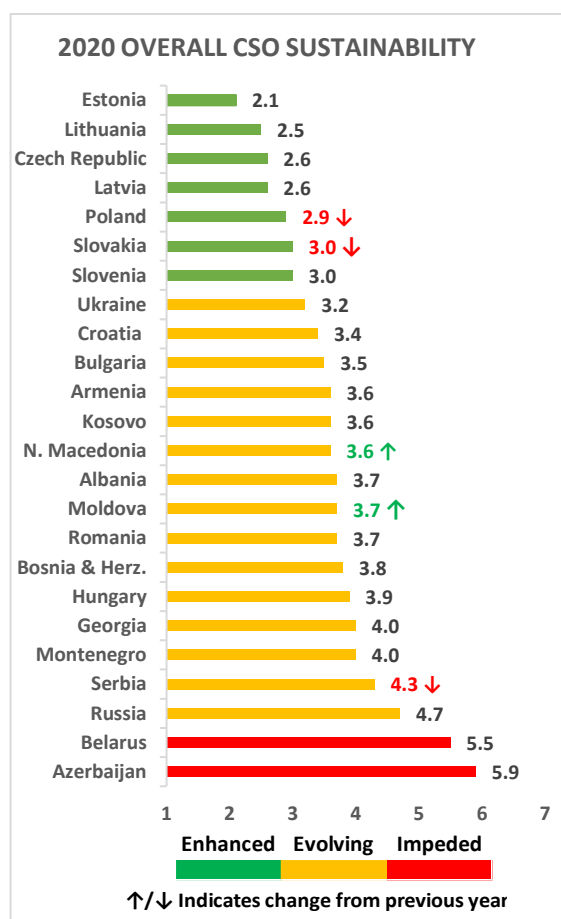


# 2020 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index – Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia

**Overview** The 2020 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSI) for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia reports on the state of CSO sectors in 24 countries in the region. It addresses both advances and setbacks in seven key components or “dimensions” of the sustainability of the civil society sector: legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, sectoral infrastructure, and public image.

The CSOSI is intended to be a useful source of information for local CSOs, governments, donors, academics, and others who want to better understand and monitor key aspects of sustainability in the CSO sector. The CSOSI empowers local civil society actors to collectively assess not only the environments in which they operate, but also their own capacities to advocate, operate sustainably, and communicate with citizens. Allowing local civil society to self-identify their development challenges is the first step in promoting resiliency and long-term self-reliance.

The CSOSI is produced by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with FHI 360, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), and a local implementing partner in each participating country. A total of 73 countries across the globe are surveyed in various regional editions of the CSOSI.



**Results** During 2020, CSOs across Europe and Eurasia proved their value by providing critical services to address the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. CSOs’ responsiveness to emerging public needs was reflected in dramatic improvements in the scores for organizational capacity and public image, with approximately half the countries in the region reporting improvements in these dimensions. At the same time, faced with restrictions on in-person events for large parts of the year, CSOs were forced to develop new ways to provide services and connect with their constituencies and each other. Meanwhile, the pandemic’s impact on the economy had an inevitable effect on CSOs’ ability to secure resources for this work, although philanthropy increased dramatically, particularly during the first wave of the pandemic.

Despite these notable trends, overall CSO sustainability was largely stable in 2020 with nineteen countries reporting no changes in their overall CSO sustainability scores. Three countries — Poland, Slovakia, and Serbia — reported deteriorations in overall CSO sustainability, while just two — North Macedonia and Moldova — reported improving levels of overall CSO sustainability.

**Resources** The 2020 CSOSI regional reports can be found at FHI 360’s [resource page](https://www.csosi.org). Explore historical CSOSI data at <https://www.csosi.org>.