
Environmental Civil Society Organizations in Central and Eastern Europe: *Trends, challenges and barriers to their sustainability*

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Introduction

- Democracy, diversity, and the concept of civil society;
 - Transition in CEE/SEE region, evolution of the movement and its contribution to societal changes;
 - Cross-regional analyses and comparison to identify trends and challenges in the development of civil society;
 - If we need/ want environmental civil society organizations (ECSOs), then what could or should be done to promote their stability and sustainability?
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Presentation Highlights

- Examine ECSO trends in CEE and SEE
 - Demonstrate presence of:
 - Growing disparities between different types of ECSOs
 - Increasing threats to grassroots organizations
 - Provide recommendations on steps toward ECSO sustainability
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Methodology

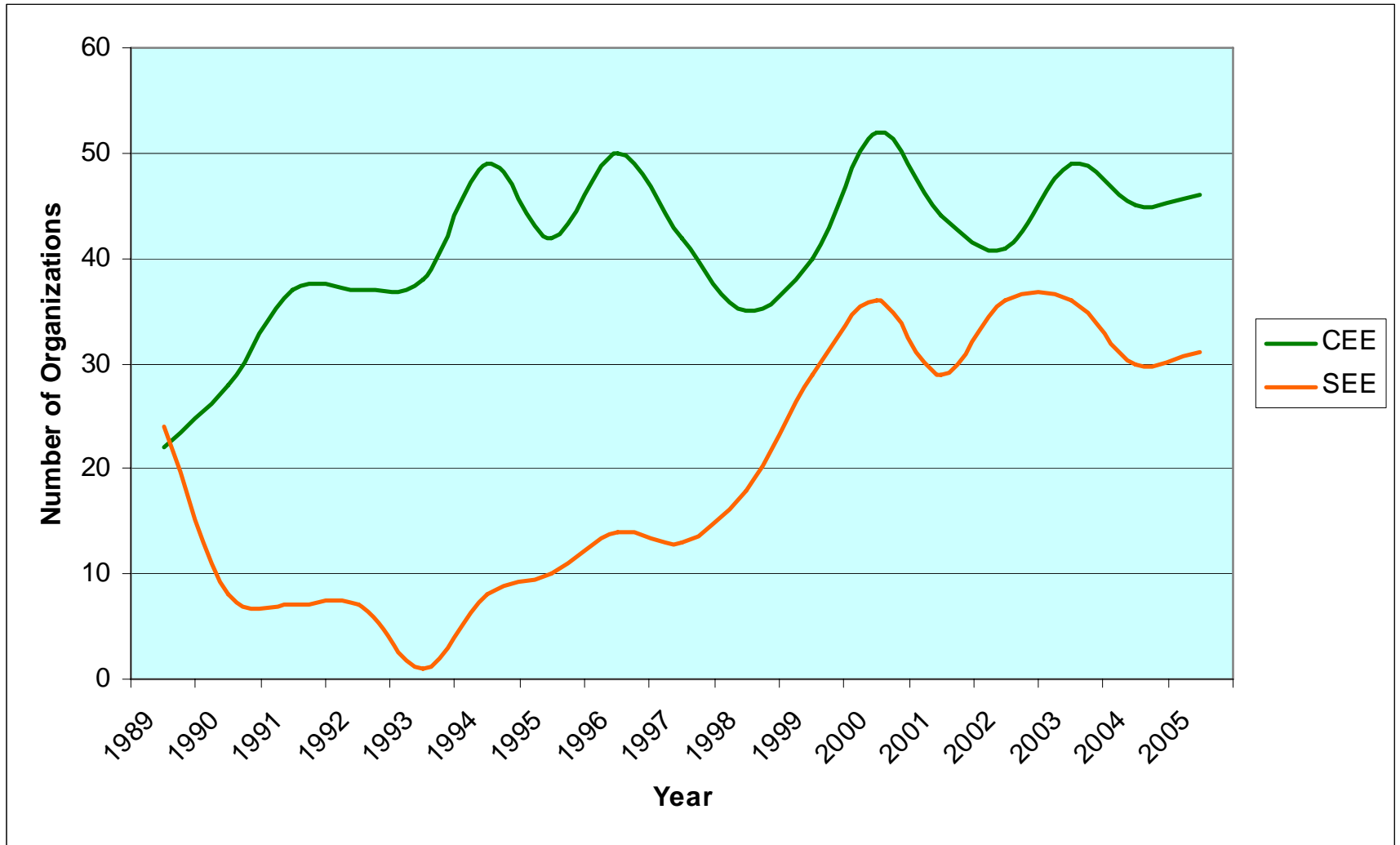
- Two streams of research with variations on common methodology:
 - Adjusted to local conditions and capacities of involved experts
 - MIT study:
 - Central and Eastern Europe
 - Focused on broader sociological assessment and concepts
 - Distribution to defined population of organizations
 - Web-based survey with multiple reminders
 - REC study:
 - South Eastern Europe
 - Practically oriented for other project components
 - Module based
 - Open distribution of questionnaires and additional data from interviews
 - Comparability of data and outcomes:
 - Coordination of questionnaires and scope of questions
 - Using 2001 REC data for trend assessment
 - Cooperation in data interpretation
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Response Rates by Country

