

**Report on
the Situation of Civil Organizations in the North-Hungarian Region**

Non-profit Research

2005

Report on the Situation of Civil Organizations in the North-Hungarian Region

Non-profit Research, 2005.

Authors:

Chapters 1, 2 and 4: Mrs. Krisztina Hegymegi Molnár
Chapter 3: Tünde Magyar

Editor: Mrs. Krisztina Hegymegi Molnár

Responsible Publisher: Human Integra Foundation
3533 Miskolc, Fürdő u. 15
info@humanintegra.hu

Cover: Andrea Gyurkó

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Preface

The present publication summarizes the research work and analysis done in the years of 2004 and 2005.

The original purpose of our project is to take a survey of the local branches of the civil organizations of the North-Hungarian region and to make a comprehensive analysis of the obtained results. Recently only a few certified data are available concerning the real activity of the civil organizations. The co-workers of Human Integra Foundation consider that they shall create an image about themselves. It's high time to recognize the real situation and activity of our sector and to get to know those people who really want to act in the proper way. A real image can highly promote us to represent our interests towards the local and central government and can contribute to the effective distribution of the suitable resources and supports in an indirect way. We are convinced that it is not necessary to state more about ourselves than that we really represent and do.

In addition to studying the publications and statistical data, direct research has also been done by us in the form of interviews. The majority of the organizations has contributed to publish their data in a partner data base; these data will be published in our Internet website together with the results of our research.

The following co-workers take part in our project: Nóra Gaál, Tünde Magyar, Krisztina Hegymegi Molnár, György Molnár, Pál Sarmasági, Gyula Visnyovszky and Ilona Visnyovszky.

Hereby we would like to express our thanks to our supporters and contributors.

Miskolc, 30 May 2005.

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1. The non-profit sector of the North-Hungarian Region in the reflection of the statistical data

Owing to the problems of registry, the number of non-profit organizations cannot be determined exactly. In accordance with the data of Central Statistical Office (KSH) 53022 organizations were still registered in Hungary in 2003, 6227 of which were registered in the North-Hungarian Region. Probably 11.7% of all the non-profit organizations of our country operate in our region. Taking into consideration the above fact as well as the changes, our region is on the 4th or 5th place in the list of the country. It is necessary to emphasize that the civil non-profit organizations are not stressed separately in the statistical data therefore they can be investigated together with the other social organizations in this chapter. This extent of the voluntary organization can be considered a reply to the economical and social problems, and it is probable that the favourable training conditions and information flow can also contribute to them. The distribution of the number of organizations follows the size of area and population of the three counties within our region.

10. The proportion of number of civil organization in the North-Hungarian region

Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county

Heves county

Nógrád county

Source: Our own drawing by using the data of the Central Statistical Office (KSH) published in 2003

A more tinged picture can be obtained by summarizing the number of local organizations in the settlements. On the basis of these results it can be seen that the non-profit organizations are concentrated in the county-centres as well as in the surrounding of one or two larger cities (Fig. 11). It can be supposed that the organizations are concentrated first of all in the cities. However the distribution of the organizations in the settlements (Fig. 12) proves that the proportion of these organizations is almost the same in the settlements, in the county towns and in other cities and this proportion is true separately for all the three counties with the exception of Nógrád county where the number of organizations in the settlements is 12% higher than in the county town.

Fig. 11: The number of non-profit organizations in the settlements of the North-Hungarian region in 2003

Settlements in the surroundings of the following areas

Abaúj-Hegyköz
Ballasagyarmat
Bátonyterenye
Bélapátfalva
Bodrogeköz
Edelény
Eger
Encs
Füzesabony
Gyöngyös
Hatvan
Heves
Kazincbarcika
Mezőcsát
Mezőkövesd
Miskolc
Ózd
Pásztó
Pétervására
Rétság
Salgótarján
Sárospatak
Sátoraljaújhely
Szécsény
Szerencs
Szikszó
Tiszaújváros
Tokaj

Source: Our own drawing by using the data issued by the Central Statistical Office in 2003

In spite of this fact the dominant cities can have a greater influence on their surroundings from this point of view than the settlements where the number of inhabitants is lower and the infrastructure is not highly developed.

12. The distribution of the non-profit organizations in the North-Hungarian region according to the types of settlements

County town
City
Settlement

Source: Our own drawing by using the data issued by the Central Statistical Office in 2003

The distribution between the types of settlements is very similar to the situation of our country. It can be stated that the non-profit sector of the region can be considered an average one in this field as well.

