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2018

The Capacity of NGOs in Poland –

Key Facts

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ngo.pl non-governmental organisations portal

fakty.ngo.pl data and analyses regarding non-governmental organisations and community engagement

The data have been derived from a study by the Klon/Jawor Association The Capacity of the Non-governmental Sector 2018 completed on a national random sample of 1,300 associations and foundations. The study has been conducted regularly since 2002 and is the largest independent piece of research on associations and foundations in Poland.

The Capacity of the Non-governmental Sector 2018 study has been funded by the Polish American Freedom Foundation and the Stefan Batory Foundation.



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What is the total number of NGOs?

There were: 117,000 associations (including 17,000 Voluntary Fire Brigades), 26,000 foundations, in total approximately 143,000 registered organisations in 2018. Not all registered organisations are actually active. We estimate about 65 % of registered organisations have active operations. The data presented in this report are representative for the population of active foundations and associations, excluding Voluntary Fire Brigades (they were not covered by the survey), i.e. approximately 80,000 associations and foundations.

117,000
registered
associations



26,000
registered
foundations

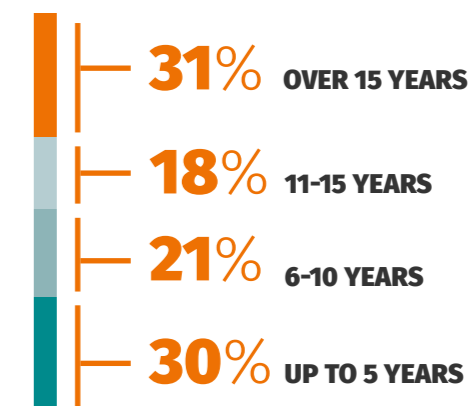


What is the age of NGOs?

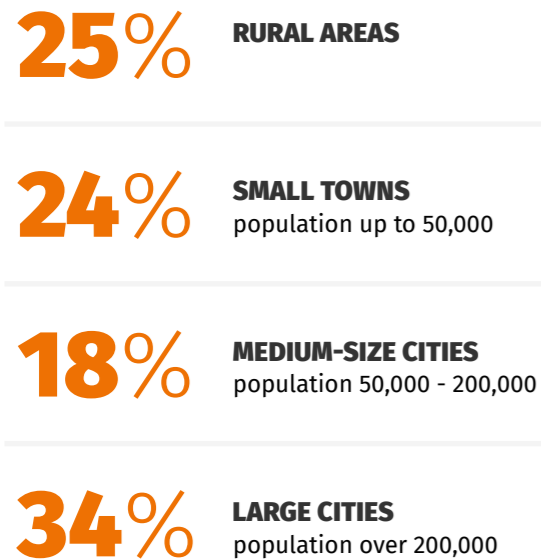
An average organisation has operated for about 10 years. In 2018, the number of youngest organisations with a history shorter than 5 years was close to the number of organisations with the longest history of over 15 years.

Note the change in the age structure of active organisations over the last decade. There were more than three times more organisations with the shortest history more than the oldest organisations only ten years ago. The proportions are equal today. The non-governmental sector can be said to mature, as evidenced by the share of the oldest organisations.

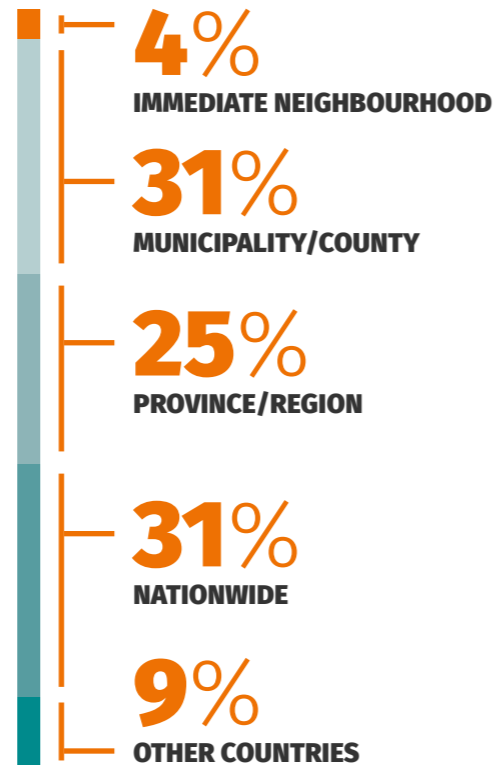
Years of operation of NGOs:



Where are NGOs located?

