

NGEnvironment
Final Conference
Online via Zoom

7th- 8th of July 2021

Project Number: 2018-1-DE02-KA204-005014

NGEnvironment

Foster European Active Citizenship and Sustainability
Through Ecological Thinking by NGOs

IO1: Summary Research Report



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Welcome to our Online Conference!



The NGEEnvironment Final Conference

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IO1 – Summary Research Report



- ❖ Multidisciplinary evidence based state-of-the-art presented in a form of a report that will present the guidelines for the project's framework
- ❖ Transferrable product to any NGO already established or to be founded within any region of the project's consortium.
- ❖ It will also set a benchmark for the NGO, green and social entrepreneurship sectors in Europe since it will collate a vast international desk and field-based diagnose and showcase of best practice that has currently – to our knowledge – no equivalent in the UE.



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Germany



- ❖ In Germany NGOs are called NROs (Nichtregierungsorganisationen)
- ❖ The term NSO (nichtstaatliche Organisation) is also used
- ❖ They are seen as "non-state" in the sense of "stateindependent", "government-independent"
- ❖ They have a permanent, viable structure and their own seat
- ❖ In Germany they can be organized locally, nationally or internationally.
- ❖ Not all of the NGOs in Germany are only non-for-profit but most of them are.
- ❖ The most important issue is that they are non-for-profit in their core field of activities. And not in all cases they are coming with a voluntary approach
- ❖ Most of them address issues in support of the public good. They are often associations, foundations or federations.
- ❖ Through their many years of experience, NGOs have often developed sustainable development-supporting structures and networks.



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Germany



Definition of NGO in Germany:

"Non-governmental organizations, institutions, associations or groups operating internationally, nationally, regionally or locally. Today they are internationally recognized as independent development agencies and form an important element in international conferences, especially in the context of the United Nations. The spectrum of NGOs ranges from local groups and initiatives to global organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, Greenpeace or Amnesty International, from church organizations such as Misereor and Brot für die Welt to political foundations and solidarity-based organizations (eg Terre des hommes, Medico International, Weltfriedensdienst)."

(Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung 2018 -<http://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/lexika/lexikon-der-wirtschaft/20162/nichtregierungsorganisationen-Original> in German)



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Germany



- ❖ There is an intensive exchange of opinions and experiences between states (Länder and Bund) and NGOs in Germany.
- ❖ Non-governmental organizations play a key role in raising the importance of development cooperation to the general public.
- ❖ In Germany, there are several thousand non-governmental development NGOs - funding associations, initiative groups, action alliances, working groups, solidarity groups, partnership institutions, foundations, development networks and many more.
- ❖ In Germany NGOs depend heavily on volunteer work and donations.
- ❖ In 2014 the German Bundestag agreed on a Legal framework for the activity of Non-governmental organizations in Germany



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Romania



Definition of NGO in 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, www.ise.org.ro)



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Romania



- ❖ In Romania, the legal forms under which non-governmental organizations can be formed are associations, foundations or federations.
- ❖ Most of the established organizations are associations. Thus, while the number of associations is an indicator of associativity, solidarity and spirit of self-help
- ❖ The number of foundations is an indicator of philanthropy, the desire to do well, to help others, but also of the existence of the necessary financial resources, because foundations primarily means to damage a patrimony permanently and irrevocably to the achievement of a purpose of general interest or, as the case may be, private.



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Ireland



Definition of NGO in Ireland:

“NGOs [non-governmental organisations] campaign to change government policies and share information to encourage people to improve things. For example, the World Wildlife Federation gives information about climate, food, forests, fresh water, and oceans. Greenpeace shows ways to improve energy use and help protect the oceans and forests. NGOs have more influence with the government than a single person would have. When an NGO writes a letter to the councillor, they are backed by all their members –so it makes a stronger impression than a letter from just one person. NGOs influence with politicians is limited for two reasons: they have no legal power and they are funded from voluntary donations from their members. Environmental NGOs raise awareness and educate the public, and campaign and lobby to change environmental policy. In Ireland, the following are examples of Environmental NGOs that perform this role:

- Taisce-a charity working to preserve and protect Ireland's natural and built heritage.
- Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland (ESAI) -facilitates communication and interaction between persons interested in the environment through colloquia, seminars, workshops and publications.
- Irish Environmental Network–comprises 34 Irish Environmental NGOs that work individually and, as appropriate, jointly to protect and enhance the environment, and to place environmental issues centre stage in Ireland and internationally.”

(Source: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/enfo/irelands-environment/environmental-governance/ngos-role-in-governance/>)

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Insights into the research results – NGOs in Ireland



- ❖ A report published by Benefacts in April 2018 stated that there are currently 29,000 NGOs registered and operating in Ireland today.
- ❖ This figure grew from 20,000 in 2015, and the rise in registered NGOs can be explained through the expansion of the non-profit sector in Ireland thanks to the growth in regional Public Participation Networks (PPN).
- ❖ PPNs were established following the Local Government Act in 2014.
- ❖ PPNs are public forums that aim to improve civic participation by giving citizens a greater say in local government decisions which affect their own communities.
- ❖ NGOs and civil society organisations sit on regional PPNs, of which there are 31 in Ireland to date.