By investigating the legal form of the organizations it seems evident that - similar to the situation in Hungary - the non-profit sector of the region consists mainly of foundations and organizations i.e. civil-non-profit organizations (89%). Of these two legal forms the difference is 11% to the advantage of the organizations both in the region and in the country. This situation has historical reasons. It was prohibited to establish a foundation between 1949 and 1987. In case of the foundations the data obtained in 2003 show that the number of foundations increased drastically for a decade then this increase stopped, their number did not decrease but their proportion decreased within the sector.

As a tendency it can be observed that the number of public foundations, public corporations and companies has increased, it shows that the extent of intervention of government has increased and it can be observed in the North-Hungarian region as well. The higher influence of trade unions can be explained by the facts that the unemployment increases, the historical traditions are strong and the number of enterprises decreases. The detailed analysis of data is impossible as the data concerning the public companies are not included in the statistical data and the differences of some percent can be the consequence of this fact.

The significant characteristics of the non-profit organizations of the region are the data concerning the activity of these organizations. (Fig. 13). In this respect the aforementioned proportions are reflected in this region with a difference of 1-2 percent. The dominant fields are the free time activity, the education and sport but differences cannot be found in the other fields either. (Appendix: Table 4). By investigating the activity fields it can be stated that there are slighter differences in the three counties. Only the order is different between the three main fields and between the further four most common activity groups. The education is on the first place and it is followed by the free time activity and sport in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, it can be explained by the response given to the employment as well as by the significant training potential.. Here the social field is a bit before the cultural activity, it can be explained by the fact that the number of dependents is higher than the average number of dependents in the country in addition the inhabitants are getting old and the unemployment is high. In the other two counties the number of organizations dealing with free time activity and sport exceed the number of organizations dealing with education and training. In Heves county the number of organizations dealing with the representation of interests is remarkably high and exceeds the number of cultural and social organizations.

Fig. 13: Distribution of the non-profit organizations of the North-Hungarian region according to the activity-groups

free time
education
sport
culture
representation of interests
social field
development of settlements
public health
religion
public security
environmental protection
legal protection
development of economy
donation-association
civil guard - fire guard
politics
international relationships
research

activity

The above data can be explained by the more favourable economical-social situation of the county that is also shown by the amount of share from the GDP. In addition to the three dominant fields the number of organizations dealing with the cultural field as well as with the field of development of settlements is higher in Nógrád county. The low economic and infrastructural indexes of this county verify that the non-profit sphere is very sensitive to the local problems.

On the basis of the distribution of the income among the non-profit organizations it can be stated that this distribution was about 4-5% in the whole sector in the last decade. Apart from the fluctuation of some percent, the Central-Hungarian region received about 70% of the income, while the other six regions - among them the North-Hungarian region - received the remained 30% approximately in the same extent (4-5%).

The centralization is very high in this field especially if we take into consideration that only 30% of all the non-profit organizations can be found in the capital(!) and the remaining 70% are distributed proportionally (10-11%) among the other regions.

To sum up the statistical data it can be stated that the non-profit sphere of the North-Hungarian region is similar to the average non-profit sphere of our country. Comparing to Central Hungary both counties having the highest number of organizations and those having the lowest number of organizations can be found here. The sector has recognised the local economic and social problems and it is reflected in the types and activity fields of organizations. Concerning their income their activity is almost identical with the organizations acting in the other areas of the country. On the basis of the statistical data there is no cooperation between the counties - it shows that the regional activity has not been developed yet. However, if we investigate the above data by taking into consideration the economic and employment index of our country it shall be stressed that - in spite of the disadvantageous circumstances - the effectiveness of the non-profit organizations of our region is almost identical with the effectiveness of the organizations situating in those areas of our country where the economic index is more favourable. This fact shows the significant economic influence of the non-profit sector of our region.

2. Investigation of the civil-non-profit organizations of the North-Hungarian region

2.1. Research method

The civil-non-profit organizations have been aimed at during our investigations. By narrowing the statistical definition the associations and foundations belong to this field, about 89% of the registered 6227 organizations. The representative sample-taking by means of questionnaires has been chosen for our research. Questionnaires were sent to 750 organizations - it is about 14% of the investigated 5542 organizations. In these questionnaires we asked for voluntary responses and information without indicating the name of organizations. 182 organizations sent their reply up to the deadline of data collection (April 2005). 68% of these organizations are social organizations so these types of organizations are over-represented comparing to the foundations. At the same time the distribution of those who replied the questions is almost identical with the statistical data of the Central Statistical Office and it also promotes the representation of the real situation. The organizations were not chosen entirely randomly as the applications for the operational costs (739) submitted to the NCA in 2004 were also taken into consideration. The applicants can be considered real, operating organizations and it can be supposed that they belong to the class of the society that have more information and are more prepared from the point of view of the infrastructure as well. Probably the situation is worse concerning the whole region. The processed data have not been corrected or updated for those who replied so they show the real situation by taking into consideration the characteristics of the sector.

