

the **NGO** Leaders' barometer

– National online survey among NGO representatives in Romania –
2011



**Fundația pentru
Dezvoltarea
Societății
Civile**

The NGO Leaders' Barometer

**National online survey among NGO representatives in
Romania**

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*This material was developed during the project: **"Stronger voice for the associative sector in Romania"**
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Europe*



**Trust for Civil Society
in Central & Eastern Europe**

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In 2010, the Civil Society Development Foundation conducted the study „Romania 2010. Non-governmental Sector: profile, tendencies, challenges”, as an answer to the need of knowledge and recognition of the role and challenges of the NGO sector in Romania.

[http://www.fdsc.ro/library/conferinta%20vio%207%20oct/Romania%202010_Sectorul%20neguvernamental1.pdf]

Therefore, we are trying to answer to the main questions that we face daily in our relationship with the donors, the beneficiaries, the public authorities and citizens, in general.

One of the tools that were the basis of this study is The NGO Leaders' Barometer (of opinion). CSDF aims that the Barometer becomes an annual tool of self-evaluation of the non-governmental sector in Romania and a reliable reference point for the civil society professionals.

In 2011, the online survey NGO Leaders' Barometer aimed: recording the perceptions of the Romanian active NGOs regarding their own organization and the non-governmental sector in general, the relationship with the authorities and the interested actors, the achievements and the learned lessons, the access to resources and available support structures, a specific regulatory framework and changes necessary for sustainability.

The online survey was conducted among NGOs representatives during August 28th – September 30th 2011.

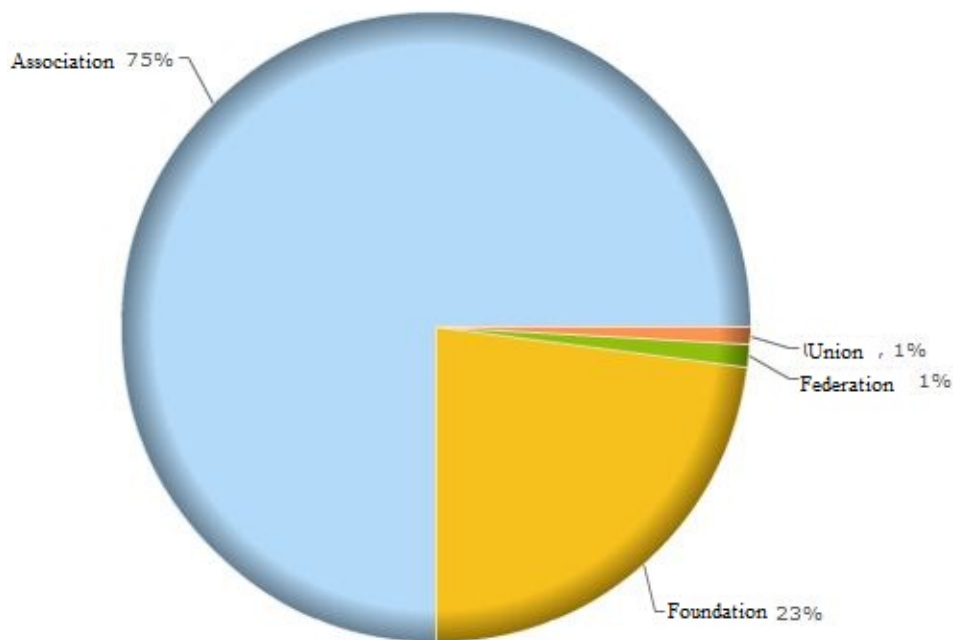
The NGOs invited to participate in the survey were registered in The Civil Society Catalogue database (the database was based on voluntary submission – approximately 3400 until August 31st 2011).

There were 341 NGO representatives that answered the survey, great majority of whom are directors of organizations, department managers or presidents.

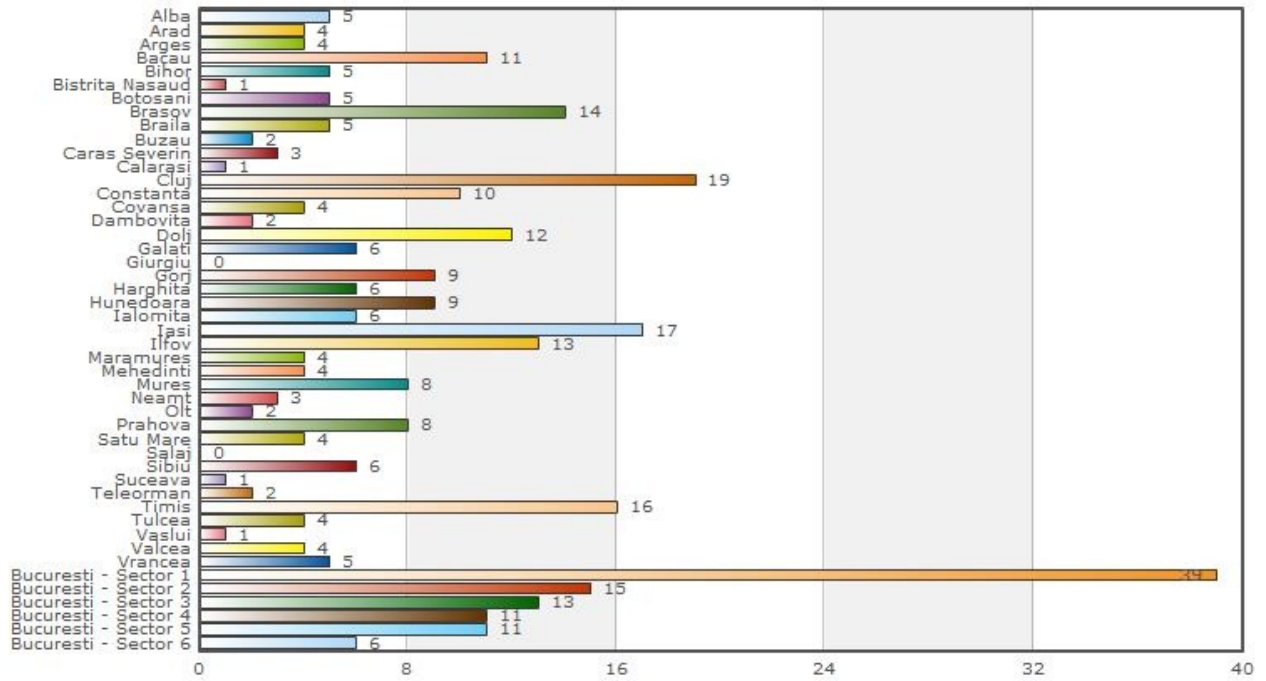
1. The Respondents' Profile

The respondents' profile closely overlaps the general features of the Romanian non-governmental sector that were emphasized by the previous researches (*"Romania 2010. Non-governmental Sector: profile, tendencies, challenges"*), regarding the Profilul respondenților se suprapune fidel trăsăturilor generale ale sectorului neguvernamental din România evidențiate de cercetările anterioare (*"România 2010. Sectorul neguvernamental: profil, tendințe, provocări"*), in terms of the form of legal registration and territorial area of activity, incomes and activity areas.