	Number of Respondents	Response Rate
CEE		
Czech Republic	206	56%
Estonia	97	60%
Hungary	227	82%
Latvia	35	61%
Lithuania	20	53%
Poland	142	46%
Slovakia	54	48%
Slovenia	57	73%
Total	838	60%
SEE		
Albania	68	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88	-
Croatia	70	-
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	50	-
Montenegro	14	-
Serbia	114	-
Kosovo (UNMIK)	30	-
Total	433	-

I. ECSO Development, Topics Addressed, and Work Orientation

Founding of ECSOs by Year



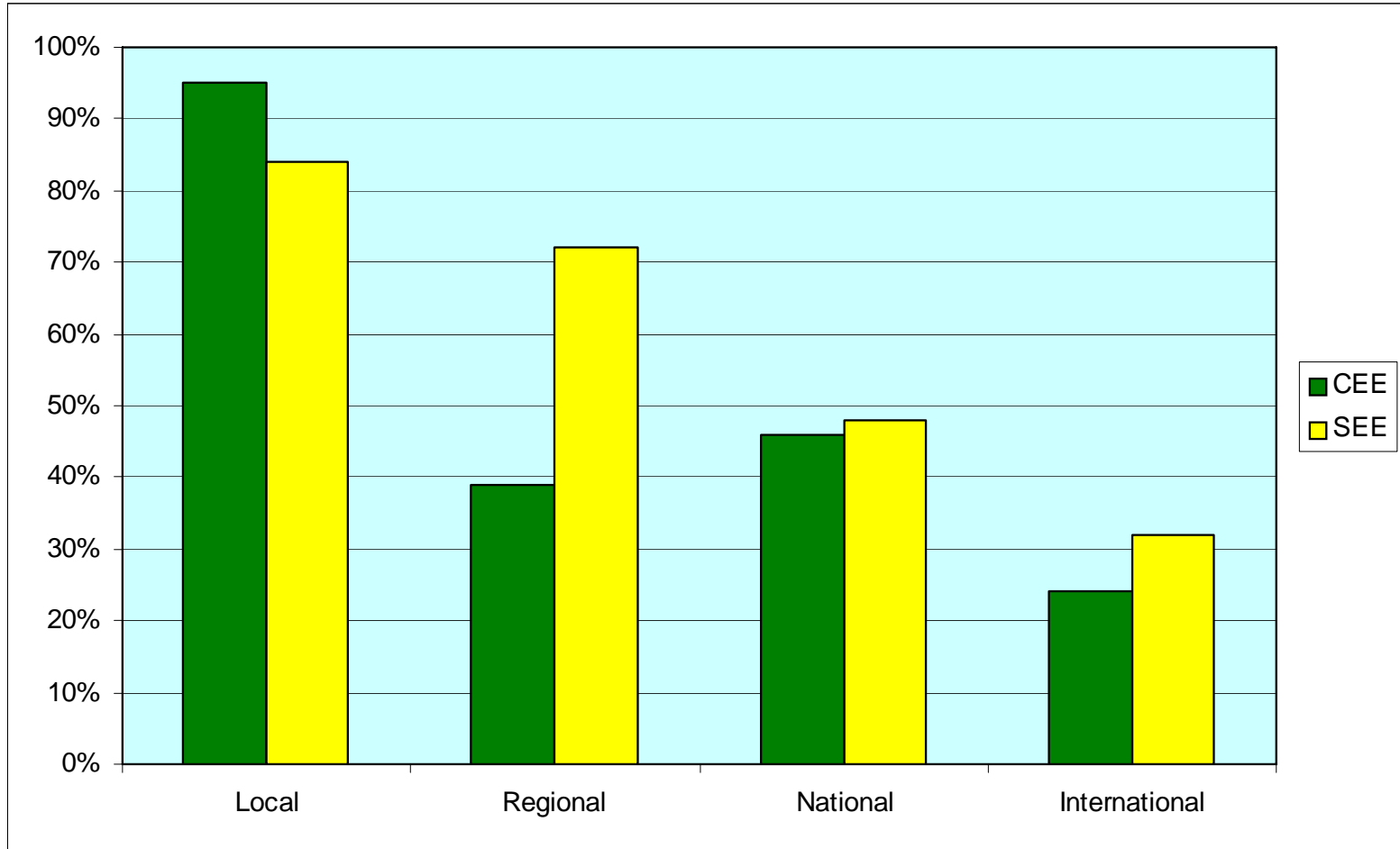
Top-Ranked Topics

Regional	CEE	SEE
2001	2006	2006
Nature protection	Environmental education	Environmental education/ESD
Environmental Education	Nature protection	Nature protection
