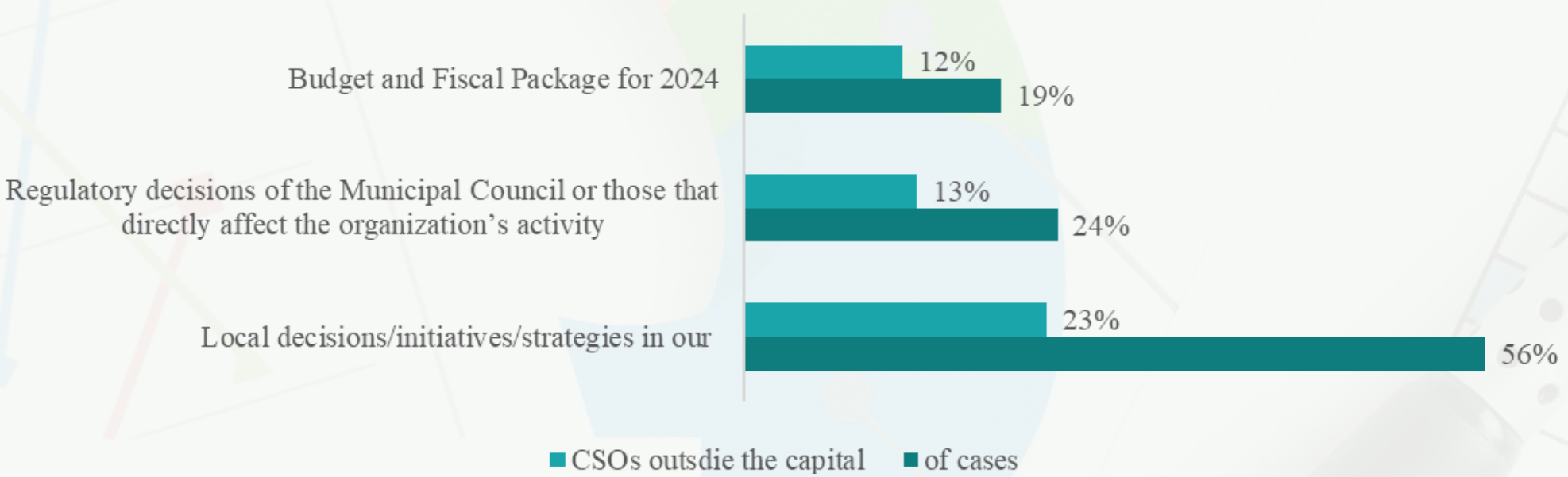


The situation remains unchanged even when participation across consultation processes is compared based on the establishment year of the responding CSOs or their field of activity.

As the primary reasons for not being involved in consultation processes, most CSOs list the lack of information and invitations from responsible institutions, the lack of capacity and human and financial resources, as well as being newly established organisations without experience in such processes.

## on policies and draft laws in 2024 at the local level\*

The situation differs when examining the involvement of CSOs in such processes at the local level. 59% of respondents (65 CSOs) state that they have participated in policy and draft law consultation processes at the local level during 2024. Among them, 45% are CSOs based outside the capital, indicating a higher level of participation in local consultation processes compared to those at the central level.



Participation in consultation processes at the local level is higher when it comes to decisions, initiatives, or local strategies within the scope of CSOs' work or in regard to target groups they engage with, regardless of their location, establishment year, or field of activity.



# Ranking of Needs for Capacity Building Related to Participation in Consultation and Policymaking Processes\*

Knowledges on the mechanisms and structures of government-civil society cooperation emerges as the highest capacity-building need for CSOs regarding participation in consultation and policymaking processes, along with the need to become familiar with the processes, structures, and cooperation mechanisms within the framework of European integration.

Familiarity with mechanisms and structures of government-civil society cooperation.

Familiarity with processes, structures, and mechanisms of cooperation within the framework of European integration

Familiarity with formats and techniques of participation in decision-making and policy-making

Familiarity with strategic documents

Familiarity with legislation on public consultation and engagement

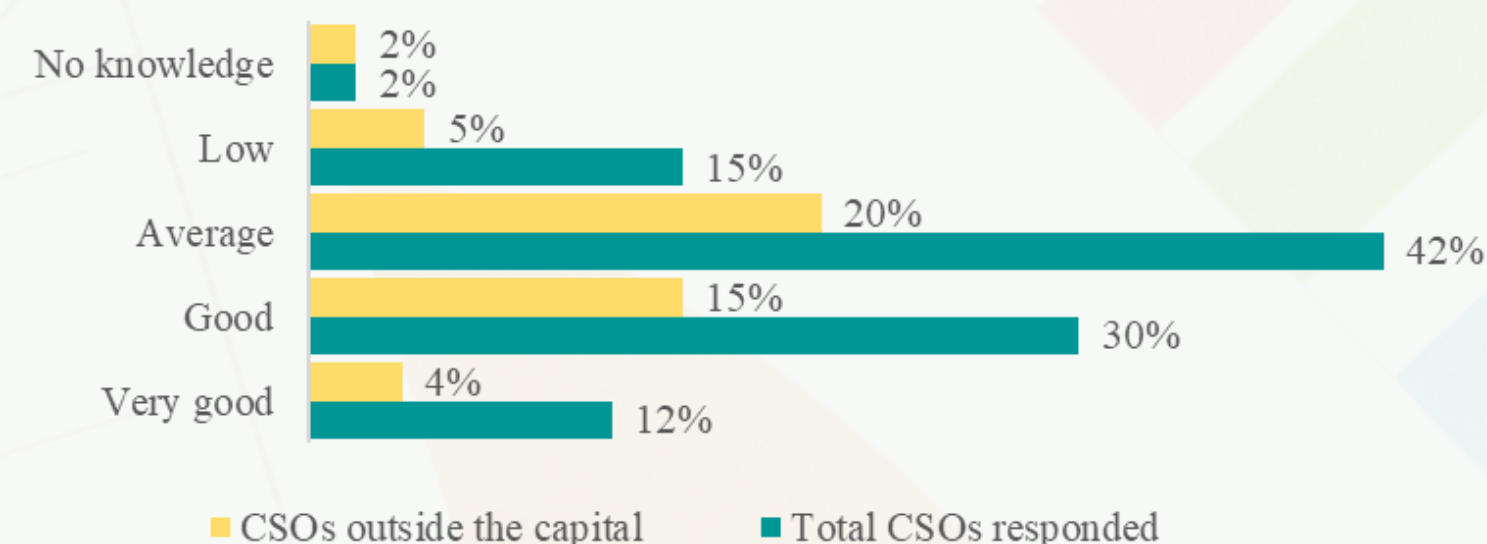


# PARTICIPATION OF CSOs IN THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

## Assessment of the level of knowledge of CSOs on the EU integration process

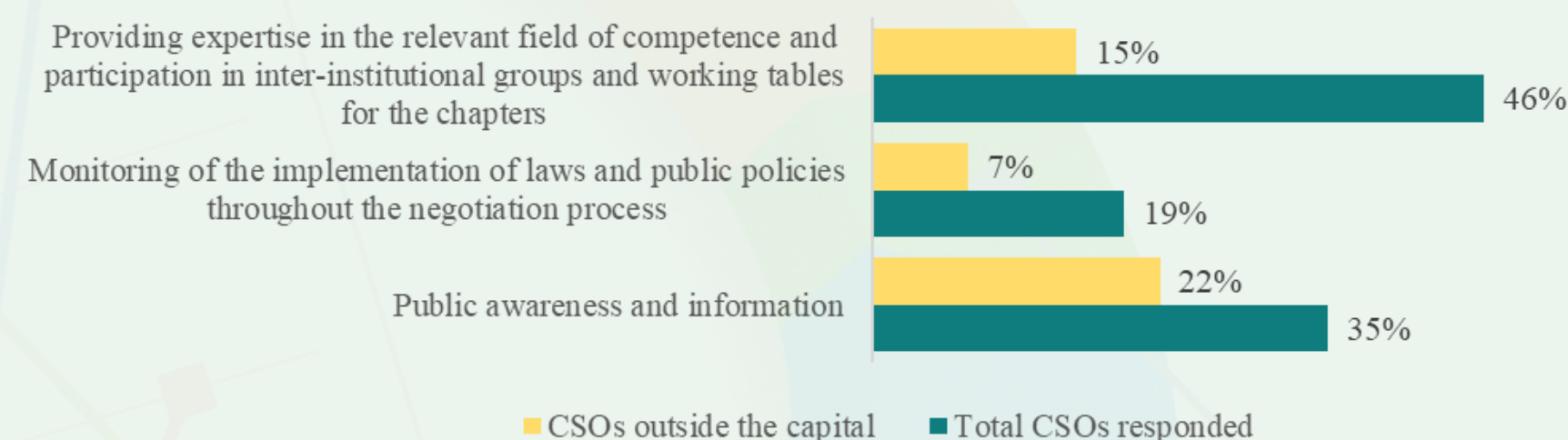
Around 80% of the surveyed CSOs report having been involved in the country's EU integration process. This marks a slight increase compared to last year, when the reported participation was 72% of surveyed CSOs.

Despite the involvement, the assessment of CSOs' engagement, on a scale ranging from highly engaged to not engaged at all, is mostly classified as *somewhat engaged*.