2.2. Activity level and sphere

The date of foundation of the organizations that replied the questions verifies the above tendency. Merely 17% of them existed before 1990, and the number of civil organizations of the region increased by 25% up to 1995 and this number increased by 40% (!) up to 2000 within the sample, then it showed an increase of 17% after 2000. So - considering their age - these organizations represent suitably the civil sector of our region.

By investigating the sphere of activity of these organizations it is not surprising that the activity of most of these organizations is limited in one settlement.

Fig. 14: Distribution of the number of civil organizations on the basis of their activity level (%)

country	
region	
county	Proportion of the number of
settlement group	organizations
settlement	

Source: Own research, 2004

However the half of the civil organizations operates in a wider range, in more settlements or even in a county.

It is evident, that the number of organizations registered in the region but have a sphere of operation all over the country is not high as these organizations can be mainly found in the capital. The regional sphere of operation is quite a new one and its significance has increased since Hungary joined the European Union. The proportions are similar in the different countries, the data differ in Heves county where the majority of the organizations has a sphere of operation on the county-level or they exist in more settlements and only 25% of them are limited in one place. Here the number of organizations declaring themselves regional ones is more than the average number of organizations in the region. It is necessary to stress that the presentation and checking of the sphere of operation and the real activity are not regulated; the Councils of Regional Development have initiated this regulation first, but it concerns only a few of them.

The position of organizations shows a very interesting picture from the point of view of publicity: the number of public company is almost twice more in our region than the number of non-public ones. This proportion is the opposite in Nógrád county. As this status can be obtained relatively easily in certain conditions by self-declaration, it is not surprising that so many organizations try to obtain this qualification having a lot of advantages. Though the activity of non-public organizations must not be under-evaluated from social point of view.

Merely the social organizations have registered members, the foundations have only co-workers. Naturally the number of those who take part in the work actively is certainly higher, however this number can only be estimated. The number of members and co-workers acting in a given organization is not higher than 50 people in the 58% of these organizations. The proportion of organizations having 50-100 members or more than 100 members is 20-20 percent. However their number is lower than the number of the smaller organizations. These proportions can be eventually understood by investigating the sphere of activity of the members.

By investigating the members taking part in the activity it can be stated that the proportion of the organizations having low-, medium and high sphere of operation is identical. The activity of organizations having low sphere of operation does not logically require many activists or co-workers (Fig. 15). At the same time it is necessary to take into consideration the fact that the relationships are based on the contacts between the families, friends, colleagues and on the confidence within the civil organizations. The higher sphere of operation requires more participants and a higher extent of institutional network. The proportions demonstrate that the half of the "small" organizations work in a sphere of operation higher than 100 members and it supposes a high effectiveness and organization. Therefore it seems that both organizations representing the interests of a narrow group and organizations representing the interests of wider layers can be found among the civil organizations - it indicates that the civil sector of the region is manifold, sensitive to the different problems and by this very useful from social point of view.

Fig. 15: Number of people affected by the activity of civil organizations

Source: Own research, 2004.

2.3. Sphere of activity

It was possible to indicate more answers concerning the sphere of activity listed in the questionnaire. The base of it is the supposition and practical experience that the organizations express activity in many different fields in addition to their basic activity. This supposition has been verified by the obtained answers. The spheres of activity where the organizations can range themselves are as follows:

Activity group (The most common activities)

1. <u>Recreation</u>	66%
(free time 34%, sport 30%)	
2. <u>Services</u>	60%
(training: 34%, social supply: 33%)	
3. <u>Local development of community</u>	46%
(environmental protection 10%, development of settlements: 8%)	
4. <u>Creation of identity</u>	38%
5. <u>Legal protection and protection of interests</u>	14%
6. <u>Donations</u>	10%
7. <u>Development of economy</u>	4%

The numbers indicate how many percent of the people answering the questions consider that their organizations are active in the given field, moreover the two most common activities are emphasized in the first three fields. In addition the numbers show that the organizations work in more fields. The sample-taking represents the activity of the non-profit sectors of our region and the whole country in almost an identical order. The only difference can be observed in the order of donations and the development of economy. Of the surveyed organizations the number of those giving donations is more than twice more than the number of organizations dealing with the development of economy. This difference can be explained by the economical and social situation and the problems of the region - the civil organizations react to these problems. However, in our opinion, the reason of the fact that the number of organizations dealing with the development of economy is low can be due to the intensive intervention from the part of the government. Nobody - including the non-profit sector - has been able to find an effective solution to this problem.