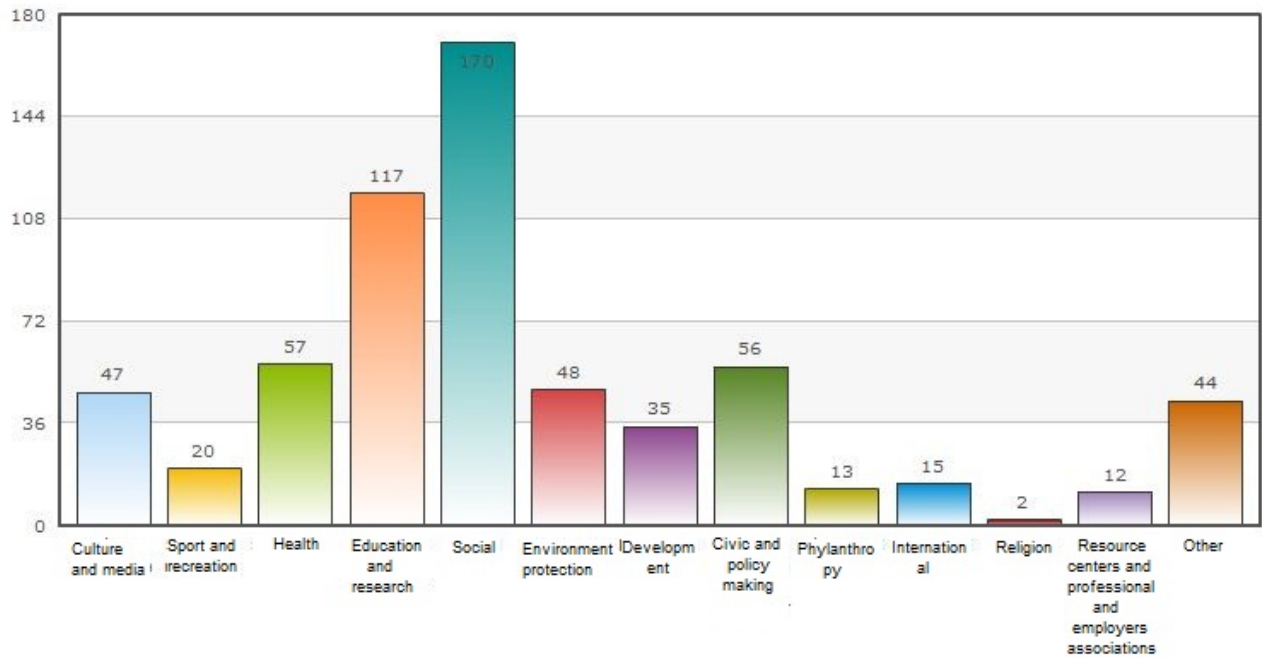
Types of organizations



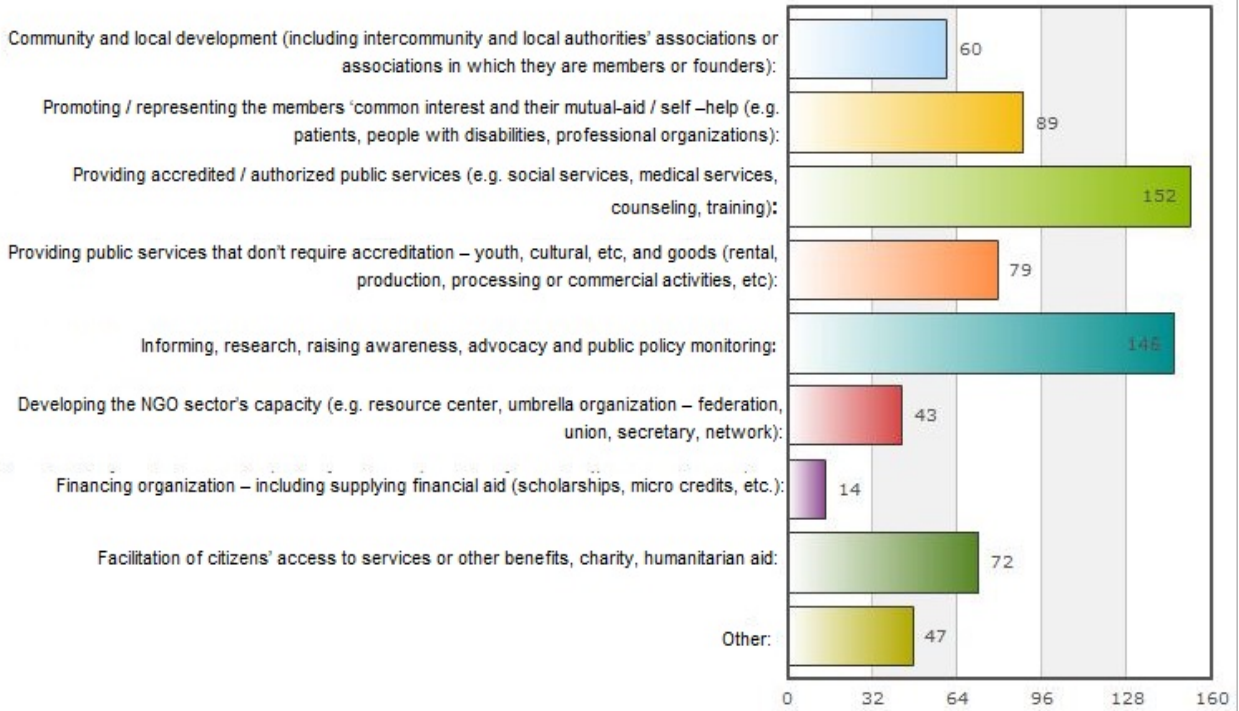
NGOs distribution on each county



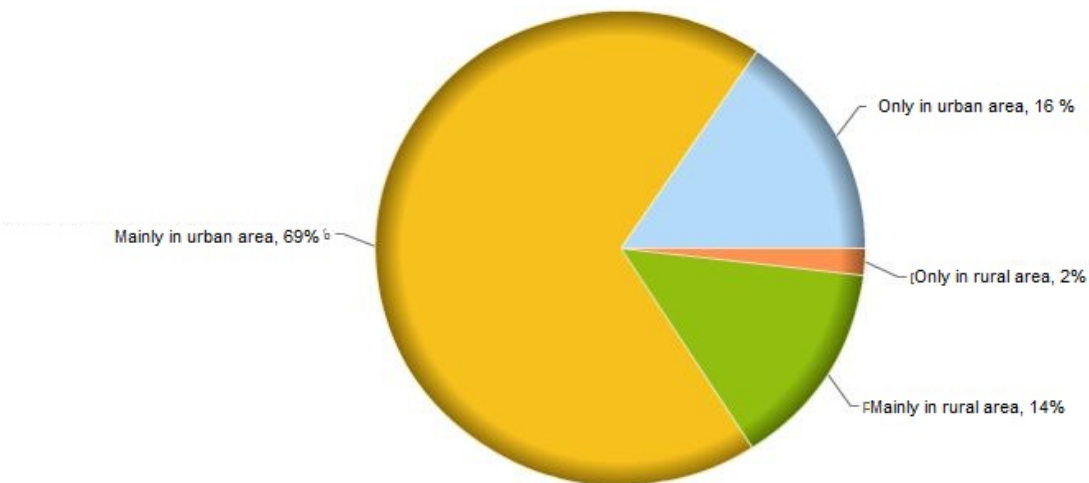
Main activity area



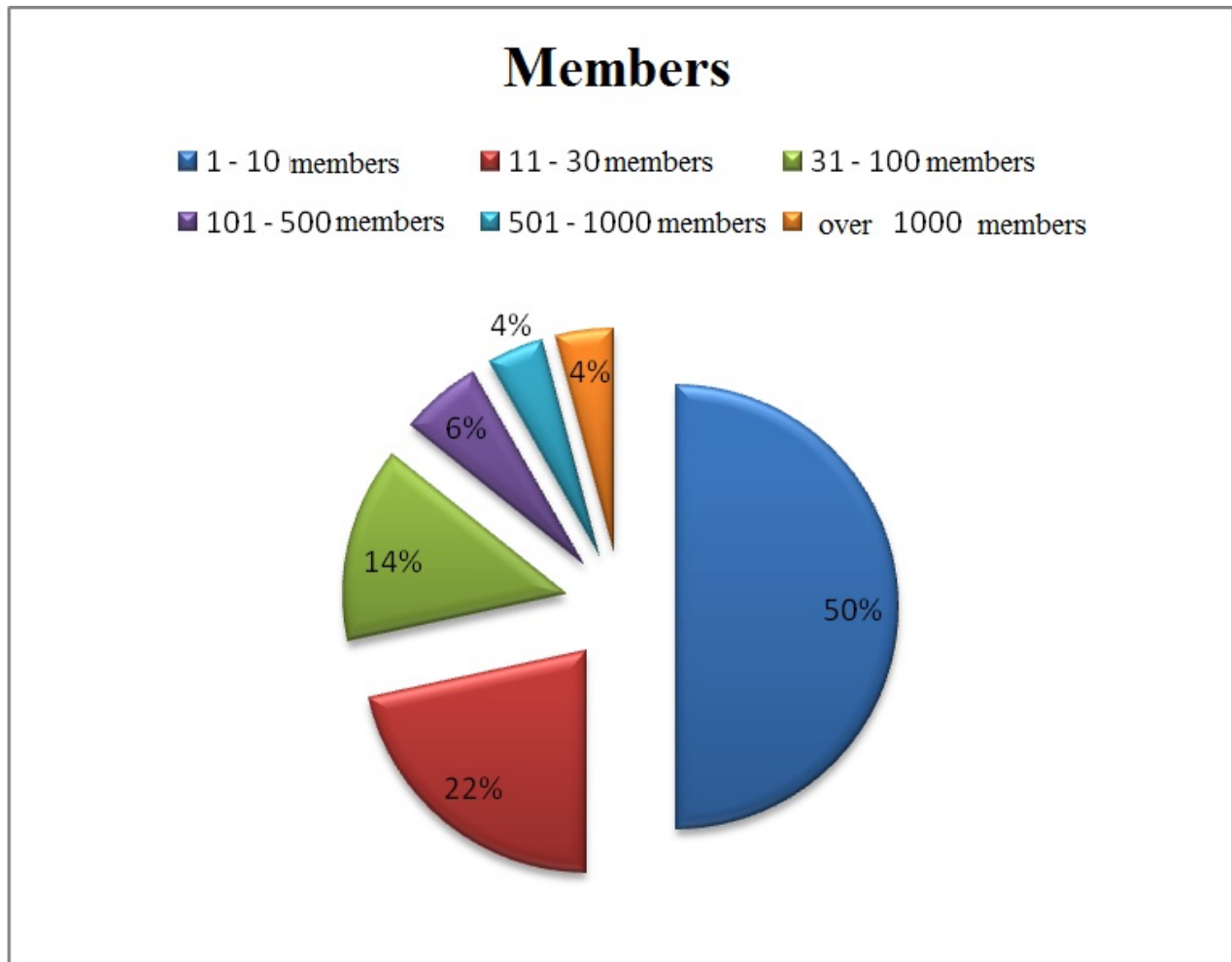
Main activities undertaken by organizations



Territorial area of activity

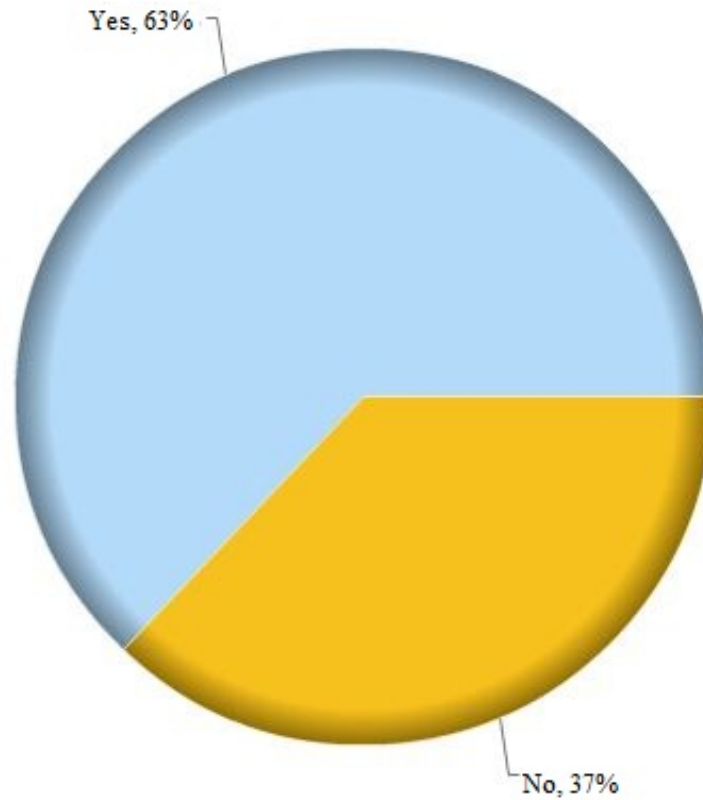


2. Human resources and volunteering



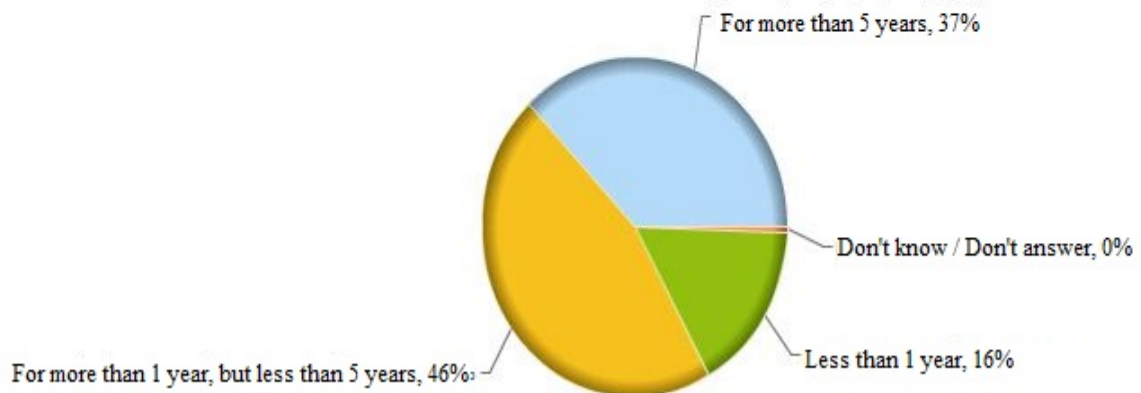
Half of the respondents to the online survey declared that their organization has between 1 and 10 members (associates and / or members of the board of directors, for foundations). 36% of the NGOs have between 11 and 100 members. Over 100 members have only 10% of the respondents and 4% of the NGOs declare they have over 1000 members.

Does your organization have employees / paid personnel?



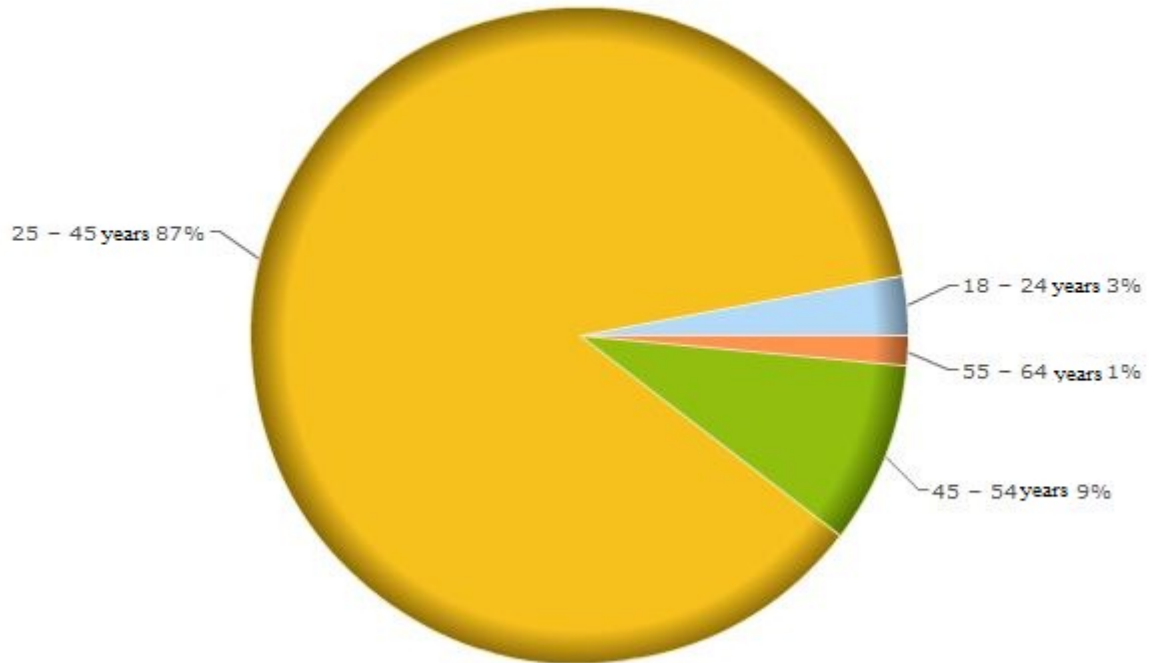
Previous research conducted by CSDF has highlighted the important role that the NGOs have as employers. 63% of this year's respondents declare that they have paid staff. This is a constant percentage, compared to the previous years (2008, 2009).

Most of the employees work in the organization:



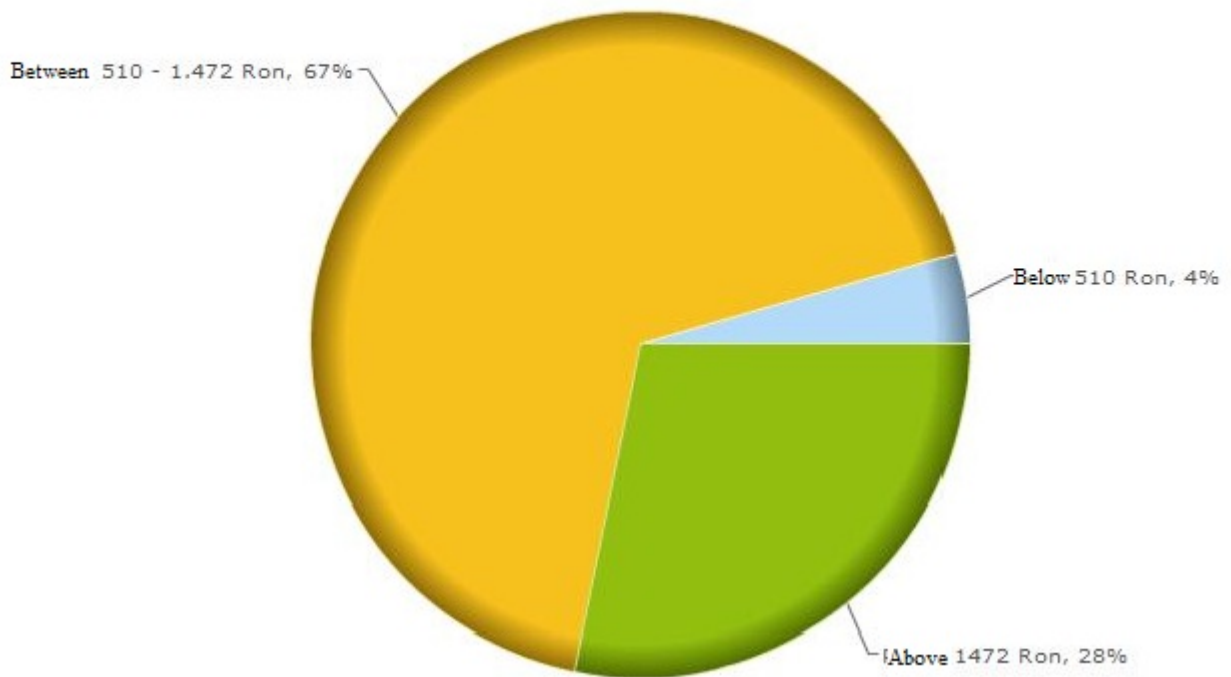
The NGOs are a relatively stable employers, 37% of the respondents saying that the majority of the employees work in their organization for more than 5 years, while 46% of them declare that most of the staff has experienced in the organization between 1 and 5 years.