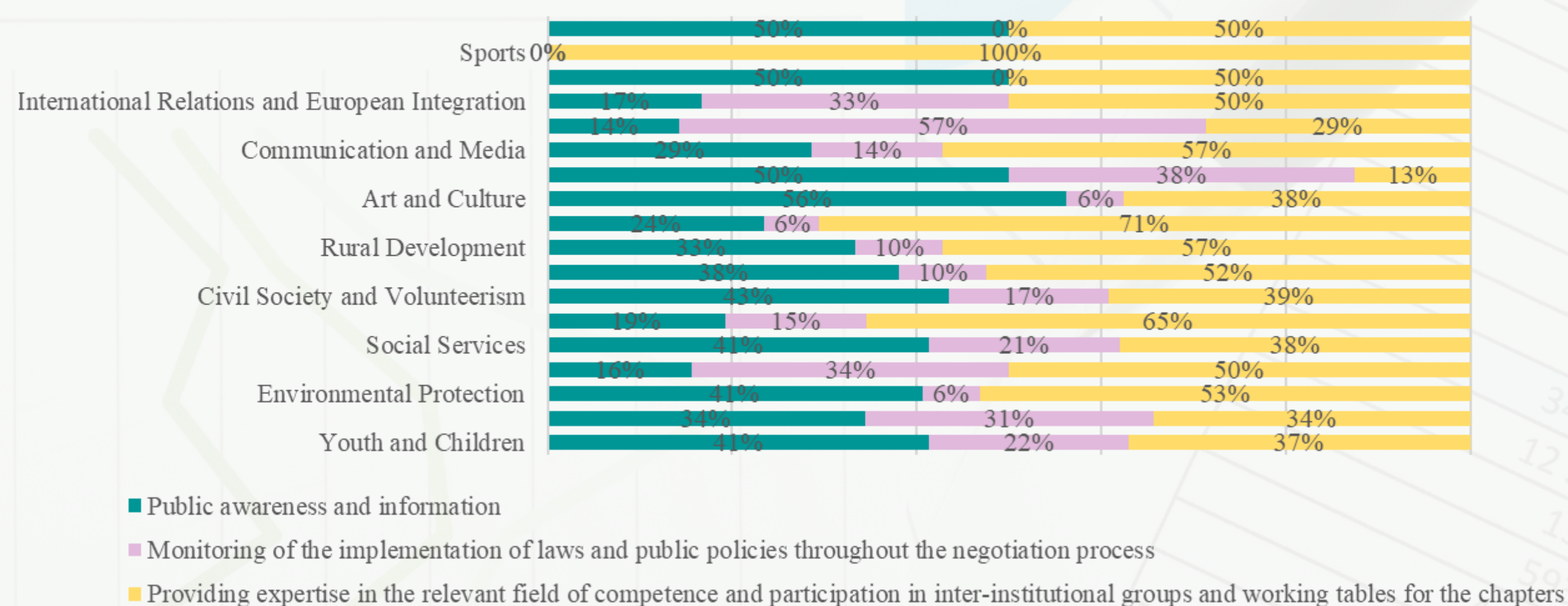
## Civil society role in the integration process according to CSOs\*

As in the previous year, responding CSOs primarily see the role of civil society in the EU integration process as providing expertise in their respective fields of competence and participating in inter-institutional groups and working tables for the chapters. Meanwhile, CSOs located outside the capital tend to view their role more in terms of informing and raising public awareness rather than providing expertise or monitoring the negotiation process.



## based on fields of activity\*

If we analyze the role of CSOs according to their fields of activity, it is noticeable that those working in the fields of democracy, good governance and the rule of law, education and scientific research, human rights, and rural development show a stronger tendency towards providing expertise and participating in working groups or inter-institutional groups. The situation is different for CSOs working in the field of services for persons with special needs, where the predominant role is in monitoring the implementation of laws and public policies during the negotiation process. On the other hand, CSOs working in the fields of youth and children, environmental protection, and women's empowerment have a greater focus on informing and raising public awareness, aiming to encourage citizen participation and increase awareness on key integration issues.

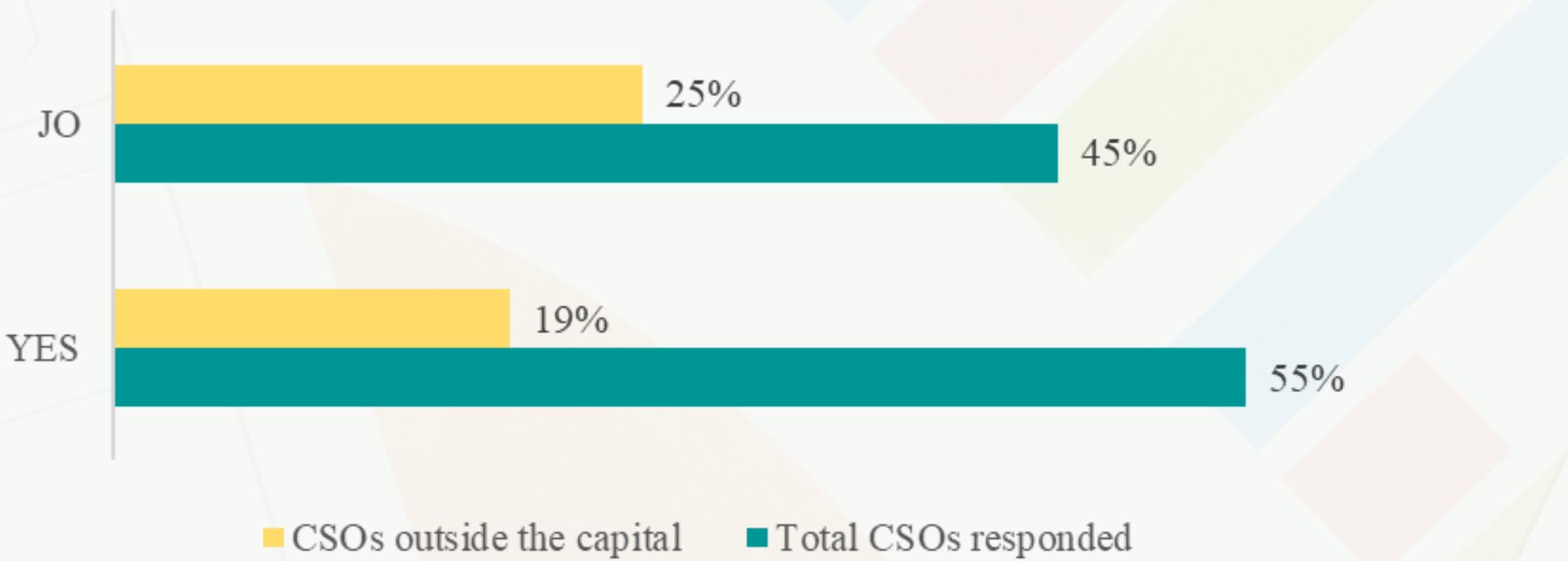




Information for CSOs on the platforms and structures for integration, created at the inter-institutional level

55% of the surveyed CSOs assess that they have knowledge and information about the platforms and structures for integration created at the inter-institutional level, resulting in nearly the same assessment as last year, despite developments in this regard with the opening of EU membership negotiations for Albania.

Meanwhile, CSOs outside the capital have less knowledge about integration platforms and structures.