Public Participation	Access to environmental information	Sustainable development
Biodiversity Preservation	Biodiversity preservation	Waste issues
Tourism/ Eco-Tourism	Sustainable development	Water issues
	Habitat protection	Tourism, Sustainable /Eco-Tourism
	Public participation	Rural development
	Tourism / Eco-Tourism	Environmental policy -making

Top Ranked Activities, 2001-2006

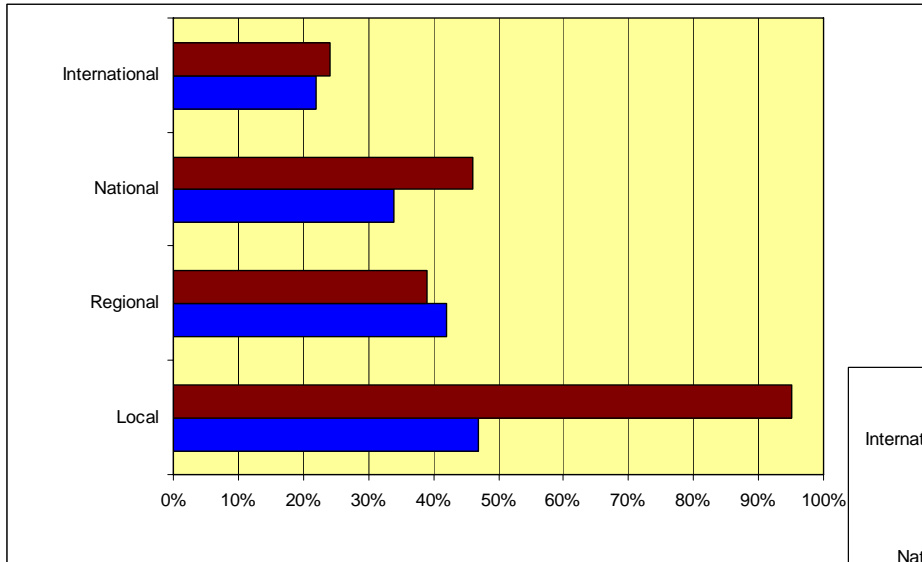
Regional, 2001	CEE, 2006	SEE, 2006
Education	Provide information to the press	Awareness raising
Awareness raising	Maintain website	Education
Information dissemination	Speak at schools, community meetings	Information dissemination