NGO employees' average age



The NGOs' workforce is young, so 90% of the employees are below 45 years old.

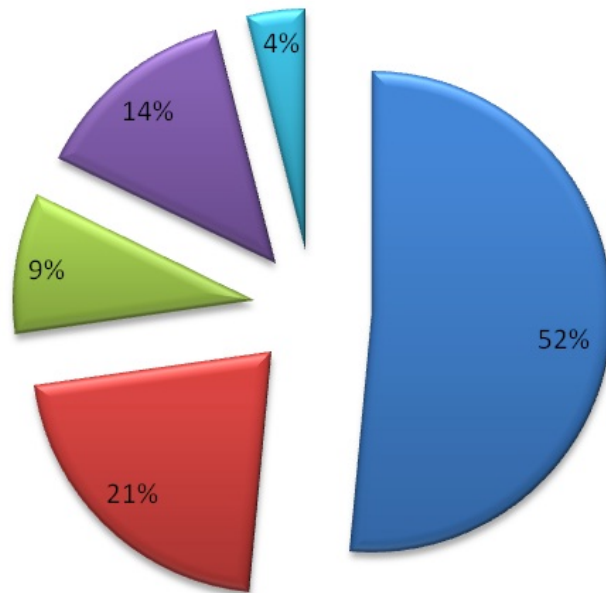
The average net wage



The average net wage that 67% of the respondent NGOs offer is between 510 lei and 1472 lei, 28% of these allowing a higher average wage (over 1472 lei, the national average in 2010).

How many employment contracts did you end in 2010?

■ none ■ 1 employee ■ 2 employees ■ 3 - 10 employees ■ over 10 employees

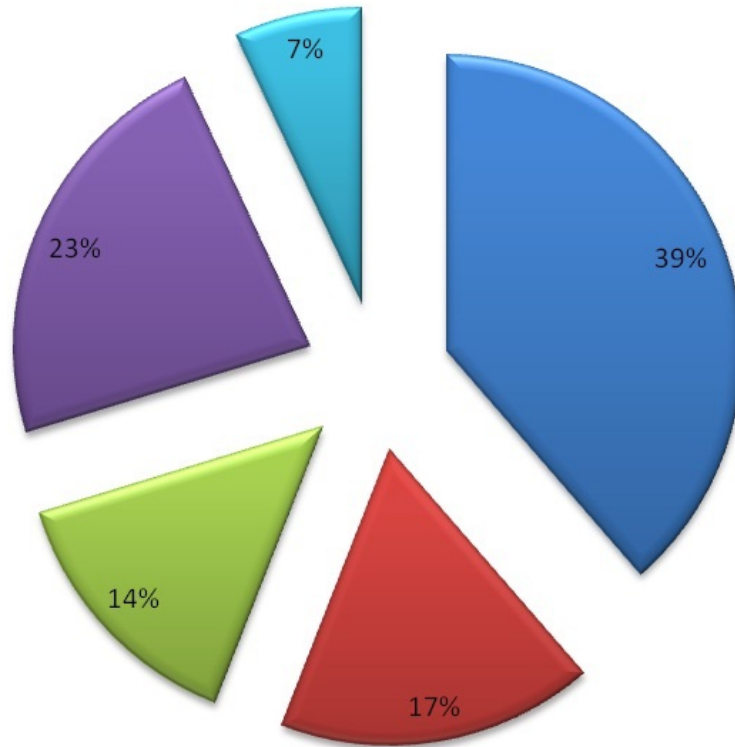


Over half of the NGOs declared that in 2010 they did not end any employment contract, 21% lost one employee and 23% ended the contracts of 2 until 10 employees. 4% of the respondent NGOs ended the contracts of over 10 employees

Cumulatively, all the 202 respondent organizations ended the employment contract of 421 employees in 2010.

How many new employees did you have in 2010?

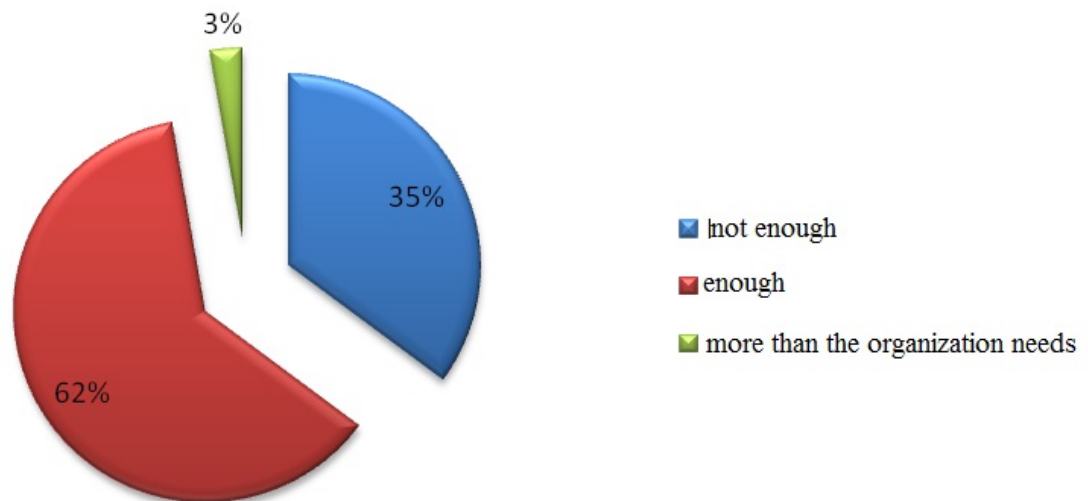
■ no new employee ■ 1 employee ■ 2 employees ■ 3 - 10 employees ■ 11 - 35 employees



39% of the respondent organizations did not make any new employment in 2010, 21% had 1 or 2 new employees, while 23% hired between 3 and 10 new persons.

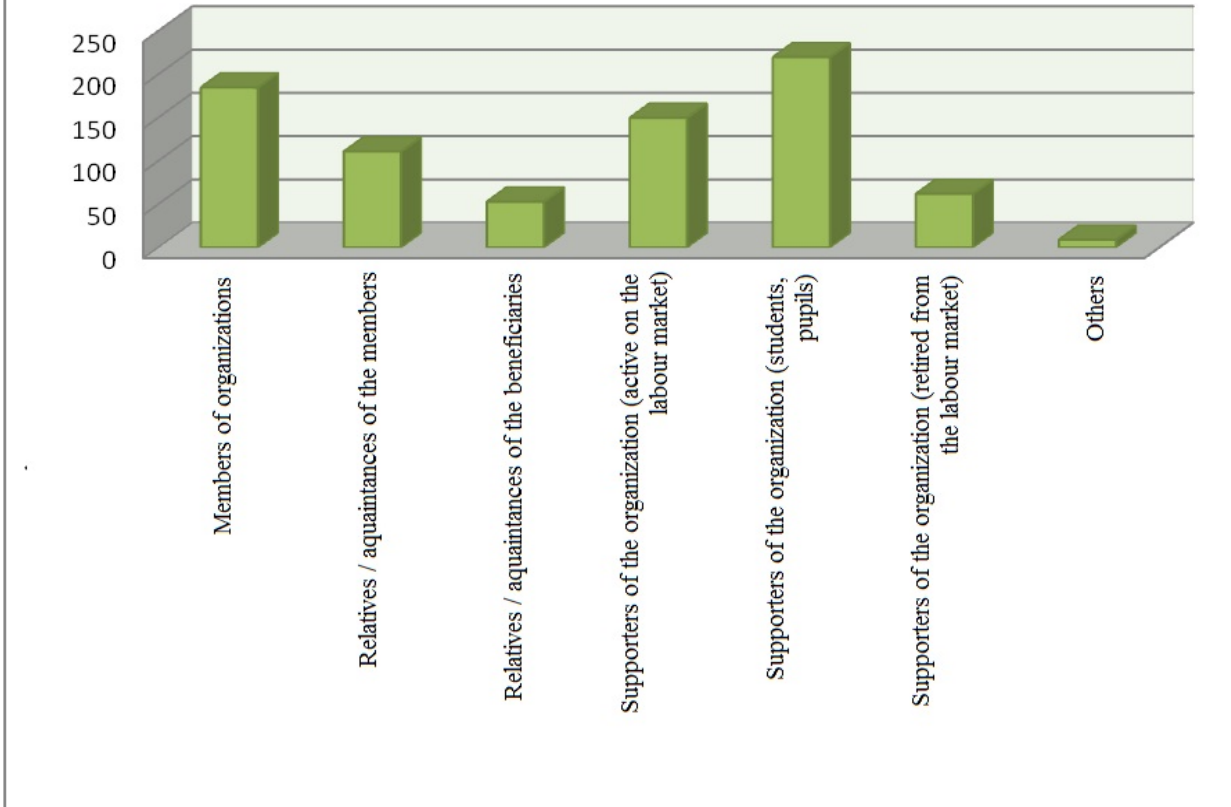
Cumulatively, all 202 respondent organizations hired 641 new persons in 2010.

The number of volunteers constantly involved in the organization's activities, compared to its needs



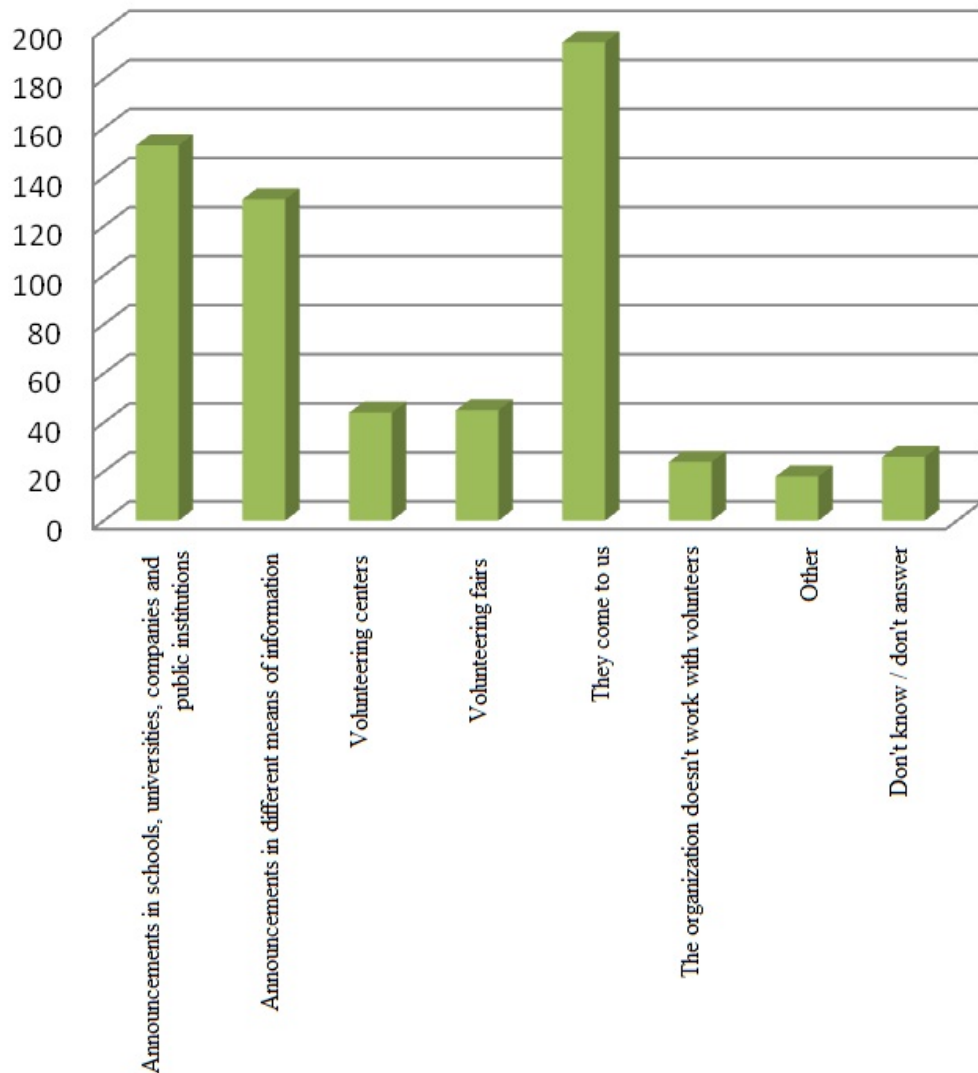
Over 90% of the NGOs admit they involve volunteers in their activities. The representatives of 62% of these say that the number of volunteers that support them is enough, while 35% think that the number of volunteers is not enough.