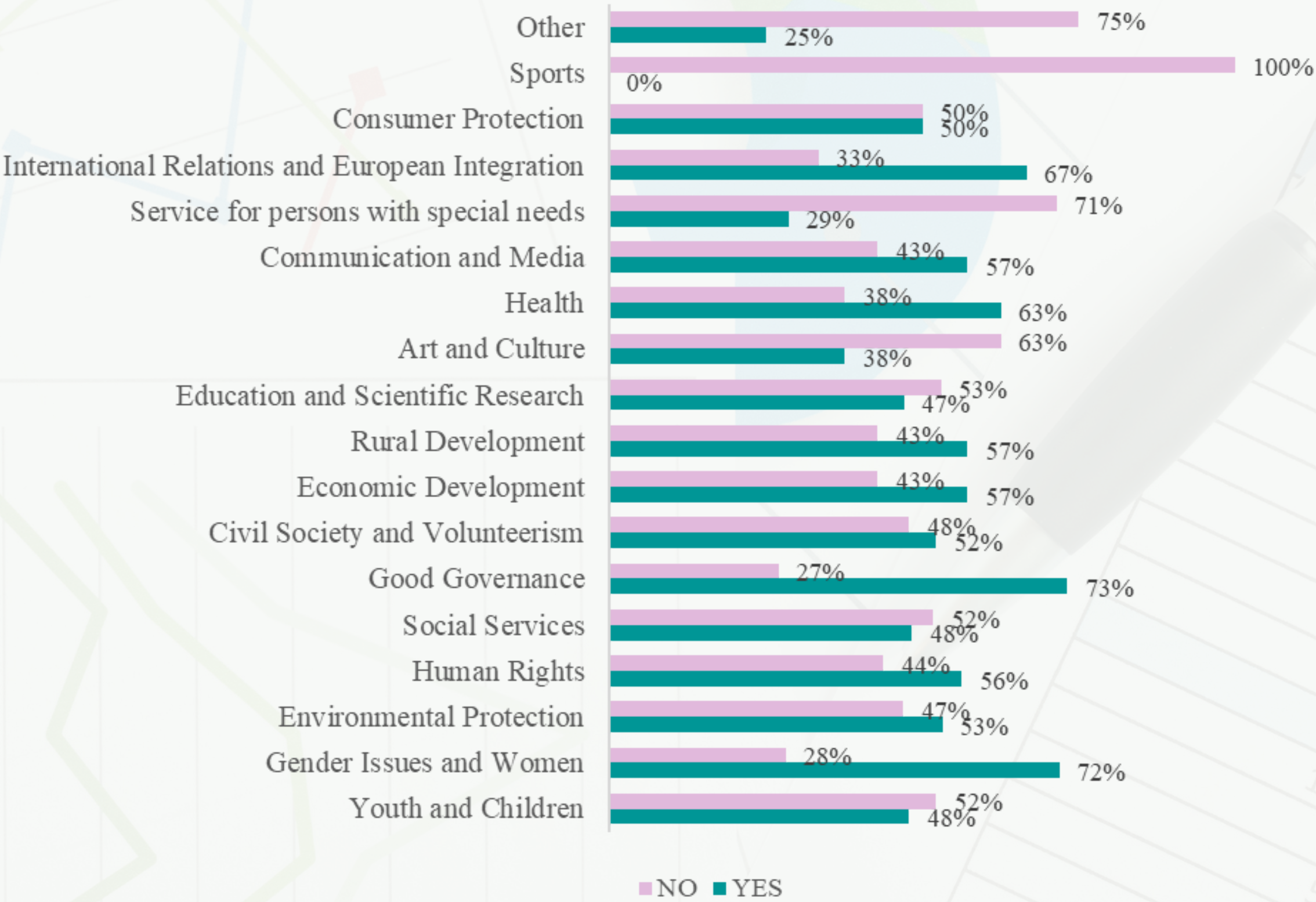


based on fields of activity\*

When analyzing the level of information based on the fields of activity of the surveyed CSOs, it is noted that organisations working in the fields of youth and children, social protection/ social services, services for persons with special needs, culture and art, as well as education and scientific research, have a lower level of knowledge regarding the integration structures and platforms compared to other CSOs within the same field of activity.

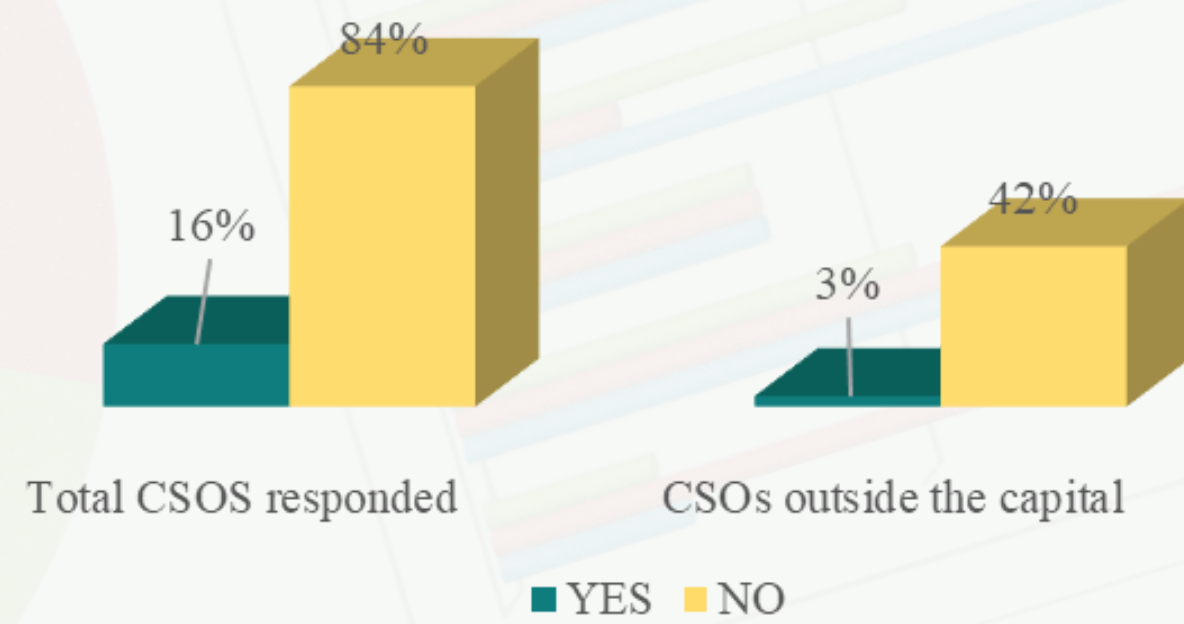
On the other hand, the fields of activity where CSOs demonstrate more knowledge about integration platforms and structures are women's empowerment and gender issues, human rights, democracy, good governance, and the rule of law.

It should be noted that some areas of activity have a lower level of representation in this assessment, which limits the ability to provide a comprehensive overview of CSOs' knowledge and information regarding integration structures and platforms.



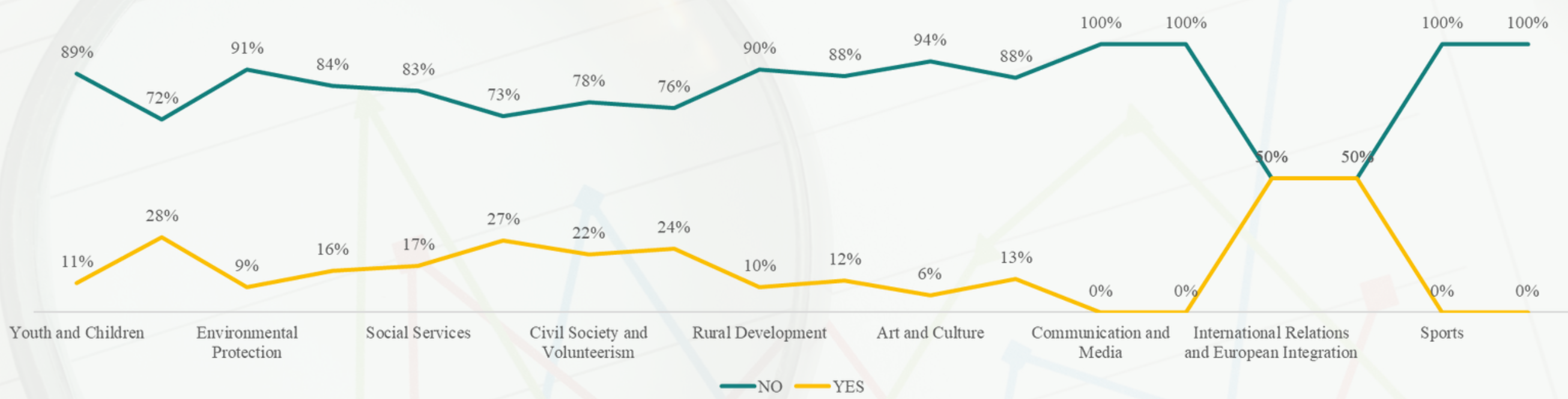


The participation of CSOs in platforms/structures of the integration process



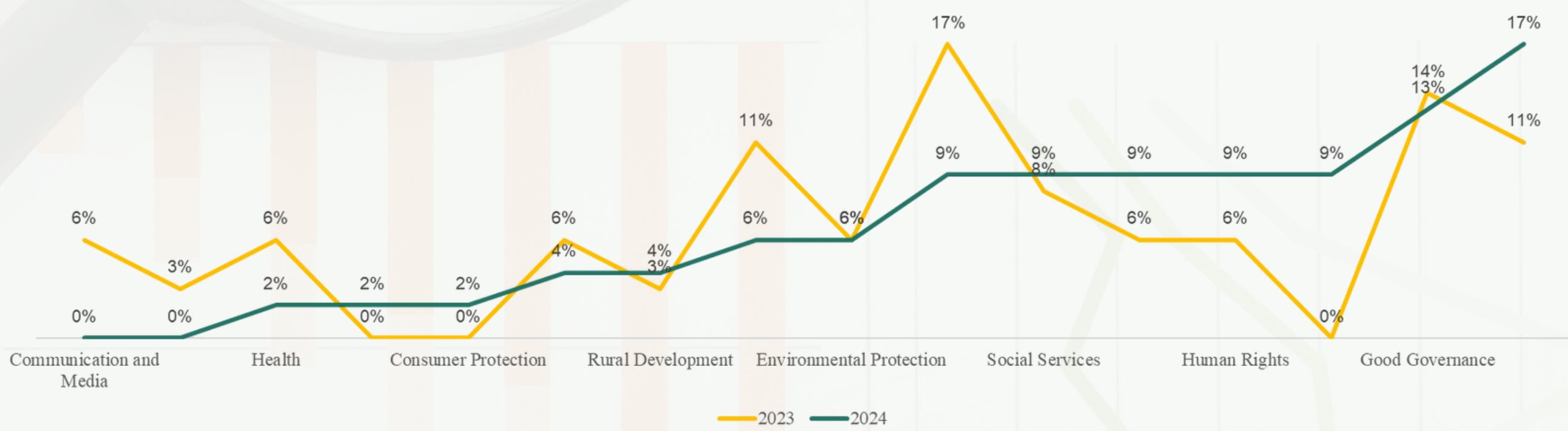
The level of participation of surveyed CSOs in platforms and roundtables related to the integration process remains very low in 2024; however, there has been a slight increase compared to last year, rising from 11% to 16%. Additionally, even this year, CSOs outside the capital make up only 3% of the participating CSOs in these platforms, up from 1% last year.