2.4. Existing Human Resources

The civil organizations show a very moderate picture from the point of view of the employment. As it has been expected and experienced, 87% of the surveyed organizations don't employ people for full-time job. If we take into consideration the distribution of organizations according to the sphere of operation, we can see that even the organizations having a high sphere of operation can work without employees working in full-time. The remaining 13% of the organizations employ max. 5 or fewer people having a degree. The majority of employees have a medium degree and only 1-2% of the organizations employ more than 5 people. The proportion of people working in part-time is fewer, only 10% of the organizations can afford it. In this case these organizations employ people having a high degree and medium degree, moreover they employ fewer than five members. It can be seen that some of the civil organizations try to employ people having a higher degree such a way that these employees receive salary for their work. However only a few organizations can afford it. It can be explained by the extra costs of employment - it causes a problem even for the profit-oriented sphere in our region. At the same time the number of volunteers is significant in the activity of the civil organizations of the region. The number of employees with high degree is the greatest. Max. 5 people having high degree take part in the work of the 56% of organizations, but more than 5 civil people participate in the work of the 19% of organizations. However the remaining 25% cannot involve volunteers having a similar degree in their work at all. The number of employees having a school-leaving certificate is also significant, in this case five or fewer civil people work at 39% of the organizations and more than five work at 19% of the organizations. At almost 10 percents of the organizations more than five volunteers having a lower degree work.

It can be concluded from the above data that the people having high qualification are more inclined to do the civil activity even without any salary. Perhaps they feel that it is a perspective and they are ready to devote a part of their free time for it or to spend a part of their leisure time with this work. The majority of the organizations considers it very important and involves them in the work successfully. In addition we can also conclude the fact that the people having a degree are more active in organizing themselves as they are well-informed that contributes to it. This tendency can be considered a positive factor in the civil sector and it shows that the organizations in the North-Hungarian region are supplied with a low number but highly trained human resource. This picture can correlate to the favourable training potential of this region.

Besides the special knowledge of the co-workers of the investigated associations and foundations, the communication ability is also very important, the knowledge of languages is the most significant of these abilities. There is a high lack in this field as co-workers with a serious language-knowledge cannot be found at all at 65% of the civil organizations i.e. it is possible to establish relationships with the foreign partner-organizations and to obtain information only by using an external help. Mainly the English and German languages are spoken, and some percent of the employees speak Russian or other languages. Generally there are no more than 5 co-workers who speak languages but the proportion of those having a basic- and medium degree language exam is identical, and a few of them have a high-degree language exam.

2.5. Infrastructure

The majority of the organizations participating in our survey considers it very important to operate an office for their activity. Only 21% of them have their own office, the other organizations work together with other organizations in community-houses or civil houses maintained by the self-governments. These offices can be applied for by the organizations and the self governments shall ensure these facilities for the organizations. The costs of maintenance can also arise - it is also an influencing factor - as the

organizations have only a low budget. However a significant part of civil organizations does not consider it necessary or cannot afford to maintain an own office, so they organize their activity from their own home. It is very interesting that this number is lower (30%) in case of the surveyed organizations in Nógrád county, they are perhaps in a more favourable situation than the organizations of the other two counties(?) from this point of view. Here the proportion of the number of common offices is also higher (48%) and it shows the significant support of the civil inhabitants.

Fig. 16: Proportion of the offices of civil organizations (%)

at home
common
own office

Source: Our own research, 2004

What the communication is concerned it is necessary to mention that one-fourth part of the organizations don't have wired telephone set, however it can be replaced by using a mobile-phone. Perhaps it is more surprising that 20% of the surveyed organizations don't have any computers and only a half of them have their own computers. Such "extras" as a CD/DVD are not available even on the own computers. 66% of the civil organizations have an Internet connection - either their own network or other network free of charge, but 34% of them haven't got this modern communication channel. Less than the half of

these organizations have printers or copying machines, the majority of them use devices that are not in their property.

Though the supply with technical means is quite sufficient, we cannot neglect the number of organizations where such technical means cannot be found, moreover the existing means are not the most modern ones. The Internet as a communication channel has not taken the first place yet, it is proven by the fact that only a low percent (32%) of the organizations uses the websites for indicating their activities. Only 7% of them has a website written in many different languages. Similarly, the publications and leaflets can neither be considered widespread communication means, 38% of the organizations have already made them, 8% have published them in many different languages as well. These two later communication means together with the modern technical means require high sums that cannot be obtained by a lot of organizations by taking into consideration the income of the North-Hungarian non-profit sector. In addition it is necessary to mention that these forms of communication demand a serious knowledge and it is necessary a suitable management for doing this work. However it can well be seen that the number of this management is low and they don't have the suitable means and practice. Again, it is necessary to mention the lack of language-knowledge that prevents the introduction of the sector in the different foreign countries. However, in our opinion the work of the civil organizations shall be made visible first of all in Hungary.