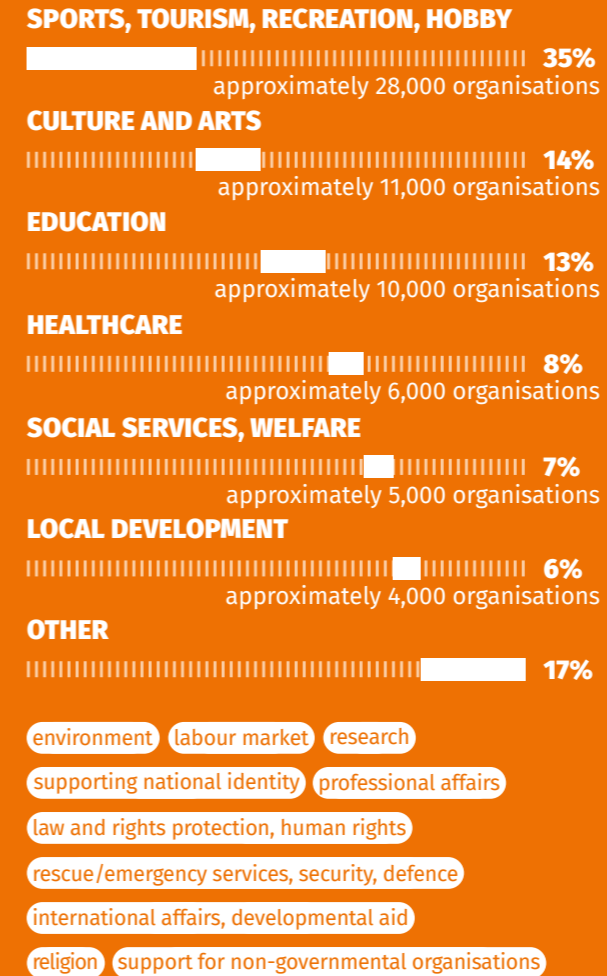


What is the scale of NGO operations?



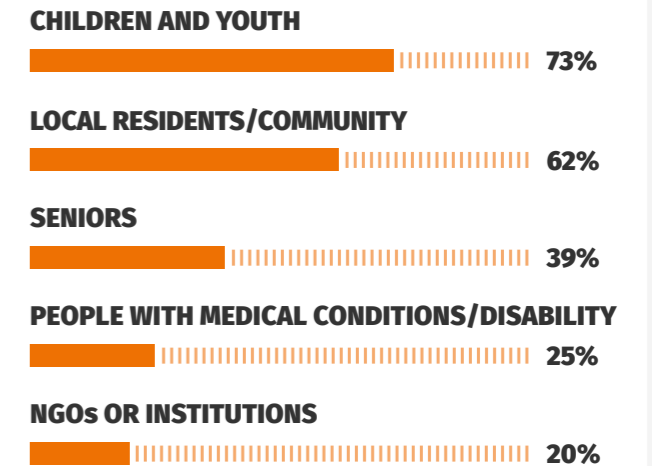
The data present the broadest scope of operations, e.g. if an organisation is active both locally and regionally it will be classified as regional.

What is the focus of NGOs?



What are the target groups for NGOs?

NGOs have a wide variety of target groups. Key target groups include:



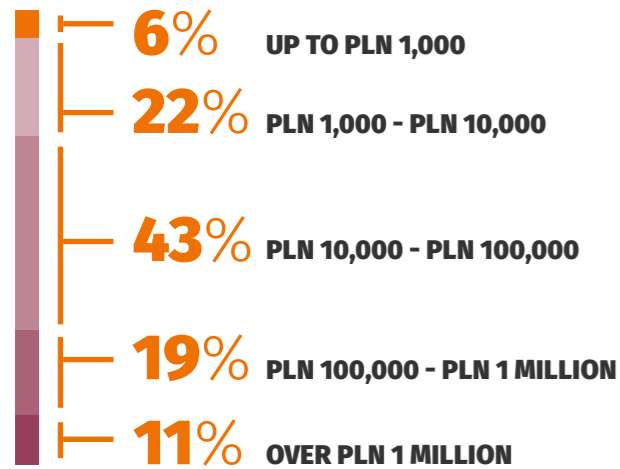
How much money do NGOs have?

