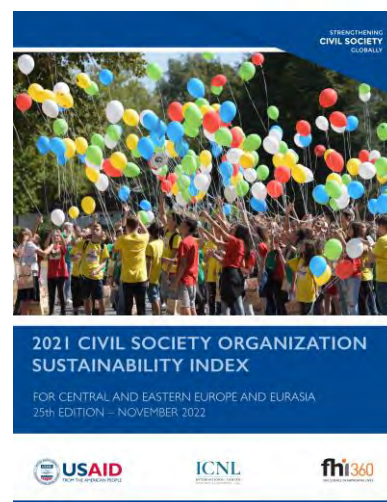


# 2021 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index – Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia

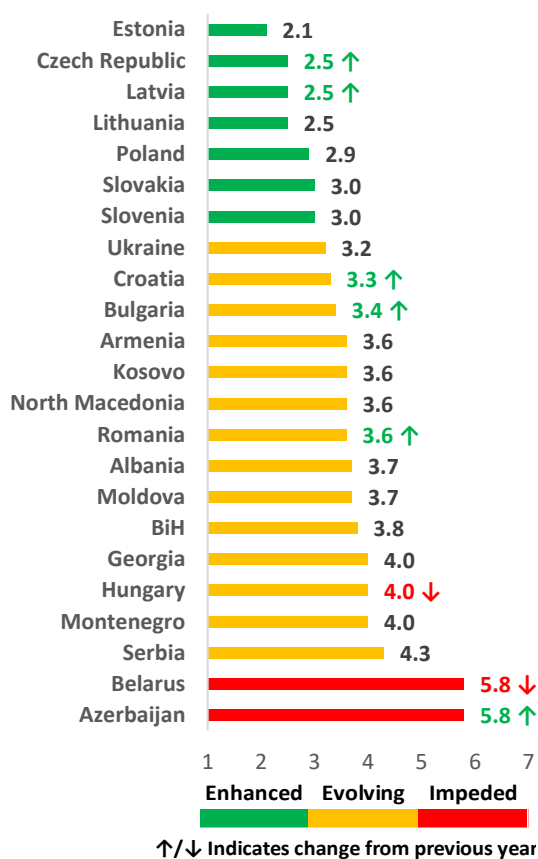
**Overview** The 2021 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSI) for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia reports on the state of CSO sectors in 23 countries in the region. It addresses both advances and setbacks in seven key components or “dimensions” of the sustainability of the civil 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 in 2021.



## 2021 OVERALL CSO SUSTAINABILITY



**Results** CSOs across the region continued to provide vital services in response to pressing needs in 2021, again proving their value to society. As in 2020, CSOs played an important role in mitigating and reducing the negative effects of the COVID-19 crisis in their communities. In addition, driven by the new reality created by the COVID-19 pandemic, CSOs across the region increasingly digitalized their work in 2020 and 2021, advancing several aspects of their work. As pandemic-related restrictions hindered CSOs’ ability to engage with their constituents in person, CSOs increasingly used digital tools, including social media platforms, to maintain and build relationships with their stakeholders. Meanwhile, divergent trends were seen in the legal and regulatory environments governing CSO sectors in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia in 2021. With some exceptions, the score changes in this dimension largely reflect the growing divide between countries that support CSOs and those that seek to neutralize independent voices.

In 2021, six countries—the Czech Republic, Latvia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Azerbaijan—recorded improvements in overall CSO sustainability, while just two—Hungary and Belarus—reported further deterioration. This shows considerable progress over 2020 when just two countries reported improvement in their overall CSO sustainability scores, and three noted overall deterioration.

**Resources** The 2021 CSOSI regional reports can be found on FHI 360’s [resource page](https://www.csosi.org). Explore historical CSOSI data at <https://www.csosi.org>.