2.6. Financing

Four sources of income have been emphasized in the composition of the income of civil organizations of the surveyed North-Hungarian region. The most apparent of them is the proportion of the state support. (Fig. 17). The two-third part of the surveyed organizations do not receive such a support at all (!). Of the remaining organizations the amount of state support is more than one-fourth part of the income only in every second case. This proportion seems to be little especially in case if we take into consideration the fact that in the year of 2000 the share of state support was 28% in the income of non-profit sphere, in 2003 this value was 42% (!) (Central Statistical Office).

At the same time the statistical data show that half of the amount of support was transferred to the accounts of public companies and public foundations, or 61% of this amount was transferred to the account of the organizations working in the capital, while only the 25% of non-profit organizations are registered in Budapest. It means the government has to solve very urgent tasks in order to realize the decentralization.

Fig. 17. The share of state support in the income of civil organizations

Number of organizations

State support

Source: Our own research, 2004.

However the proportion of donations is one of the dominant source of the income. 77% of the surveyed organizations are supported. The amount of the support is more than one fourth part of the income in every second case. From this point of view those who represent the North-Hungarian civil organizations are more effective, they can obtain a higher support for their activity and the inhabitants living in this region are inclined to give higher donations than the majority of people in the country. It shows the social recognition of these organizations as well.

Fig. 18. The share of donation in the income of civil organizations

Number of organizations

Share of donations

The support by 1% of tax is a new source that can be a significant index of the social support of civil sphere. 63% of the surveyed organizations receive this support. However it is true that its extent is less than one-fourth part of the income.

Fig. 19. The share of the 1% support in the income of civil organizations

Number of organizations

Share of 1%

The sources coming from the applications and other sources are the most dominant ones of the four investigated fields of income (Fig. 20). The number of organizations that do not obtain support from applications and haven't got any other sources of support is under 10%. Though in each third case this support is less than the one-fourth part of income, but it takes the significant part of income in the majority of cases. However in order to obtain a real picture, it is necessary to notice that such organizations have been chosen for completing the questionnaire that have known the possibilities of NCA and have obtained experiences in the field of writing applications. 96% of these organizations submitted successful applications and each second one won more than 5 applications in the last 3 years. However the real picture can be worse than the above one.

Fig. 20. The share of supports coming from the applications and the share of other income of the civil organizations

Number of organizations

The share of applications in the income

Source: Our own research, 2004

The amount of sums won by the applications indicates that the organizations could not use a high amount of money in the last three years. (Fig. 21). The half of the supported organizations received an amount of money under 1 million HUF by the applications and merely 10% of them won more than 5 million HUF. These proportions show a certain experience in writing the applications but it can be concluded that the amount of this income is not too high.

Fig. 21. The amount of supports won by the civil organizations as a result of applications in the last 3 years

Number of organizations

Support won by the applications (during the last 3 years)

Source: Our own research, 2004

2.7. System of relationships, obtaining information

The relationships between the institutions have got the following order at the surveyed organizations:

1. Local self-government
2. Civil organizations working in the region
3. Schools
4. Civil offices
5. Cultural centres
6. Economic organizations, contractors
7. Self government of county
8. Health institutions
9. Regional Development Agencies
10. Regional Agencies of the county
11. Political parties

The majority of the surveyed organizations has a good relationship with the local *self governments* concerning the regular cooperation. It serves a good basis for the dialog between the civil sphere and government and for its development. However 58% of the organizations establish only a non-regular relationship with the *other civil organizations* - it indicates the necessity of the development of partnership. There is a significant relationship with the educational institutes. The reason of it is first of all the active civil activity promoting the education and training. The schools being in a very difficult financial situation need this activity. The relationship established with the civil offices means the possibility of developing the infrastructure and obtaining information that shows the more and more increasing significance of the network and there are further possibilities as well. The cooperation with the economic sphere is mainly a non-regular one, but it certainly plays an important role, as the share of donations is very high in the income of the surveyed organizations and it complements the state support. However it can be stated that only a remarkably few organizations have relationships with the development agencies and this relationship is rather non-regular. This fact calls our attention to the fact that the agencies performing the coordination of the EU

applications have paid only a little attention to the civil sphere and therefore the cooperation is not too successful. Naturally, the reason of it is that the civil organizations are unpractical in writing applications - the agencies can help them to develop this ability. The independence from the political parties is a civil "tradition" - the civil organizations insist strongly on this tradition.