The participation of CSOs in platforms/structures of the integration process based on fields of activity



Despite the low participation of surveyed CSOs in the platforms and structures of the integration process, there is broad representation across most fields in which they operate. According to the data, fields such as media, information technology, and services for people with special needs are not represented in the respective structures and platforms, even though there are participating organizations in the assessment that operate in these areas.

based on fields of activity 2023-2024

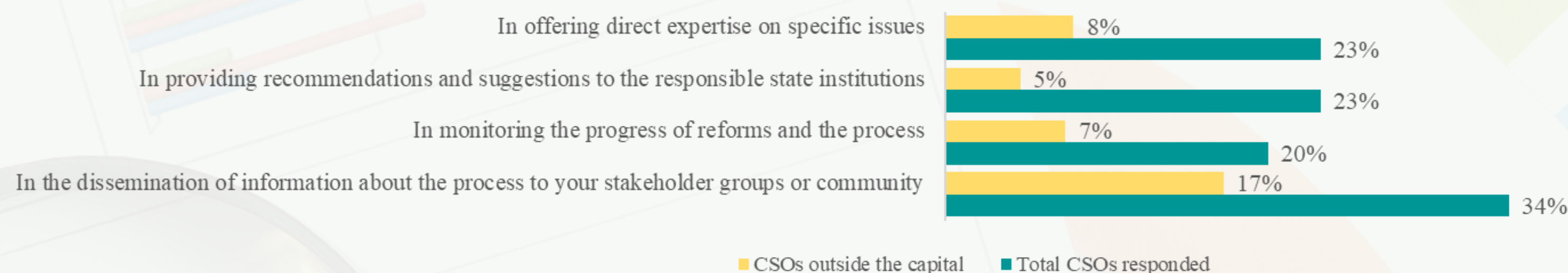


Due to differences in the sampling of the 2023 and 2024 evaluation reports, the comparative analysis of CSO involvement in these structures is limited. However, the data shows an increase in the participation of CSOs focusing on women's empowerment, gender issues, consumer protection, and culture and arts compared to the previous year.



## The engagement of CSOs in European Integration Structures

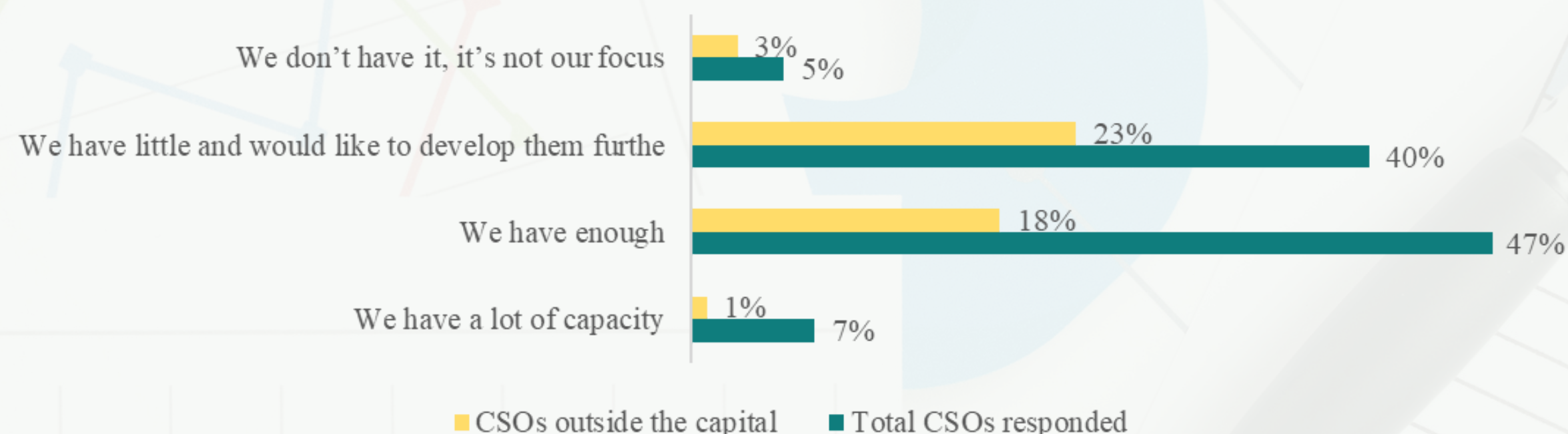
The dissemination and distribution of information about the integration process to interest groups or the community remains the most common way for CSOs to engage in the aforementioned structures, regardless of their location.



## The assessment of capacities to engage in roundtables/groups with government representatives and interest groups during the EU integration

Compared to previous years, the assessment results show an increase in the capacities of CSOs to engage in roundtables/ working groups with government representatives and interest groups during the EU integration negotiation process. Thus, in 2024, the capacities are assessed as sufficient in 47% of cases, while last year, they were assessed as *limited and in need of further development* by 43% of cases.

Meanwhile, when analyzing the data by comparing the assessment of capacities based on the location of the CSOs, those outside the capital still assess their capacities as *limited and in need of further development* (40%). Only 7% of them report having *substantial capacities* in this regard. The assessment of capacities does not show any changes when compared across the field of activity of the CSOs.

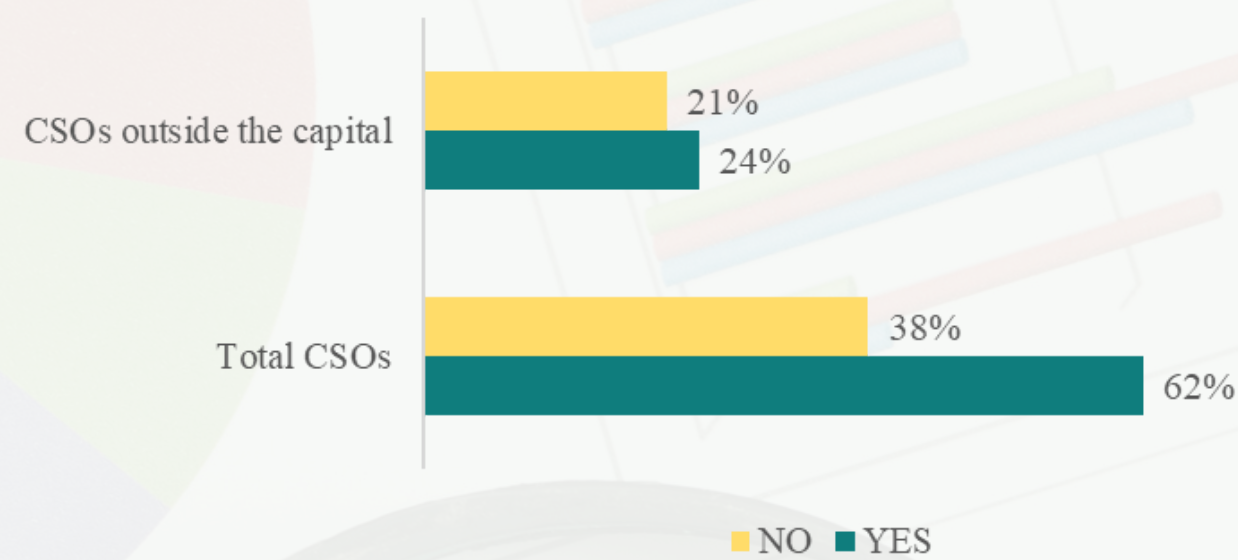


Among the knowledge and skills most needed for CSOs to engage and actively participate in the country's EU integration process, the following are listed:

- (1) **Knowledge of the integration process and the EU legal framework**, including understanding the *acquis Communautaire*, the negotiation chapters, the role of EU institutions, decision-making mechanisms, EU legislation, and alignment with Albanian legislation.
- (2) **Advocacy and lobbying skills in the integration process**, which include developing advocacy campaigns on key integration issues, lobbying with national and international institutions, and the need for building networks and cooperation with various actors in this regard.
- (3) **Capacity for monitoring and evaluating reforms and policy implementation**, which includes knowledge and skills in methodologies for monitoring reforms in various sectors, preparing shadow reports on Albania's progress, and using data and analysis to influence policymaking.



Publication of the annual report

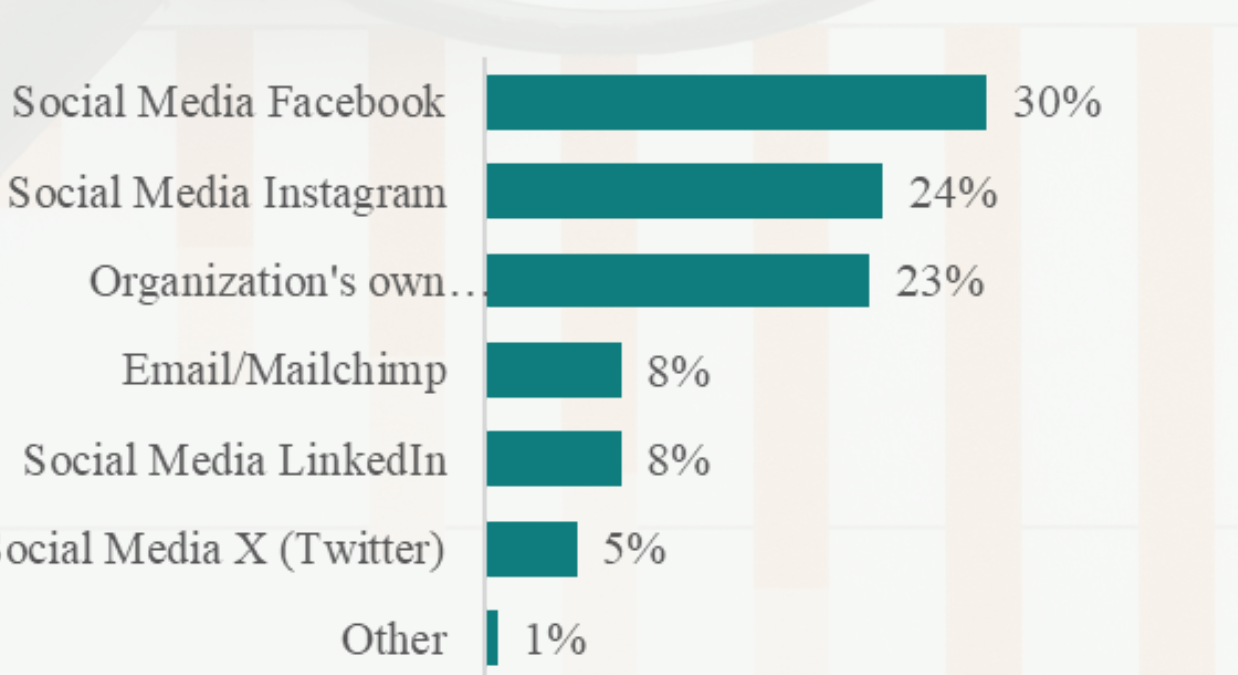


The dissemination and publication of the annual activity report is declared by 62% of participating CSOs, compared to 58% the previous year. However, this practice remains less common among organisations operating outside the capital..

