

I02 – Induction to Pedagogy for NGO staff

Module 1 – Understanding the Non-Governmental Organisations

Part 2: **What are their specifics?**

Prepared by UPB



Foster European Active Citizenship and Sustainability
Through Ecological Thinking by NGO's

Erasmus+ Programme - Strategic Partnership
AGREEMENT N°:
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Agenda

2. What are their specifics?

2.1 Legal forms of NGOs (European Comparison)

2.2 Technology and technical issues in NGOs



2. What are their specifics?

- ❖ The legal status of NGOs varies from country to country
- ❖ There are no uniform international recognition criteria
- ❖ Each European country has different legal forms and different types of NGOs

(Körbel 2009; Middeke 2017; Nordlicht 2011; The World of NGOs 2019)



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2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Germany

- ❖ NGOs show no special regulations
- ❖ Free choice of legal form
- ❖ Legal framework for NGOs was established in 2014 by the German Bundestag
- ❖ Registered associations and foundations are the typical legal forms of NGOs
- ❖ Possibility of founding a non-profit Ltd. (in German: gGmbH)

(Deutscher Bundestag 2014; Middeke 2017)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Malta

“[...] A voluntary organisation is an organisation which is created or established:

- (a) for any social purpose including that which qualifies as a public purpose or for public benefit;
- (b) as non-profit making; and
- (c) is voluntary,

whether it is registered or registerable as a legal person or not in terms of the Second Schedule to the Civil Code and whether it is or may be enrolled under this

Act or not”



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Malta

- ❖ Until the adoption of the Voluntary Organisations Act 2007, no authority was responsible for voluntary organisations in Malta
- ❖ There are no specific registration requirements or monitoring structures in place
- ❖ Law passed in 2007 → Important institutions established: "Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations" and "Council for Voluntary Organisations"
- ❖ If an NGO meets all the conditions for registration, it will receive a certificate and an official number as proof of accountability and transparency

(Voluntary Organisations Act 2007)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Portugal

“Portuguese NGOs are collective entities of private law, with a voluntary basis, without any profitable goals, irrespective of the juridical structure they display and that groups them, on the date of presenting this tender, according to the following requirement:

- a) Legally founded in Portugal;
- b) Undertake objectives either in the general interest or for the common good;
- c) Are independent of any local, regional or national authorities along with any other public entities or socio-professional or business organisations;
- d) Are not party or political party organisations;
- e) Are not religious organisations.” (Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) 2019)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Portugal

Different types of NGOs:

- ❖ NGOs A – environmental and similar Non Governmental Organisations
- ❖ NGOs D – aid and development Non Governmental Organisations
- ❖ NGOs PD – Non Governmental Organisations providing for disabled persons

(Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) 2019)

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2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Romania

“The term non-governmental organizations or NGOs (terminology mainly present in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe) is used to designate those entities that are outside the sphere of authority of the state in a broad sense.”

(Institute of Social Economy 2019)



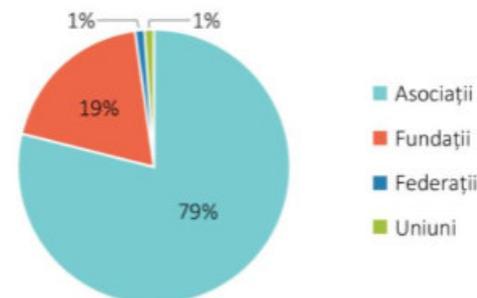
2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Romania

3 different types of NGOs:

- ❖ Associations
- ❖ Foundations
- ❖ Federations

Table 1: *Distribution of NGOs in Romania by types of organizations, 2015*
 (Source: National NGO Register, Ministry of Justice, 2016)



Sursa: Registrul Național ONG, Ministerul Justiției, 2016, prelucrare FDSC

Legend:

Asociații = Associations; Fundații = Foundations; Federații = Federations; Uniuni = Unions

(Institute of Social Economy 2019)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Greece

- ❖ “Organisations with the usual characteristics of Social Movement Organisations (SMOs) but regarded as anti-state or anti-government. These shared some similarities with the traditional pressure groups.
- ❖ Organisations with specific characteristics based on voluntary work, where at least the majority of their staff were volunteers.
- ❖ Organisations, which could be regarded to be connected to the wider public sector such as professional associations, charities, religious associations, etc.” (GHK 2010, p. 4)



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2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Greece

Different types of NGOs:

- ❖ Associations
- ❖ Non-profit Foundation

(GHK 2010)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Ireland

- ❖ NGOs are also called NPOs (not-for-profit organizations)
- ❖ Charitable Organisations
 - ❖ Mutual Benefit - Organisations
 - ❖ Public Benefit - Organisations
- ❖ Charities Act 2009
 - ❖ First legal directive
 - ❖ NGOs have to aim for a charitable purpose
 - ❖ For example: prevention of poverty and economic hardship, promotion in the field of education and religion

(Council on Foundations 2018)



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2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Ireland

Different types of NPOs:

- ❖ Cooperatives
- ❖ Religious organisations
- ❖ Trade unions
- ❖ Residents' associations
- ❖ Foundations
- ❖ Self-help groups

(Council on Foundations 2018)



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2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Italy

„Recognised associations, non-recognised associations, de facto organisations, committees, volunteer organisations, non-governmental organisations, and social promotion associations“

(Poledrini 2018, p. 40)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Italy

- ❖ Limited information on legal regulations
- ❖ Restructuring of NGOs in the context of the refugee crisis
- ❖ July 2017: The Italian Government has submitted a Code of Conduct regulating the activities of NGOs in the Mediterranean region.

(Cusumano 2019, p. 106)



2.1 Legal forms of NGOs

Spain

Different types of NGOs:

- ❖ Foundations
- ❖ Associations
- ❖ Cooperatives

→ Depending on the region, local regulations apply

(Advocates for international Development 2017, p. 57)



Task- Comparing different legal forms

Please create a group with 3 participants and fill in the comparing matrix for the following EU-countries according to these three attributes: definition, types of NGOs and legal regulation:

1) Where can you see similarities and differences? Please discuss this in the group and fill in the matrix.

Countries	Definitions	Types of NGOs	Legal regulations
Italy			
Spain			
Germany			
Malta			
Portugal			
Romania			
Ireland			
Greece			



Source: Joshua Fuller, <https://unsplash.com/photos/TiDa-gEog-s>



2.2 Technology and technical issues in NGOs

- ❖ A large part (more than 71 %) is affected by digitalisation
- ❖ According to a study, 96 % of the NGOs surveyed see potential for themselves to increase their social effectiveness through digitalization
- ❖ Digital technologies are predominantly used for the collection and processing of master data, the completion of administrative tasks or the improvement of internal processes

(IW Consult 2018)



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2.2 Technology and technical issues in NGOs

Following digital instruments are being used intensively or very intensively in the various NGOs:

- ❖ Office-Programs
- ❖ Electronic texts (e.g. e-books and PDFs)
- ❖ Social Networks
- ❖ Devices and programs for creative work (e.g. graphics programs, video production etc.)
- ❖ Chat Services
- ❖ Cloud Services
- ❖ Web-Sessions, Webinars

(IW Consult 2018)



Source: Riccardo Annandale, <https://unsplash.com/photos/7e2pe9wjL9M>

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Thank you very much for your attention!



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