PLN 28,000

the annual budget of an average organisation in 2017 (about EUR 6,500)

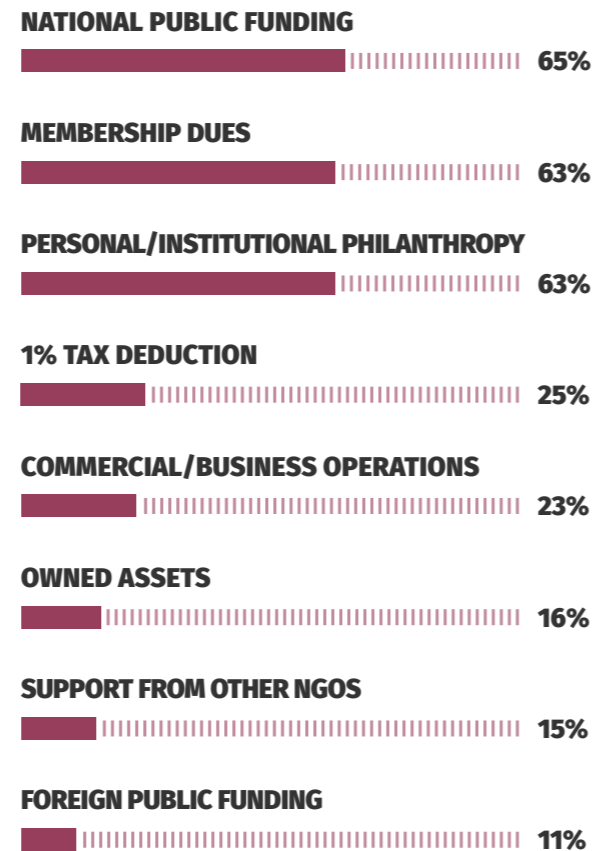


The structure of annual revenues of non-governmental organisations in 2017:



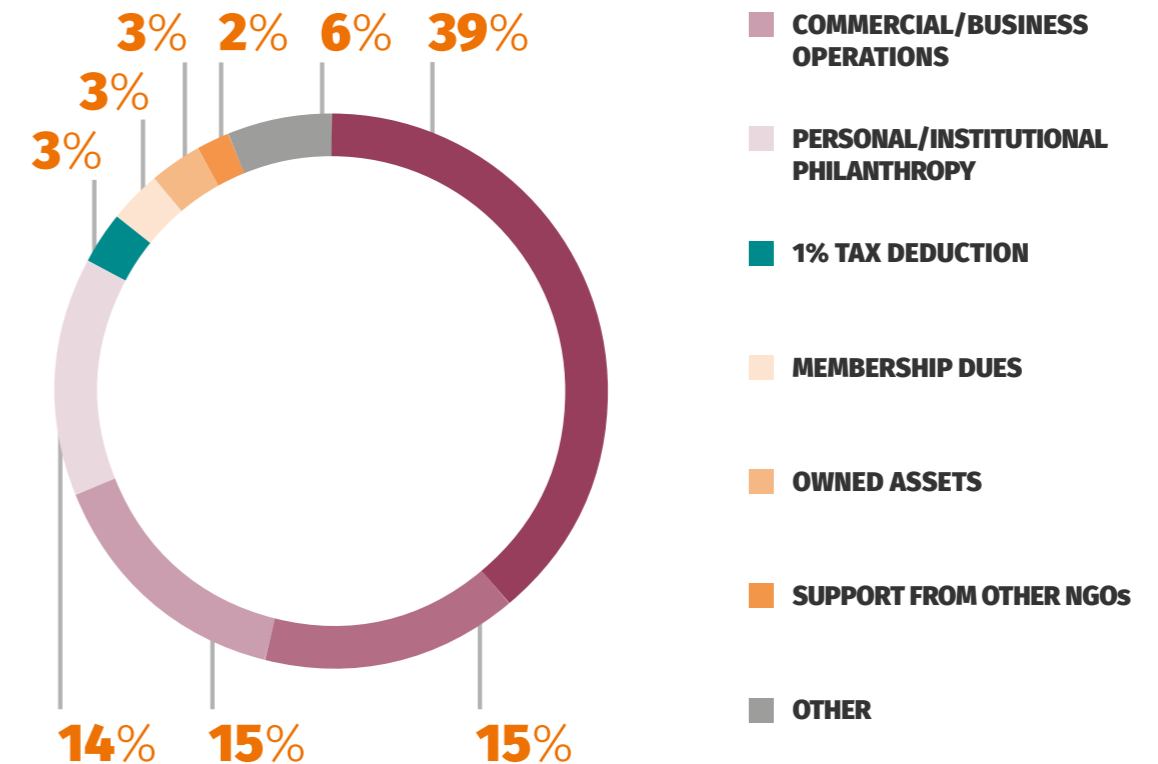
What are the sources of funding for NGOs?