Publication of the names of donors and funding sources of the CSO

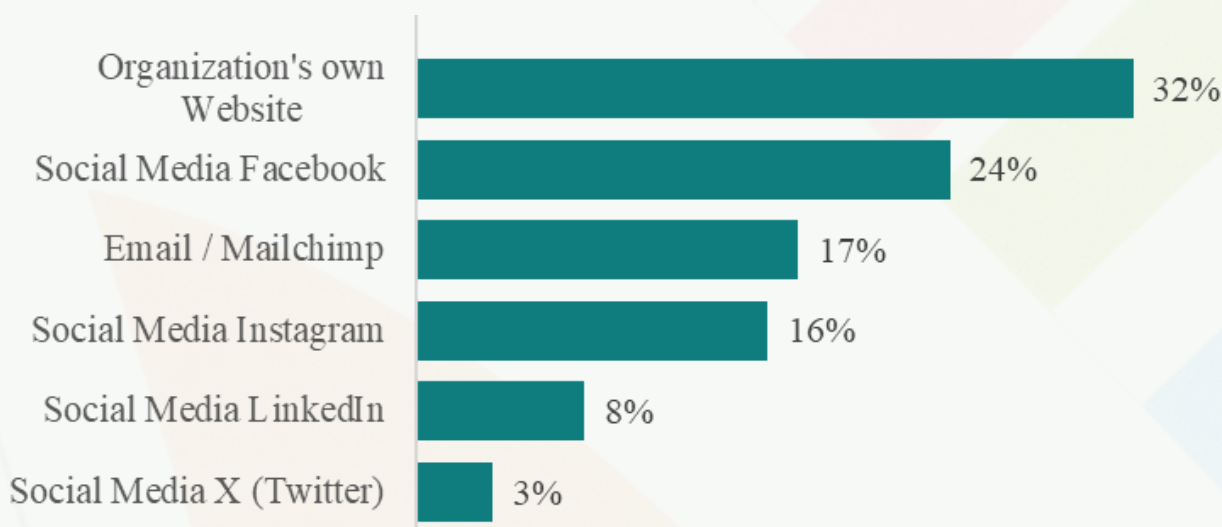
Once again, the assessment data shows that CSOs have a more transparent approach to publishing the names of their donors and supporters, compared to publishing the sources of their funding.

Communication channels for publishing funding sources and the names of donors and supporters

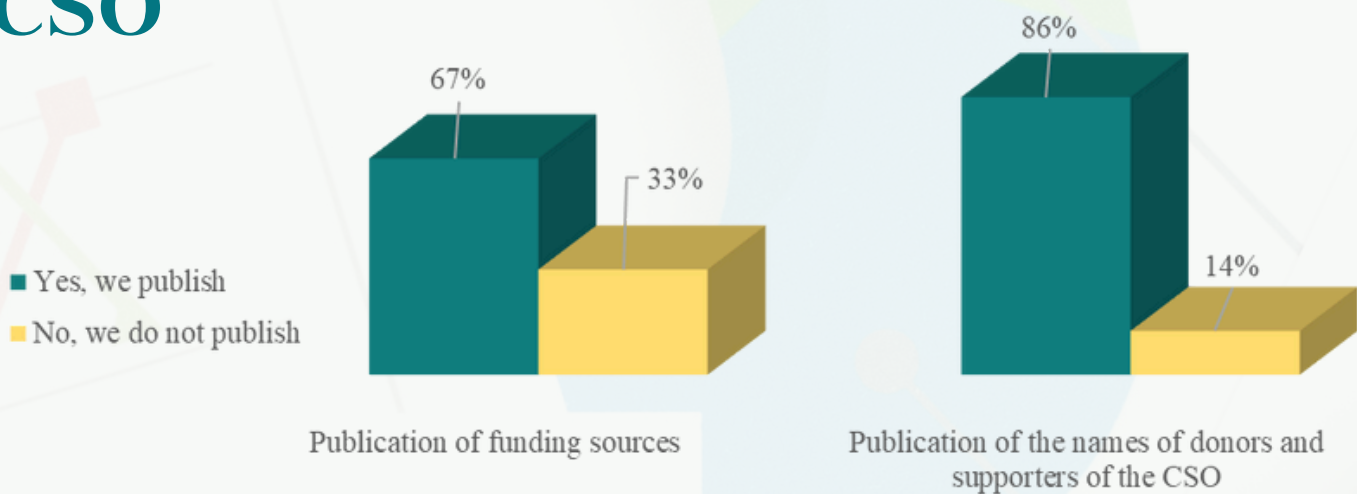


In this case, social media platforms Facebook and Instagram are the most commonly used channels for publishing funding sources and the names of donors and supporters, after the organisation's website.

Communication channels where the annual report is shared



The organisation's website continues to be the most used communication channel by CSOs for dissemination and publishing the annual report, followed by Social Media Facebook.



When asked about their key needs for capacity building to become a more transparent and open organization, CSOs list the following:

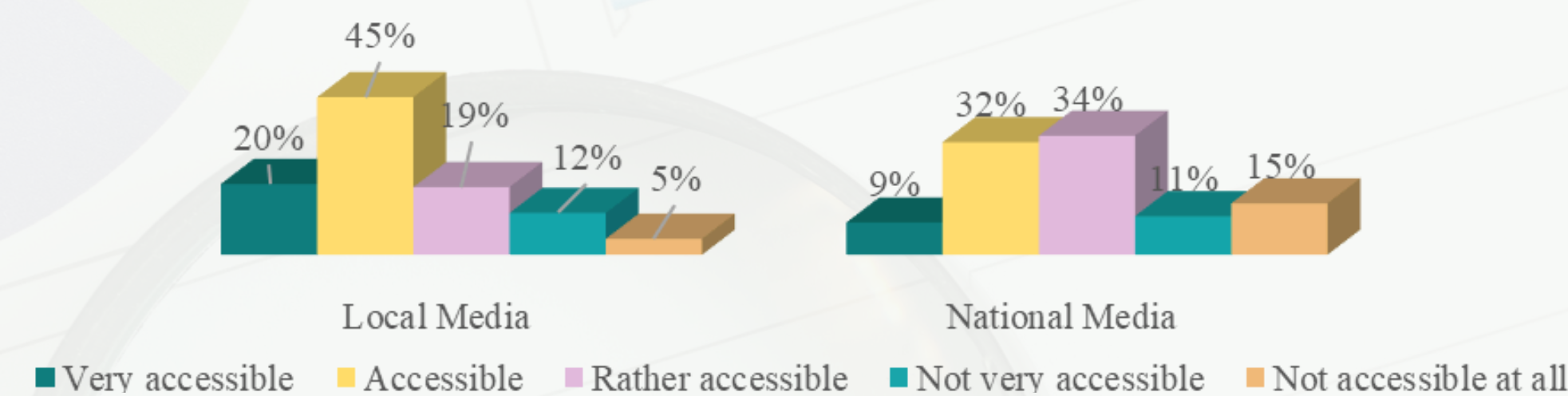
- **Capacity Building:** CSOs mostly report the need to improve and strengthen their staff capacities in regard to transparency and accountability. The need for training and mentoring on transparency standards and the use of technological tools to enhance accountability and stakeholder engagement is reported as a priority.
- **Building Digital Infrastructure and Tools:** Creating infrastructure such as maintaining a website and other digital tools for collaboration, information sharing, and communication is seen as necessary to ensure transparency in the organisation's activities.
- **Financial Support:** Securing financial resources for the sustainability of the organization is considered a prerequisite for capacity building and the development of tools that enhance transparency and accountability.