90% of the surveyed organizations indicated the *personal, friendly relationships* as the basis of the relationships. The *official establishment of relationships* is dominant in case of 67% and a further 17% indicated the *random* establishment of relationships together with the previous ones. The answers reflect well the most characteristic features of the civil cooperation. It means that the organizations strive to make the government recognize officially their groups operating within legal range and they strive to cooperate with the government and they try to find the way to them through people having a confidential relationship with the members of government. In other fields they prefer cooperating with well-known people. The spontaneous relationship is not so frequent, it indicates a bit closeness. It is supported by the fact that the majority of surveyed organizations cooperate with other civil organizations only non-regularly. It can also be concluded that recently the civil organizations consider that the establishment of official relationships has a greater significance than that of the civil partnership.

The relationships with the different media are favourable, two-third part of the organizations appeared in the local and county media in the last years. The proportion is different on regional level, because only the half of the surveyed organizations published its activity on this level. It is not a wrong proportion if we take into consideration that only 10 percent of the surveyed organizations are of regional level, the majority of them work on a county- or local level. It is due to the regular programs of regional and local TV-channels which introduce the civil organizations. About 15-20 percent of the surveyed organizations appear in the Hungarian media. On the basis of the personal

experiences it can be stated that the media does not "run" after the news concerning the civil organizations but is not averse to presenting it. It means the organizations shall inform the press and TV and by this the public about their activity.

About 70% of the surveyed organizations haven't got any experience in establishing foreign relationships. The reason of it can be the high costs of establishing and maintaining the relationships, the lack of language-knowledge and the lack of communication means. The proportion of the other organizations maintaining relationships with the ex-socialist countries and the countries of Western-Europe is approximately identical. On the basis of the above facts it is not surprising that the three-fourth part of the surveyed civil organizations is not the member of the "umbrella-organizations" and they are not connected to any of the civil networks of the union even indirectly. Partly the reason of it is that the majority of them (63%) does not have any information or has only little information about the civil strategy of EU and the information has only a general character. 30 percent of the surveyed organizations have strived to obtain certain information in this field but only 12% of them took part in such a training.

3. Summary of interviews made with the civil organizations

In the course of choosing the organizations called upon to the interview our purpose was to represent the wide range of activity done by the civil organization and to choose effectively operating organizations having an influence on their surroundings and working for years. However in order to avoid the obtaining of one-sided information some smaller organizations and foundations were also aimed at.

3.1. The general introduction of the organizations

The majority of the surveyed organizations was established after 1998 but many organizations are really young, they were registered in 2003 or 2004. No connection can be found between the "age" and the activity of operation of the organization, the young organizations employing qualified, enthusiastic co-workers quickly reach excellent results (e.g. one of the co-workers of an organization established for the development of region at the end of 2000 and having 15 employees at present has remembered that some years ago they had nothing but a pen in their hands and today they have a lot of offices equipped with modern devices). On the contrary there are less active organizations among those established earlier. In general it can be stated that the "larger" organizations can be found in the cities (county towns, in the centres of the settlements), but it cannot be considered an exclusive situation as some larger organizations where the members are employed can be found among the county organizations as well.

3.2. Perspectives

In general it can be stated that the majority of organizations have a perspective, they want to continue and develop their activities. The organizations consider that they can

perform the development and can continue their everyday activities by utilizing the resources of applications. The amount of donations and fees is very little, it hasn't got any significance. Many organizations are able to employ the existing co-workers in the future only in case if they can manage to win an application. The contract of employment of employees working at the civil organizations of the region is valid from the beginning to the completing of an application, and it is uncertain if they can continue their work. However the surveyed organizations have confidence in the future and they think that nobody shall be dismissed after expiring the agreement. However the majority of applications isn't of an operational character but it is connected to an activity, as a consequence the organizations have to move to such a direction that "can be included" to any of the applications.

The organizations working in the social field, (services for the people being at a disadvantage) as well as in the fields of the development of region and environmental protection are in a "lucky" situation because the applications written for them give a wider possibility for planning and for the development of their activity. The organizations performing activities that are aimed at neither by the development policy of our country nor that of the European Union are in a much more difficult situation (e.g. societies established for the prevention of cruelty to animals) the exclusive source for them is the National Civil Foundation and the donations. However there are some civil organizations where "the money is not important". In this case the members are willing and can devote to do their hobby on a high level though it cannot be considered general in this region.

Many organizations would like to eliminate the uncertainty caused by the income from the applications, so they undertake to perform the obligatory tasks of self governments (e.g. they deal with people having mental deficiency or with deviant young people), because they would get a normative support for this activity.