NGOs fund their operations using a variety of different sources. Here is the list of funding sources and percentages of use:



How much money do NGOs obtain from the different sources?

The data on the adjacent page present the proportions of organisations that use the various funding sources. But how much money goes to organisations from each funding source? A list of funding sources and their percentage share in the total Third Sector budget:



What is it like working for an NGO?

36%

of organisations solely rely on volunteers in their operations



37%

of organisations employ at least one person (on a long term/regular basis)



27%

of organisations contract a variety of work irregularly, rarely or on a one-off basis



How do NGOs hire people?

At least one permanent employee or a team is found in 37% of all organisations (employees working at least once a week). On average, organisations employ 3 persons.

37%

of organisations have permanent or regular employees

19%
offer employment contracts



18%
offers other contracts



At least one person has an employment contract in 19% of organisations, and other 18% of organisations has one or more people working on a regular basis but none is employed on an employment contract basis.

What is the size of membership in associations?

On average, associations will have 30 members, 15 women and 15 men. Ten out of thirty members will actually be active, i.e. will actually engage in the organisation's affairs.

Out of 30 members



10

is actually active in the organisation

What about volunteering in NGOs?

63% of organisations hire volunteers, 6 persons per year on average. Half of them, i.e. 3 persons, volunteer their time regularly, at least once a month.

63%

of organisations use volunteers



6

volunteers will be hired by an average NGO in any single year



What are the challenges faced by NGOs?

70%

claim to face challenges raising funds and acquiring equipment



Challenges to financial sustainability have been the single biggest concern for organisations for years. However, there is a growing challenge of ensuring human capital. Non-governmental organisations have suffered from not enough people committed to engage (68%), staff retention issues (52%) and leadership burnout (47%).

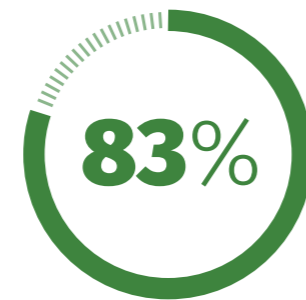
68%

point out they have problems finding enough committed people ready to engage



What do NGOs need?

NGOs identify funding to cover their matching contributions to projects as their most urgent need (39%). Other NGOs (31%) would first like to be able to buy equipment to support their operations or launch new products or services.



of organisations say training is essential, mostly in fund-raising

What are the values cherished by organisations?

Integrity

Professionalism

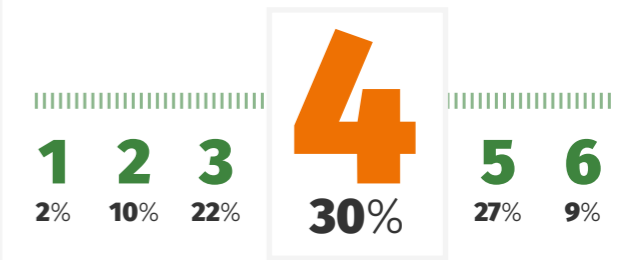
43%

of organisations point to these values as their core

Other highly ranked values include 'the sense of mission' (38%) and 'enthusiasm and engagement' (36%). 'Financial performance' is found important by the least proportion of organisations (2%).

What is the prevailing mood among NGOs?

The organisations tend to express satisfaction at the overall performance of their organisations in 2017: they rank it at 4 out of 6.



Organisations look ahead into the future with similar optimism.

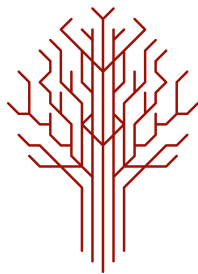
If benchmarked against 2018, the environment for NGOs in 2019 are expected to be:

44%
BETTER

35%
THE SAME

12%
worse

8%
hard to tell



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