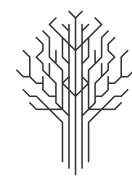


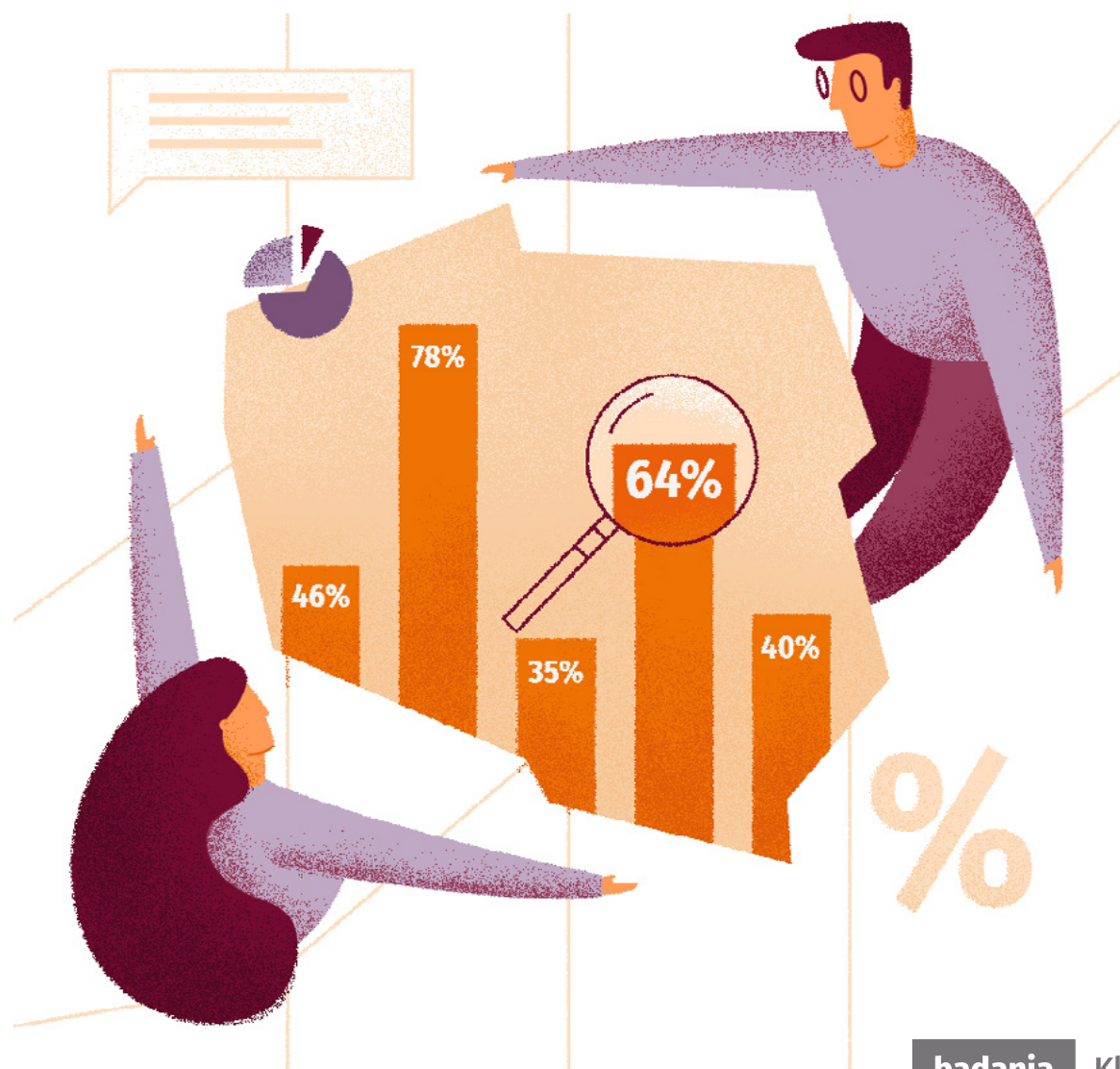
# 2021

## The Capacity of NGOs in Poland

### Key Facts



stowarzyszenie  
klon / jawor



badania Klon/Jawor

**Written by:**

Beata Charycka, Marta Gumkowska,  
Julia Bednarek

**Layout:**

Jacek Zamecki

**Publisher:****The Klon/Jawor Association**

ul. Szpitalna 5/5, 00-031 Warszawa, Poland  
badania@klon.org.pl

**kondycja.ngo.pl**

the Capacity of NGOs Survey website

**fakty.ngo.pl**

civic participation statistics and analyses

**ngo.pl**

non-governmental organisations' portal

This report is based on the findings of the Capacity of NGOs 2021 survey conducted by the Klon/Jawor Association on a national sample of 1200 foundations and associations. The survey used the CAWI technique and was completed between October 2021 – January 2022.

