

About the NGOs in Romania: definitions and brief statistics

Definition 1:

“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)

Definition 2:

“The term non-profit organizations refers to those non-governmental entities constituted from a structural or legal point of view in a charitable or non-profit form, the main purpose of which is to provide public services or to defend a cause. They are therefore private organizations designated to serve public or quasi-public objectives.” (Vlășceanu, Mihaela (1996). *Sectorul nonprofit. Contexte, organizare, conducere.* (tr. in English: *The non-profit sector. Contexts, organization, leadership*) Paideia Publishing House, Bucharest)

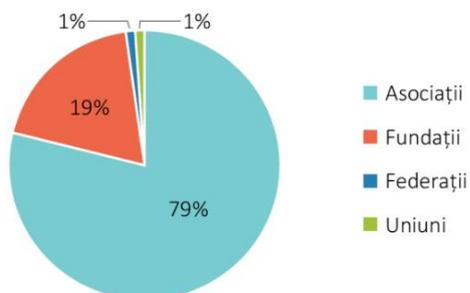
Definition 3:

According to the law in force in Romania (namely the law on organization and functioning of the not-for profit entities - the Law No. 246/2005 for the approval of Government Ordinance No. 26/2000 on associations and foundations), the non-governmental organizations are legal persons constituted by individuals (physical persons) or legal persons that pursue to develop activities in general interest or in the interests of local groups or, as the case may be, in their personal non-patrimonial interest (i.e. non-profit or without a lucrative purpose).

In Romania, the legal forms under which non-governmental organizations can be formed are **associations, foundations** or **federations**.

In Romania, 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.

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