

CSO Meter: A Compass to Conducive Environment and CSO Empowerment

Period of implementation: 01.01.2021 - 31.12.2023

EaP countries:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

EU contribution: € 799 999

Implementing organisation(s):

European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (Netherlands), Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center (Armenia), MG Consulting LLC (Azerbaijan), Civil

Project website: <https://csometer.info/>

Project description:

The CSO Meter monitors and advocates for the improvement of the environment in which civil society organisations (CSOs) operate in the Eastern Partnership countries. The CSO Meter measures law and practice in key areas that affect civil society, from freedom of association and assembly, through participation to access to funding and right to privacy. Based on a set of standards and indicators, it then assesses the countries' compliance under each area. The CSO Meter's strength lies in the fact that it has been developed through a highly consultative and collaborative process. As such, is a result of a true local effort that covers issues that are indeed relevant in the country contexts. The next years will see an update of the tool with a scoring model to allow for a more nuanced comparison between areas, countries and years. It will also include new topics, such as AI or digital technologies, to assess their impact on civic groups. We seek to empower a broader group of CSOs and activists to exchange strategies, use the CSO Meter for monitoring and apply its evidence for advocacy in their countries.

Expected results:

- There is a core group of CSOs that actively use the monitoring tool and advocate for improvements in the environment for civil society. The tool will be shaped in such a way that it can provide meaningful input for EU policy dialogue with the Eastern Partnership countries.
- CSOs regularly monitor the civil society environment at national and regional level, publish findings and recommendations relying on a monitoring tool that is timely and relevant to the issues and helps identify positive practices, threats and restrictions.

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