The Capacity of NGOs is a regular survey conducted since 2002 and it is the largest independent survey of foundations and associations in Poland.

The Capacity of NGOs 2021 survey has been funded by the Polish American Freedom Foundation, the Stefan Batory Foundation and the National Freedom Institute – Centre for Civil Society Development under the 2014-2020 Civic Initiatives Fund Programme.



Warsaw, February 2022

# The Capacity of NGOs 2021

This is the ninth edition of the Capacity of NGOs survey. The Klon/Jawor Association launched it 20 years ago in 2002. Today, the long track record is helping us to capture past and future trends in Poland's non-profit sector developments.

The Capacity of NGOs survey is the largest independent survey of foundations and associations in Poland. Each edition is based on a randomly selected sample to ensure representativeness and accuracy of findings that apply to all active in Poland non-governmental organisations. The latest edition of the survey is based on a stratified sample of 1,200 NGOs, capturing all types of entities and all sizes of their home community. The survey used an online questionnaire to collect data.

This report summarises key statistics that present the capacity of the Polish non-profit sector in 2021. The extended edition of the report will include these and many other statistics against the background of the findings of earlier survey editions as well as in-depth analysis and expert commentary to help you interpret the data.

Random sample of foundations and associations

1,200 surveyed NGOs



Online questionnaire

Representative findings



## Key Statistics



## What is the total number of NGOs?

There are 138,000 registered non-governmental organisations, including 107,000 associations and 31,000 foundations in Poland, according to the REGON Register, as of the end of 2021. New NGOs have registered every year and about 5,000 new NGOs did so in 2021. Voluntary Fire Brigades, of which there are 16,500, are also formally 'associations' but have not been included in this survey as they have unique funding sources.

Not all registered NGOs are actually active. According to Statistics Poland, approximately 50% of registered organisations conduct operations. This report shows statistics representative of the population of active foundations and associations (excluding Voluntary Fire Brigades), i.e. of approximately 70,000 foundations and associations in Poland.

**107 000**

registered associations  
(excl. Voluntary Fire Brigades)

