

The Relation between NGOs and Government

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Non-governmental organization (NGO)

is a legally constituted organization created by private persons or organizations with no participation or representation of any government. In the cases in which NGOs are funded totally or partially by governments, the NGO maintains its non governmental status as far as no government representatives are part of the organization.

The primary purpose

of an operational NGO is the design and implementation of **development-related** projects. One frequently used categorization is the division into '**relief-oriented**' or '**development-oriented**' organizations; they can also be classified according to whether they stress service delivery or participation; or whether they are religious or secular; and whether they are more public or private-oriented. Operational NGOs can be community-based, national or international.

What kind of NGO?

- INGO - international NGO;
- BINGO - business-oriented international NGO,
- ENGO - environmental NGO,
- GONGOs - government-operated NGOs,
- QUANGOs are quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations,
- TANGO - technical assistance NGO;

Motivations for co-operation

Economic factors

- Multi lateral organisations (World Bank, IMF) and Western donors now have less faith in the ability of governments and markets to deliver development
- Increased need for and/or reduced national budgets to meet the demands of health, social welfare, education etc sectors, leading to a government desire to “share the burden”
- Increased responsibilities on local authorities to provide such services (health, education, social welfare), without the allocation of resources by central government to meet these needs
- Increased ability of the voluntary sector to attract funding to support delivery of basic services
- Government recognition of the lower cost and added value of voluntary sector (compared to other sectors, e.g. private)

Motivations for co-operation

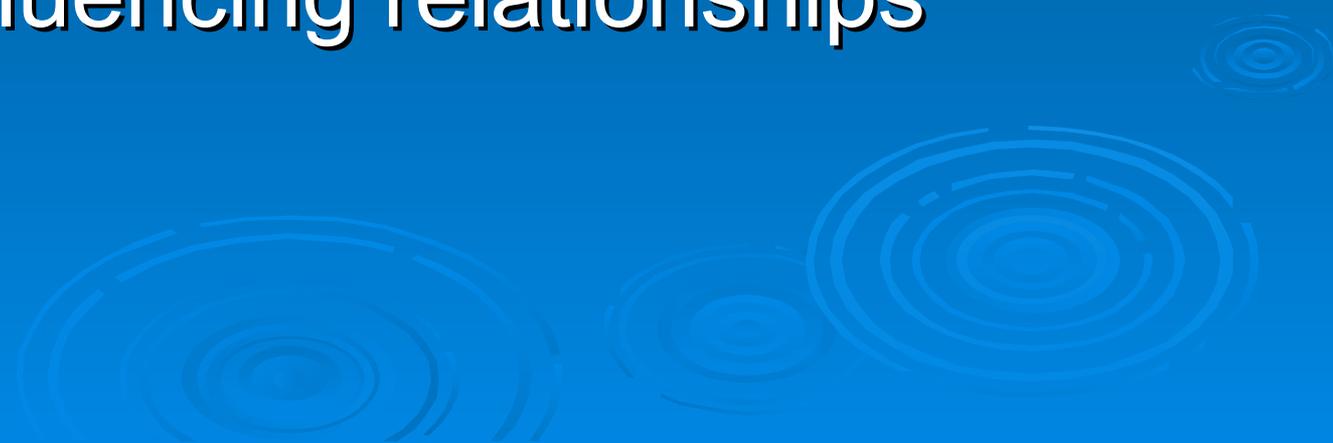
Political / social factors

- Advent of a new era (post conflict or new administration), leading to an increased desire and ability for government to expand the role played by civil society and its citizens
- Partnerships between civil society, the private sectors and the state are often seen as the most effective way of solving increasingly complex socio-economic problems.
- Social capital (the increased will and capacity of citizens to engage in public affairs) is increasingly seen as an essential accompaniment to economic growth and development
- Voluntary sector is motivated by public benefit, not purely by profit
- Inclusive and pluralist decision-making is recognised as a tool for generating vital social consensus around new policies/reforms

Benefits of a closer co-operation

- Clarifying and strengthening the relationship between government and voluntary sector, leading to better focus and greater public awareness of social needs;
- Mobilisation of greater combined resources (government and voluntary sector) to solve social problems;
- Better targeted programmes and services due to decision making being closer to beneficiaries;

Mechanisms of co-operation

- Incorporation of user groups into specific projects
 - Joint working on specific projects
 - Framework agreements
 - Policy influencing relationships
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Tools and mechanisms in Hungary

- **legal framework**
- **government support**
- **government contracting**
- **NGO involvement in government decision-making**
- **the institutional framework for dealing with the NGO sector**
- **local mechanisms**

Problems of Implementation

- lack of transparency;
- major area is the lack of accountability;
- NGO-government cooperation has always been strongly and unduly politicised;
- increased interest and financial support was like a double-edged  increased weight of the government on the non-profit sector as a whole.

NGOs Role in the Communication

- Same aim, different way;
- Closer and deeper information;
- Other side of the coin too;
- Direct and allow the discussion;
- Use many different channels;
- Closer relation with the targeted group;

Thanks your attention!

Questions?