Orientation of Work, 2006

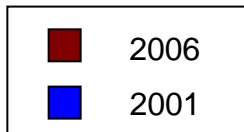
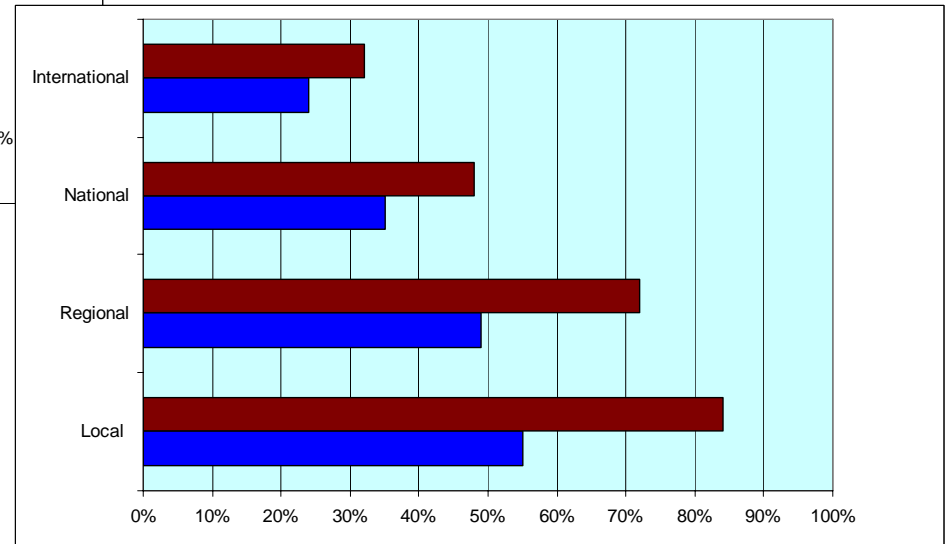


Comparison of Work Orientation, 2001-2006

CEE



SEE



Comparison of ECSO Development & Activities

- Growth: Overall fairly stable pattern, but SEE younger.
 - Topics: Traditional CSO activities predominate, but technical/policy issues lower ranking.
 - Level: Still high-level of international activity. Yet greater localisation.
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II. ECSO Financial Resources

Most Common Funding Sources, 2006

CEE	
Membership dues	67%
Domestic government grants	63%
Domestic foundation grants	51%
Citizen grants	53%
Domestic business grants	49%
<i>Average number of sources of funding per ECSO</i>	5

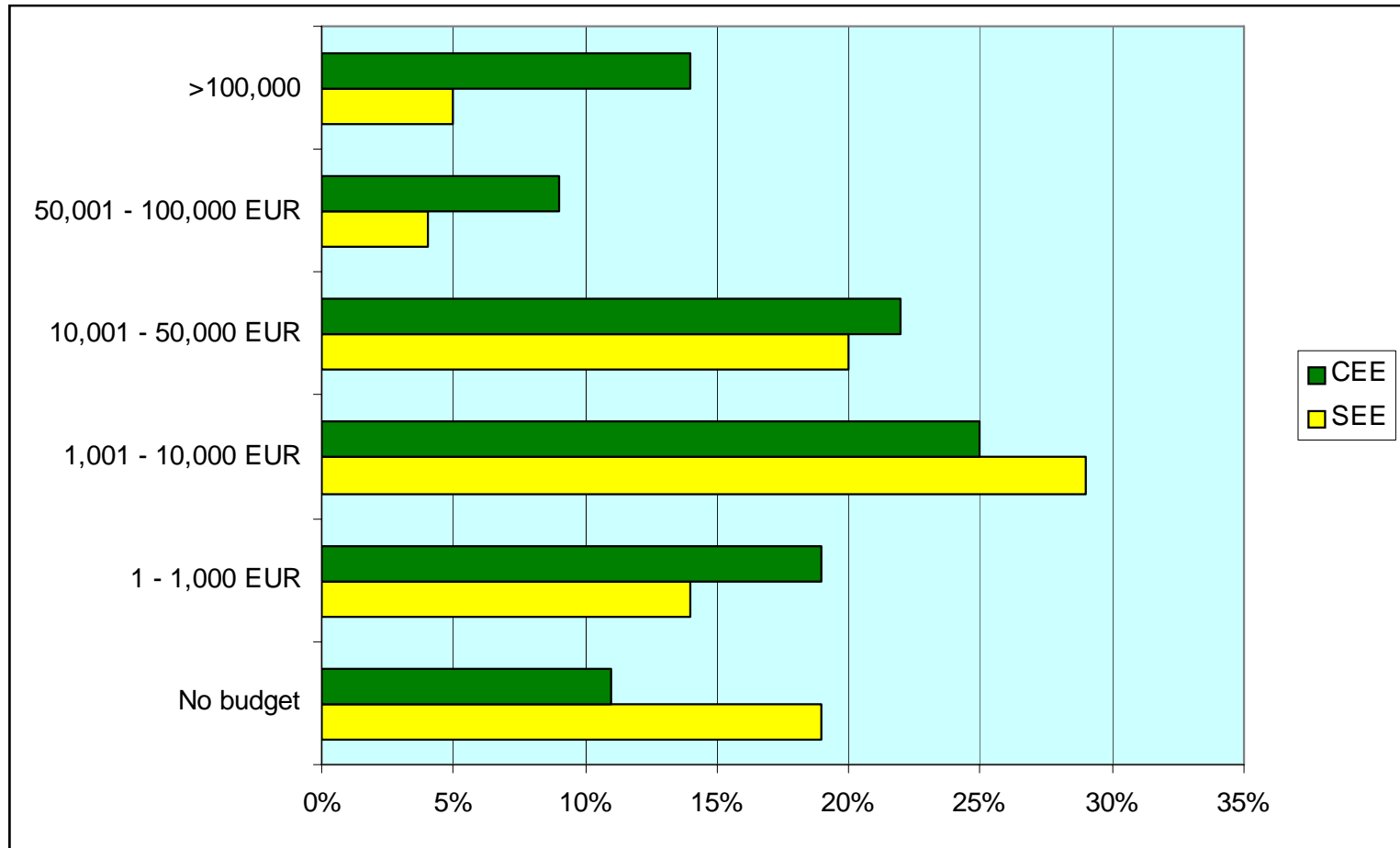
SEE	
Foreign/international foundation grants	52%
Domestic government grants	52%
Membership dues (fees)	44%
Foreign government/international grants	36%
Domestic corporate/business grants	34%
<i>Average number of sources of funding per ECSO</i>	3.5