The origin of the volunteers



Most of the respondents said that the volunteers are recruited mainly from among pupils and students or from among other organizations

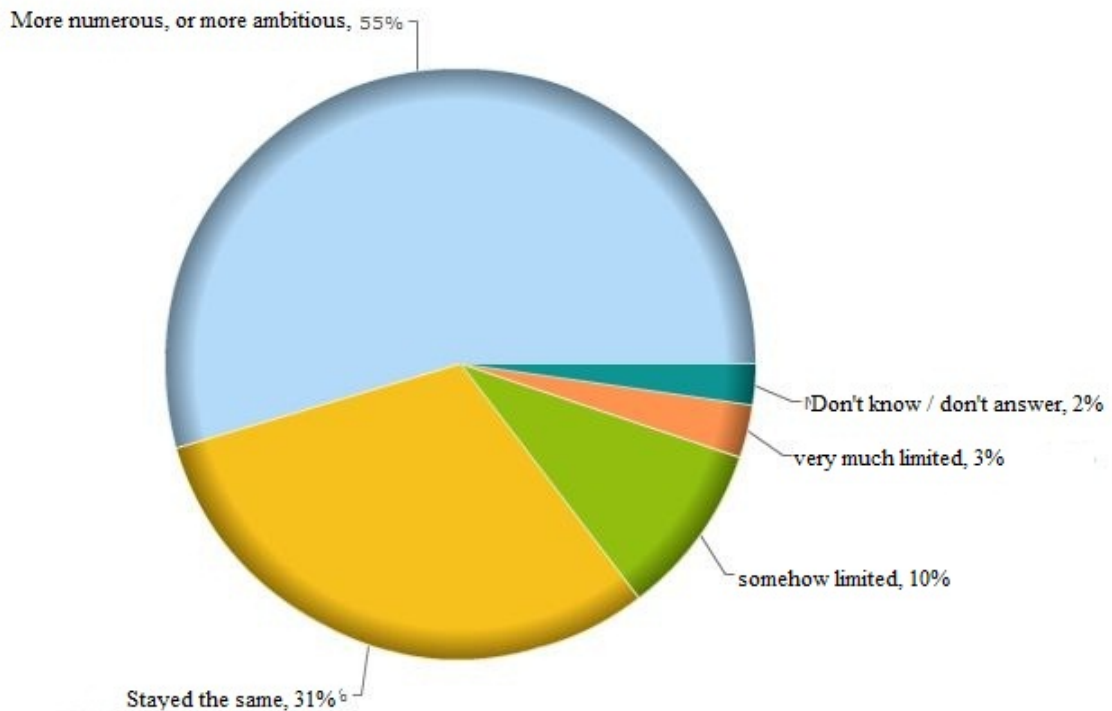
Ways of recruiting volunteers



Most of the answers indicate that the NGOs often don't have strategies to attract volunteers and that they find their own way to the organizations. This percentage stays constant compared to last year. Among the active methods of recruitment, the most used ones are the announcements in schools, universities, companies, public institutions or other means of information.

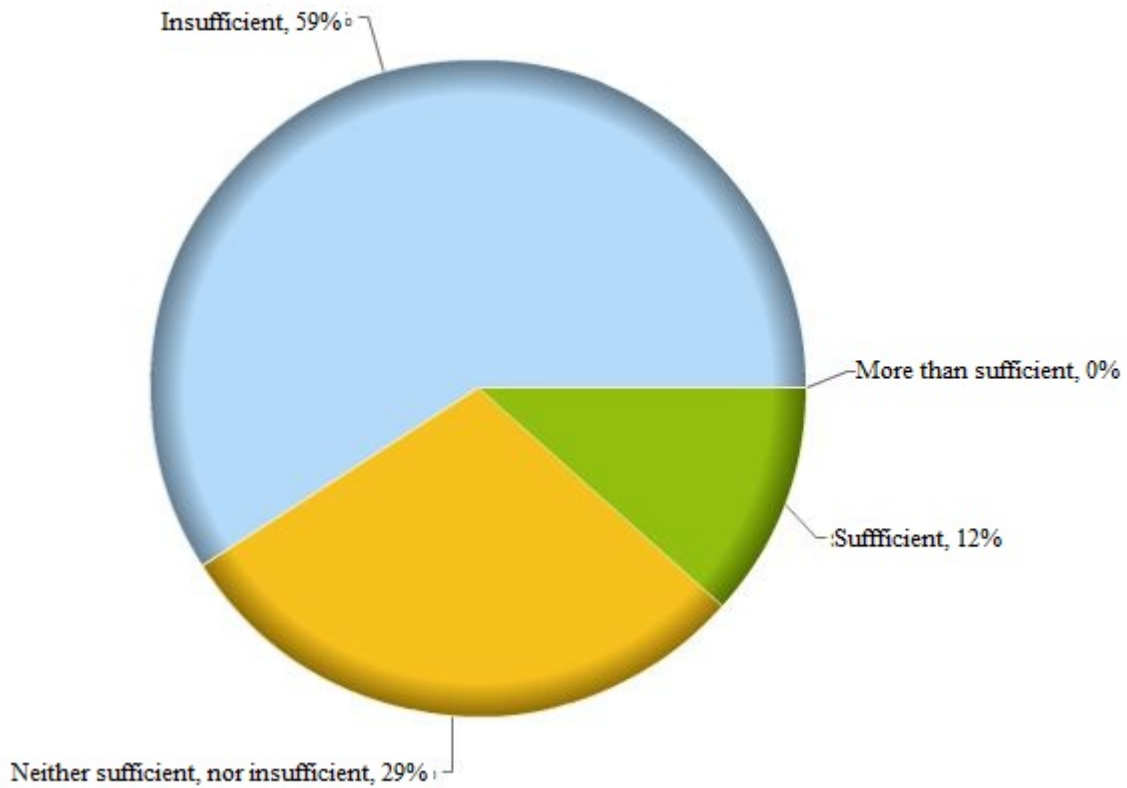
3. General evaluation and financial resources

Compared to the previous years, the objectives that your organization currently has are:



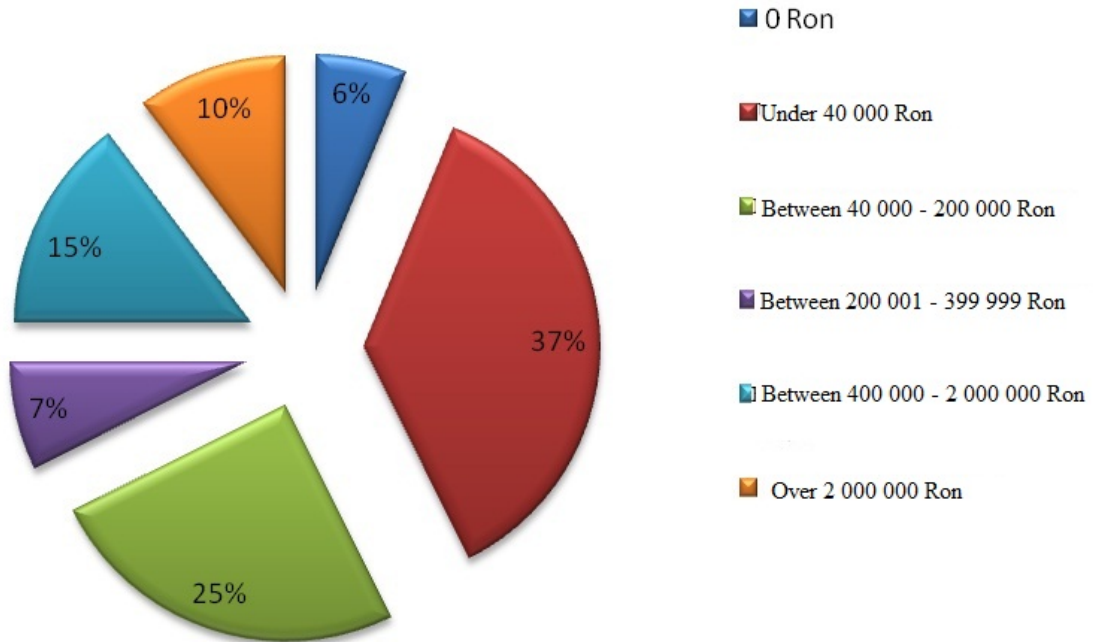
Compared to the previous year, 2010, the NGOs tend to be more cautious, if not even more pessimistic regarding their annual objectives. Thus, only 55% of the respondents say that they have higher goals than last year (compared with 63% in 2010 Barometer). For 31% of the respondents the objectives stayed the same (they are more cautious than the previous year, when only 22% of the organizations answered this way). For 13% of the respondent the objectives have limited (compared to 9% in 2010 Barometer).

Please appreciate the financial resources of your organization, as:



The caution related to the objectives planned for the current year, gets its explanation from the NGOs' financial situation, that's clearly worse than previous year. Thus, 59% of the respondents appreciate that the financial resources of their organizations are insufficient, compared to 48% in 2010 Barometer. Only 12% believe they have sufficient financial resources, compared with 26% from previous year.

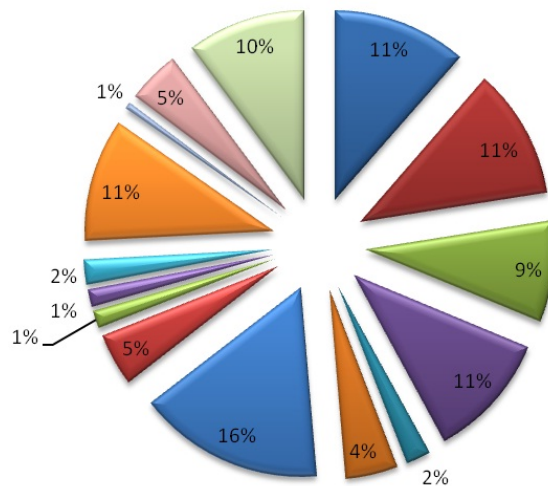
The total budget of revenue in 2010



Most of the respondents (37%) declared that their organizations had incomes below 40.000 lei, in the past 12 months, while 25% of them say they have incomes between 40.000 and 200.000 lei. Only 6% of the respondents declare they had zero income and 10% admit incomes over 2.000.000 lei. Three quarters of the organizations have incomes below € 100.000.

Main source of income

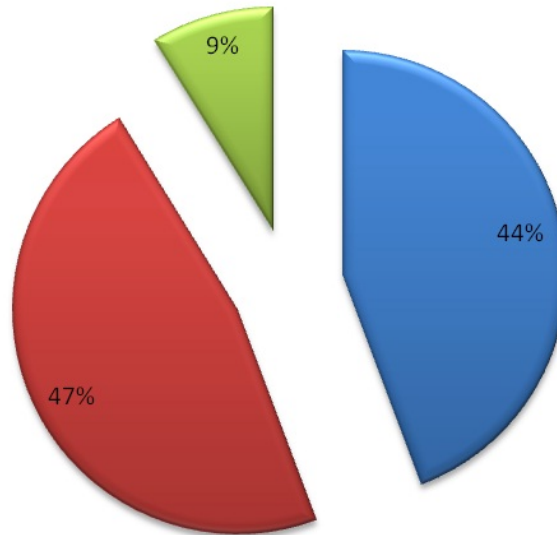
- Members' subscriptions
- Individual donations
- Directing 2% of the personal income tax
- Sponsorship: money / goods / services from companies
- Money / goods donations from companies
- EU grants (directly from Brussels)
- EU grants (structural funds)
- Grants from public Romanian authorities (state budget or local budgets)
- Subsidies (34/1998 law)
- Services contracts with public authorities
- Grants from foreign governmental institutions (other than EU)
- Grants from foreign foundations or other international organizations
- Private Romanian foundations
- Economic activities (e.g. services / goods production)
- Don't know / don't answer



The weight of the NGOs' main income sources stays the same as the previous year. For 16% of the respondents the main source of income is structural funds, followed by the members' subscriptions, individual donations, sponsorships and grants offered by international foundations and organizations (all with 11%). 9% of the respondents use as their main source of income, the "2%" stipulation. For almost 30% of the respondents, the main source of income is public funds (national, European or international). One of five organizations depends mostly on European funds and 5% of the respondents are based on economic activities (goods and services).