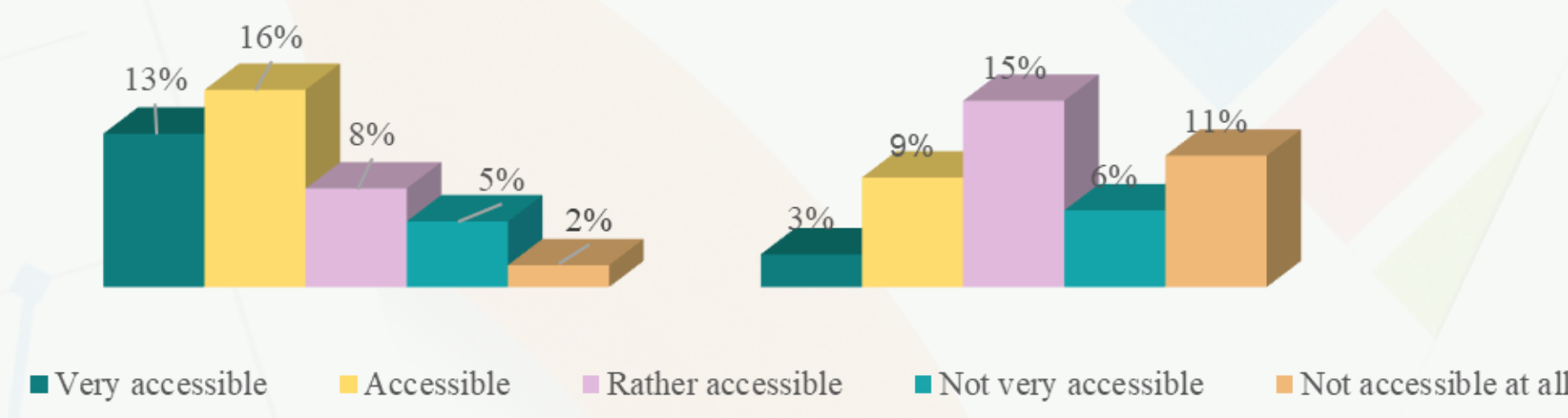
# CSOs - MEDIA COOPERATION

Local media continues to be more accessible for surveyed CSOs compared to national media. Thus, responding CSOs rate local media as more *accessible* and *very accessible*, while national media is mostly classified as *rather accessible* and *accessible* by the majority of responses. The same situation is observed when comparing data based on the location of the CSOs.

## CSOs access to the media



## Access of CSOs outside the capital to media

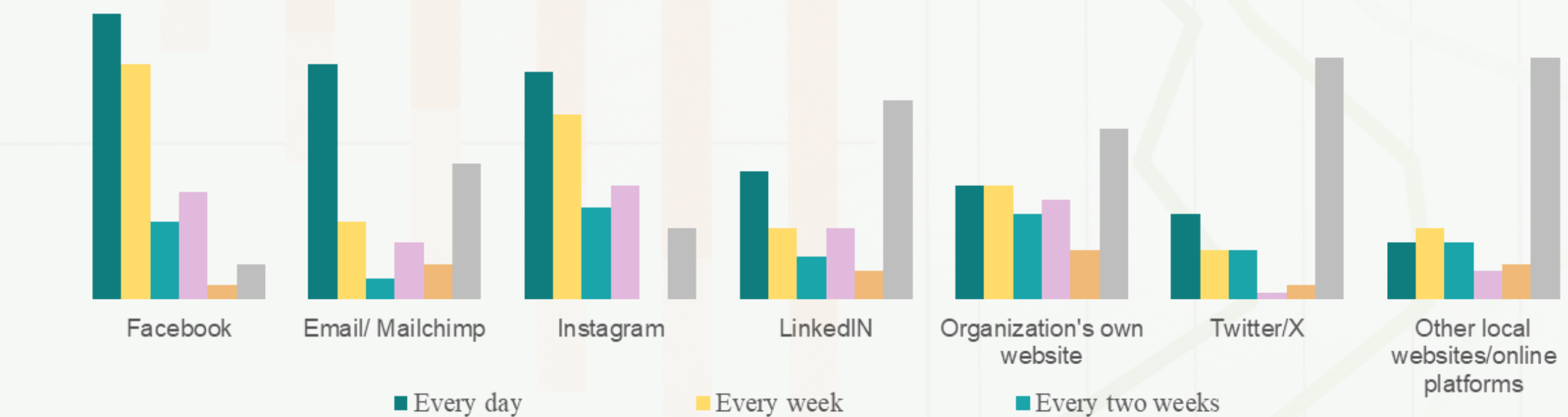


## CSOs needs for more effective cooperation with the media in general and by location\*

The enhancement of capacities for using online communication tools and social media, ranks as the highest need for CSOs to collaborate more effectively with the media, regardless of their location. CSOs located outside the capital show a need for capacity building in creating communication formats with the media, such as statements or press releases, compared to other CSOs, which list the development of media communication strategies or plans as their second most significant need.



## The most commonly used communication channels and their updates\*

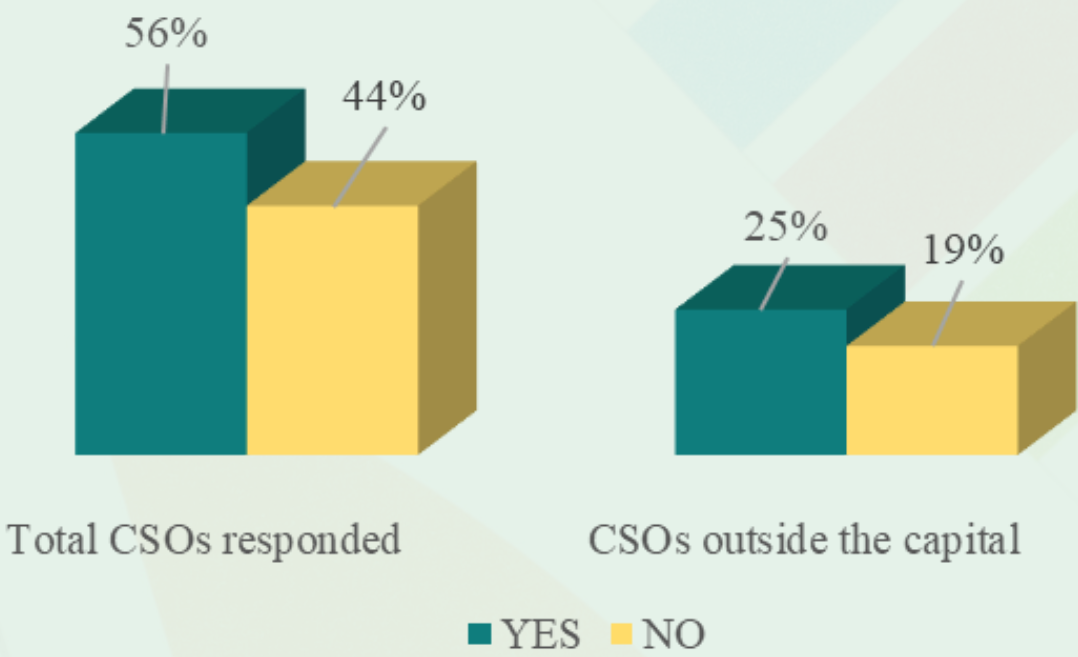


Social media continues to be one of the most widely used communication channels by CSOs in 2024, with a high frequency of updates. Facebook remains the most used platform, followed by email/Mailchimp platform and other social networks.



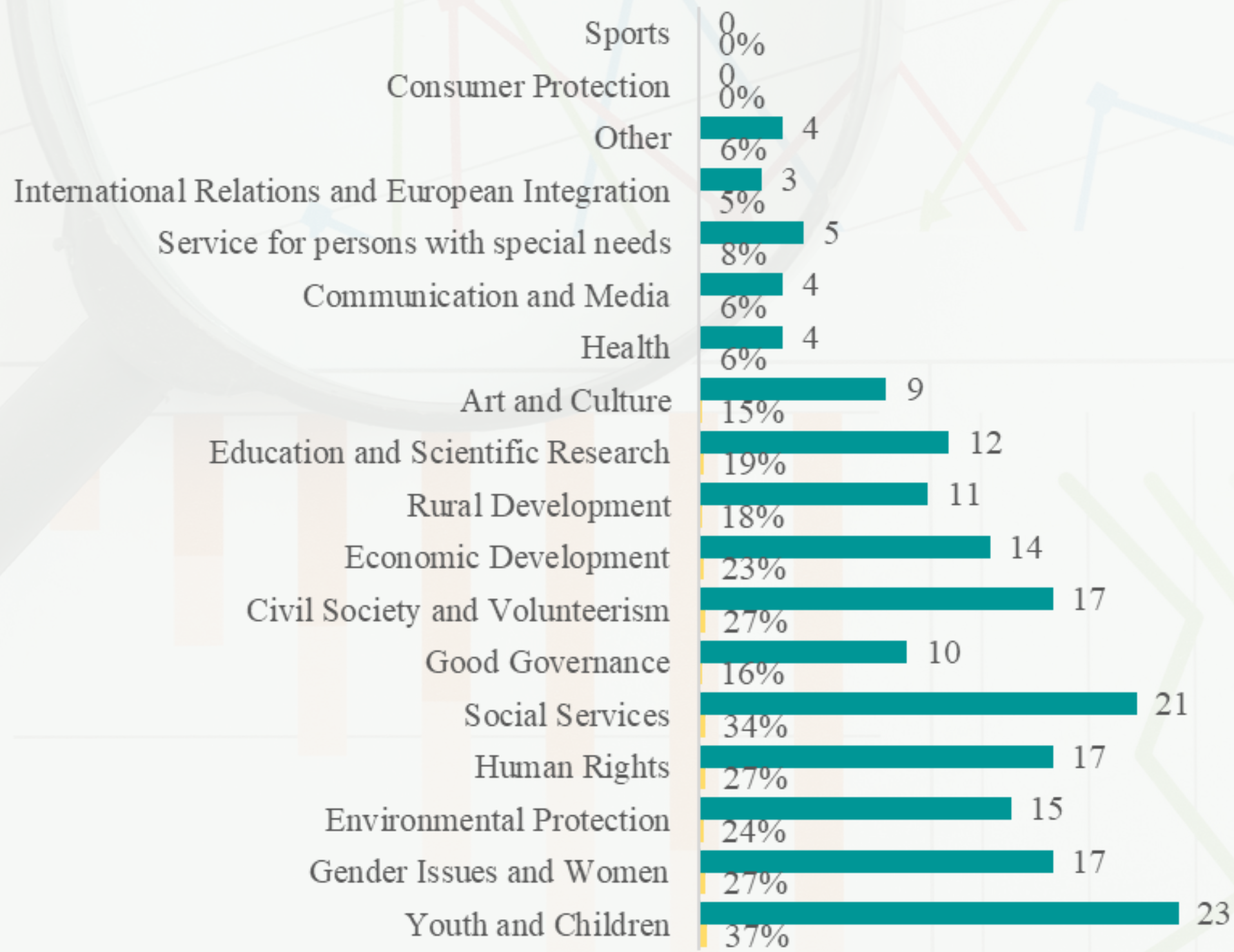
CSOs cooperation with the private sector

Collaboration with the private sector remains at the same levels as last year, with 56% of the surveyed CSOs reporting that they have collaborated.