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Spain



Definition of NGO in Spain:

UNITED NATIONS Resolution 1996/31 of 25 July defines an NGO as "any group of voluntary, non-profit citizens that arises at the local, national or international level, of an altruistic nature and directed by persons with a common interest. NGOs carry out a variety of humanitarian services, bring citizen concerns to the attention of the government, monitor policies and support political participation, at the community level. They provide analysis and technical expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms, and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some are organized around specific themes such as human rights, the environment or health."



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Spain



- ❖ Article 22 of the Constitution and Organic Law 1/2002, of 22 March, regulating the Right of Association, constitute the normative framework of reference for associations, which allows them to develop their social activities under the principles of freedom and pluralism, without interference by the public authorities.
- ❖ In 2007, the number of entities registered in the National Register of Associations was around 25,000 and, just ten years later, that number has doubled, so that today, the number of registered associative entities exceeds 50,000.
- ❖ Similarly, the important regulatory and management changes that have taken place since 2007 have led to an increase in requests for information on models, procedures, provision of documents, legal interpretations and many other issues related to registration and public utility declaration procedures.





Insights into the research results – NGOs in Malta

Definition of NGO in Malta:

*“A voluntary organisation is an organisation which is created or established
(a) for any lawful purpose;
(b) as non-profit making; and
(c) is voluntary.”*

(Chapter 492, Voluntary Organisations Act, Malta, Cap. 16
(<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8958&l=1>)



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Malta



- ❖ In the local scenario nearly all NGOs are managed and very often manned by volunteers.
- ❖ The term 'voluntary organisations' emphasises the choice to associate for a common purpose and some donation of one's time and labour -at least of the board members or organisers.
- ❖ The total number of current registered NGOs on the Maltese islands is that of 1,479.
- ❖ 46 % of NGOs in the sector of "Membership and religious organisations"; 43 % of NGOs in the field of "social work activities"





Insights into the research results – NGOs in Portugal

Definition of NGO in Portugal:

The study Survey on the NGO sector in Portugal developed by Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) contains the following definition of NGOs:

“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.”*



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Portugal



Types of NGOs:

- ❖ The NGO concept hitherto employed by the Active Citizenship Programme is consistent with that defined in Portuguese legislation that stipulates regulations for three specific types of NGOs, as follows:
 - ❖ 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.



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Portugal



Definition of NGO in Greece:

“NGOs are defined by the World Bank as "private organizations working to alleviate pain, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development". The goals of NGOs are mainly humanitarian and concern environmental or social problems such as poverty, racism, the environment, etc.”

(Source: Department of Political Science and International Relations of the University of Peloponnese in collaboration with other institutions, under the program «Thalis»)



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Greece



- ❖ In Greece, in 2015, 422 organizations, non-profit corporations and publicly-owned unions, with organizational autonomy and administrative structures, have been in place
- ❖ Thus, 111 deal with social solidarity and integration, 100 with health, welfare, nutrition and housing, 69 with education, training and labor rights, 59 with human rights and gender issues, etc.



Insights into the research results – NGOs in Italy



Definition of NGO in Italy:

“An NGO is a non-governmental organization, this means that it is independent from the states and therefore does not receive the funds. NGOs pursue different goals of social utility, political causes or development cooperation. The areas of intervention are: environmental protection, protection of minorities, areas of development and protection specific to certain categories of people. The NGOs carry out their work independently from the supranational states, but can collaborate with institutions such as the European Union. The NGOs are non-profit. Most of them are managed by volunteers, but not all. Activities in small NGOs and non-profit organizations are usually managed by volunteers. The big international NGOs are instead managed by paid staff because they need specific skills to carry out their work effectively and efficiently. [...]. Today it is an NGO (non-governmental organization) recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The international NGOs present and best known in Italy are among others ActionAid, Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International, WWF Italy, Save the Children Italy.”

(Save the Children Italy – Original in Italian: <https://www.savethechildren.it/blog-notizie/che-cos%E2%80%99%C3%A8-una-ong-facciamo-chiarezza>)

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Insights into the research results – NGOs in Italy



- ❖ Non-governmental organizations in Italy that deal with cooperation with developing countries (DCs) must obtain recognition from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to benefit from the contributions of Italian cooperation. This recognition is expected from 1979 (Law 38 on cooperation) and, in particular, the reform law (49/87).
- ❖ There are about 230 recognized NGOs working in this sector in 2017.
- ❖ In Italy NGOs are particular ONLUS – Organizzazione Non Lucrativa di Utilità Sociale (non-profit organization of social utility) that concentrate their activities in development cooperation and that are recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and included in a specific list.
- ❖ The main Italian NGOs are **Emergency, Italian Caritas, Community of Sant'Egidio, Hands off Cain, Legambiente**, etc.



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