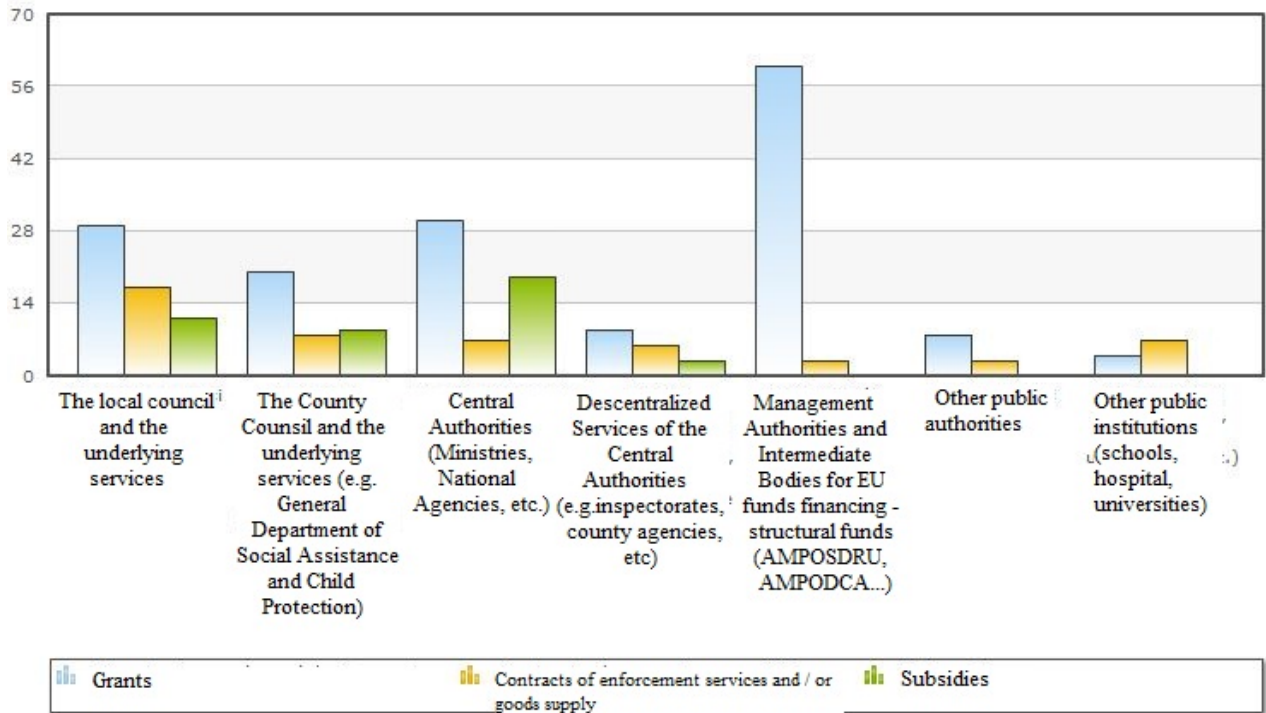
Have you received public funds in 2010? (Romanian or European authorities)

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know / don't answer



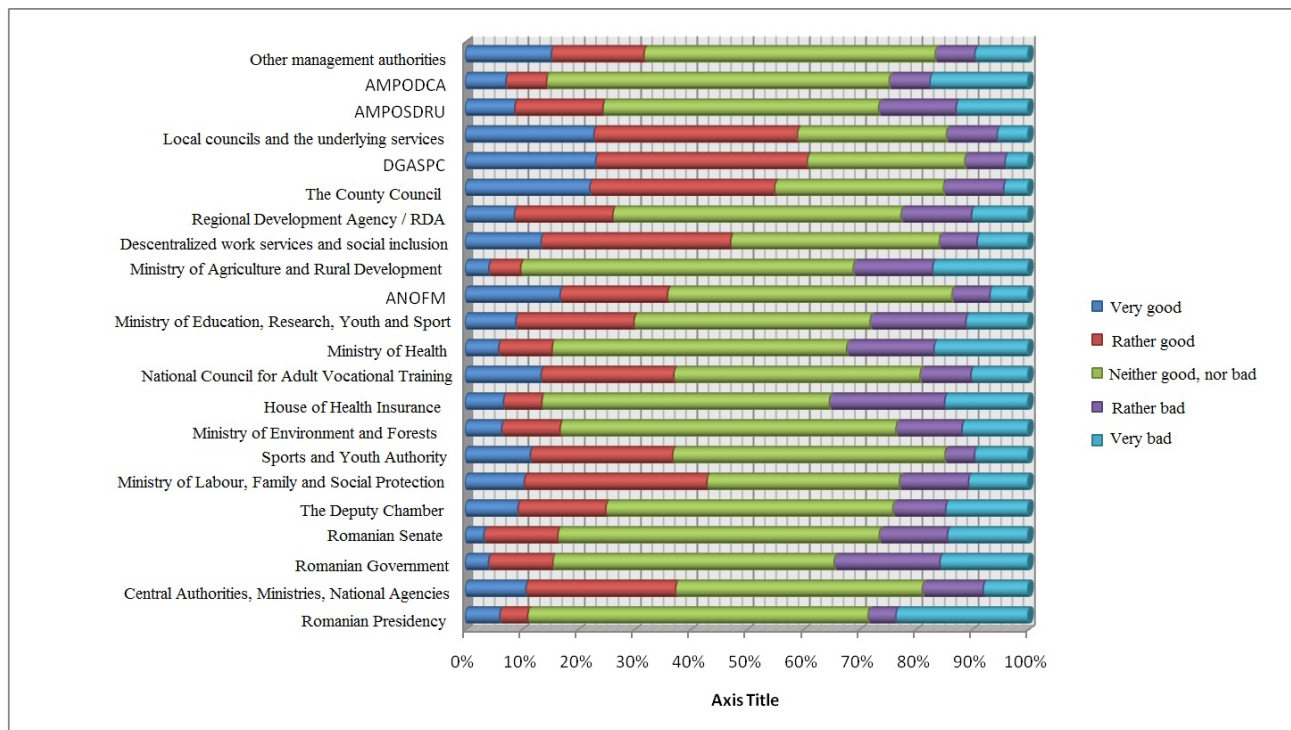
44% of the respondents declared that the NGOs they represent have received public funds the previous year (funds directly from Romanian authorities or European funds).

Please specify the type and source of public funding that you received during 2010



Most of the respondent organizations received grants from the management authorities of the structural funds. The local and central authorities awarded such grants and subsidies.

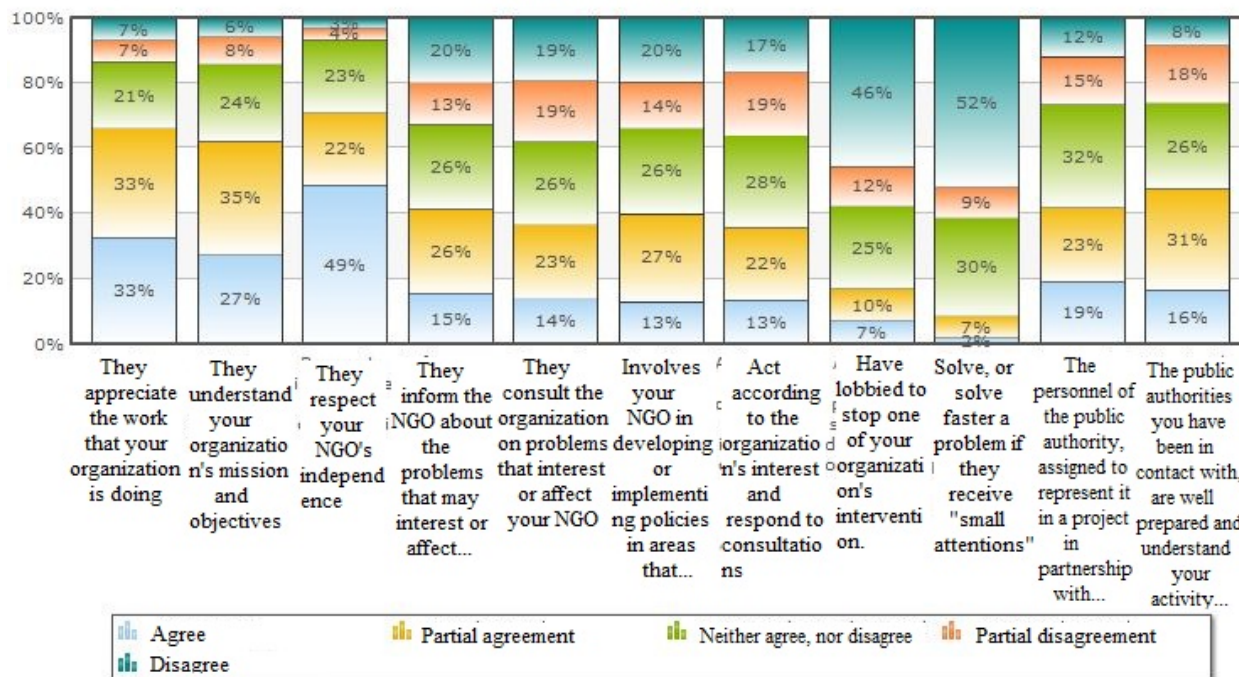
4. The relationship with public authorities and political environment. Influencing public policies



75% of the NGOs admit that during their activities, they work also with public authorities or institutions. The organizations cooperate much better with the local authorities (local councils almost 60% and county councils over 50%).

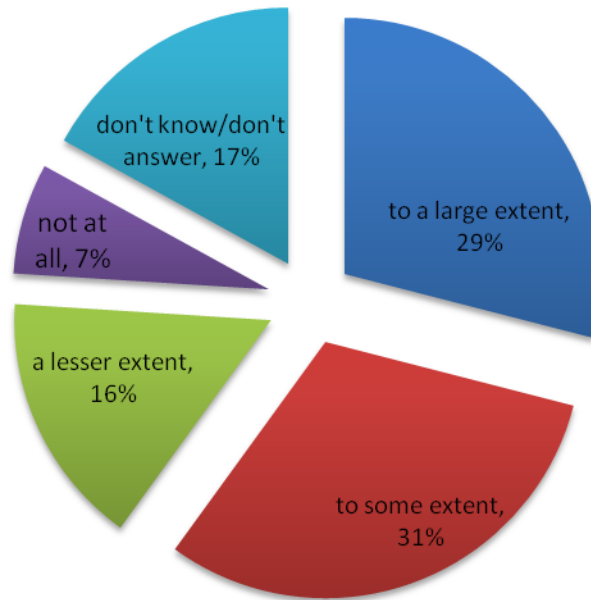
Regarding the central authorities, 60% of the respondents that work together with the General Department of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) say that their interaction with this institution is very good or rather good. The NGO's that work with The National House of Health Insurance, or Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Romanian Government are the most unhappy with the collaboration with these institutions. 25% of the organizations that interact with Romanian Presidency have a very bad opinion on the cooperation with this institution, while only 10% of the respondents have a positive attitude.

Please say whether you agree or not with the following statements regarding the relationship between the local public authorities and your organization. The local public authorities from your community:



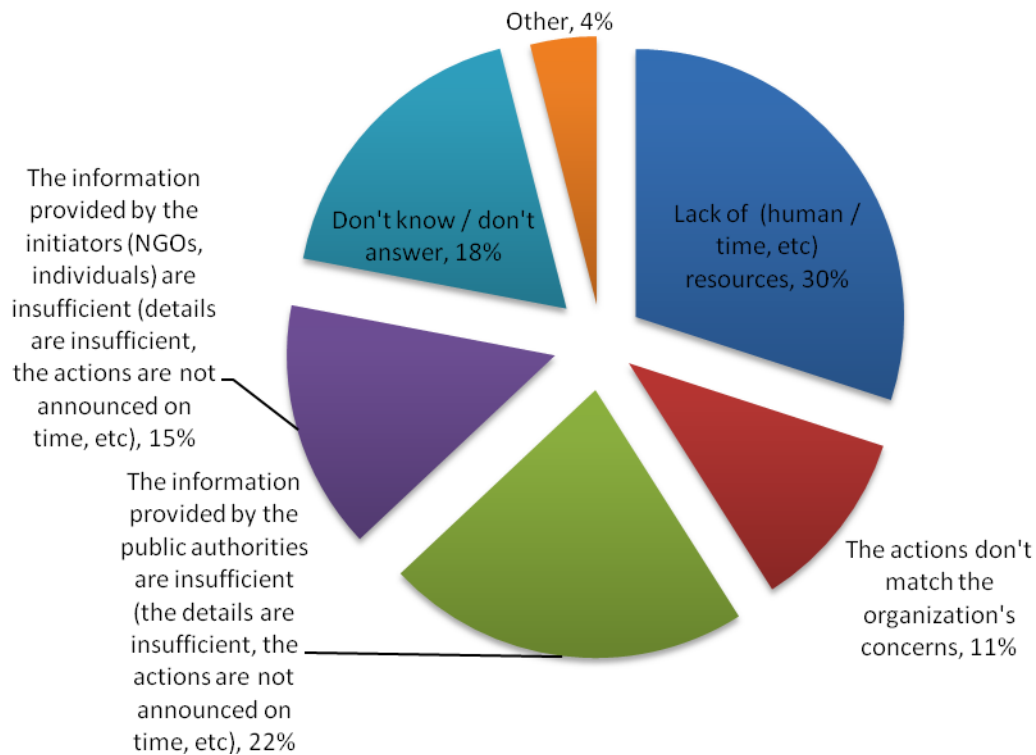
In general, the organizations consider the local authorities attitude regarding their activities, as a positive one (60% to 70%). This perception decreases considerably though (20 percents), when talking about real actions of the public authorities regarding NGOs. Only 8 % of the respondents think that the public authorities quickly solve the situations that occur, when they are offered “small attentions”. 17% of the NGOs reports that the public authorities lobbied to stop the organization’s interventions.