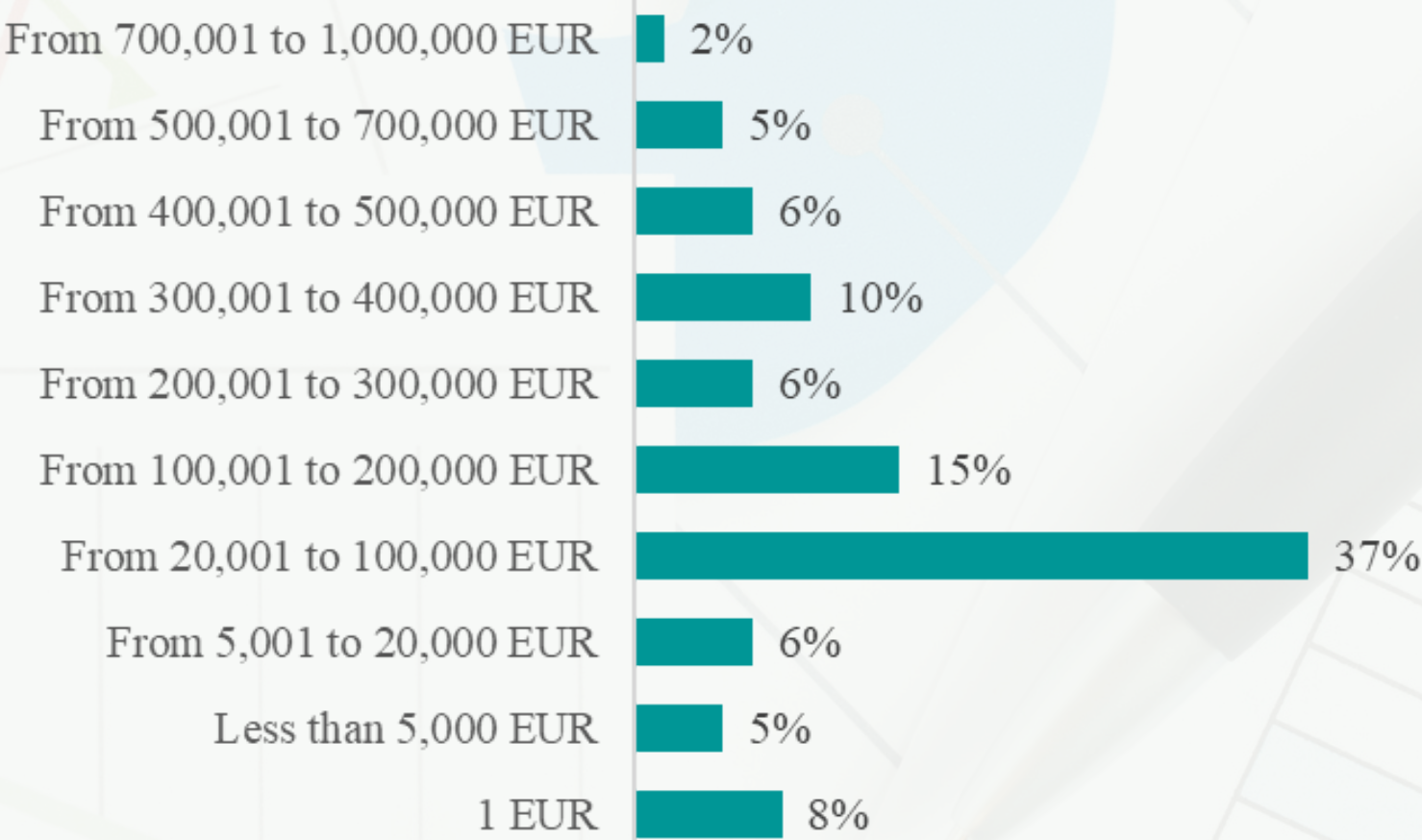
based on fields of activity\*

CSOs working with youth and children, in the field of social protection/social services, as well as those focusing on women's empowerment and gender issues, have a higher level of collaboration with businesses compared to other fields of CSOs activity. Collaboration with the private sector is present in both new and more established organisations.



based on budget\*

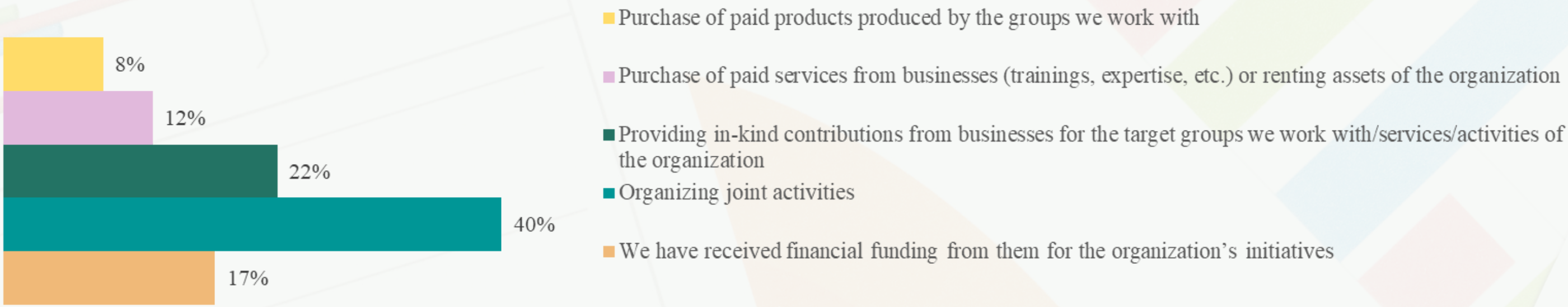
The same situation is observed when analyzing the relationship between the CSOs' budget and their collaboration with the private sector. Collaboration is present in all categories of CSOs, regardless of their annual budget, and is almost equally distributed. The exception is CSOs with a budget between 20,000-100,000 EUR, where the level of collaboration is higher, partly due to the greater number of CSOs in this budget category.





CSOs cooperation with the private sector

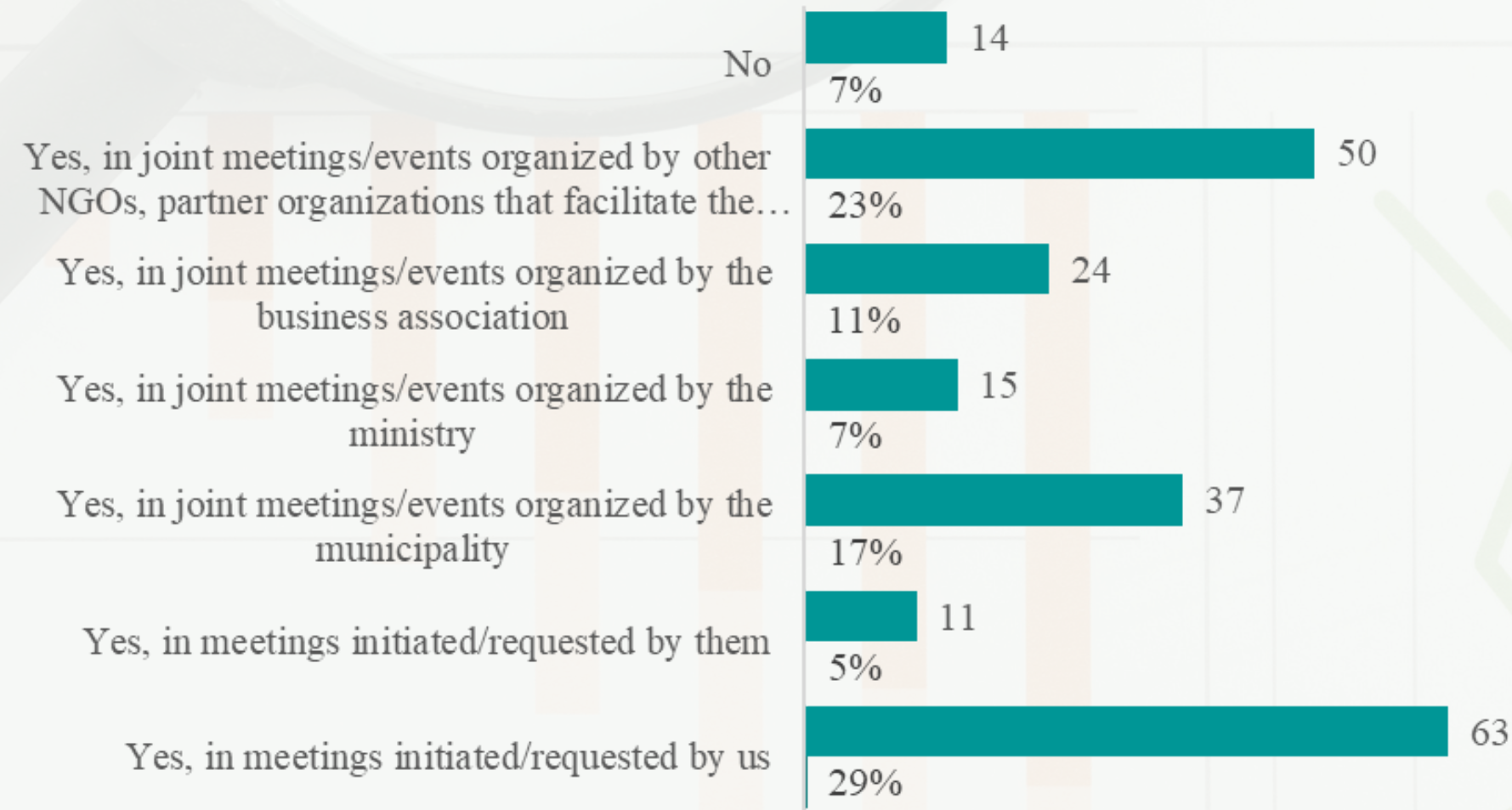
The most common form of collaboration between CSOs and businesses continues to be the organisation of joint activities, followed by the provision of in-kind contributions from businesses to the target groups that CSOs work with or to the services and activities of the organisation.