It is first of all characterized by the countries as these forms of supply can be organized in case if the number of inhabitants is more than 10000. The perspectives are more institutional at these organizations and they don't have a classical "civil" character.

3.3. Social adaptation, social relationships

The majority of the organizations have a widespread relationship-system. Two general concepts can be observed in the field of establishing relationships. The organizations look for the relationships with those ones performing similar activities, they know the work of organizations operating in their vicinity and sometimes they realize common projects. There are such civil organizations that have initiated the establishing of a civil workshop (civil workshop for young people) for doing their activities. Their number is insignificant. There is a significant cooperation among the organizations dealing with the nature- and environmental protection and it is common that a person establishes many organizations working in similar field but in different geographic areas, and of course have different members and different aims (e.g. tourism, development of settlements). Naturally the cooperation is very close in these cases.

The second general characteristic of the relationships is the close connection with the self governments and public institutions. The reason of it is that a lot of civil organizations have been established for completing the obligatory or voluntary tasks of self governments and for solving public tasks. Practically all the social fields - among others - the protection of young people, moreover all the activities concerning the development of settlements, including the development of tourism and the environmental- and nature protection belong to it as well. It is a very interesting example of this topic that the tourist information offices (Tourinform Offices) established by the Hungarian Tourism Co. Ltd. operate in the form of civil organizations in many settlements and they are maintained exclusively by using the supports of applications.

The relationship is the closest in such cases when the self government or the training institute is the member of the civil organization and they ensure the necessary administration services as well as the means of communication and information technology for the civil organization. The foundations dealing with the children in the little settlements work such a way in this region. Similarly there is a very close connection between those organizations that can entirely fulfil the tasks of self government and they get normative supply for it. Their number is insignificant.

When the questions of social adaptation are concerned, in the course of our interviews we didn't speak a lot about the relationships of organizations with the inhabitants, with the public and with the members. Therefore it can be concluded that the organizations are a bit "intensive" they are less known and they do not attribute a high significance to the PR activity. They devote their time and energy to solving the special tasks and very often the public tasks and to obtain the financial means for solving these tasks.

3.4. Enforcement and representation of interests

In general it can be stated that the significant part of organizations deal with solving the public tasks and the activity dealing with the enforcement of interests, the declaration of interests, i.e. the activity that mainly characterises the concept of "civil society" and are emphasized in the European Union are missing almost entirely in this region. We can hardly find organizations representing the different opinions and interests. It seems that such organizations can be found only on the country level (e.g. Society of those people having a large family, Clean Air Working Group). However we can find some examples

of establishing local groups by the Hungarian organizations protecting the interests or they operate as local groups or individually registered organizations.

The organizations taking part in the interview are satisfied with their possibilities of assertion of their interests, and it is quite evident from their activities that it is not the primary purpose of their operation. The almost exclusive scene of their assertion of interests is to obtain the applications and supports where it is necessary to sell "well" the purposes and interests of the organization. The influence of the public opinion and the decisions of (self) governments does not appear among the reasons of the establishment and operation of civil organizations of the region.

The majority of the interviewed civil organizations know that they can take part in certain meetings of the settlement- and regional councils and they can create their opinion in these meetings, though they are not allowed to vote. From this point of view the chosen organizations are not representative on the basis of our other experiences. We think that the majority of civil organizations in our region do not know about it and do not use this possibility. However the system is so new that it would be too early to create any opinion about it.

3.5. Taking advantage of services

The taking advantage of services by the civil organizations is very different. There are such organizations - generally those who have employees - that do not need any services and special help. However the majority of small organizations don't have any special knowledge and they need both physical and special help for their operation. As a consequence there are serious differences what the need of external help for the civil organizations is concerned in this region.

The organizations requiring the utilization of services also differ from each other from the point of view if they can get such a help and if yes, who will help them. In general it can be stated that a lot of small organizations have relationships with public institutions (school, nursery school, Mayor's office) that ensure an office and the necessary infrastructure for the organization. In case of larger institutions (where qualified experts having a degree are employed) it is accompanied with a special support (e.g. an association of environmental protection is established by the active participation of teachers and it operates either within the framework of the infrastructure of a secondary school or by the support of a foundation for the protection of children, or by the physical and intellectual support of the self-government and elementary school, or there are such cases when an association operates Tourinform Offices and the facility is ensured by the self-government for this offices).

Another example of the utilization of services is the use of advantages of non-profit organizations supporting and comprising the civil organizations, however it is a less general form. In the course of our interviews we found two organizations established for fulfilling different purposes but promoting the civil organizations very effectively. One of these organizations was established in order to give infrastructural and professional support to the civil organizations operating in the settlements (micro-regions). The office maintains itself from applications and it does not receive support from the self-governments. Their work is characterized by the commitment and the high special knowledge.