Influencing local or central public decisions is one of your organization's concern?



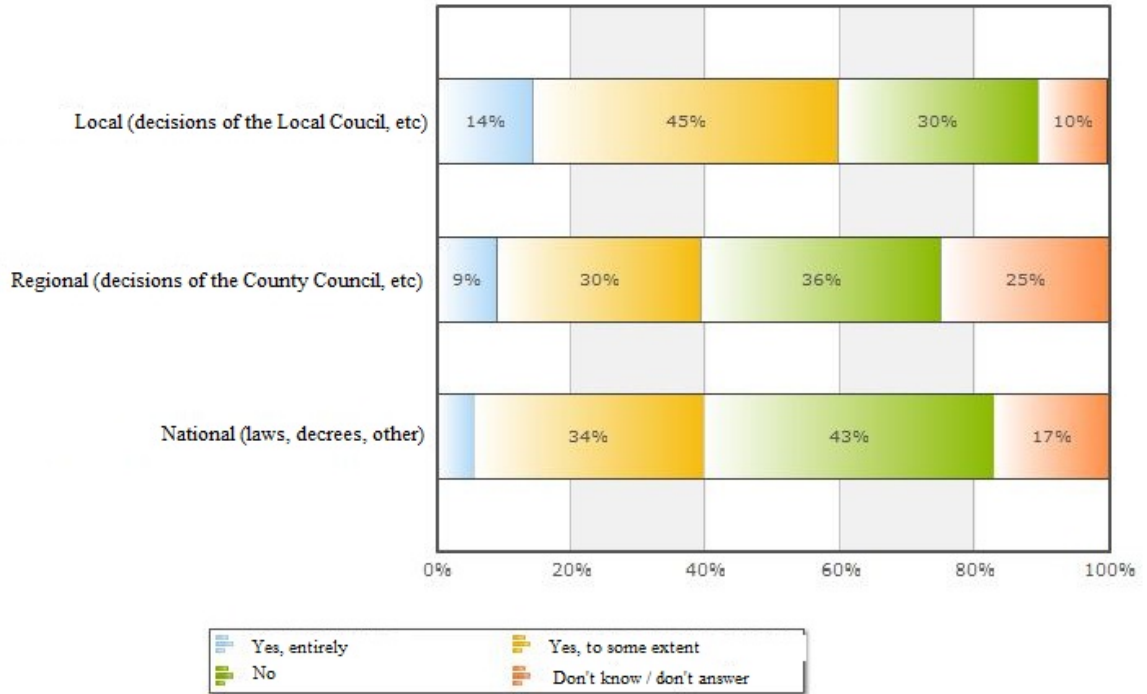
60% of the respondents say that influencing local or central public decisions is one of their organization's concerns. For 29% of the respondents, this represents a large dimension of their activity.

What are in your oppinion the reasons for which the NGOs are not involved in influencing public decision actions?



30% of the respondents consider that the NGOs are not involved in influencing public decision actions due to the lack of resources. For 37% of the respondents the main cause is the poor organization of the consultation proces, for both public institutions (22%) and civil society (15%).

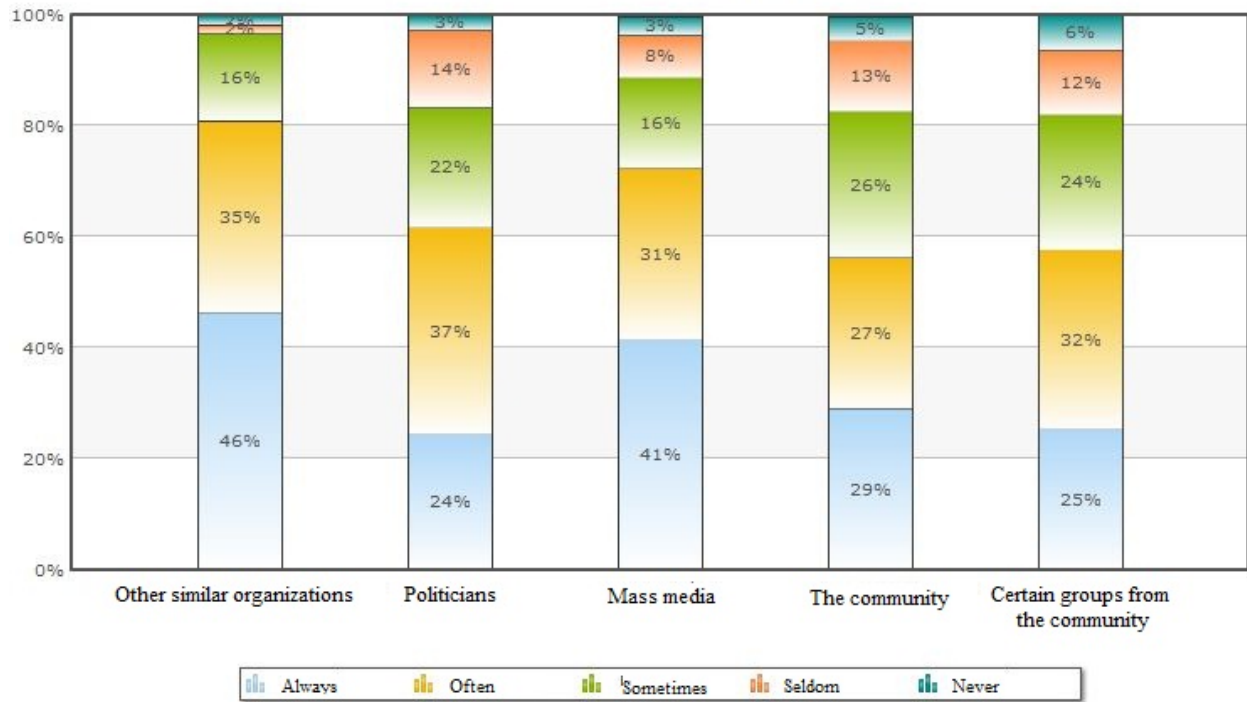
Please specify if your proposal(s) found itself (themselves) in the final decision adopted by the public authorities



Most of the actions of influencing the public decisions initiated by NGOs are national (50%), followed by those local and regional

Nevertheless, the chances to influence the public decision are higher for the NGOs that act local. Almost 60% of the respondents that initiated these kinds of actions say that their proposals found themselves entirely or to some extent in the final decision.

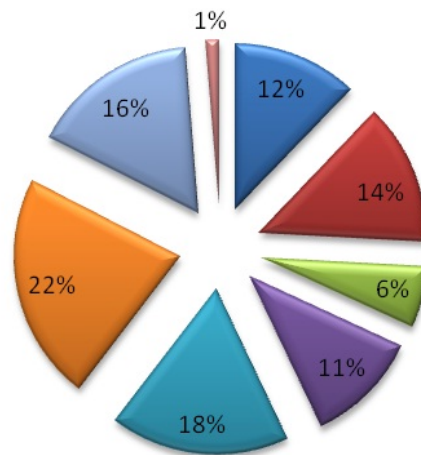
When you want to promote a certain change or propose a specific public policy, please indicate to what extent you address the following groups:



Nongovernmental organizations involved in activities that influence public decisions, address primarily to other similar organizations (81%) and mass-media (72%). To a lesser extent, their actions aimed at mobilizing the politicians (61%), the community (56%) or certain groups from the community (57%).

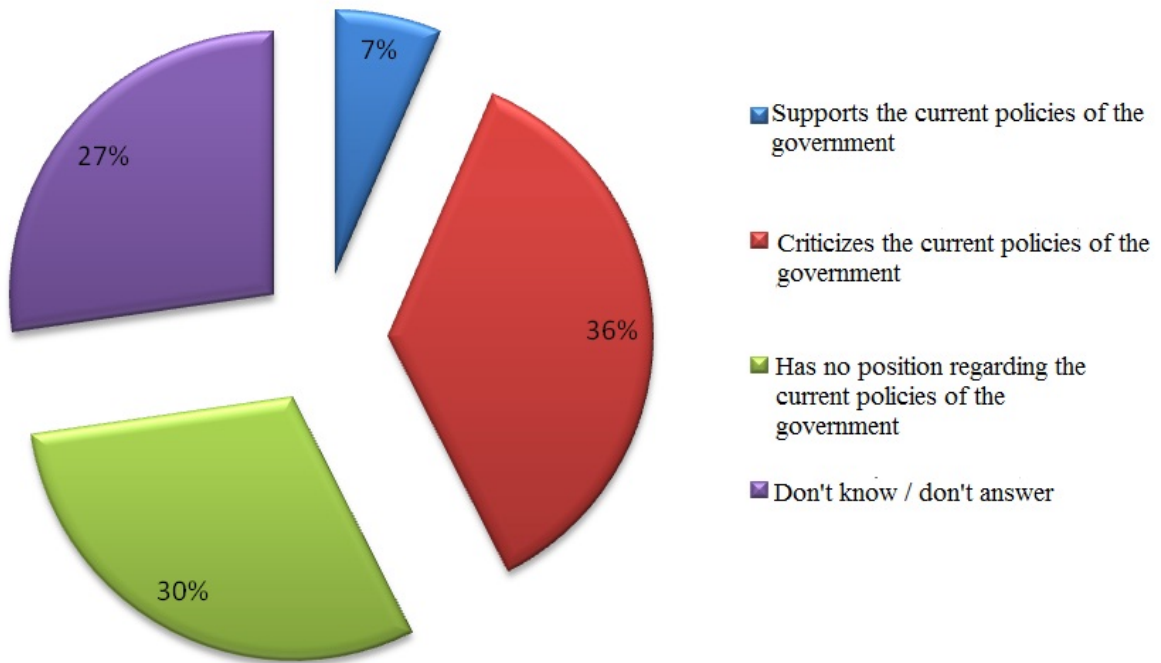
The main initiators of public consultations

- National Public Authority / Decentralized services of the National Public Authority
- A Ministry
- Regional Bodies (Regional Development Agency, Regional Development Council)
- County Council
- Local Council / Mayoralty
- A nongovernmental organization
- A federation, a platform or a network of NGOs
- Other



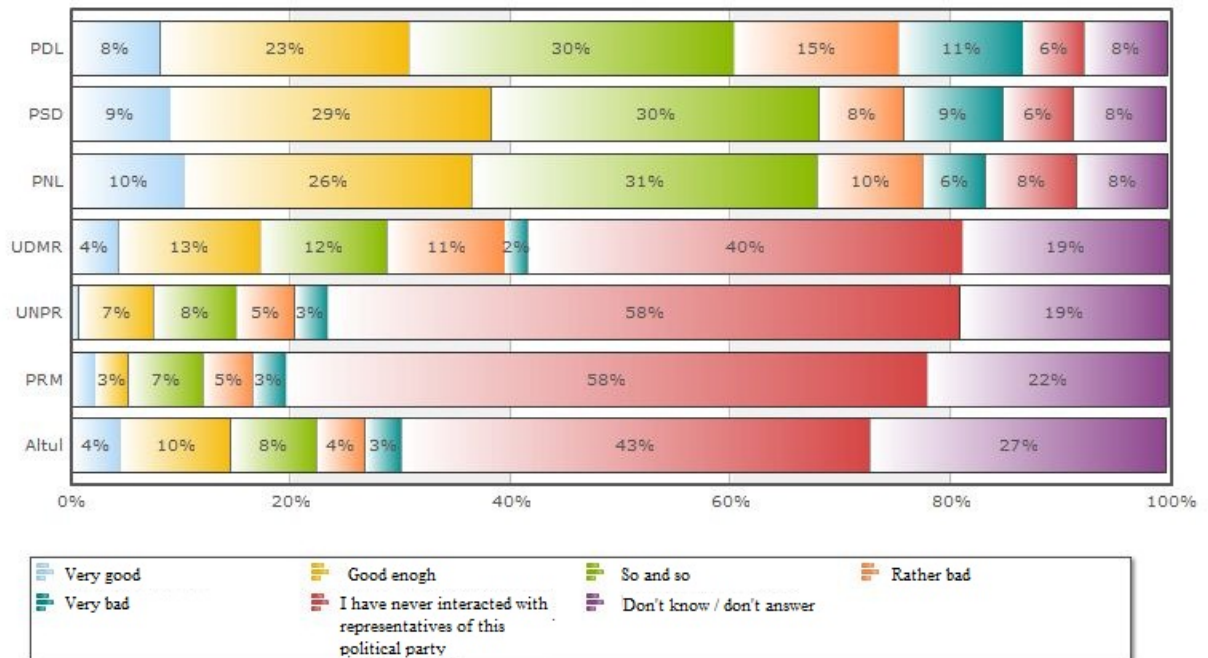
The main initiators of public consultations are the NGOs and the NGOs coalitions (38% of cases), followed by local authorities (18%) and ministries (14%).

If you consider the policies pursued by the government, you feel that your organization rather:



When they are asked how their activity relates with the policies promoted by the government, 36% of the respondents rather criticize the government current policies (compared to 32% of last year) consider that their position. The percentage of those who support the promoted public policies stays rather constant - 7% (compared to 7,6% last year).