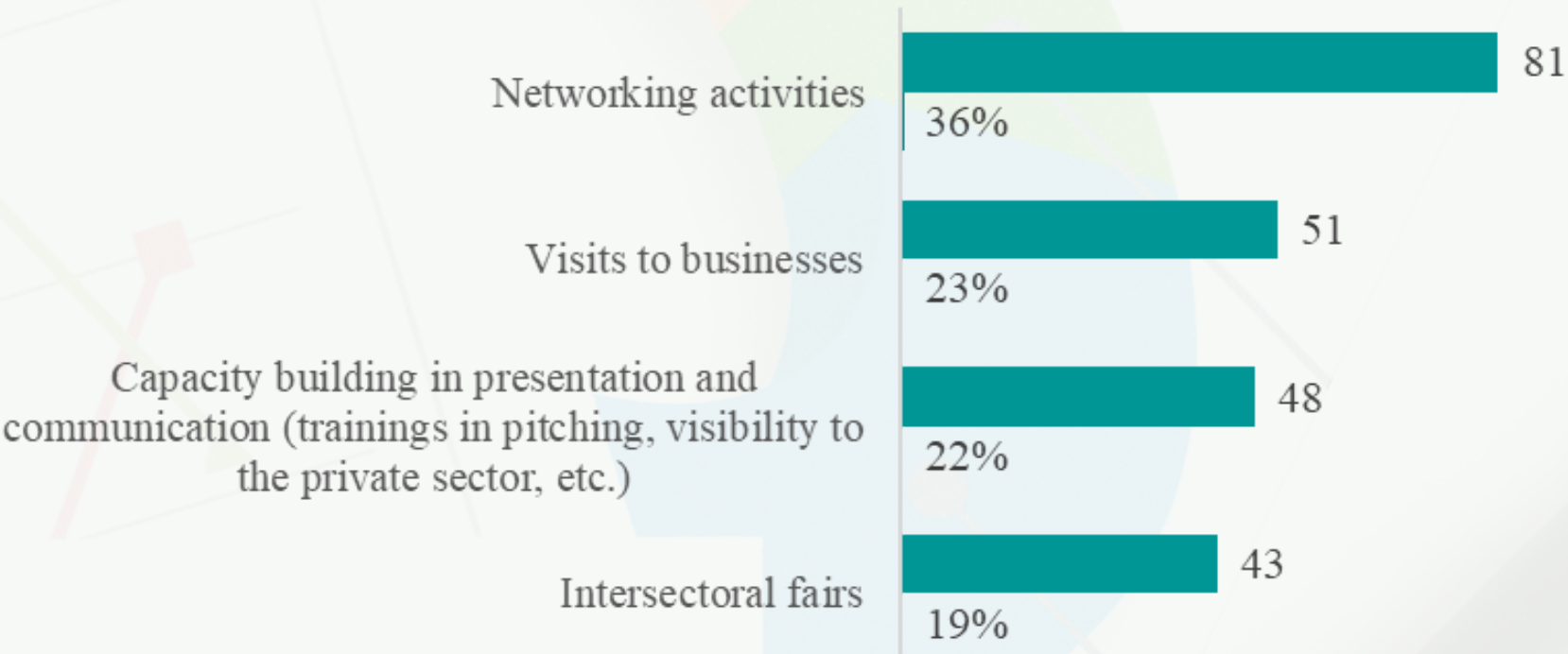
Business acquaintance with CSOs and their activity\*

87% of the CSOs participating in the assessment, state that businesses in their city/ region are aware of the organisations' activities. However, this awareness has mainly been initiated by the CSOs, through meetings that were initiated/ requested by the organisations themselves.

Another common form of awareness is through joint meetings/ events organised by other partner CSOs, which primarily facilitate intersectorial colaboration between the two sectors. Only 5% of the cases report cooperation established in meetings organised or initiated/ requested by the businesses.



Most productive forms for cooperation with businesses



Networking activities are considered the most productive forms for increasing CSO-Business cooperation, followed by visits to businesses.



# CONCLUSIONS

- 110 organizations from all regions of Albania participated, in this assessment, with 55% of the participating CSOs being based in Tirana, indicating a high representation of urban organisations compared to rural ones.
- Associations remain the most common form of CSO registration (49%), while informal groups are still present in the sample.
- About 77% of CSOs outside Tirana primarily operate at the local level, while those in the capital have a national reach.
- Youth and children are the most supported groups by CSOs, followed by women's empowerment and environmental protection.

## Organisational governance, development, and management:

- Financial sustainability continues to be the main challenge for CSOs, regardless of their location or years of establishment. Grants or contracts from foreign donors remain the primary source of funding for CSOs , while funding from local government and businesses remains at low levels.
- The majority of CSOs (34%) operate with budgets ranging from 20,001 to 100,000 EUR, while 15% have minimal budgets (0-5,000 EUR), primarily those outside the capital. Only 9% of CSOs report budgets over 400,000 EUR, with most of them based in Tirana.
- Fundraising and funding sources for CSOs, as well as EU funding programs, continue to be key areas of interest for capacity building.
- Taxation procedures and VAT reimbursement remain among the top issues of interest for CSOs, particularly those outside the capital.
- Monitoring and evaluation of projects remains a high-priority aspect of organizational development, followed by the need for developing strategic plans.
- Despite challenges, there is an increased perception of CSOs' capacity to manage themselves, indicating a positive trend in building sustainable internal structures.

## CSOs participation in policy-making:

- 66% of CSOs were involved in advocacy campaigns in 2024, primarily in collaboration with other CSOs or as part of networks and coalitions, with fewer participating individually.
- Data shows that CSOs with a larger number of employees are more engaged in advocacy campaigns, while those with smaller human resources have lower involvement in these activities.
- The lack of human and financial capacities continues to be the main reasons for limited engagement in advocacy.
- 76% of CSOs report being part of a network or coalition, but the effectiveness of these networks in influencing policy-making remains questionable.
- 56% of CSOs report that they were NOT involved in central-level consultations in 2024, with a notable lack of involvement from CSOs outside Tirana (71%). Meanwhile, participation at the local level is higher, with 59% of CSOs engaged in consultations on local policies, mainly on issues directly affecting their community.
- Lack of information and invitations from public institutions continues to be a key factor hindering CSO involvement in policy-making.
- Additionally, the need for capacity building in policy document drafting and improving lobbying and advocacy skills remains a priority for the CSOs participating in the evaluation.



## Participation of CSOs in the European integration process:

- 80% of CSOs claim to be involved in the country's EU integration process, but their involvement remains superficial.
- Only 16% of CSOs have participated in platforms and roundtables related to the integration process, with organisations outside the capital being less represented.
- 55% of CSOs assess that they have knowledge about European integration structures, but this level of knowledge remains average. This highlights the need for dedicated support for CSOs in this area.

## Transparency with the public:

- 62% of CSOs report that they publish their annual reports, but this practice is more widespread in the capital than in other regions.
- CSOs report that Facebook and Instagram are the main communication channels with the public, using these platforms to share information about their funding sources and key activities.
- The primary need of CSOs to improve transparency is strengthening staff capacity and creating digital infrastructure.

## CSOs - Media cooperation:

- Local media continues to be more accessible for CSOs than national media.
- Facebook is the most widely used platform by CSOs for communication, followed by emails and other social media.
- The need to enhance capacity for using social media and develop communication strategies remains a significant priority for CSOs to strengthen collaboration with the media.
- CSOs outside the capital report a greater need for skills in crafting press statements and building sustainable relationships with the media.

## CSOs - Privat Sector cooperation:

- 56% of CSOs report having collaborated with the private sector, but this cooperation remains sporadic and is more focused on joint events rather than sustainable support.
- Only 5% of OSHC-Business recognition cases were initiated by the private sector, indicating low engagement from businesses.
- Networking activities and business visits remain the most effective formats for strengthening collaboration between the two sectors.