**31 000**

registered  
foundations

**70 000**

active non-governmental  
organisations

## Where are the NGOs located?



**26%**

**VILLAGES**

**24%**

**SMALL TOWNS**  
up to 50,000

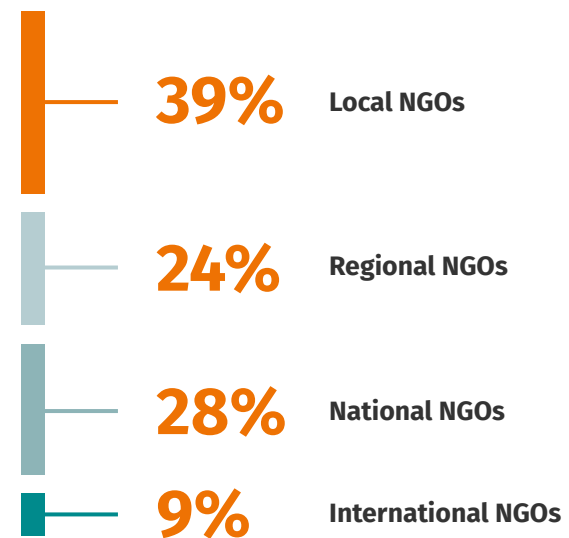
**18%**

**MEDIUM SIZE CITIES**  
of 50-200,000

**32%**

**LARGE CITIES**  
of 200,000

## What is the scale of NGO operations?

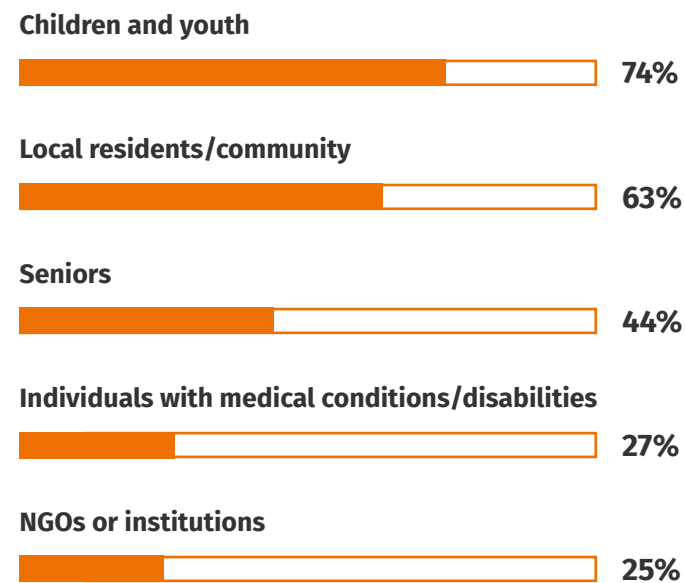


Local NGOs are organisations that operate just in their immediate neighbourhood, community or county. Regional NGOs operate at the provincial and regional level.

The statistics cover the broadest possible range of NGO operations. If an NGO is active locally, regionally and at a national level it has been classified as a national NGO.

## What are the target groups for NGOs?

NGOs have strongly diverse groups of beneficiaries. The main categories include:



One out of six NGOs (16%) has identified other beneficiaries, including individuals suffering from homelessness, minorities, adults, professional or interest groups, families, and pets.

## What is the focus of NGOs?

**7%**  
SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICES  
approx. 5,000

**6%**  
HEALTHCARE  
approx. 4,000

**6%**  
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
approx. 4,000

**4%**  
ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY  
approx. 2,000

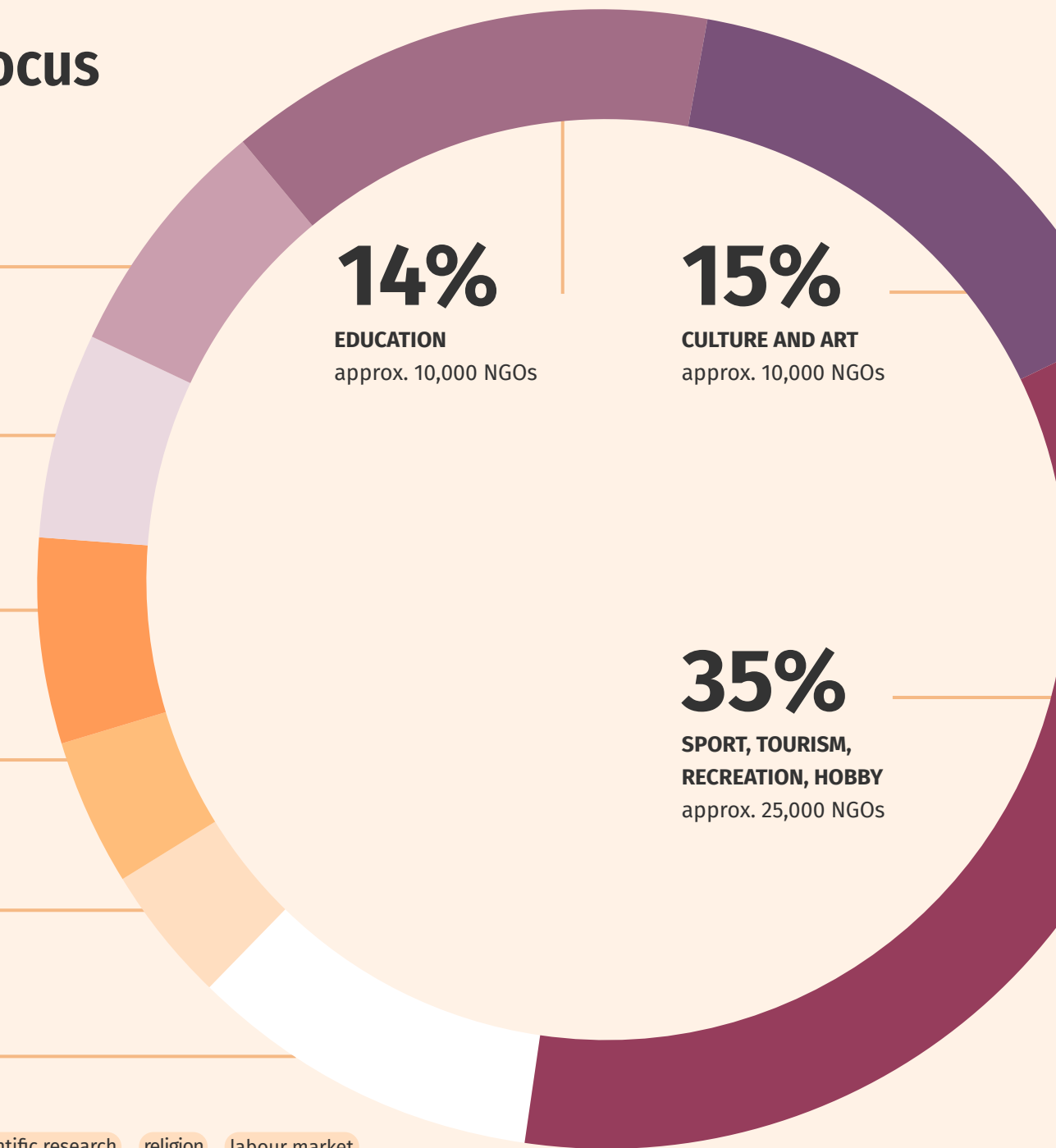
**3%**  
MAINTAINING NATIONAL IDENTITY  
approx. 2,000