How do you evaluate the interaction with the representatives of the following political parties, within your organization's activities:

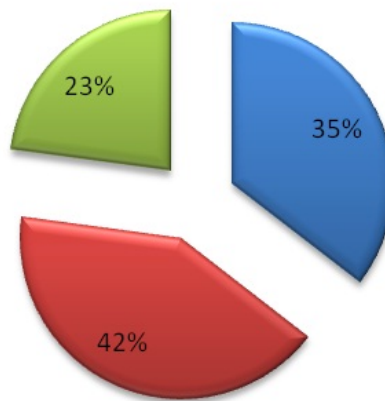


Generally and naturally, the NGOs interact with the main parliamentary parties. The interaction with the opposition parties (PNL and PSD) is seen as rather positive by a larger amount of the respondents (35%-36%) compared to 31% for PDL. In the same time, 26% of the respondents evaluate the interaction with the main governing party as bad, compared to the two main opposition parties (16%-17%).

5. The European Dimension

Have you ever heard of Romanian NGOs representation in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't answer



EESC is a consultative body of the European Union. Established in 1957, EESC has a consultative role together with the higher European institutions (European Commission, European Union Council, European Parliament).

The counseling is done through notices regarding the EU's legislative proposals and EESC also draws up own-initiative opinions on topics that should be addressed. One of its main roles is to assure "a deck" between the EU institutions and what we call the organized civil society. The EESC helps to promote the role of civil society organizations by establishing a structured dialogue with these groups from the EU member states and from other countries in the whole world.

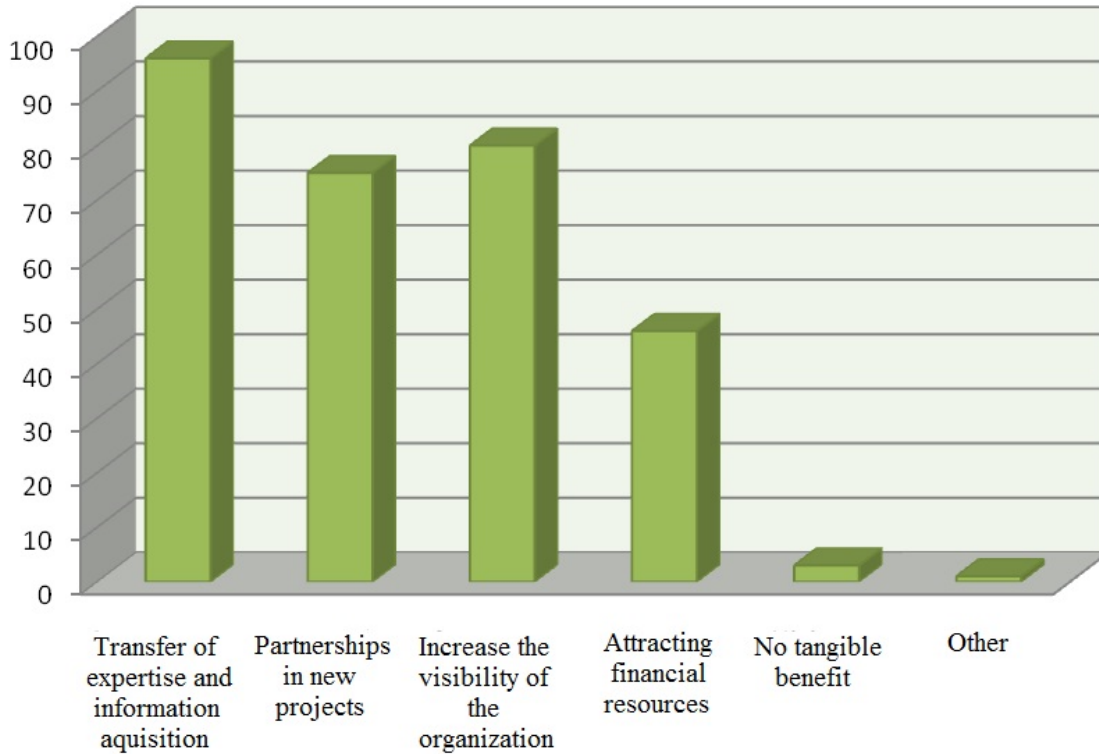
Romania has 15 representatives in the European Economic and Social Council (EESC), of which 5 are from the nongovernmental organizations. 35% of the respondents claim to know about the representation of Romanian NGOs in EESC.

Percentage of involvement in actions at European level



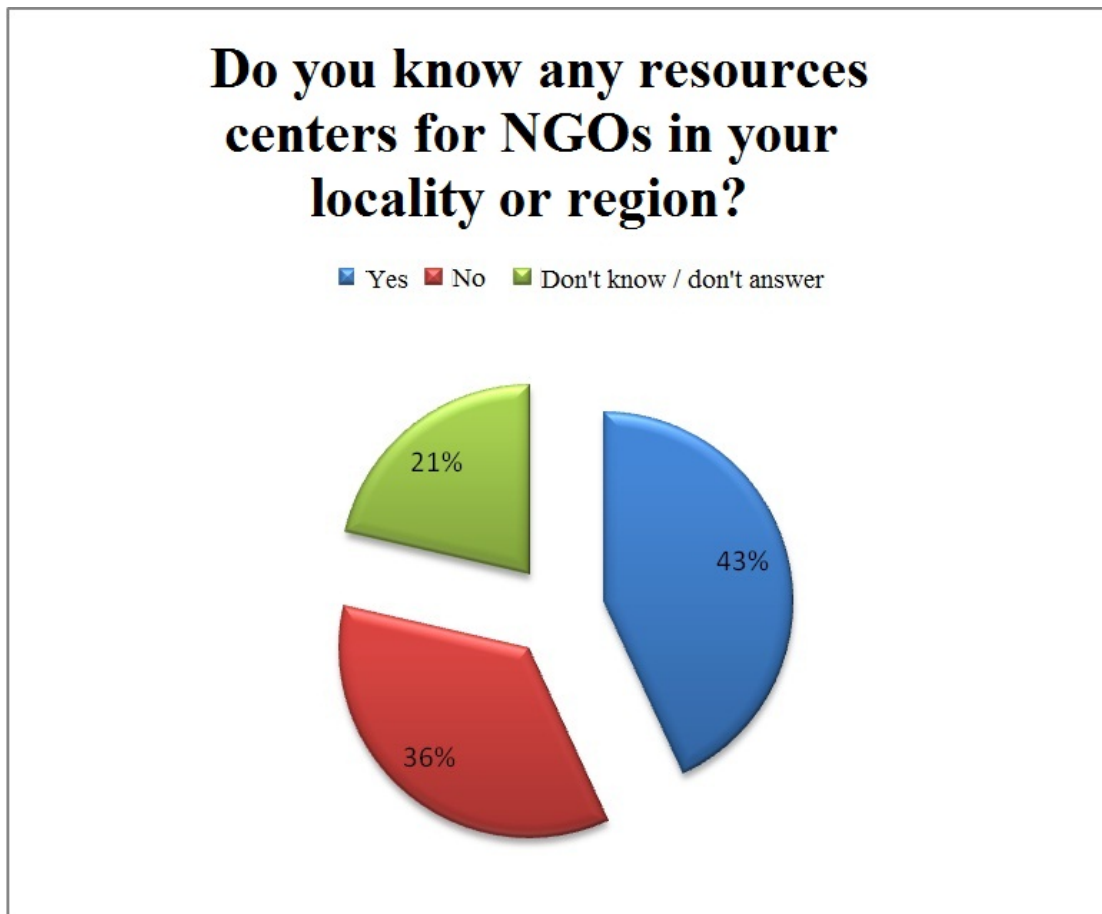
34% of the NGOs representatives admit that in 2010 their organization was involved in actions at European level. The organizations that have participated in actions at European level (in other EU countries) have mainly participated to conferences, seminars, working groups or meetings of the NGO networks they are member of. Participation to European projects as a partner is double than the European projects in which the Romanian NGOs are main applicants.

The main benefits of NGO involvement in actions at European level



The overwhelming majority of the NGOs that participate in actions at European level, admit that there is always a benefit of this involvement. Most often the benefit is seen as the transfer of expertise and the acquisition of information, as well as increasing the visibility of the organization.

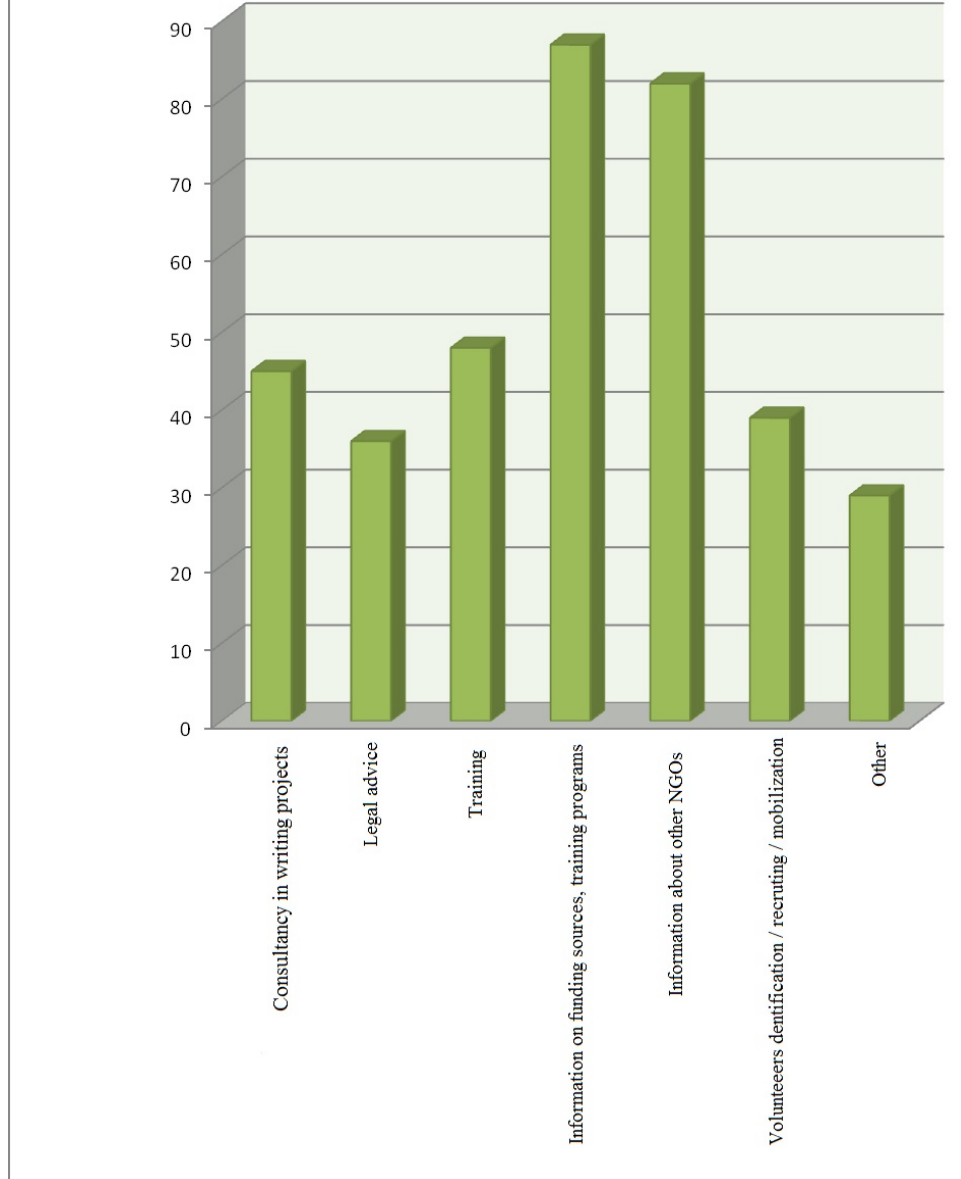
6. Structures and support services for NGOs



The resources centers are those organizations of the civil society that aim to support the nonprofit sector's development and promotion and to offer services to the NGOs. These organizations are actively involved in organizing annual events for the NGOs, publishing materials addressed to the nongovernmental organizations, promoting legislative proposals for the NGO sector and supplying information and training for the associative structures.

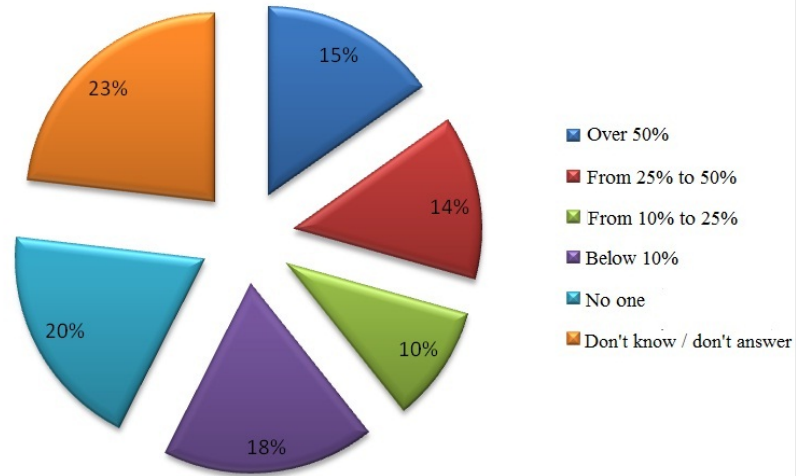
43% of the respondents know at least one resources center in the locality or region they operate. Most famous as resources centers are Civil Society Development Foundation and Centras. Other organizations mentioned frequently as resources centers for NGOs are: Resource Center for Roma Communities (RCRC), the Association of Community Relations (ACR), Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe), Resource Center for Non-profit Organizations of Oltenia (CRONO), Bethany Foundation Iasi, Pro-Vobis – National Resource Center for Volunteering.