Primary Funding Sources, 2006

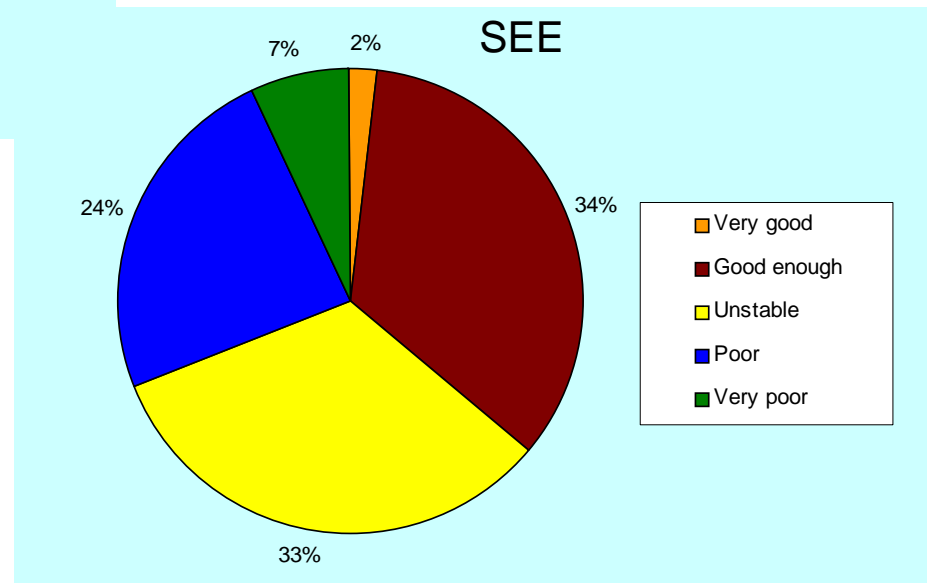
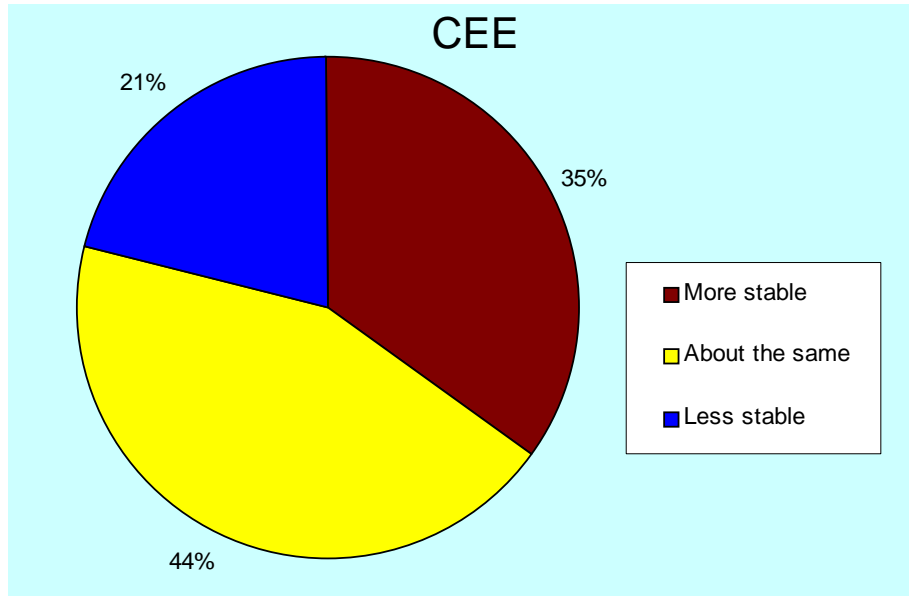
CEE	
Domestic government/public sector grants or donations	33%
Membership dues or supporter contributions	22%
European Union	18%