**10%**  
OTHER: approx. 7,000 NGOs

work-related, industry-related scientific research religion labour market

law and rule of law protection, human rights international affairs, development aid

search & rescue, security, defence support for institutions, non-governmental organisations



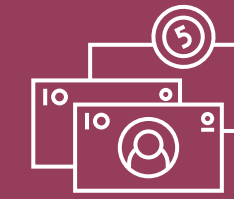


# Finance

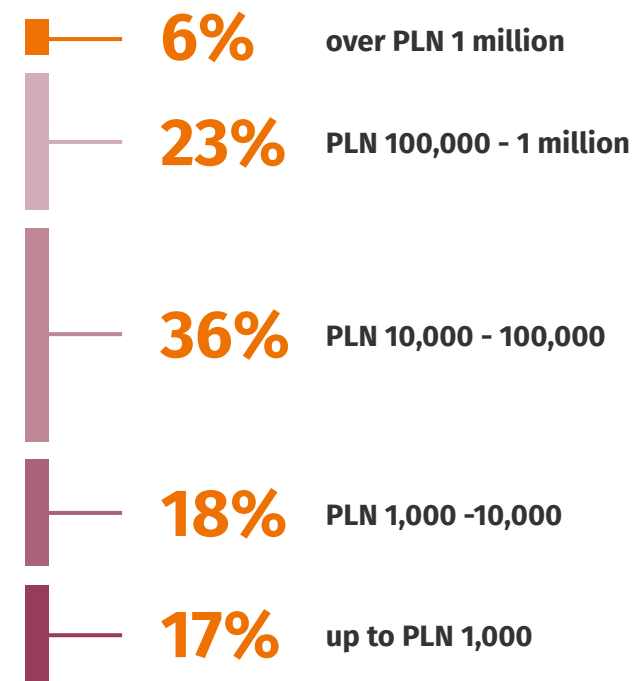


## How much money do NGOs have?

**26 000 pln**  
is the average annual budget of an NGO in 2020

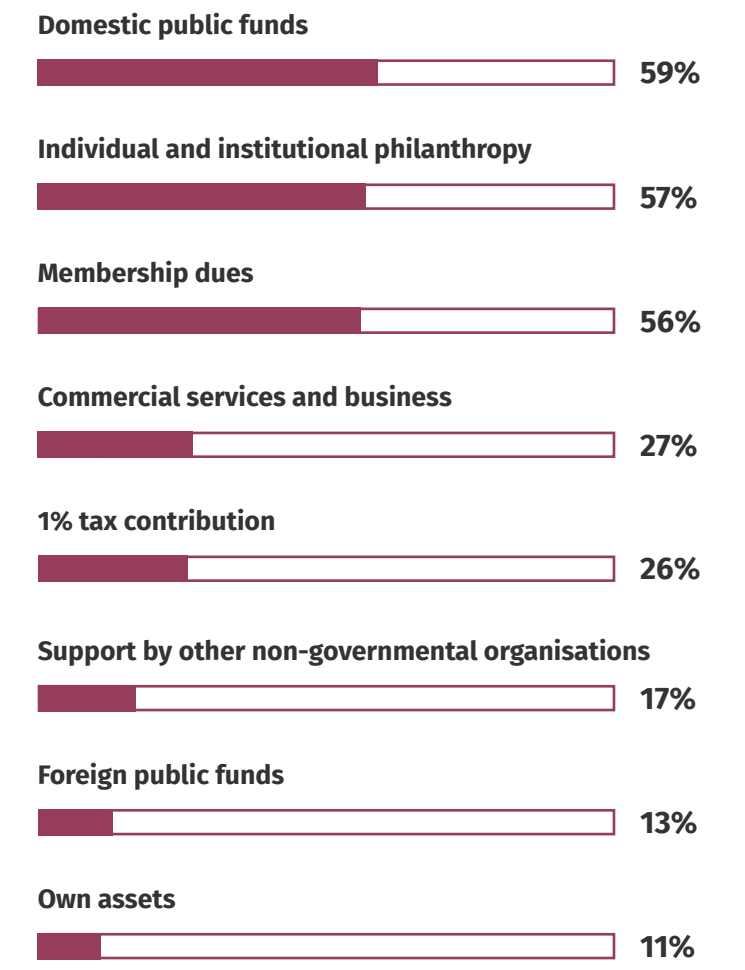


### The revenue structure of non-governmental organisations in 2020



## What are the sources of funding for NGOs?

NGOs fund their activities from a number of different sources. Here is a list of funding sources and a percentage of NGOs that used them in 2020:



## People and Work

### How many members do associations have?

**25**

An average association has 25 members

An average association will have the same number of male and female members. Out of all members, approximately 45% or 11 individuals will actually be active, i.e. involved in the operations.

### How do NGOs engage volunteers?

**61%**

NGOs engage volunteers

**5**

volunteers will be engaged by an average NGO each year



Two out of five individuals an average NGO will engage annually are volunteers who are regularly active, at least once a month.

Seventy two per cent of NGOs who use volunteers report that an average volunteer delivered not more than 10 hours of work per month.

### What is it like working for an NGOs?

**35%**

NGOs operate solely through voluntary work

**24%**

NGOs hires occasional contractors