Which is the type of service you asked / received from a resource center?



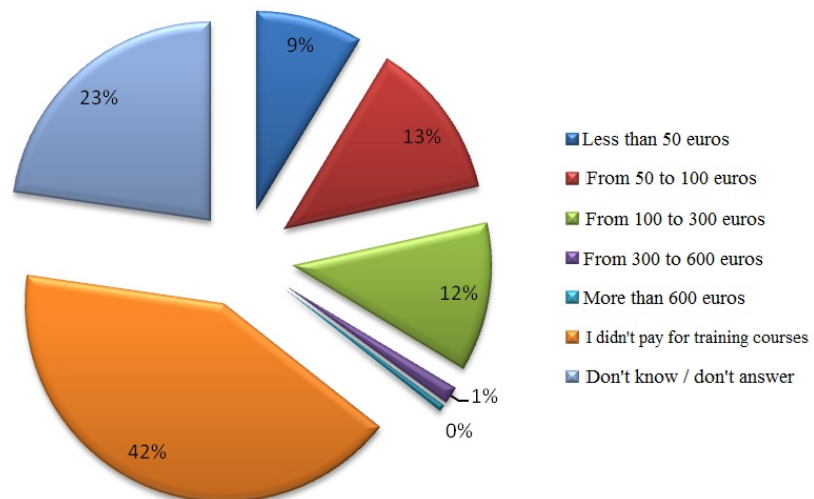
The most common services the NGOs resource centers offer are the information (whether about funding sources and trainings or about other NGOs). The most frequent services that the NGOs need and not provided by the resources centers, are, first of all, the legal (and fiscal) advice, but also facilitate partnerships and joint activities with other NGOs.

How many of your employees participated in training courses in 2010?

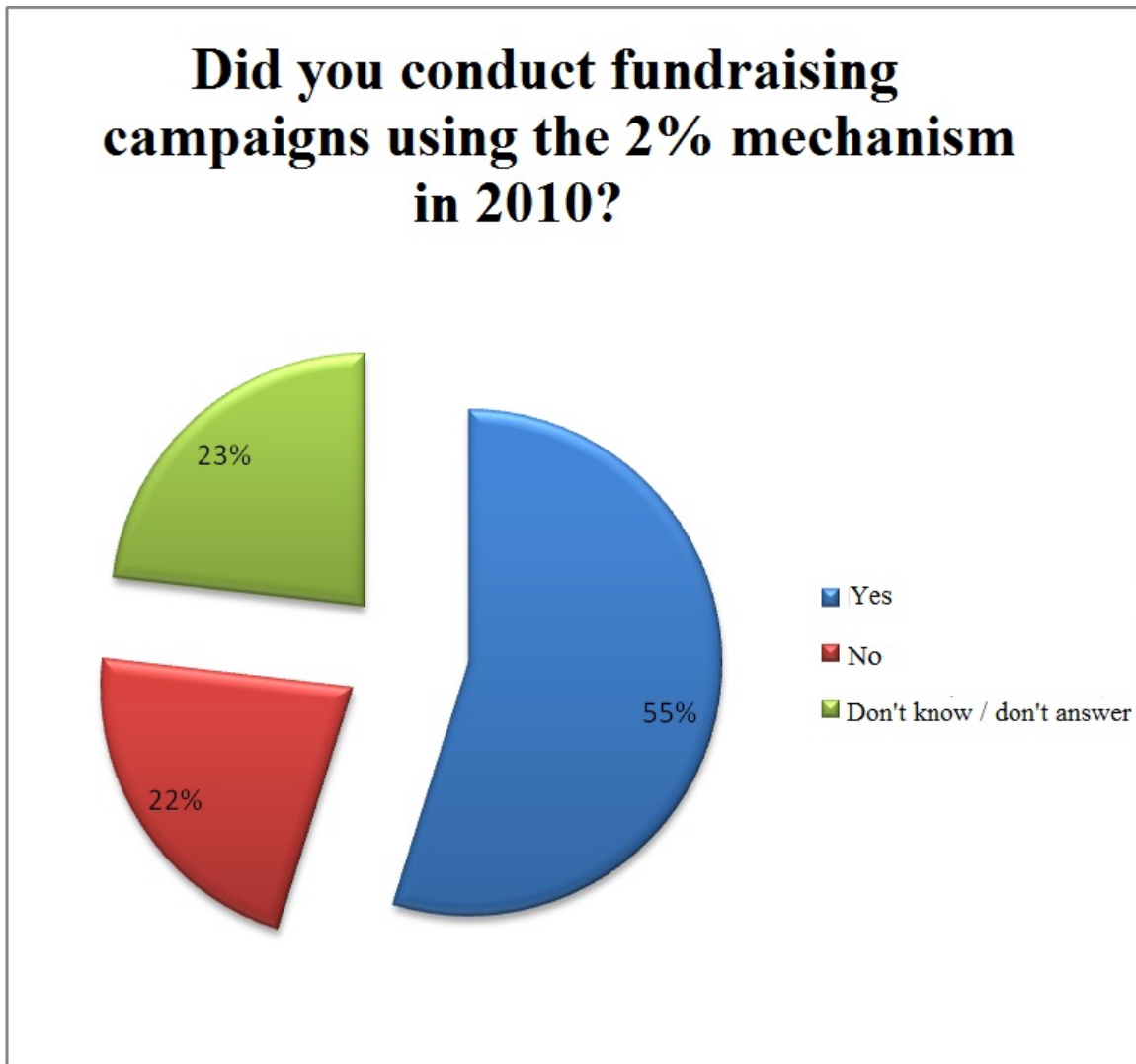


20% of the respondents admit that in 2010 no employee or volunteer of their organization participated in training courses. For only 15% of the respondents most employees and volunteers attended training courses.

The average cost of a training course for an employee

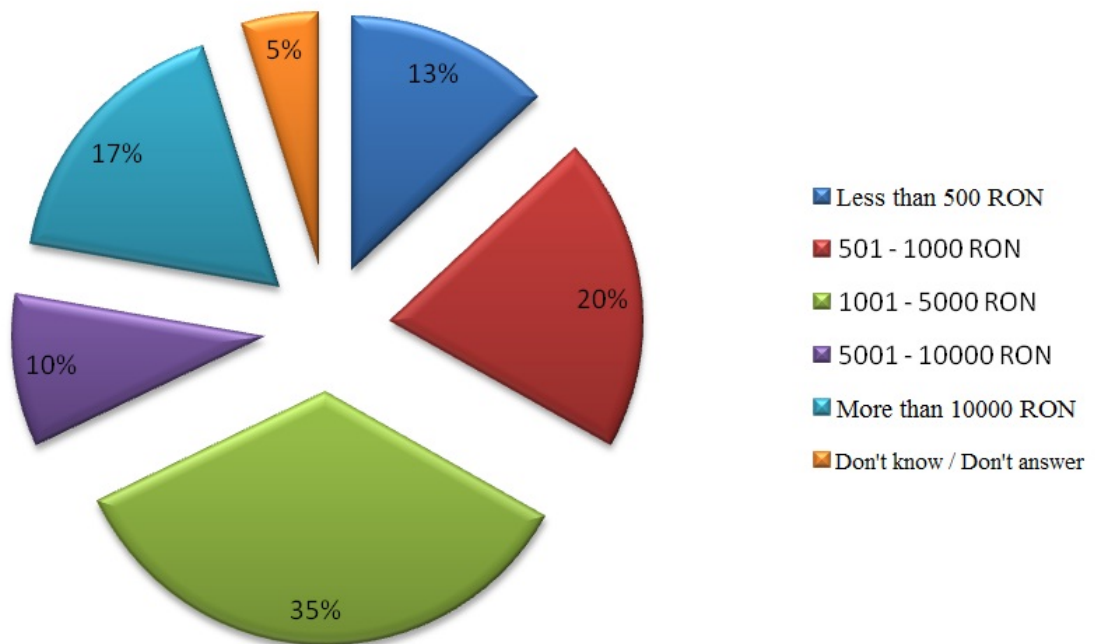


7. “2%”, promotion and transparency



55% of the respondents admit that in 2010 their organizations conducted fundraising campaigns using the “2%” mechanism.

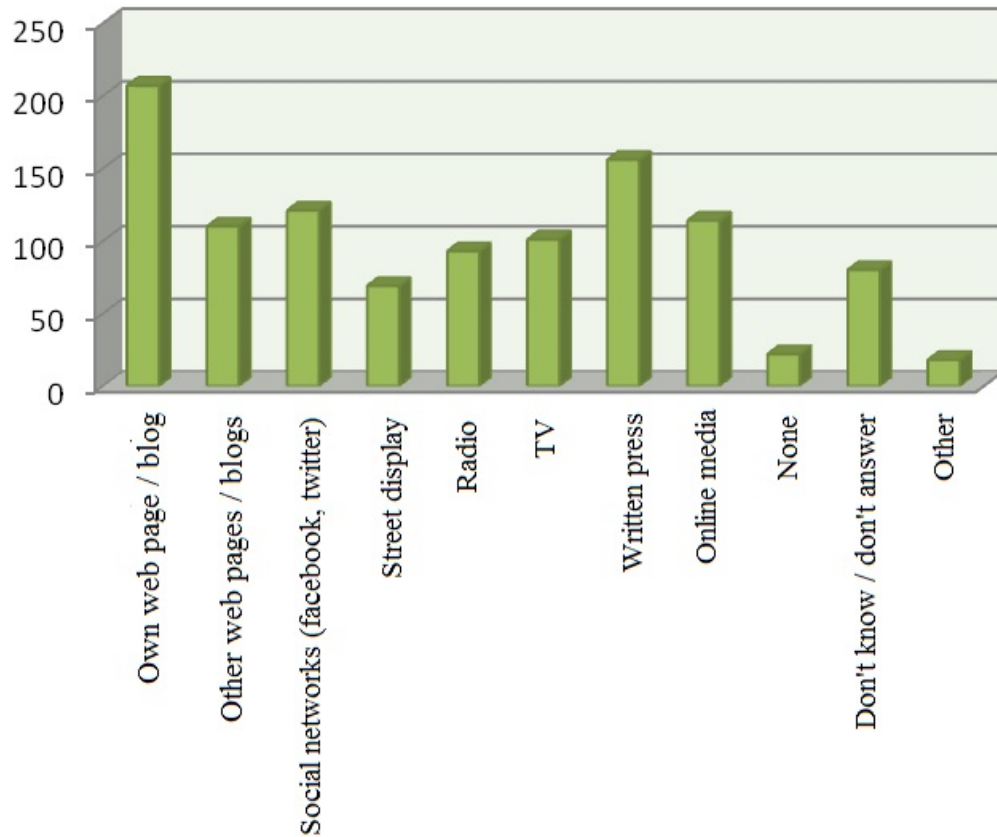
Which was the amount of funds collected through the 2% campaign in 2010?



Among organizations that used the 2% mechanism in 2010, 13% collected less than 500 lei, 20% gathered from 501 to 1000 lei and 35% collected from 1001 to 5000 lei.

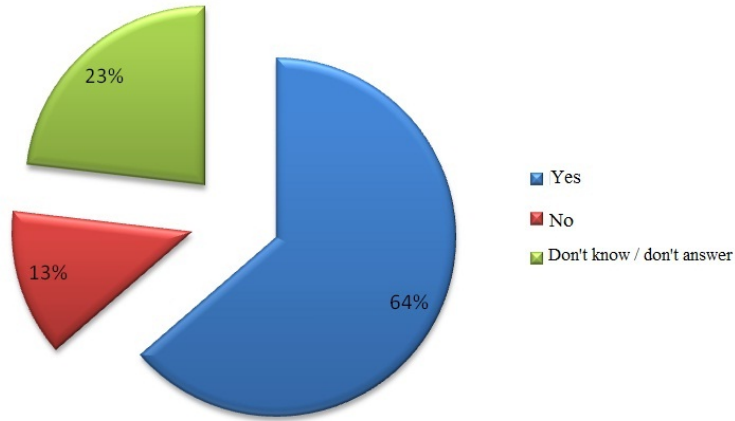
17% of the respondents that organized campaigns for 2% declare that their organization collected more than 10000 lei.

Promotion means used by NGOs in 2010



The main promotion mean of the NGOs in 2010 was their own internet page or blog. Written press is the second most common tool that was used.

Do you develop in your organization an annual activity report?



Almost two-thirds of the respondent organizations declare that they are developing an annual activity report. Most often, the annual reports are published on their internet page or blog or they are distributed by e-mail.

Means of dissemination of annual reports