SEE	
Foreign/international foundation grants	23%
Domestic government/public sector grants or donations	15%
Foreign government/international grants	14%

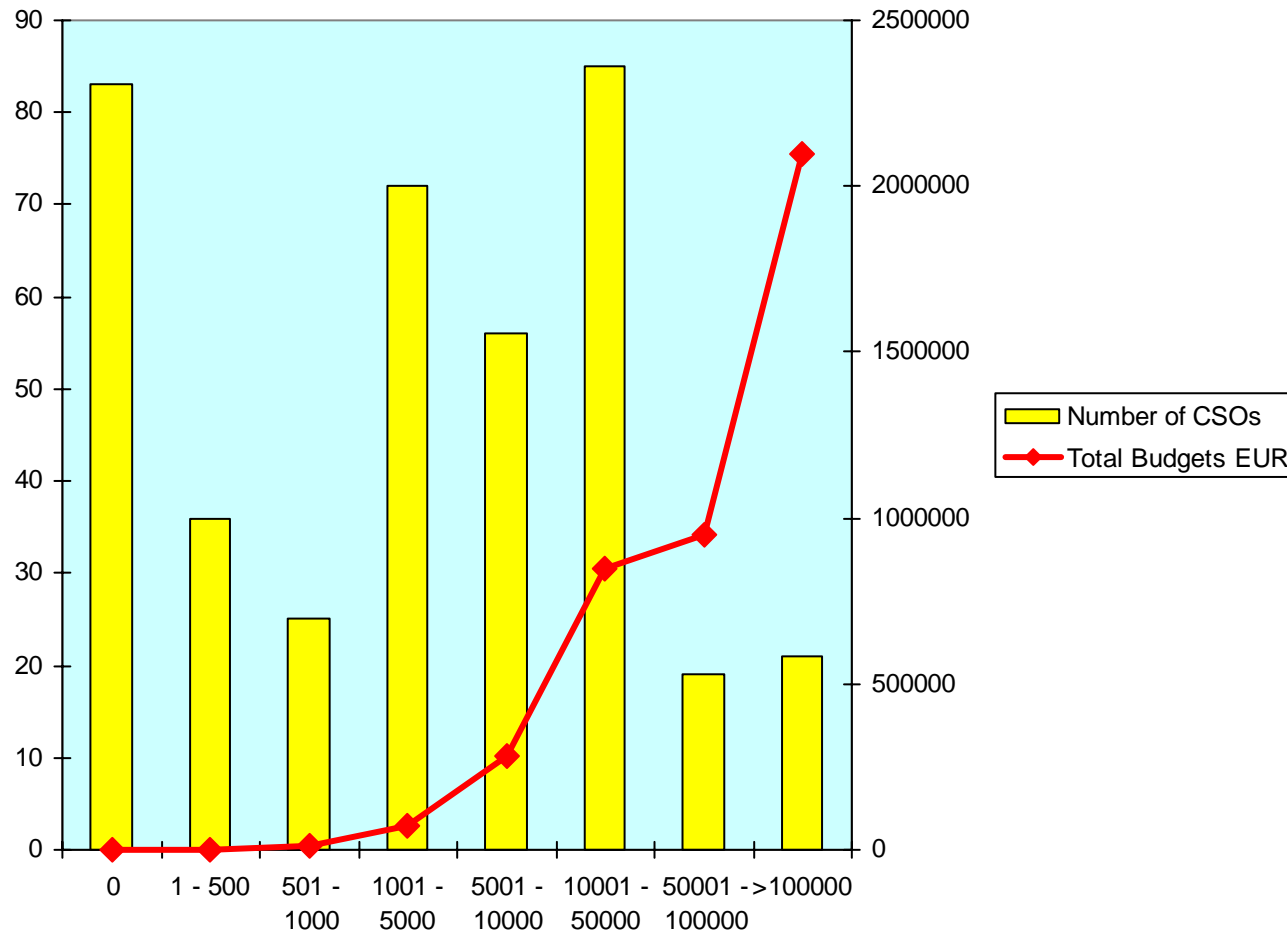
Funding Comparison, 2006



Financial Status of ECISOs, 2006



Haves and Have-Nots, SEE



Comparison of Financial Resources

- Most common funding sources: CEE more domestic dependency, SEE more foreign dependency.
 - Most critical funding source: Membership dues.
 - Stability: Should 2/3 of CSOs be financially unstable or worse?
 - 'Haves-and-have-nots' (Champagne glass):
 - Around 1/3 with under 1,000 EUR,
 - CEE/SEE % increase in highest budget range,
 - SEE % increase in low budget ranges.
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III. *Analysis of ECISOs in CEE, 2006*

Primary Funding Source v Income, Staff, and Membership – CEE, 2006*

	Income	Staff	Membership
More	EU Foreign Foundations	EU Sales	Dues
Less	Dues Domestic Foundations	Dues	Foreign Foundations

*Significant at $p < .05$

Activity Analysis - CEE, 2006

Activity Types	CEE
Community and Civil Society Support	64%
Direct Action	39%
Education and Training	76%
Environmental Management	77%
Information Dissemination	88%
Policy Advocacy	58%

Impacts by Activities - CEE, 2006*

Direct Action	Information Dissemination	Policy Advocacy
Mobilize public Contribute to democracy Contribute to society Call attention to issues	Contribute to democracy Raise awareness Influence government Influence officials	Raise awareness Influence government Influence officials
Education	Community Support	Environmental Management
Increase knowledge Raise awareness	Mobilize public Contribute to democracy Improve enviro quality Call attention to issues	Protect nature Improve enviro quality Influence government Influence officials

*Significant at $p < .05$

Activities and Sources of Funding in CEE*

Direct Action	Information Dissemination	Policy Advocacy	Education	Community & Civil Society Support	Environmental Management
Primary Source of Funding					
Foreign Foundations		European Union	Foreign Foundations	European Union	
Secondary Source of Funding					
Dues Domestic Foundations	Foreign Foundations Corporations	Foreign Foundations	European Union Domestic Foundations	Foreign Foundations	Foreign Foundations

*Significant at $p < .05$

Activities and Funding Levels in CEE*

- Activities associated with higher levels of funding:
 - Education
 - Policy Advocacy
 - Community and Civil Society Support
 -The first with foreign foundations as a primary funder and the latter two with EU

- Activity associated with lower levels of funding:
 - Direct Action
 -With foreign foundations as primary and dues and domestic foundations as secondary source of support
 - Also.....most likely to have members

Trends in ECSO Funders and Activities

- ECSOs with EU as primary or secondary source of funding:
 - Have the most capacity
 - High levels of income
 - High levels of staffing
 - Are engaging in policy advocacy, education, and community and civil society support
 - Focus on influencing government and policy, but not clear whether they are acting in societal, self or EU interest
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Trends in ECSO Funders and Activities

- ECSOs with dues as the primary or secondary source of funding:
 - Have the least capacity
 - Low levels of income
 - Low levels of staffing
 - Likely to have members
 - Tend to engage in direct action with the intent to mobilize public, promote awareness, and promote democracy
 - Appear to be closer to public and most focused on democracy and representation
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Implications of Disparities

- Disparities in capacity
 - “Haves and have-nots” as reflected in levels of income
 - Threats to the grassroots
 - Differences are not just in levels income;
 - Disparities in capacity are linked to particular activities, funding sources and presence of membership;
 - Those engaging in direct action, that rely on dues and have memberships are faced with greatest financial challenges.
 - These are the organizations most closely associated with vision of civil society.
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Questions about the relationship of funders to ECSOs in CEE

- What do we know about foreign foundations?
 - To what extent is EU fostering an organizational base that serves its ends as opposed to representing broader public?
 - Can dues-funded, direct action-oriented ECSOs sustain their work over time?
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Given trends in CEE,
and, given the assumption that we want to
support civil society and ECSOs.....

What can be done to sustain diverse types of
organizations in CEE and in SEE?