**41%**

NGOs has regular staff (at least one individual)

**22%**

NGOs have staff on employment contracts

**19%**

NGOs have staff on the other types of contract

Approximately one out of three NGOs operates only through voluntary work; the remaining organisations use staff at varying levels of intensity and under diverse formal arrangements.

Forty one per cent of foundations and associations regularly employ at least one individual who will be active at least once a week.

Twenty two per cent of NGOs will employ at least one person on an employment contract; 19% of NGOs will have one or more members of staff employed under arrangements different than an employment contract.



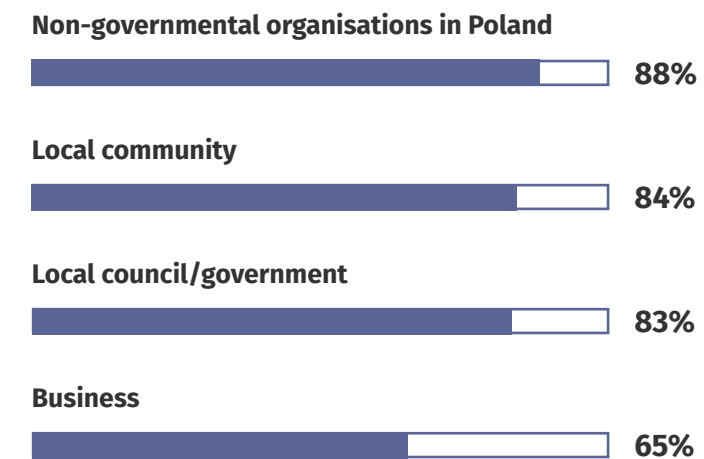
# Collaboration



## Who do NGOs collaborate with?

NGOs partner with a wide range of organisations to implement their projects.

**Most frequently, foundations and associations partner with:**



One NGO in five (20%) has established a partnership with a brand new partner it had no prior relationship, as a result of the pandemic. Most new partners are other non-governmental organisations or businesses.

## How do NGOs come together?

**31%**

NGOs are affiliated in unions or federations of non-governmental organisations



NGOs claim to maintain communication and mutual support within the non-governmental sector. The highest percentage of NGOs belong to national federations (18%). Further down the line, NGOs form thematic and regional networks, 12% and 9% NGOs, respectively. The most frequently identified perceived benefit of such federations/ networks is the opportunity to share experience between NGOs.