An association for the development of area was established for quite different reasons - it was established by the self governments in the given statistic settlement. Now the association employs 15 people and - in addition to supporting the self-governments, educational institutions and contractors - they support the civil organizations as well, by giving information, advices for writing applications, and compiling applications. Their work is also characterized by the commitment and the high professional level.

We can find example even for the case when a civil organization that hasn't been established for servicing purposes but has a high professional knowledge gives services - either voluntary or in the framework of applications - to civil organizations that are less prepared.

The organizations requiring services and do not operate in the county centres have found too far the civil information offices operating in the county centres and according to our survey a continuous information- and advice-giving have not been developed between the civil organizations and the offices. In general it can be stated that the rendering of services hasn't been solved in the country yet.

4. Summary

On the basis of the above survey it can be concluded that a civil sphere increasing dynamically together with the Hungarian non-profit sector can be found in the North-Hungarian region. It has general characteristics identical with those of the other regions from many aspects, in a region full of serious economic and social problems owing to the unemployment. The majority of organizations in this region work in settlements by cooperating with the different groups of the settlement. The greater part of the organizations have only some members and their activity reaches only some people however it shows efficiency locally. Similar to the Hungarian tendencies and the historical traditions, the dominant fields of activity are the leisure time, sport, education and the social supply. At the same time it can be observed that in addition to their basic activities, the organizations are active also in other different fields as well. Apart from the Hungarian average numbers here the number of donating organizations is higher - it can be unanimously explained by the economic-social situation and by the problems of this region.

A very narrow layer of the civil sphere tries to employ qualified people permanently for doing the activities, but the majority of organizations employ people neither in full-time nor in half-time for a salary. It can be explained mainly by the extra costs of employment - it causes a problem even for the profit-oriented sphere in this region. At the same time the number of voluntary workers is significant, the majority of them has high qualification and it is a power of the organization. On the other hand the number of members speaking foreign languages is few.

The infrastructure is favourable though only a low number of the civil organizations has their own office and technical devices. The self-governments and civil offices ensure more and more preferential (cheap) infrastructural possibilities for the organizations in this region.

However the office equipment shall be developed and there isn't any Internet access in many of the organizations, and it is disadvantageous both from the point of view of obtaining information and communication.

What the financing is concerned, the lack of state support or the minimal amount of support cause a serious problem. However one of the dominant source of income is the share of donations - it shows the support of civil activity, the social acknowledgment of the organizations. Similarly, the 1% support - though its amount is not too high - concern a lot of organizations. An effective self-organization can be considered in the described economical environment and infrastructural circumstances. The civil organizations try to join the system of applications more and more actively, only a few of them do not receive such support. The income coming from the applications can be considered the most significant in their management, but in spite of it their budget is low. These circumstances influence the organizations such a way that the infrastructure and the possibility of development of the organization is very limited and the financial background of employment cannot be ensured owing to the high costs.

The civil organizations establish their relationships on the personal connections but they try to establish a regular, official relationship with the self governments. However it does not mean a uniform, effective harmonization of interests, instead the occasional lobby representing the individual interests without any strategies prevails. The establishment of civil, professional forums is in progress, mainly the county towns try to realize them by ensuring the participation of civil organizations in the committee meetings with the right of discussion. There isn't any organ representing the interests of all the region. The cooperation of civil partners is occasional. Only a few organizations have established relationship with the development agencies and this relationship is not regular. The organizations do not establish relationship with the parties because they strictly observe their neutrality from this point of view.

The organizations have recognized the importance of media in establishing their relationships and they often appear mainly in the local newspapers, TV but they often appear on regional level as well. They have preferential possibilities for doing it. Owing to their high costs only some organizations can issue publications and operate a website. A significant knowledge and experts would be necessary for these types of communication.

Only a small number of civil organizations establish relationships with the foreign organizations and with the organizations of the European Union. The reason of it is the imperfect knowledge of languages as well as the lack of the knowledge of the strategies in the EU and in the civil sphere. Only a few organizations have tried to obtain this knowledge either by obtaining information or by organizing trainings.

On the basis of the above survey it is unanimous that the civil sector of the region shall be developed from many different points of view. Their ability and possibility for asserting their interests is strongly limited. This sector is not prepared for joining the European networks representing the interests and hasn't recognised the necessity of joining it yet. At present the organizations try to form dialog between the civil sector and the government on a local level, that can be the base of joining the Hungarian networks of representing the interests as well as the network of European Union.

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