# Impact of the Pandemic



## How has the pandemic affected NGOs?

**66%**

of NGOs feel the pandemic has adversely affected their performance



- **66%** NGOs adversely affected
- **29%** NGOs not significantly affected
- **2%** NGOs positively affected
- **3%** Hard to tell

**50%**

of NGOs suspended major part of their projects for at least six months as a result of the pandemic

**38%**

of NGOs launched new types of projects as a result of the pandemic

## Are NGOs delivering activities online?

**18%**

of NGOs deliver **most** of their projects online

**30%**

of NGOs deliver a **minority** of their projects online

**49%**

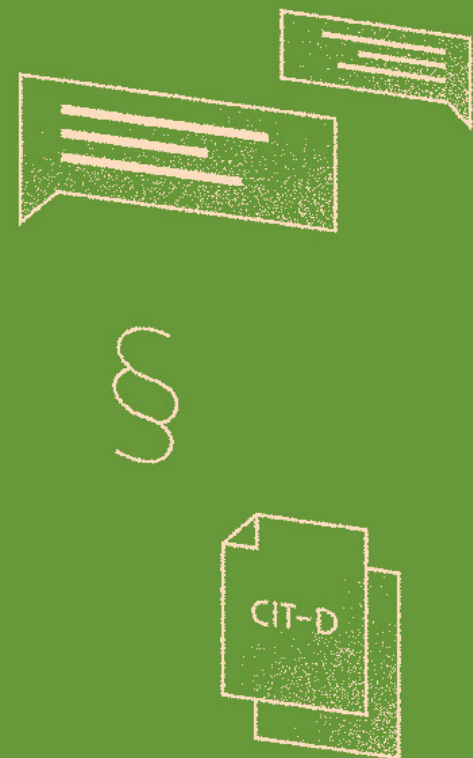
of NGOs deliver **no activities** online

This is about 'outward' activities or projects for beneficiaries rather than the internal communication of the team members.

Nearly half of NGOs (49%) are not involved in any remote activities (online or by phone) even though they may have done so in the earlier phases of the pandemic. The main reason why some NGOs are not engaging in online activities is the nature of their operations, i.e. such activities cannot be delivered online.



# Challenges and Moods

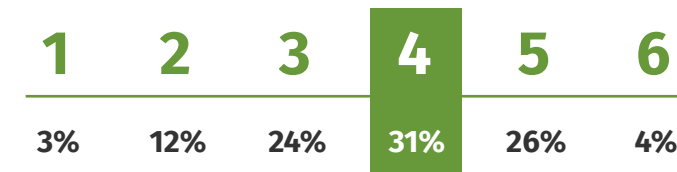


## What are the challenges faced by NGOs?



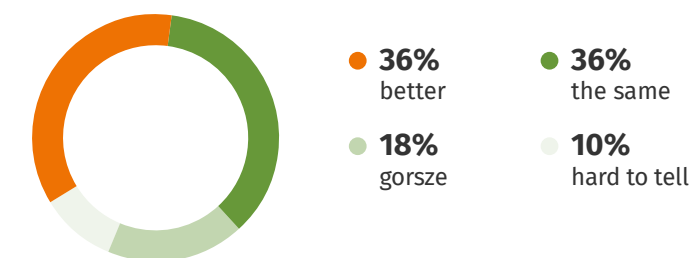
## What is the prevailing mood among NGOs?

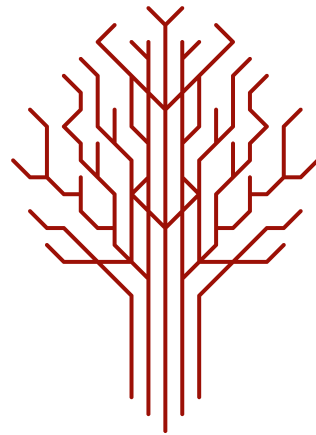
What is the perceived status of NGOs according to their activists in 2020? On a scale of 1-6, where one is 'fail' and six is 'outstanding', the highest proportion of NGOs (31%) chose 4; 39% of NGOs perceive their situation at 3 but 30% of NGOs see themselves at 5 or 6.



NGOs are moderately optimistic about their future. Thirty six per cent of NGOs expect the environment to be more conducive in 2022. The same proportion of NGOs feel things will not change for them compared with the preceding year and 18% expect deterioration.

### In contrast to 2021, the environment for NGOs in 2022 will be:





stowarzyszenie  
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